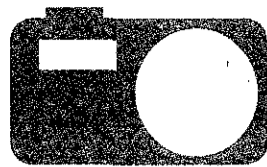


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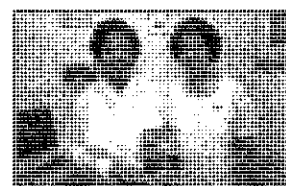
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**WESTLAND Observer**

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**City orders study into curbside recycling**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amid hopes of reducing its trash flow and reining in landfill costs, Westland should know within three months what its options will be for launching a curbside recycling program with no user fees.

In a landmark vote, the Westland City Council has hired Ann Arbor-based Resource Recycling Systems Inc. to study options that could be

financially feasible for this city of 86,000 residents.

"It's been a long time coming," council President James Godbout said. "I'm just glad to see we've gotten to the point now where we're going to have enough information to move forward with this program."

Residents like Margot McCormack last year collected some 600 signatures on petitions imploring city officials to make an environmentally wise decision to

seriously move toward a curbside recycling program.

With little fanfare Monday, the council voted 7-0 to spend \$10,500 and hire RRS to study recycling options and report back to the city within 90 days. Currently, local residents have to haul their recyclables to a drop-off site on Marquette east of Newburgh — an effort that some say discourages participation.

RRS chief executive officer Jim Frey has said at-home recycling meth-

ods have become much easier. Some plans allow households to place all their recyclables in one container, because the materials are separated at recycling centers.

Westland twice failed with curbside recycling programs because it charged fees that residents didn't seem willing to pay. Now, officials are seeking options that will be cost-effective while avoiding user fees.

"The services to be provided by the RRS will be customized to meet the

unique needs of the city," according to the contract between the city and RRS.

Frey has said that some cities adopting user-friendly recycling programs actually generate new revenue rather than face an ongoing expense. He cautioned that a successful program will largely depend on educating residents and encouraging them to recycle.

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



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Are you ready?**

Ray Glenn of the Wayne County Parks gets the crowd ready for youngsters age 4 and under to go after marshmallows during the annual Marshmallow Drop at the Nankin Mills Park in Westland. For story and more photos, see Page A6.

**W-W rounds up Class of 2022**

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Five-year-olds don't have to wait until September to have their first school experience. In fact, Wayne-Westland school officials want them to have that experience now as part of the annual Kindergarten Roundup slated for 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 8.

"We would like all the kindergarten students to join us at the Kindergarten Roundup," said Sally Perkins, the executive director of elementary education. "It's very important for parents to come out and learn about the school and Wayne-Westland's kindergarten program."

The roundup will be held at all 17 of Wayne-Westland's elementary schools. Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials.

Incoming kindergartners will get the opportunity to participate in an activity, visit their kindergarten classroom and receive a free school T-shirt to wear in the fall. They also will be given free backpacks, filled with school supplies, books and suggested activities to prepare youngsters for the first day of school.

For parents who can't attend the morning program, school offices will be open 6-7 p.m. that evening for registration only. If those times don't work, parents can call the school for an appointment.

Youngsters who will age 5 by Dec. 1, 2008, are eligible for kindergarten enrollment this fall. Parents must provide the child's original birth certificate with raised seal, a current immunization record and three proofs of residency, such as a current mortgage/lease agreement or tax statement, current bank statement, current utility

bill or current employment record.

Parents also can get information on the district's all-day kindergarten program which is offered at seven schools — John Hick in Inkster; Wildwood, P.D. Graham, Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns in Westland; Walker-Winter in Canton and Roosevelt-McGrath in Wayne.

Families who are interested in the all-day program but don't live in those schools' attendance areas, can apply through the Schools of Choice program at the district's administrative offices on Marquette west of Wayne Road, Westland. Applications also are available online at www.wvcsd.net. The deadline for applying is April 21. For more information, call (734) 419-2083.

The school district also offers a magnet kindergarten program to meet the needs of school-age children who may be developmentally young. The program provides students added support through a curriculum which places greater emphasis on hands-on instruction. There is currently one magnet classroom available to students in the district.

Parents are responsible for providing transportation for students in schools of choice programs, including the magnet program.

There also are Champions before and after school programs available at 13 of the district's 17 elementaries as well as an extended-day kindergarten programs at Kettering and Wildwood Elementaries with a free one-way shuttle service. For more information, call (734) 722-9157.

"We would like all students to join us at the roundup," said Perkins. "We'd like to have as many students registered now before school starts in September."

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

**New book recounts early city politics**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A former Nankin Township politician who helped lead a campaign to make Westland a city in 1966 has authored a new book that revives local history and details his ties to Democratic leaders like the late state Sen. William Faust and first Mayor Thomas Brown.

Jerry "Rat" Fincke only lived here in 1961-66, but he left his mark during a tumultuous time that saw him work on Republican Gov. George Romney's campaign before defecting to the Democratic Party.

In his book, *Primer for Political Wannabes: Confessions of a Political Gunslinger*, Fincke recalled how he campaigned for Faust, a paraplegic who rose up against Democratic Party-backed Terry Troutt in 1966, just two years after Fincke lost his GOP bid against Troutt.

"I was very proud of the Bill Faust campaign," said Fincke, 70, during a telephone interview from his Daytona

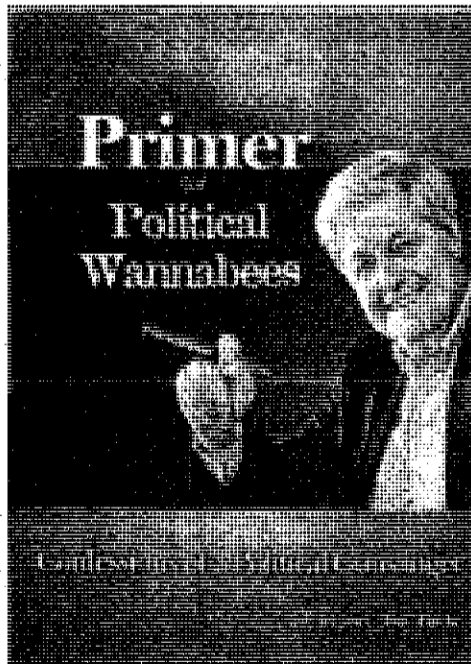
Beach, Fla., home.

Fincke, a native of upstate New York who earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School, had moved to then-Nankin Township in 1961 when he was hired as a marketing analyst for Ford Motor Co. Certain chapters of his book reflect on his time here.

Fincke was invited to a local Republican Club meeting, and by 1963 he became the Nankin group's chairman. But he gave up on his aspirations for public office after he lost bids to become township treasurer and state senator.

Nonetheless, Fincke made a difference on the local political landscape. As head of Nankin Republicans, he was named by then-township Supervisor Faust to spearhead a bipartisan campaign for city incorporation along with then-township Treasurer Thomas Brown. Brown would advance to become the city's first mayor, a state representative and, late in his career, a city council member.

Please see **BOOK, A2**



Former Westland resident Jerry 'Rat' Fincke writes about his involvement in state and local politics in his book.

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## Grant funds Outdoor Classroom Project at Lincoln School

Students at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland will receive a \$1,000 award to launch a service-learning project for Global Youth Service Day Friday, April 25.

The school is one of 100 State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award winners chosen by Youth Service America and funded by State Farm Companies Foundation.

The students in the school's Bright Futures After School Program's Leadership and Junior Master Gardener Clubs will play an integral role in designing, planning and carrying out an Outdoor Classroom Project and will dedicate the entire month of April to working on the State Farm grant.

"The Outdoor Classroom Project is designed to improve Lincoln Elementary School students' knowledge and skills in the area of applied mathematics," said Sara Bliss, Bright Futures coordinator. "Based on state standardized test scores, mathematics is considered to be an area of major concern."

According to Bliss, the 2006 MEAP test results less than 50 percent of third- through fifth-grade students at Lincoln were able to add, subtract, multiply or divide in contextual situations, recognize common fractions, perform measurement tasks related to weather, build basic three dimensional figures, or calculate the area and perimeter of basic shapes successfully. The Outdoor Classroom Project will address each of the deficiencies through hands-on, student-led service to be carried out by school and community youth.

### Lesson plans

Youth participants will develop lesson plans detailing applied mathematics activities to be used in Outdoor Classroom. The activities will be specifically designed for active learning. Students will be exposed to real-life situations and opportunities which allow them to learn, apply and demonstrate proficiency in the mathematics skills.

"The goal of the Outdoor Classroom project is to create a tool for teaching and learning applied mathematics to be used by all Lincoln Elementary School students and staff," Bliss said.

Students and staff at Lincoln will celebrate Global Youth Service Day on April 25 in their new courtyard. Students will be lead tours and discuss their plans with guests. There will also be a dedication by Principal Jennifer Munson and a plaque will be presented to commemorate the event.

"The State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning grant winners demonstrate unprecedented global caring and initiative, showing the world that young people can be leaders today, not in some distant tomorrow," said Steve Culbertson, president and CEO of Youth Service America. "By combining the dynamics of leadership, service and learning, the grant recipients build some of the most valuable skills - academic achievement and workforce readiness."

"State Farm is proud to partner with Youth Service America," added Edward B.

Rust Jr., Chairman and CEO of State Farm. "As our partnership has grown so has our respect for YSA's work. Through its strong leadership, young people around the world are experiencing fundamental necessities of democracy - the ability to serve and give back to their community - while gaining academic and workplace readiness skills that are valued by State Farm."

"We share with YSA the common belief that our young people are not tomorrow's leaders, they are leaders today."

### Around the world

Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world. Global Youth Service Day is a year-round effort to expand the impact of the youth service movement. The initiative launches new service organizations, policy changes, and sustainable service programs to create a culture of engaged youth. State Farm Companies Foundation is the presenting sponsor.

Youth Service America is a national nonprofit resource center that partners with thousands of organizations in more than 100 countries and is committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, Youth Service America's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments.

Information about Youth Service America is available online at [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org).



DAVID L. MALHALAB M NEWS SERVICE / MNS PHOTO

### On the march

Westland's John Glenn High School marching band played in the shadows of Tiger Stadium in Detroit on Sunday during the city's 50th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade along Michigan Avenue. The parade had its largest attendance in its history.

## LPS candidates scheduled for three forums; first is Thursday

The three candidates for seats on the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education are scheduled to face three different opportunities for public question/answer scrutiny before the election. The first forum is this week.

Candidates Tom Bailey, Gregory Oke and Patrice Mang are scheduled to participate in a forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Livonia City Hall.

That event, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County, is scheduled for 90 minutes, with questions submitted by the audience being screened for clarity and duplication by League members before being asked. To enter questions in advance, visit [www.lwvnmw.org](http://www.lwvnmw.org) and click on Contact Us.

A second forum is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at Livonia's City Hall auditorium by the Citizens for Livonia's Future, a group that was formed after the institution

of the district's controversial Legacy Initiative. The CFLF later led a failed recall effort against five school board members and promoted other candidates for the board. Now the advocacy group is focusing on urging positive change in the district and promoting voting in the election, according to Brad Wolkan, a CFLF board member.

The forum is set for one hour and *Livonia Observer* community editor Dave Varga will moderate. Questions may be e-mailed to [dvarga@hometownlife.com](mailto:dvarga@hometownlife.com) and submissions will be screened for duplication and appropriateness.

A mistake almost halted the CFLF forum. The CFLF Web site initially listed an elect-Patrice Mang e-mail address as the site to submit advance questions. That was quickly corrected, according to Wolkan.

He sees this forum as "a chance for a lot of reconciliation."

Oke initially questioned whether the event would be

neutral due to the e-mail address. However, Oke said he and Bailey, who are both current incumbent board members, were "cognizant of the fact that this group (CFLF) has felt shut out. I'd like to make a positive step here," he said.

Bailey couldn't be reached for comment.

A third candidate forum will be hosted by the Livonia PTSA Council at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the Board of Education meeting office on Farmington, just south of Five Mile. That forum is set for 90 minutes, with questions accepted in advance at [www.livoniapt-sacouncil.org](http://www.livoniapt-sacouncil.org).

Each of the three events is planned to be videotaped so voters can view Brighthouse Networks cable replays before the May 6 election.

Two of the three candidates will win four-year seats on the seven-member school board, which decides policy for the district.

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## BOOK

FROM PAGE A1

In his book, available through Dorrance Publishing Co., Fincke wrote that Detroit's major department store, Hudson's, had opened a store at Westland's mall, fueling an attempt by Livonia to annex the area and add to its tax base. Nankin voters supported a ballot measure to become a city, rebuffing Livonia's advances and creating a city that was named after a mall.

### BIPARTISAN EFFORT

Fincke recalled how Democrats and Republicans alike worked to incorporate Westland as a city.

"We were trying to show unity in that campaign," he told the *Observer*.

During his time here, Fincke became disenchanted with the Republican Party and defected to the Democratic side, helping Faust with his state senate campaign in 1966. Fincke concedes in his book that the cam-

paign issued tabloid-style publications comparing the small newspaper office where Faust worked to the rural bar owned by his opponent, Troutt.

"Faust won the primary in a stunning upset," Fincke wrote.

This came just days before Fincke was to move to Rochester, N.Y., to practice law.

"On election night, one burly and semi-drunk union activist expressed displeasure over his perception that we had conducted a dirty campaign," Fincke wrote in his book. "He threatened me that 'they' would follow me to Rochester and 'get even.' Much to my relief, that did not occur."

Fincke learned during his recent interview with the *Observer* that Brown had a local park named after him and that Faust had a city library named in his honor.

"That's just great," said Fincke, who is now involved in a corporation that operates a Victorian-style pier in Daytona Beach.

### POLITICIANS' 'DISEASE'

Fincke's book contains

numerous black-and-white photos and incorporates old newspaper articles that complement his stories. He also weaves humor into book, just over 120 pages. In one excerpt, he wrote of politicians, "It is axiomatic that, after their initial election to office, politicians are focused on re-election and/or running for a higher office. This need is pervasive. It is a disease that afflicts almost every elected political figure."

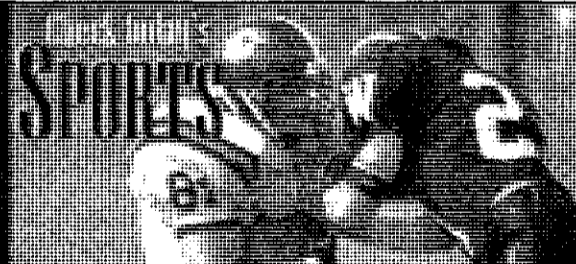
Fincke has secured a spot in Westland's history not only for his involvement in the township and city, but also by making his book available for public viewing at the Westland Historical Museum, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

"He donated it to the museum," historian Jo Johnson said.

His book sells for \$17.95 and can be bought at [www.dorrancebookstore.com](http://www.dorrancebookstore.com) - just hit the search button on the left. He said the book also is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or by calling (800) 788-7654.

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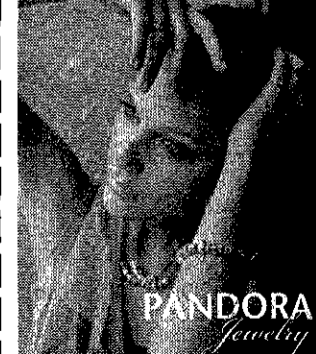
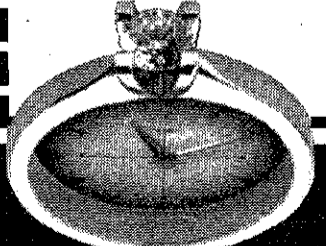
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# In recession? Sowerby offers 'soft yes'

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If pressed for an answer about whether the economy is in a recession, David Sowerby gives a qualified yes.

"It's so close, it doesn't matter. If you pin me down, it's a soft yes," said Sowerby, portfolio manager and chief market analyst at Loomis Sayles & Co. L.P. in Bloomfield Hills. "The last couple of recessions have been short and shallow. By the time we hear there is a recession, it's done."

Sowerby was speaking to the Wayne County Treasurers Association, which was holding its quarterly meeting at Amantea Restaurant in Garden City. While talking about investment opportunities in a bear market, Sowerby also made comments about other aspects of the economy.

Over his more than 25 years in business, Sowerby said the economy grew 95 percent of that time. While he expected problems with the subprime mortgage market, Sowerby said he never expected the problems would be as large as it's been.

"Only 6 percent of mortgages are subprime ARMS (adjustable rate mortgages). It's unfortunate for those who didn't get it right," he said. "For all that pain in the marketplace, we are starting to find the bottom. When the headlines read 25-to-1 negative to positive news, that means we're finding our bottom."

Sowerby liked the recent Federal Reserve interest rate cut, characterizing it "in Motor City terms as putting the pedal to the metal."

The economic stimulus checks that will be coming to most taxpayers should also help the economy, Sowerby said, but added a note of caution for investing.

"The tax rebates will help out, if you own TJ Maxx stock — not Coach purses or Movado (watches) or Tiffany," he said.

In preparing his remarks, Sowerby said he tried to find some decent things to say about Michigan.

"The best I can say is that we are finding the bottom. It's a national-level recession



David Sowerby, portfolio manager and chief market analyst at Loomis Sayles & Co. L.P. in Bloomfield Hills, talks about the U.S. economy and recession at a meeting of the Wayne County Treasurers Association.



Treasurers from around Wayne County listen to David Sowerby during a luncheon meeting held at Amantea Restaurant in Garden City.

and the real income growth is not what it should be," he said. "The problem with the Big Three (automakers) is that they won't have better numbers until 2009. We need to think in terms of Detroit production. It takes awhile to recover here."

There is a lot about the economy that can't be controlled in

Michigan, Sowerby said, such as oil prices hitting over \$100 per barrel.

"During the 1990s, we grew 1 percent more than the rest of the U.S. Anecdotally, we will get more Canadians skiing at Boyne with the weak dollar, but that's not enough," he said. "If I had a wish list, I'd

encourage more immigrants to come to the state. They are hard workers and risk-takers. I'd like more (corporate) headquarters to locate here. We lost too many through attrition. That took away college kids' first job at headquarters."

Michigan-based companies, such as Spartan Stores and drug manufacturer the Perrigo Company, are seeing increased profits, Sowerby said, as are some automotive-related companies, such as Borg-Warner and TRW.

"Last year, the ability to add value as a portfolio manager was easier than the present year," Sowerby said. "It's as much about what not to own as it is about what to own. I'd still want to let the dust settle."

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Karaoke party

The Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is holding a Karaoke and Pajama Party Saturday, March 29, at the post, 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and include appetizers, beer and snacks. Pajamas require, no birthday suits. For more information, call the post at (734) 525-9454.

### Dems meet

The Westland Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Dorsey Center on Dorsey at Venoy, between Palmer and Michigan Avenue. Learn about the Health Care Ballot Initiative from MichUCAN. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m.

### Blood drive

The Bova VFW Post on Hix south of Warren Road is holding an American Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, March 24. Anyone interested in donating can make an appointment by calling (734) 377-8329. Free T-shirts will be given to all who attempt to donate.

### Free Movie Friday

Westland seniors and their guests are invited to enjoy a viewing of *Ever After: A Cinderella Story* at 2 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, just south of Ford. The film, which stars Anjelica Houston and Drew Barrymore, is a 1998 film adaptation of the fairy tale *Cinderella*. Both the movie and popcorn are free.

### Breakfast benefit

"How do I pay my bills and eat? Do I buy my medication or go without dinner tonight?" These are unfortunately questions which plague the lives of many older adults in southeastern Michigan, and the American House Foundation aims to help put an end to the suffering.

On Friday, March 28, the foundation will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8-10 a.m. at the American House II at 39201 Joy between Hix and I-275 in Westland. The cost is a minimum of \$3 per person

### ON THE WEB

For expanded coverage of Westland, visit our online edition at [www.hometownlife.com/web](http://www.hometownlife.com/web) click on Westland.

donation. All proceeds will benefit the American House Foundation. For more information, call (734) 454-9838.

### Fund-raiser

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is holding a Little Caesar fund-raiser now through May 1 to raise money for its youth and community outreach programs. There are 16 different Little Caesar pizza kits, five varieties of cookie dough and two types of pie kits available. Prices range from \$12.75 to \$18.

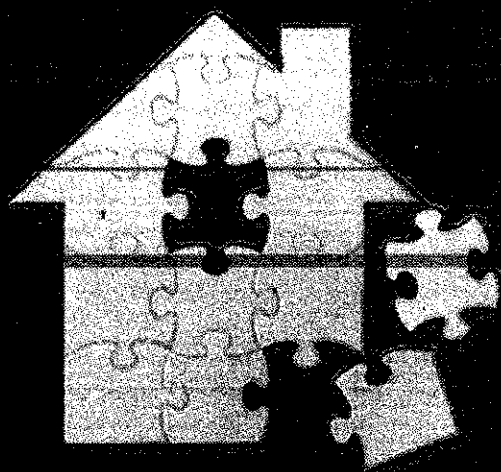
To order items, stop by the Salvation Army at 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer and ask for Sandy. For more information, call (734) 722-3660, Ext. 11.

### Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in January. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

Tuesday, April 1, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Office hours for Thursday, April 3, are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

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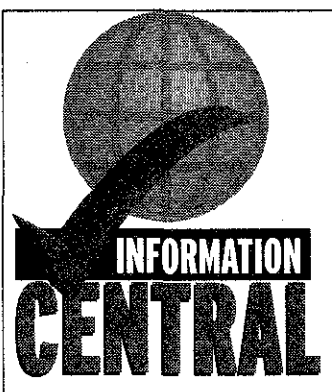
## Sustainable and responsible travel options

When you travel, how often do you think about the effect you have on the places you visit? With natural and cultural resources around the globe being so precious and vulnerable, we have the ability to create a positive impact in other cultures and environments.

There are many sustainable and responsible travel opportunities available, ranging from adventure travel to volunteering abroad. All this while promoting sustainable economic development and understanding of other cultures. At the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, you can start your research of where to go and what to do.

The number of people participating in service-oriented travel is increasing because many want to make a difference while on vacation. Volunteer vacations, or voluntourism, allow people to get away while improving the world through their talents.

Bill McMillon's "Volunteer Vacations" is an ideal guide to begin with. It offers profiles and information on 150 organizations around the world that run short-term volunteer programs. Everything from exploring the Ukhalhamba-Drakensberg Park



in South Africa for new unrecorded rock art to teaching life skills to deaf orphans in Peru is covered in this book.

Some other new titles the library has about volunteering include, "Green Volunteers: The World Guide to Voluntary Work in Nature Conservation" by Fabio Ausenda and also "The Volunteer Traveler's Guide to Making a Difference" by Charlotte Hindle.

For a listing of travel and tourism providers that are committed to responsible living, go online to [www.sustainabletravelinternational.org](http://www.sustainabletravelinternational.org). Their directory contains numerous

options for environmentally friendly lodgings, airlines and car rental companies. It also lists theme parks and vineyards.

To find out more about responsible travel and ecotourism, the Public Library of Westland is a great place to start. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day online at [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us).

### Highlighted Activities

**Life Is Motion:** 7 p.m. March 24. Featured speaker Dr. Brian K. Brackney discusses the newest information regarding how motion affects your total body and your overall health. Learn simple moves to increase energy and mental focus and learn how to incorporate motion into every part of your life no matter your level of health. For more information or to sign up to reserve your seat, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

**Estate Planning:** 7 p.m. March 26. Find out the who, what, when, how and why of estate planning. Join Ted Walters, estate planning attorney, and Andrew Gagne, associate financial advisor, as share their knowledge and experience. A question-and-answer

session will follow. For more information or to sign up to reserve your seat, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Discussion Group:** 7 p.m. March 26. This month we discuss work by another pivotal SF author, Jules Verne, but we're looking at one of his lesser known works, "Master of the World." Everyone with an interest in the genre is invited, but please read the book, if you plan to attend. If you can't attend, join us electronically; our blog is available online at <http://swestlandlibmius.blogspot.com>.

**Women of Baseball:** 11 a.m. Saturday, March 29. Don't miss a chance to meet Mary Moore and Helen Steffes and hear them share their experiences as players in the famous All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Space is limited, so see the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

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

## Hospital offers wellness programs

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

**Monday, March 24**  
**Exercise Express** 12:30-1 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

**Tuesday, March 25**  
**Get Up and Move** at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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

**Wednesday, March 26**  
**Exercise Express** 12:30-1 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

**CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic** at 5 p.m. Attention CPAP and BIPAP users: Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

**First Aid** at 6 p.m. This American Red Cross class teaches how to care for injuries, sudden illness and other emergencies at home or on the job. Content includes bandage and splinting.

bleeding, burns, poison, shock, wounds, seizures, fractures, diabetes, stroke, heart attack and heat/cold emergencies. This class is offered at Garden City Hospital's Health & Education Center at 6701 Harrison, just north of Maplewood. There is a \$40 fee. Participants will receive a three-year certification upon successful completion. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

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

**Thursday, March 27**  
**Strength and Stretch** at 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

**Get Up and Move** at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

**Friday, March 28**  
**Exercise Express** 12:30-1 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

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

## State House OKs elder abuse bill

The State House of Representatives has approved several bills, proposed by Reps. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, and Bob Constan, D-Dearborn Heights, that would crack down on the reprehensible act of elder abuse.

The bills would prohibit those convicted of elder abuse from inheriting from a victim's estate and allow a third party

to file a criminal complaint on behalf of a victim of elder abuse.

"For most of us, it's impossible to imagine abusing an elderly relative or friend and then profiting off that person's estate once they have died," said Meadows "But under current law, a person can torture, abuse, neglect or steal from a senior and still inherit from

that person's estate as long as the abuse isn't proven to be directly responsible for the senior's death. My bill will put an end to this appalling practice."

Elder abuse ranges from abandonment and neglect to financial exploitation to emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Caregiver neglect comprised 20 percent of substantiated reports, according to a report from the National Center on Elder Abuse. Financial exploitation was the culprit in 15 percent of elder abuse cases.

Michigan's Adult Protective Services investigated more than 9,300 cases of adult mistreatment in 2001, accord-

ing to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA). Adults age 60 and older accounted for 69 percent of the victims - an estimated 6,479 seniors. The investigations found that 70 percent of all victims suffered neglect and 15 percent were abused.

"This plan would stop elder abuse by giving someone who witnesses abuse the power to make it known to authorities," said Constan. "Oftentimes our senior residents are vulnerable and confused because they are being victimized by a family member. We must help our seniors when they are trapped in such a difficult situation."

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# SEMCOG at 40

## Organization brings 7-county area together to plan for future

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Intergovernmental cooperation, bipartisan consensus and research-backed decision making may be today's cutting-edge ideas, but according to Paul Tait they've been business as usual for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments since 1968.

SEMCOG is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the organization that brings more than 150 units of government together to plan and build for the future.

"It came out of a study by a committee of 100 influential private and public sector leaders in the region who had looked at the need for voluntary regional cooperation," said Tait, SEMCOG's executive director. "Recognizing by working together, each unit of government could make better decisions for themselves and there are just some things that go beyond the boundaries of one community."

SEMCOG serves two primary roles. It is a research organization providing critical data on population, development, shifting demographics and land use. It is also mandated by the federal government to handle planning and allocation of federal transportation funding, implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

SEMCOG is a voluntary organization of governments. The seven county governments of southeast Michigan — Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne — are all members. Cities, townships, villages and school districts throughout the region are also invited to be members.

### SETS TRANSPORTATION AGENDA

"In the area of transportation, we're designated as a metropolitan planning organization," Tait said. "We do the long-range planning for roads and bridges in the region. With that responsibility in a major metro community like ours, the elected officials in SEMCOG are actually making the decision on what federal and major state dollars are spent in southeast Michigan."

That's approaching a billion dollars a year."

As part of their transportation responsibility, SEMCOG prepares an annual 25-year transportation plan. The agency is now working on projections for the year 2035.

"That sets the long range frame of the whole transportation system," Tait said. "What kind of projects are we going to have, how much are we going to spend on maintenance and rebuilding versus relieving congestion versus transit."

SEMCOG also develops a four-year transportation improvement program.

"If the Michigan Department of Transportation or road commissions in one of the communities wants to build or rebuild a road, if that's not in our plan, it's not going to happen to get the federal money," Tait said.

SEMCOG has also been supportive of mass transit. Tait said that in the '70s, SEMCOG had drawn up some elaborate plans for mass transit but "didn't have a clue how to pay for it."

"Most of our transit dollars are replacing buses and that's important. Maintaining a core bus system is important in getting people to where they need to be," he said.

SEMCOG has received money to develop some form of mass transit between Detroit and Ann Arbor. Tait said early studies didn't look promising for funding such a project.

The decision was to use existing heavy rail lines owned by Norfolk Southern. The plan is to have Amtrak operate a commuter train with eight to 15 runs a day.

Transportation planning also helps communities decide other issues, such as where to build schools or senior centers.

"We do forecasts with federal transportation money so we know what the future looks like 25 years in the future, but individual members use that forecast by community to say what will my school system need, where are the kids going to be," Tait said.

### SOLID RESEARCH

Mary Blackmon, a trustee of Wayne County's Regional Educational Services Agency, is vice chair and chair-



Mary Blackmon, vice chair of SEMCOG and a trustee and Wayne RESA, and Paul Tait, executive director of SEMCOG, discuss the organization's many roles.

elect of SEMCOG. She sees SEMCOG's research as a way to bring opposing sides together.

"Relationships are built with good research, good data that helped move us from contentious areas a while ago to where we are today, a better working relationship with all of our constituencies," she said. "It's been a long, hard road but built on trust and good research."

SEMCOG is known to the public for such programs as RideShare and Ozone Action days, which support the organization's role in transportation and air quality.

Blackmon said programs like Ozone Action Days and water quality programs have been adopted by area schools are part of their curriculum.

Another area that draws public attention is SEMCOG's regular population updates, which are often at variance with the U.S. Census Bureau. Tait said SEMCOG begins with the federal 10-year census and then uses different methodology to estimate regional population.

Tait and Blackmon said that unlike other public bodies, the SEMCOG assembly and execu-

tive committee do not engage in the usual contentious political debates. The members are all elected officials.

"It is gratifying to work for a board that comes together to discuss issues," Tait said. "Yes, everyone has a Democrat or a Republican hat or a local community hat, but it's much more about issues. We don't get into the stranglehold the legislature was in trying to work out last year's budget."

SEMCOG has also taken a leadership position in encouraging more intergovernmental cooperation.

SEMCOG is in the process of hiring a person to work full time working with communities on cooperative ventures. SEMCOG also advocates at the state and federal level with offices in Lansing and Washington.

In June, Blackmon will assume the chair position for the coming year from current chair William T. Roberts, mayor of Walled Lake. At that time, SEMCOG will formally mark its 40th anniversary at the annual General Assembly at The Henry Ford.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2149

## SEMCOG stats

**Founded:** 1968

**Members:** 7 southeast Michigan counties: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne; 146 townships, cities, villages and educational units of government.

**Annual budget:** 2007-08, \$12,090,344; 2008-2009, \$11,078,730. Two-thirds from federal transportation money, about \$2 million from local dues and the rest from state grants and contracts.

**Staff:** 80.

**Executive director:** Paul Tait

**Chairperson:** William T. Roberts, mayor, city of Walled Lake

**Chair-elect:** Mary Blackmon, trustee, Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency.

**Outreach:** RideShare, to encourage car pooling; Ozone Action Days, to alert residents when air pollution levels are high; Taubman Scholarship, supports executive training for public officials at Harvard.

**Communication:** SEMscope, quarterly publication; newsletter, printed biweekly; Web site www.semco.org

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## Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

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

By Elena Lombardi

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

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

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

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

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

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

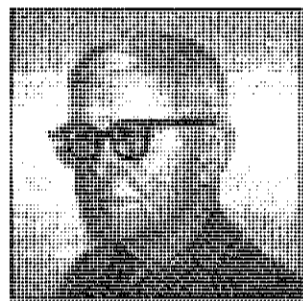
Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May.

Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's

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Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

**1-877-677-2020.**

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

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at [suburbaneyecare.com](http://suburbaneyecare.com) or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at [ialvs.com](http://ialvs.com).

OC08867624



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three-year-old Aymu Dazai of Plymouth gives the Easter Bunny a kiss on the nose with a little help from dad Masahiko as they wait for the marshmallows to fall during the annual Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills Park in Westland.

## Marshmallow magic

Children of all ages gather for Easter time ritual

For a gallery of Marshmallow Drop photos see our Web site at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

"We're going to go over the rules today. This event is not competitive, there is not a grand prize. You only need one marshmallow to receive a treat. Please do not eat the marshmallows."

With that assurance from the stage set up at Nankin Mills Park, parents and grandparents herded hundreds of children from toddlers to teens Friday toward a restraining rope for the 24th Annual Wayne County Marshmallow Drop.

Eager eyes looked up to the sky where a helicopter circled in a continuous loop.

But that helicopter was a tease owned by one of the day's sponsors, Fox2 TV.

The real helicopter, the one loaded with fluffy, gooey, magical marshmallows was still out of view.

Meanwhile, hundreds of cars line Hines Drive and families trudged some distance in the chilly weather toward the park. Parents snapped photos of their children with the Easter Bunny.

Jessica Smith brought her two children all the way from Howell to visit her sister Jennifer Meyers of Westland. Nicky Smith was confident he'd get a marshmallow. His sister Danielle had a little apprehension.

"I think lots of marshmallows are going to come crashing down on us," she said.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano officially launched the event and also put in a plug for his alma mater Michigan State in the NCAA basketball tournament, "Go Green on Saturday Night."

More than 20,000 marshmallows were dropped in three shifts, starting with the under



Five-year-old Zackary Smith of Livonia bends down to pick up a marshmallow during the Marshmallow Drop Friday morning at Nankin Mills Park

4 set. "OK, everyone, 4 and under please go to the front of the line. Please do not run until the marshmallows have all hit the ground."

All eyes looked to the sky as the helicopter came into sight, flew off and then returned fly-

ing low above the trees. The marshmallows were released and the littlest children and their adult companions charged across the field squealing with delight.

The Drop was co-sponsored by ITC Holdings, WNIC Radio, Motor City Moms and Fox 2.

## Starfish joins with Gateway to offer safety, health fair

Parents and caregivers in the community are invited to bring children to the "Stay Safe, Play More Safety and Health Fair" 3-6 p.m. Monday, March 24, at the Wayne Ford Civic League.

More than 30 family friendly organizations will offer their expertise and free giveaways while children enjoy entertainment and refreshments. The event is presented by Gateway Community Health and Starfish Family Services and funded by the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

Some activities and organizations involved include:

- 100 free bicycle helmets will be given out to the first 100 children
- Free bike giveaway by Michigan Bicycles.

- Free CPR Training from Quality First Aid & Safety.

- Lead poisoning prevention education by Michigan Department of Community Health.

- Bike Helmet TRIP Program and child passenger safety by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

- Free books from Kiwanis Books for Kids.

- Ambulance tours by Rapid Response EMS.

- Vaccine for Children's Immunization Clinic by St. John Community Health.

- Pollution Prevention by Wayne County Department of Environment.

- Westland Fire Department truck tours.

- Free lead testing by Environmental Testing & Consulting.

- Clowns, face painting, door prizes, and free snacks and beverages.

The event is open to the public and provided free of charge. The Wayne Ford Civic League is at 1645 S. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call Renee Lige at (248) 615-9730.

Starfish Family Services is the largest private, non-profit human service agency in western Wayne County. The organization offers 12 specialized programs to help educate and empower vulnerable children and families in southeastern Michigan. The agency has served nearly 8,000 children and their families at its 18 services sites over the last year. More information can be found online at [www.starfish-online.org](http://www.starfish-online.org).

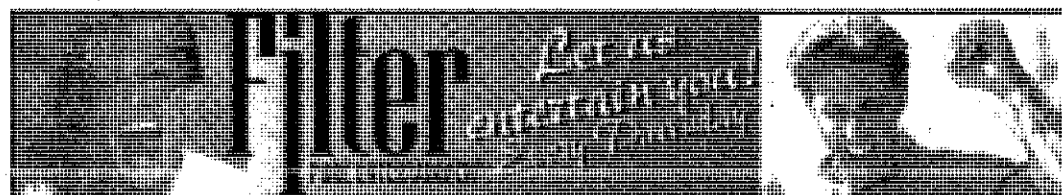
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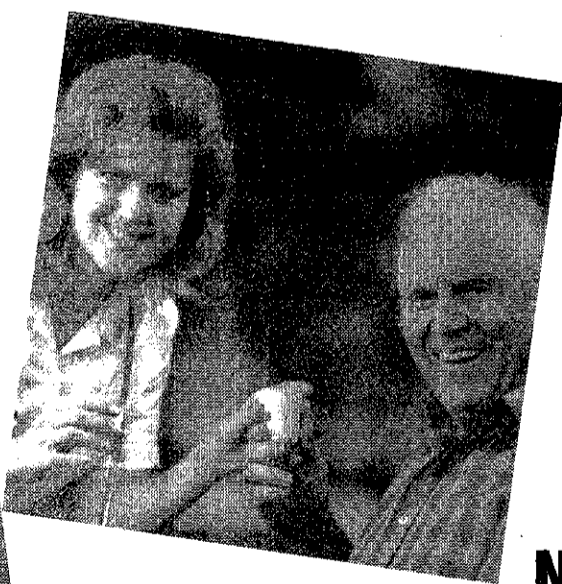
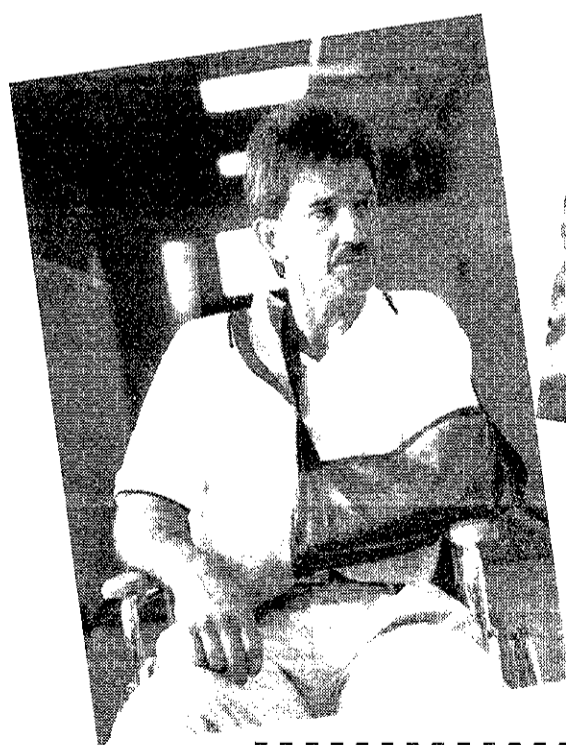
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ACHIEVERS

Named to the honor roll for the third marking period at Tinkham Alternative High School were Jeremy Costanzo, Nicole Grayes, Dominique Henderson, Ashley Holland, Tressie Howell, Brittany Jackson and Alicia Taylor.

Jeremy Ferack. The students had to maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term to be name to the list.

Members of the Wayne Memorial JROTC Zebra Battalion walked away with honors in the recent Concordia Drill competition held in Fort Wayne, Ind., which featured the best teams from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois.

The battalion Color Guard - Erin Hanner, Andrew Pate, Joshua Fletcher and Brieanne Rice - won first place, defeating the number five team in the country. The LET 1 color guard - Daniel Johnson, Jaquelyn Odien, Kristie Thomas and Hilary Volmerhausen, all ninth-graders, finished first in the B division. The unarmed exhibition squad - finished second and the platoon finished third. The Unarmed Squad Exhibition placed third and the Unarmed Platoon Exhibition placed second. Both were led by Jessica Hensley.

There 18 schools at the competition, and Wayne Memorial took nine of the 20 medals, more than its share considering five of the teams had been to the National Drill Championships, according to the battalion's senior Army instructor 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Steven E. La Haine.

In the Individual Drill Knockout, Erin Hanner placed second, Nickole Jarvis was third, Trevor Fletcher fourth and Josh Fletcher ninth in Armed, while Hannah Plumley was second, Brieanne Rice third, Jessica Hensley seventh, Rachael Barton ninth and Alicia Mandeville 10th in Unarmed.

Wenxin Zhu of Westland has received a \$250 scholarship after participating in the 51st Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Zhu was among 100 students receiving scholarships in the competition.

Students take a two-part examination from topics in high school mathematics. Some 14,000 students registered for the first part which contains 40 multiple choice questions. The highest 1,000 students from part one are invited to take part two in which the answer five problems, providing their solutions, justification and proofs of their claims.

Zhu is a student at Canton High School.

Gretchen Coles, a teacher at Hayes Elementary School in Westland received a 2007 Classroom Grant from the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers. The grant funds will be used to purchase new drums for the school's music room.

According to Vicki Rolens, managing director of FACT, Coles submitted a well thought-out presentation requesting the funds.

Named to the Dean's List for the fall 2007 semester at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield were Westland residents Jacob Nabozny, Robert Lange and

Renovations make house home for seniors

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Minnie Dugan doesn't worry about getting lost in American House III. Her fellow residents are more than "willing to guide me."

A resident for just a week at the senior apartment building on Hunter in Westland, she joined her new friends in the dining room recently to munch on hot dogs while city officials gathered outside for a ceremonial ribbon cutting to unveil more than \$200,000 in renovations.

The main dining room and solarium were remodeled, as well as a new chapel and offices. The furnishings are classy in look and have the welcoming feel of home.

"We want to give residents what they deserve," executive director Carmin Harris said. "We want it to be as close to home as it can be."

The apartment building, built in 1986, offers seniors the best of both worlds. It has 90 one- or two-bedroom unfurnished apartments, with full bath, walk-in closet and balcony.

There is also a full kitchen, with stove, refrigerator and dishwasher, where seniors can prepare their own meals. Or they can join other residents in the dining room for meals prepared by head chef Nicholas Beatty.

According to Harris, the meals are included in the cost, as are a linen and laundry ser-



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Claire Tavtigain, resident at American House III in Westland, receives a flower balloon from Joshua Kamradt, The Balloon Guy Entertainment, at the re-grand open house. Resident Jessie Springer (center) chose a flower and Marjorie Stevens chose a bumble bee.

vice and housecleaning.

"They can be as independent as they want to be or as dependent as they want to be," Harris said.

The facility also has its own bus that transports residents where they want to go on a daily basis, including doctor appointments within a 10-mile radius.

And for seniors who need assistance, 24-hour assistance is available through Spectrum Services.

"Everything is here in one place to take care of them," Harris said. "But they can still maintain their independence as much as they want."

The setup is good for Duggan, who points out that she doesn't have to cook or do dishes.

"I lived alone and it got to the point where I couldn't drive, buy groceries or cook," she said. "I had read about this place. My kids live fairly close and they're very attentive."

American House has three loca-



American House III Director Carmin Harris cuts the ribbon for the re-grand opening of the senior citizen building on Hunter west of Wayne Road.

tions in Westland - on Joy west of Hix, on Venoy north of Palmer and the facility on Hunter between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway. For more information about American

House III, call Carmin Harris at (734) 728-8670 or go online to www.americanhouse.com.

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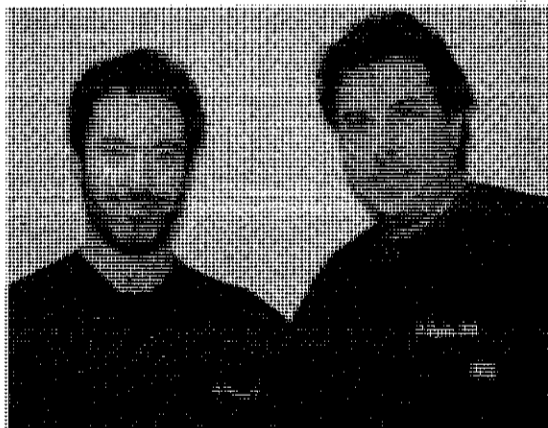
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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Westland Police Department will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous seized and forfeited items. The auction will begin on Sunday, March 23rd, 2008 and end Sunday, March 30th, 2008. Interested persons should:

- visit www.aitecanton.com 2. click on the "Auctions" tab 3. in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"

The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder: Sony Handicam digital camera, DXG recorder, Casio camera, Epson photo lab, Palm Pilot M500, Minterk DVD player, Vector power inverter, various watches, Cartier glasses, Blackberry Nextel phones, Pioneer speakers, Kodak Easy Share camera, various jackets, Crosman paintball guns, Panasonic surround sound, Playstation games and system, Playstation 2 games and system, Xbox games and system, Gamecube games, DVD player, Olympus camera, Sony Wega LCD/HD TV, Vizio TV, Zenith TV, Garmin GPS, HP laptop computer, Uniden walkie talkies, Sony stereo equipment, Magnavox 42" TV, and Miller Trailblazer 302 welder/generator.

All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: March 23, 2008



CITY OF GARDEN CITY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY MAPLEWOOD II

PRESENT: Plakas, Todd, Walker, Waszczenski, Gora, Kerwin and Doge. ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION BY: Councilmember Gora SUPPORTED BY: Councilmember Dodge

WHEREAS, a report has been received from the City Manager on reconstructing Maplewood, Harrison to Inkster and Henry Ruff to Merriman.

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to hear the views of property owners in the proposed district.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to call a Public Hearing for Monday, April 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, MI 48135 to solicit public comments on the necessity of reconstructing Maplewood, Harrison to Inkster and Henry Ruff to Merriman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of such Public Hearing be published in the newspaper of general circulation of the City, and that notice of such meeting be given by first class mail to the last known owner of each parcel affected thereby pursuant to the Garden City Code of Ordinances Chapter 40, Section 40.04.

Adopted: YEAS: Unanimous. NAYS: None.

Resolution: 08-03-044. Adopted: March 3, 2008.

Publish: March 23, 2008

Bill lets DDAs finance downtown revitalization

A western Wayne County lawmaker is applauding the state Senate's overwhelming support for final passage of a bill to revitalize Michigan's downtowns.

This legislation would allow Downtown Development Authority (DDA) boards to create, operate and fund loan programs for building improvements in downtown districts, according to Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who co-sponsored the bill as part of a bipartisan effort.

"Michigan needs thriving downtowns in order to attract and retain a talented workforce," said Anderson. "Revitalizing our communities will make Michigan an even more attractive place to live and work, and give businesses additional incentives. These loans would be used to make buildings more marketable for sale or lease. The DDA board could then make loans to businesses with interest at or below market rates, as determined by the board. This fiscally responsible approach will be funded through pre-existing revenue sources and would have no impact on state expenditures.

The Senate also voted with strong bipartisan support to pass SB 970, co-sponsored by Anderson, as part of the DDA package. The legislation allows DDA boards to create, operate and fund retail business incubators, giving preference to tenants who would provide goods or services that were previously unavailable or underserved in the downtown area.





## OUR VIEWS

### Easter message of hope meant for everyone

It's Easter Sunday, and Christians worldwide are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago.

Believers are gathering in churches adorned with white lilies to hear trumpets blare, choirs sing and pastors proclaim that, through faith in Jesus, they too will live eternally in Heaven.

It's a message of hope for a world that, at times, seems hopeless.

Christians believe that their life on earth is fleeting compared to the life

they'll live forever in Heaven, where there are no problems of any kind, including sickness, pain and death.

It gives them that joy and peace that surpass understanding to face the trials of their daily lives, knowing those trials are only temporary.

It also gives them the hope, when they lose a spouse, child, parent or friend, that they'll see their loved one again in Heaven, where they'll be together forever.

The story of Jesus, God's son, rising

from the grave after dying on a cross to take the punishment for the sins of everyone has been retold every year since that first Easter morning.

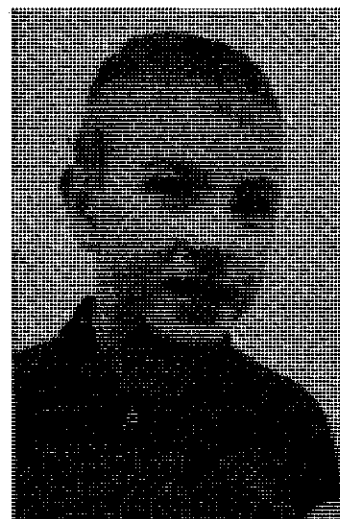
It's a story first shared by the women visiting Jesus' empty tomb and his disciples who, fearful for their own lives immediately following his crucifixion, courageously went to their own deaths to spread it to the first-century world.

It's a story recorded in the Bible for every generation since — a message of hope meant for all people for all time.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think the Easter Bunny delivers so many Easter baskets?

We asked this question of first-graders at Memorial Elementary School in Garden City.



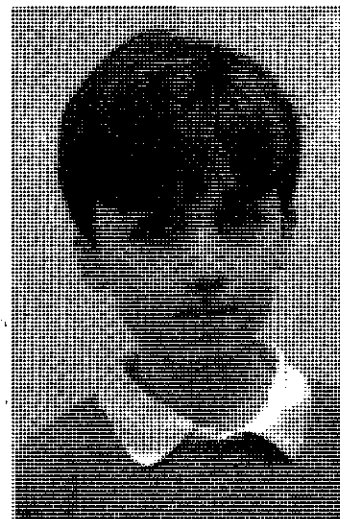
"There was this contest to see who could sell the most eggs with the Easter Bunny and Peter Cottontail won."

Chase Weiss



"He goes out with one basket and goes back and get another."

Alexandria Adams



"He takes them on his hopes to every state, he does at least 20 hopes."

P. Pondell  
Canton



"I don't know. I think he just goes and buys them."

Caidyn Repass

## LETTERS

### Experienced leader

This letter is in response to the Letter to the Editor ("Reconsider county appointment") in the March 16 edition of the *Westland and Livonia Observer Newspapers*.

I have been a Westland resident for 13 years. I worked for Commissioner Kay Beard for 10 of those years as her legislative secretary. Commissioner Beard and I formed a close relationship over the years, and I will miss her at work. As I told her when I learned of her plans to retire, "This is not goodbye. It is I'll see you later."

For two of my 10 years I have had the pleasure of working with Ronaale Bowman. I have found her to be a hardworking and dedicated community activist. Before coming to work for Commissioner Beard, she worked tirelessly for the people in the 12th District, even though at the time she lived 1.5 miles outside of the district lines in Livonia. Some of Commissioner Bowman's community involvements:

- In 2005, Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli appointed her to, and she still serves on, the Detroit Wayne County Health Advisory Board.

- For 14 years, she has served on the Health and Welfare Advisory Board and the Literacy subcommittee for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

- The Westland Civitans awarded her the 2006 Citizen of the Year Award.

- She worked on the Norwayne Red

Wagon Literacy program for eight years.

- She has been a member of the Women of Westland for four years.

- She served on the mayor of Westland's Task Force on Family Enrichment for 10 years.

- She was responsible for securing the keynote speaker for Westland's Martin Luther King Jr. program and served on the planning committee.

- She is an annual participant in the Westland Relay for Life and has raised more than \$1,000.

- She assisted the Wayne and Westland Business and Professional Women's organizations at "Reality Store" presentations at area schools.

That's what you have in Commissioner Ronaale Bowman.

Deborah Mecks,  
legislative secretary  
to Commissioner Ronaale Bowman

### Stand up against McCotter

When George Bush took office, he complained that oil was at \$31/barrel from the Clinton administration. In George Bush's eight-year tenure, he and his Republican followers in Congress, including Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, have raised our oil prices to \$110/barrel. My son-in-law is a truck driver and for every \$0.10 raise in diesel fuel, 1,000 trucking companies are now closing their doors. This is all happen-

ing while oil companies are enjoying more tax breaks and obscene record profits.

McCotter, as the *Observer* stated, also obviously gerrymandered the districts before he ran for Congress, making it difficult for other parties to run against him — he denies it because he is McCotter.

Newspapers, like the *Observer*, practice the unspoken rule, that the incumbent is the one they endorse, unless they've broken a major law publicly. The Democratic Party (DNC) needs to quit looking for candidates based on their ability to raise millions and help those progressive candidates that will strongly take a stand and say no more.

So *Observer*, don't discount candidates just because they haven't been backed by millions of dollars in funding. DNC, you need to help candidates that will fight this administration and McCotter. We need to stand up against oil companies raping our pockets, and for political finance reform, media reform and "business as usual" reform in the DNC. We need to stand up and say that we can vote in a candidate that will change the mess that McCotter and his cronies have gotten us into. If you are mad as hell and want to change this, you need to vote Republican rubber stampers like Thaddeus McCotter out. Help out the candidates running against him right away — we can change this.

P. Pondell  
Canton

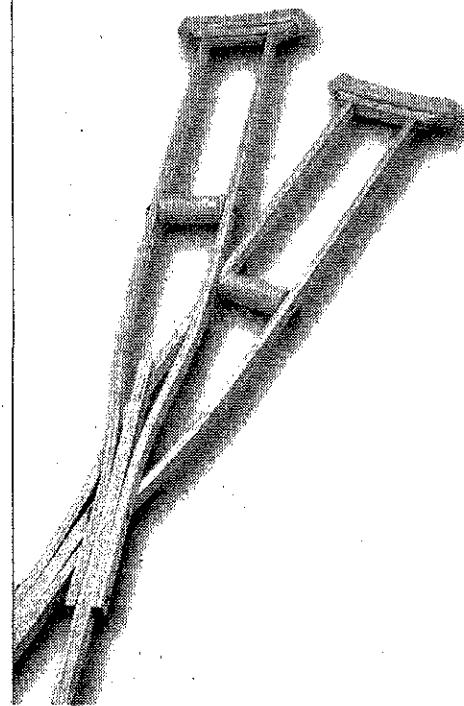


"My doctor said I needed a hip replacement. After planning the surgery, I learned I needed to plan my recovery, too."

My doctor suggested HCR ManorCare, a "nursing home." My doctor told me, "they're different than you think." So, I met their physical therapists, visited their rehab area and talked to the admissions director and case manager who reviewed their successful patient outcome history. After my surgery, HCR ManorCare helped me rehabilitate my hip so I'd be ready to go home. I was surprised at how young the patients were and that many of them were receiving medical rehab and returning home.

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# Single mother should make statutory will first priority

Dear Rick: I am a single mother with a young child. I have not saved for college nor for my retirement and I have no will or life insurance. I can't afford to do everything at once. What is more important?

Since you have a young child it is important to do some estate planning. The Michigan Statutory Will, which is free, should fit your situation. You can get a copy at most public libraries or download one from my Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com), just click on "forms."

The most important issue is who is going to raise your child if something happens to you. This person is known as the guardian. Another important consideration in your Will is the choice of personal representative, the individual in charge of closing up the final affairs of your life.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

There is no problem with naming the same person as guardian and personal representative. In order to protect your child if something happens to you it is important to have some life insurance. I recommend term insurance which is the least expensive. There are a variety of Web sites where you can shop for term insurance or if you would like to deal with someone locally, I recommend Mark Orechkin of the Orechkin Agency in Southfield, (248) 356-8820. I recommend at least a 20-year term life policy.

College is expensive and it will take a while to save

enough for your child's education. However, you don't necessarily have to save enough for his/her entire education but rather to have some resources to supplement any financial assistance your child may receive. I recommend the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP). All money invested in the MESP grows tax-free. In addition, you can deduct your contribution on your state tax return. What makes the MESP so good is it only takes \$25 to begin a program. The MESP can set up an automatic investment program to withdraw money from your checking account on a regular basis. The key is to save on a regular basis. You would be surprised at how fast your money will grow once you begin a saving program.

There are a variety of

different investment options within the MESP and in your situation I would recommend one of the age-based programs.

And while saving for your child's college education you also should begin saving for retirement. I recommend a Roth IRA which allows money to grow on a tax-free basis. In your situation, I recommend the T. Rowe Spectrum Growth Fund, (800) 638-5660, [www.troweprice.com](http://www.troweprice.com). The fund allows you set up an automatic investment program for a \$50 minimum. Once again, you'd be surprised how fast your money can grow once you begin to invest on a regular basis.

I know it can be a daunting challenge to get and keep your financial house in order. Keep the focus on what you can do from today on to make your

situation better. Keep in mind, the first step is the hardest. Dear Rick: I don't own a house. I live in an apartment and all my investments have beneficiaries. I went to a seminar and was told I need a living trust. Why would I need a living trust if all my money avoids probate?

There are a couple reasons why you may need a living trust. If you're in a situation where you have a large estate and you have a spouse, then even though your assets avoid probate they may not avoid estate taxes upon both you and your spouse's death. For individuals with large estates, a living trust can be the most effective vehicle to avoid estate taxes.

The other reason is if you wish to control your assets upon your death. If your beneficiaries are young or cannot handle their inheritance you may wish to control your money past

your death. A living trust is the most effective vehicle. For example, if your beneficiaries were teenagers, you may not want them to receive their inheritance in a lump sum at age 18. Through the use of a living trust you can spread that money out for as long as you choose.

I do believe living trusts are sometimes oversold. They are not for everyone. However, living trusts can be an effective vehicle to reduce or eliminate estate taxes, avoid probate and to control your money past your death.

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

## KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section

## Culinary gala April 5 to benefit Schoolcraft scholarships

The Art of Fine Dining will be experienced by those in attendance at this year's VisTa Gala on Saturday, April 5.

Patrons of this annual event will have the opportunity for an intimate look inside Schoolcraft College's six state-of-the-art culinary kitchens while mingling with world-class culinary chefs and instructors.

Guests will also enjoy a meal of adventuresome cuisine featuring Montreal beef with caramelized onion and roadhouse barbecue sauce; smoked cod cake with wilted greens and mustard aioli; wood grilled rack of lamb with rosemary sauce; sushi; sea bass, rock shrimp and lobster in light pastry with chervil, glazed cucumber and caviar sauce;

corn and shrimp bisque; pan-seared Hudson Valley duck foie gras and more. Of course, the perennial favorite, "Grand Pastry Display," and assorted chocolate desserts will top off the menu.

All dishes are prepared by the award-winning Schoolcraft culinary arts students, under the supervision of Executive and Certified Master Chefs. Tickets are \$150 per person, \$90 of which is tax deductible. All proceeds will assist in funding scholarships

for culinary art students at Schoolcraft College.

The optional black-tie event will be held at the VisTaTech Center on the college's Livonia campus on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Complimentary valet parking will be provided. The evening's festivities will include:

6:30 p.m., Wine and Hors d'oeuvres; Complimentary Photos (available until 9:30 p.m.); Silent Auction bidding begins.

7:30 p.m., Plated Salad and Welcome.

8 p.m., Strolling Dinner through the American Harvest Restaurant and the production, charcuterie, bake shop, pastry and demonstration kitchens; Silent Auction bidding continues.

9:30 p.m., Dessert Buffet; Silent Auction winners announced

To order tickets or for more information call (734) 462-4518 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation).

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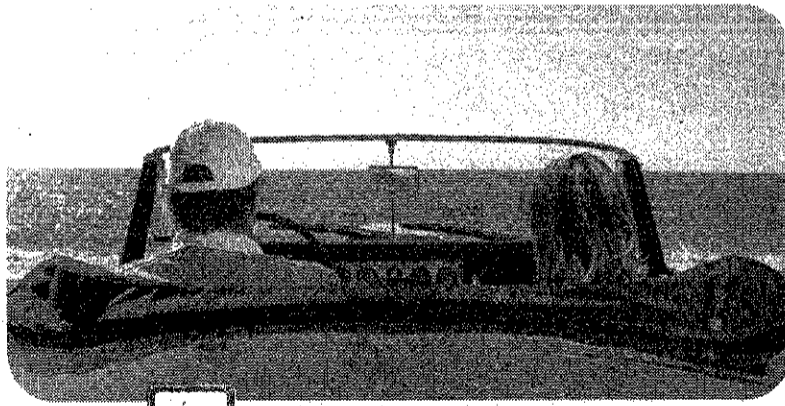


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## SPORTS

B (LW)

Sunday, March 23, 2008

The Observer &amp; Eccentric Newspapers

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www.hometownlife.com

# Kick-started

## Churchill girls strong contenders

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

## SOCCER PREVIEW

A glorious 2007 Livonia Churchill girls' soccer season ended in a cruel manner.

The Chargers were in the Division 1 district championship final against Western Lakes Activities Association rival Northville when Sarah Stern took the opening kick of the second overtime and found teammate Danielle Toney streaking down the middle for the game-winning goal and a 1-0 victory.

That win sent the Mustangs all the way to the state semifinals and the Chargers were left wondering.

"I know the team is still smarting over the early exit from the state playoffs," said Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit, who guided the Chargers to a 15-3-3 overall record and a WLA title. "Our goals have been set for the regular season, and the girls are inspired to improve on last year's successes."

Fourteen players, including nine starters, return for the Chargers led by junior goalkeeper Stefanie Turner, who had a goals-against average of 0.66 along with 12 shut-outs.

First-team All-Area midfielder Bailey Brandon, a junior, also returns after scoring 12 goals and adding nine assists. She is joined by second-team All-Observer selection Alyssa Mira.

The only downer to the start of the 2008 season is the loss of first-

team All-Area pick Alisha Lussiez (10 goals, 11 assists), who suffered a torn ACL knee injury and is likely lost for the season.

But Hebestreit, a heart transplant recipient, remains positive.

"The core of this team plays together on their club teams, which allows for us to move past the 'getting to know each other phase and go right into perfecting how to attack and defend as a unit,'" he said.

Churchill's main rival in the Lakes Division of the WLA will once again be Livonia Stevenson (10-7-3), which also suffered a cruel setback when first-team All-Observer forward Victoria Slavin (12 goals, six assists) was also lost likely for the season with a torn ACL.

But seventh-year coach Chris Pinta believes his Spartans can contend.

"The conference will be very competitive as it always is," he said. "I'm certain that once things get going, and we get comfortable with one another on the field, we'll be ready to compete with anyone. I think this year there are several teams capable of winning the conference - Stevenson included."

Livonia Franklin (6-12-1), Wayne Memorial (3-13-2) and Westland John Glenn (2-14-1) also hope to create noise in the Western Lakes. Franklin eighth-year coach Jen Barker hopes to make up for the loss of second-team All-Area pick Meghan Horgan, who graduated.

"This group wants to be competitive in our league and make things

Please see **CHURCHILL, B2**

Alyssa Mira (right) of Livonia Churchill and Allison Krueger (left) of Livonia Ladywood return this season for their respective girls soccer teams.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Dave Hebestreit

# Sidelines

## MU adds Straub

Monroe infielder Amanda Straub is the latest signee for Madonna University women's softball coach Al White.

The 5-foot-5 Straub, entering her third varsity season, has helped the Trojans to a pair of Mega Conference-Red Division titles, as well as Division 1 district and regional titles in 2007.

"What impressed our staff the most was her intensity and desire to win," White said. "She's a very intense competitor and wants to win. We like that on our club."

Straub also lettered in volleyball twice, helping the Trojans win a Class A district title as a junior while serving as team captain last season.

"We knew we're getting an outstanding player in Amanda, but more importantly, she's a quality person and a student-athlete," White said of the honor roll, National Honor Society and Academic All-State honoree. "The program coach (Vince) Rossi has built a Monroe produces great kids and even better people. We're glad to add another one of his players along with Jess (Irwin)."

MU is currently 8-4 on the young season.

## Caesars champs

Wasim Bazzi notched a hat trick, including the game-winning goal in the second overtime as the Livonia Midget BB Blackhawks clinched the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League's Adams Division championship with a 4-3 win March 15 over Lakeland at the Dearborn Indoor Skating Center. Other members of the Blackhawks include: Michael Schuit, Ken Fraser, Steve Hofmeister, David Niemi, Steve Tenaglia, Greg Michael, Michael Padgen, Justin Bowen, Drew Seiber, Vito Geluso, Tony Suzio, Mark Hollinger, Brad Young, Ryan Hogan, Kellen Lynch, Matt Yaroch and Brian Peterson. Coaches include Roger Fraser, Bob Bowen and Scott Yaroch. The team manager is Lisa Joyce Lee.

## 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.

# St. Michael athletic director Day fondly remembered

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There never may be another one at St. Mike's like Ed Day, the longtime athletic director who passed away last Wednesday at the age of 82.

Day spent over 40 years directing grade school athletics at St. Michael Catholic Church grade school where services will be held beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 25. St. Michael is located at 11441 Hubbard, Livonia.

Visitation will be from 2-9 p.m. Monday, March 24 at Griffin Funeral Home, located at 7707 Middlebelt

Road, Westland.

Day is survived by his wife Eileen and three daughters - Maureen (Mark) Holmes, Kathleen Day and Ann Marie (Robert) Salo - along with four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"Ed had a big heart and was just great with kids," said current St. Michael A.D. John Franchi, who began his association with Day when his son John, Jr. was a fourth-grader. "Ed was a very unselfish individual who always gave of himself."

To say Day was an institution at St. Michael would be a gross understatement.

"He did a lot of time, and all of it was quality time," said John Dupuie, who coached football at St. Michael.

"He probably worked with 10,000 kids over the course of 45 years, and they were not all athletic people. He had the knack for bringing out the good in people. "He was very unselfish. He didn't make a ton of money, but I've seen him take \$45 of his own pocket and buy a kid who couldn't afford it, and buy him a pair of shoes. He was very unselfish."

Day was a retiree from Detroit Edison and lived nearby in the parish neighborhood.

"He was always right around the

corner from the practice field or gymnasium," Dupuie said. "He steered people in the right direction that maybe weren't headed in the right direction - he was that dedicated."

Dupuie remembers Day, who started at the parish grad school in the late 1950s, as a no-nonsense and stern, but fair individual.

"He instilled respect, but he also had a sense of humor," Dupuie added. "His one-liners were always on the button. He was a well-respected and loved man."

bemons@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2123

# Crusaders secure 3rd strong recruit to class

The 11-time defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's volleyball champion Madonna University added another piece to its 2008 puzzle last week when head coach Jerry Abraham announced the signing of Allen Park Cabrini High standout Karie Altman.

Abraham's fall recruiting class now includes Altman, Canton's Marie Martin and Wyandotte's Megan Fricke.

"Karie is a quality, all-around athlete," Abraham said.

"Our staff has liked her from the first time we saw her. In the front row, she is a terminating type of attacker who can hit from antenna to antenna.

"She has the speed, agility and the court sense to hit out of the middle or come from the outside and attack as well. She plays the game like one of our past all-Americans, Caryn Inman."

Altman, a 6-foot middle and outside hitter from Taylor, has earned four volleyball letters during her time with the Monarchs.

This season she helped lead her squad to the Catholic League C-D

Division championship en route to being named All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region, All-State and for the third straight year to News Herald Downriver Dream Team.

Altman has also earned a trio of letters on the basketball court, helping Cabrini to another Catholic League title this winter and to a state semifinal appearance in the MHSAA tournament two weeks ago.

She is also a standout on the softball diamond, helping Cabrini to back-to-back state championships and wrapping up the 2007 season with a perfect 35-0 record.

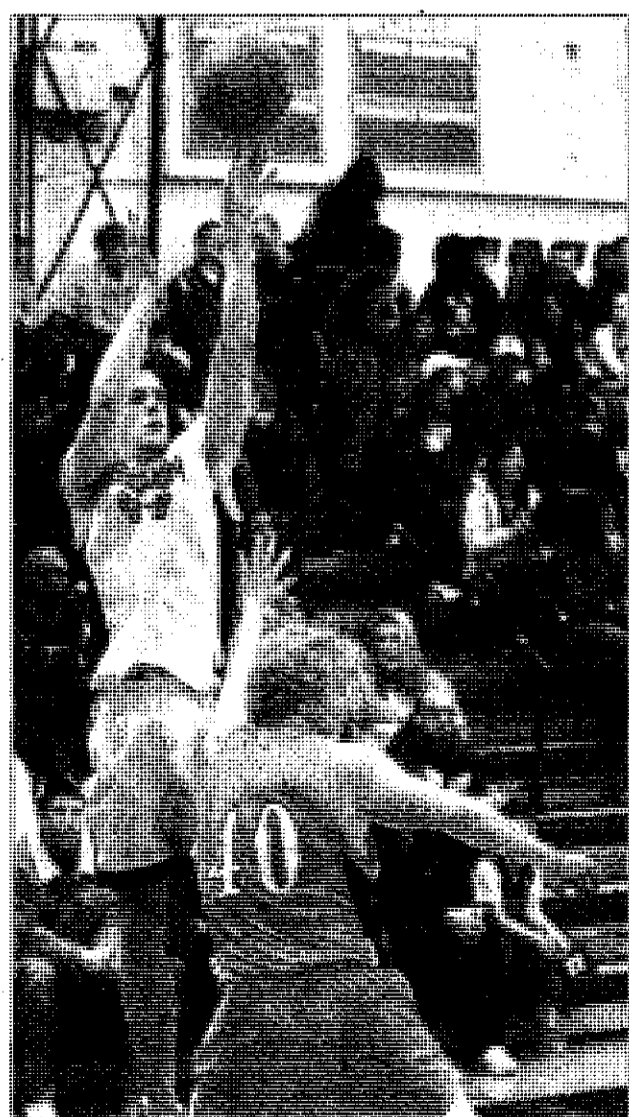
"Karie has a whip for an arm and plays with a great deal of intensity," added Abraham.

"In high school she was also a standout defensive back row player who never came out of the game. She is the kind of player who makes everyone around her better and we can not wait to start working with her this fall."

MU, which earned its sixth straight trip to the NAIA National Tournament this season, returns 12 letter winners from a squad that finished 35-12 overall in 2007.

## All-Area boys hoops

Churchill senior Ryan Rosenick earned first-team All-Observer honors this season after averaging 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Chargers. For a closer look at this year's squad, see page B3.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Kitchener drops Whalers in Game 1

The Kitchener Rangers validated their No. 1 seed in the 2008 Ontario Hockey League playoffs Friday night in their Game 1 quarterfinal match-up against defending OHL champion Plymouth.

The Rangers struck early and often in their 9-2 triumph over the Whalers before a crowd of 6,132 at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium. Game 2 was set for Saturday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Kitchener, which earned the top seed by racking up 53 regular-season victories, scored four goals in both the first and second periods and never looked back. Nick Spaling, Justin Azevedo and

Matt Halischuk did most of the damage for the winners, combining for 14 points. Halischuk exploded for two goals and three assists, Spaling contributed a hat trick and an assist while Azevedo notched a trio of helpers.

Ben Shutron, Yannick Weber and Nazem Kadri also lit the lamp for the Rangers.

Chris Terry and Patrick Lee scored the Whalers' goals.

Kitchener's special teams shined as the Rangers scored on 5-of-10 power-play opportunities. Plymouth, on the other hand, cashed in on just 1-of-8 man-advantage situations.

Steve Mason made 25 saves between the pipes for the

Rangers.

Plymouth's Jeremy Smith, who missed the previous two weeks with an injury, stopped 38 shots.

Kitchener outshot Plymouth, 47-27. The biggest shots-on-goal differential came in the first period when the Rangers unleashed 24 shots compared to the Whalers' eight.

Terry's goal came with 7:40 left in the opening period and his team trailing, 3-0. He was assisted by Smith.

Lee's lamp-lighter came with 5:21 to play in the game and the Rangers holding a commanding 9-1 advantage.

Tyler G. Brown and Christian Steingraber assisted.



## St. Patrick's champs

The Livonia Pee Wee B Flyers captured the St. Patrick's Day Tournament in Lansing with a 4-0 win over the Mount Clemens Falcons following a 3-2 semifinal triumph in a shootout over the Rockford Rams. In pool play, the Flyers posted a 2-1 record with wins over the USA Vipers (5-1) and the Capital Centre Pride (2-1). Their only setback came against the Rams (5-0). Members of the Flyers include: Chris Adams, Tyler Albers, Nathan Blank, Matt Cassar, Jordan Cutting, Dominic DeAngelo, Josh Dudek, Neil Fenner, Brenden Massucci, Chris McDonald, Natalie McKenzie, Brady O'Brien, Ryan Paulus, Connor Przybyla, Michael Sudek and Jordan Wagel. The head coach is Don Miller, assisted by Mark Paulus, Andy O'Brien, Tom McKenzie and Derrick Miller.

## GIRLS SOCCER CAPSULE OUTLOOK

**LIVONIA CHURCHILL**  
**Head coach:** Dave Hebestreit, seventh season.  
**League affiliation:** Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 15-3-3.  
**Titles won last year:** Lakes Division and WAAA champions.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Kellie Green.  
**Leading returnees:** Stefanie Turner, Jr. GK (first-team All-Area, 0.66 goals-against average; 12 shutouts); Bailey Brandon, Jr. MF (first-team All-Area; 12 goals, 9 assists); Alyssa Mira, Jr. F (second-team All-Area); Kayla Johnston, Jr. MF; Jessica Stroud, Jr. Def.; Andrea Lopez, Jr. Def.; Julianne Purroll, Sr. MF; Hannah Otto, Jr. F; Tessa Allen, Jr. Def.; Lindsay Marlow, Jr. F; Callie Mack, Jr. F; Lindsay McMullen, Jr. MF; Megan Bauman, Jr. GK; Shari Zekalowski, Jr. Def.; Julie Greco, Alissa Lussiez, Sr. F (first-team All-Area; injured, out for season); 11 goals, 10 assists.  
**Promising newcomers:** Kelsey Rothermel, Jr. Def.; Diana Busch, Soph. MF; Jenny Jackson, Sr. Def.; Olivia Lewis, Jr. Def.; Samantha Meeker, Jr. MF.  
**Hebestreit's 2008 outlook:** "We return 14 players and nine starters from last year's team, which means we're off and running already. We have looked sharp thus far in the preseason, readily scoring goals. And I'm excited about what this close-knit group may be able to accomplish. We have a lot of versatile players, which means we can run various systems and tinker when needed. Already we have tried several different formations, and each has been successful."

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN**  
**Head coach:** Jen Barker, eighth season.  
**League affiliation:** WAAA (Western Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 6-12-1.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Meghan Horgan (second-team All-Area); Kristine Ostrosky, Kelly Roulier, Cassie LaPrairie, Jackie Covert, Diana Bida.  
**Leading returnees:** Kelly Powers, Sr. MF; Molly Perkins, Sr. F; Renee Berger, Jr. Def.; Courtney Smith, Jr. Def.; Brooke Killeen, Jr. MF; Sara Ramseyer, Jr. F; Kelsey Lank, Soph. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Ally Mesa, Fr. F; Kelly Walby, Fr. MF; Sheri Helmer, Fr. GK; Taylor Reynolds, Soph. F; Kate Zurenko, Soph. MF; Erin Roulier, Soph. MF; Ally Trosell, Soph. MF; Stephanie Aguis, Soph. Def.; Sara Barker, Fr. F; Amber Alford, Sr. F.  
**Barker's 2008 outlook:** "Although we have some big holes left from last year's seniors, we have a young, but eager team which is ready to work hard and step up to the challenge. It may take us some time to get acclimated to each other and realize what everyone can bring to the team, but I know the team is passionate about succeeding and working to do so. We have experience that will lead this team, and we have youth that is ready to jump in and make an impact. There is a fight for starting positions and we still have many decisions to make."

**LIVONIA STEVENSON**  
**Head coach:** Chris Pinta, seventh season.  
**League affiliation:** WAAA (Lakes Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 10-7-5.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Jamie Chandler (first-team All-Area); Liz Tokarsky (second-team All-Area); Amber Sharp, Kathleen Griffith, Kaitlyn O'Hara.  
**Leading returnees:** Julia Schroeder, Sr. MF; Rachel Stevens, Sr. Def.; Stephanie Gutkowski, Sr. MF; Jennifer Gately, Sr. Def.; Rachel Simari, Sr. GK; Taleen Mergian, Jr. MF; Kayla Kimble, Soph. Def.; Molly McConnell, Soph. MF; Shannon Merritt, Soph. MF; Victoria Slavin, Sr. MF (first-team All-Area; injured, out for season).  
**Promising newcomers:** Cara Corp, Sr. Def.; Alexandra Harbony, Jr. F; Joelle Williamson, Jr. F; Samantha Kilman, Jr. Def.; Samantha Gutkowski, Soph. MF; Brittany Hoots, Soph. MF; Anastasia Newton, Soph. Def.; Krista Kane, Fr. MF; Michelle Krawczyk, Fr. GK.  
**2008 outlook:** "Losing Vicky (Slavin) to injury was a huge hit. She has been such a big part of our success here for the past three years. Her presence on the field will no doubt be missed, but her leadership on the side will hopefully prove an asset to our new and younger players. We lost some defensive experience and goal-scoring muscle up-top to graduation, but our returning players are ready to make their mark and are joined by nine talented and athletic new players who all seem eager to compete for playing time."

**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN**  
**Head coach:** Marty Sylvester, first season.  
**League affiliation:** WAAA (Lakes Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 2-14-1.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Sara Davis, Margie Shupe, Justine Easter, Joslyn DeGroot, Amber Sportsman.  
**Leading returnees:** Lauren Whitt, Sr. GK; Kailey Coleman, Jr. Def.; MF; Stephanie Hornbeck, Sr. Def.; Danielle Levy, Sr. Def.; Megan Nikula, Jr. MF; Katie Yax, Soph. GK.  
**Promising newcomers:** Ashley Bailey, Soph. MF; Shelly Sportsman, Jr. MF.  
**Sylvester's 2008 outlook:** "We haven't picked all 11 starters yet, but we'll have a

better idea over spring break. We're kind of in the infant stages even though we've had the program for 12 years. We'll try hard and do our best to represent our school."

**WAYNE MEMORIAL**  
**Head coach:** Evan Baker, second season.  
**League affiliation:** WAAA (Western Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 3-13-2.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Kellie Newsted, Chrissy Jones, Amanda Yacheresse, Chelsey Odom.  
**Leading returnees:** Whitney Jacobs, Sr. F (captain); Danielle Borg, Sr. Def. (captain); Nickole Jarvis, Sr. GK (captain); Samantha Dye, Jr. F; Megan Maynor, Soph. MF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Brittany DeJack, Jr. MF; Avalon Felan, Soph. MF.  
**Baker's 2008 outlook:** "Defensively, we're starting over this year. Danielle Borg is our only returning starting defense from 2007, so we're trying to re-learn the system. With an ACL injury to Sam Dye, we're left with only one player that has ever scored a varsity goal (Whitney Jacobs). The success of our attack will hinge upon how well our midfielders are able to create opportunities for Whitney, and how well she finishes. She's the kind of player who can be incredibly dangerous, even as a lone forward. She has breakout speed to go with great touch and finishing ability, and she'll be fit enough to play an entire 80 minutes."

**LIVONIA LADYWOOD**  
**Head coach:** Ken Shingledecker, first season.  
**League affiliation:** Catholic League (Central Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 5-11-2.  
**Titles won last year:** Division 2 district champions.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** None.  
**Leading returnees:** Alison Szczytko, Sr. MF (second-team All-Area); Kaitlyn Vitale, Sr. MF; Sarah Kempa, Sr. Def.; Kristen Selasky, Sr. MF; Amanda Field, Sr. MF; Erika Doroghazi, Sr. MF; Michele Ring, Jr. GK; Caitlin Szczytko, Jr. F; Allison Krueger, Jr. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Alessia Vagnini, Jr. F (transfer from Dearborn Divine Child).  
**Shingledecker's 2008 outlook:** "With this being my first year at Ladywood, I knew there would be a period of adjustment for the girls. We know we have a lot of work to do to get where we need to be. The girls understand that and have worked very hard up until this point. We have good senior leadership and a mix of young talent."

**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE**  
**Head coach:** Trevor Johnson, second season.  
**League affiliation:** Metro Conference.  
**Last year's overall record:** 6-11-2.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Chelsea Gregg (second-team All-Area); Season Belcher, Mallorie Lemon, Crystal Wheeler.  
**Leading returnees:** Amanda Moody, Sr. MF (second-team All-Area; 18 goals, 3 assists); Tori Bunker, Sr. Sweeper; Jordan Fyffe, Jr. MF; Kristen Jolly, Soph. GK; Teresa Parent, Soph. MF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Amber Dermire, Sr. F; Sam Giordano, Jr. Def.  
**Johnson's 2008 outlook:** "This is going to be a year where we see what these girls are capable of. After losing seven girls to graduation, and a few others, our numbers are down from last year from 23 to about 17. That leaves six reserves and plenty of time to see how much progress these girls made from last season to this season. Kristen Jolly will fill the void left by Chelsea Gregg, who now plays at Madonna University. Taking Jolly off the field is tough. She had six goals as a freshman, but she is fearless in net and should be tough in net for the next three years. Overall we have high expectations this season. We think that winning more games than last season is likely, but only if we play to our potential."

**LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND**  
**Head coach:** Sam Makki, second season.  
**League affiliation:** Metro Conference.  
**Last year's overall record:** 10-8-1.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Hannah Kamrath, Samantha Paul.  
**Leading returnees:** Allyson Yankee, Jr. Sweeper; Jessica Welsler, Sr. MF; Miranda Kasprovicz, Jr. F; Emily Meier, Soph. Def.; Abi Gieschen, Jr. Def.; Chelsea Kyles, Jr. GK; Danielle Voetberg, Jr. Def.; Hannah Mielke, Jr. F-MF; Megan Fisher, Jr. MF; Ashley Pniwski, Soph. MF; Amber Pniwski, Soph. MF; Carly Girolamo, Soph. MF; Lauren Switzer, Soph. F.  
**Promising newcomers:** Emma Swartz, Sr. Def.  
**Makki's 2008 outlook:** "Allyson's probably our best player. She has some of the best skills in the group. Allyson, Miranda (Kasprovicz) and Jessica (Welsler) will depend on them a lot. They did a good job all over the field. Last year was a new team. I think we surprised a lot of people last year winning 10 games. I really love coaching these girls. I'm blessed to work with them and happy to be back. I like attitude of the girls this year. They work hard and hard support each other. Overall, last year we worked on individual skills. That was a bonus and we're doing it again this year."

## CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

happen," Barker said. "Despite our youth, I believe we have the determination, talent and desire to have our successes throughout the season."

Wayne second-year coach Evan Baker also lost his top offensive threat, junior forward Samantha Dye, to a torn ACL in October. Dye could return by season's end.

Senior captain Whitney Jacobs is the only other Zebra player to score a goal in 2007.

"We were able to make some progress that I'd like to build on," Baker said. "Most notably picking up our first division win since moving to the WAAA years ago (against Walled Lake Western). We're continuing to work on changing the attitude of Wayne soccer and setting a higher standard for ourselves."

"The girls understand that we play in the strongest soccer conference in the stat, and they're incredibly hungry to compete with top-tier schools."

Glenn, meanwhile, will be under new management with the elevation of JV coach Marty Sylvester to the varsity position. He replaces veteran coach Jerry Poniatowski, who retired.

Sylvester, a fourth-year industrial arts instructor at Glenn, spent 11 years coaching at Marshall Middle School before coming in to coach the JV Rockets last season.

"I'd like to shoot for a .500 season and improve our position in the league," said Sylvester, who will be assisted by Jimmy Mortada. "We'll try to forget the past, play an honest game, and play as a team the best we can."

The only area team to win a district last year was Livonia Ladywood (5-11-2) in Division 2.

The Blazers will be coached by Ken Shingledecker, who previously served as girls varsity coach and assistant boys varsity coach at Lutheran High Westland.

Shingledecker has a veteran lineup led by senior midfielder Alison Szczytko, a second-team All-Observer pick who has signed with Western Michigan University.

"I am well aware how tough and competitive the Catholic League will be," Shingledecker said. "We also have a loaded non-conference schedule that should help us prepare for the state tournament. Our district has changed this year and we're now in with Dexter, a state semifinalist in 2007, so we know it will be a more difficult road than last year."

In the Metro Conference, Lutheran High Westland (10-8-1) raised some eyebrows in 2007 under rookie coach Sam Makki.

The Warriors are led by junior Allyson Yankee, a second-team All-Area pick who will anchor the defense.

"As a team, I think they will play better this year," Makki said. "We just need to defend better as a unit and that's what we're focusing on. Goal-wise we're also better overall because of our defense."

Livonia Clarenceville (6-11-2) could also surprise this season.

Second-year coach Trevor Johnson has a proven scorer in senior Amanda Moody (18 goals, three assists).

"Amanda is a tenacious competitor who make every player on the team better," Johnson said. "I'm expecting huge things from her this season."

See capsule outlook of area teams.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Speed, agility training

A four-day speed and agility training session will be from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, March 31-April 3, at Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer Road, Westland.

The four-day session will focus on proper form, flexibility, isometric drill, quickness and agility based on exercise by specific sport.

The cost is \$25 (includes T-shirt to all participants).

Checks should be made payable to the Westland Comet Boosters. Registration will be at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford).

For more information, e-mail WestlandComets@gmail.com; or call Mark Simkow at (734) 732-1176.

**Storm needs players**

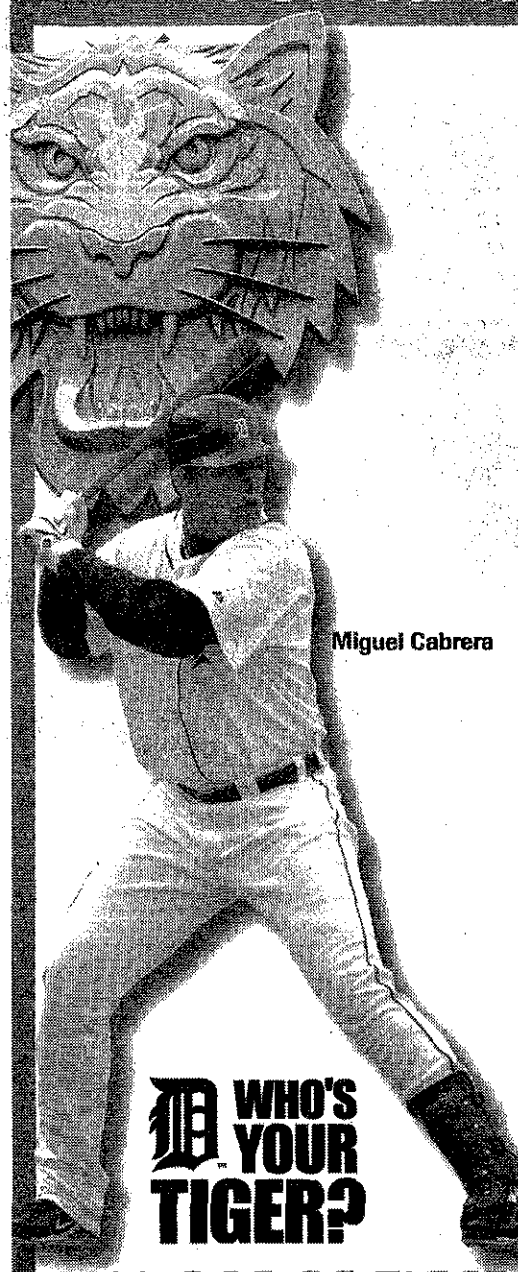
Tryouts (weather permitting) for the Livonia Storm

12-and-under girls softball will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, at Bicentennial Park, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

You age must be as of Jan. 2, 2008 and under to qualify.

For more information, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109; or e-mail kjewell@livoniastorm.com. You can also visit www.livoniastorm.com.

## TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR APRIL GAMES



**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, 8:05**  
 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

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**SPORTS SHORT**

**LJAL needs umpires**

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

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

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

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

# Top-notch individual basketball talent abounds

## FIRST-TEAM

**MIKE LEE, SR. G, WAYNE:** The 5-foot-11 senior guard averaged 19.3 points per game, along with three assists and four rebounds en route to All-Western Lakes Activities Association honors.

Lee, who lifted the Zebras to the WLA playoff crown, a Western Division title and a 19-3 record, scored in double figures in 21-of-22 games.

"Mike always played his best in the big games," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said.

**JAMIE STEWART, JR. G, LIV. CLARENCEVILLE:** The 6-3 junior guard posted big numbers for the Metro Conference champions averaging 22.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 2.3 steals and 2.0 assist per game.

The Class B honorable mention All-Stater shot 54 percent from the floor, including 39 percent from three-point range, and made 75 percent of his free throws.

"Jamie really matured mentally, and figured out what it takes to win," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said for the Metro co-MVP. "Jamie has the ability to score on from any spot on the floor. He always played his best game in our biggest games, both offensively and defensively."

"He is constantly working on his game and with another big summer he'll establish himself as one of the top players in the state."

**EARL HARDISON, SR. F, WESTLAND GLENN:** The 6-1 senior repeated as first-team All-Observer averaging 16 points and seven rebounds per game for the WLA-Lakes Division champions.

He also shot an impressive 75 percent from the foul line.

"Earl guarded the best player on the other team every game," Glenn coach Dan Young said of the All-WLAA pick. "He was our leading scorer. His motor never stops and he was very unselfish. His great attitude was huge for us. It rubbed off on other guys."

**JARMEL BLOODSAW, SR. F, RED. THURSTON:** The top scorer and rebounder for the Mega Blue champion Eagles led the way with nearly 14 points and more than six boards per outing.

Bloodsaw, who as co-captain was one of the top leaders, connected on about 60 percent of his field-goal opportunities and was named to the conference first team.

"Jarmel is a really good basketball player, very conscientious about improving," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "He really improved his shooting and was our top rebounder this year."

**RYAN ROSENICK, SR. F, LIV. CHURCHILL:** The 6-3 senior was a three-year starter for the Chargers.

Rosenick earned All-WLAA honors averaging 17 points and 13 rebounds per game. He hit 53 percent of his field goal attempts (135-

## ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

### 2007-08 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BASKETBALL

#### FIRST-TEAM

Mike Lee, Sr. G, Wayne Memorial  
Jamie Stewart, Jr. F, Liv. Clarenceville  
Earl Hardison, Sr. F, Westland Glenn  
Jarmel Bloodsaw, Sr. F, Red. Thurston  
Ryan Rosenick, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill  
Grant Stone, Sr. F, Salem

#### SECOND-TEAM

Delmichael Youngblood, Sr. F, Thurston  
Terrell Beard, Sr. G, Redford Union  
Lonnie Fairfax, Sr. G, Liv. Clarenceville  
Stefan Marken, Sr. F, Westland Glenn  
Keshawn Martin, Sr. G, John Glenn  
Martez Abney, Sr. G, Wayne Memorial

#### THIRD-TEAM

Jeremy Gainer, Jr. C, Liv. Clarenceville  
Navraj Sandhu, Sr. G, Plymouth  
Greg Morgan, Jr. G, Red. Thurston  
Robert Woodson, Jr. G, Wayne  
Ned Sharma, Sr. C, Canton  
Mark Brissette, Sr. G, Garden City

#### FOURTH-TEAM

Jeremy Lovelady, Sr. C, Wayne  
Andrew Vagnetti, Sr. G, Liv. Churchill  
Ryan Matthey, Sr. G, Liv. Franklin  
Trevor Zinn, Sr. G, Ply. Christian  
Ty Majeski, Sr. G, Canton Agape  
Lawrence Ridgell, So. G, Red. Covenant

#### CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

Brian Bates, Red. Thurston  
Corey McKendry, Liv. Clarenceville

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Ryan Whitlum, Ryan Woods, Nick Seger; Franklin: Jeff Poole; Stevenson: Mark Grisa, Gary Cobbs, Bobby Naubert; Brian Rowe, Jordan El-Sabah; Clarenceville: Darryl Whitaker, Craig Van Nostrand; Lutheran Westland: Josh Kruger, Sam Ahlersmeyer; Huron Valley Lutheran: Kyle Tacia, Aaron Jones; John Glenn: Austin Anderson, Jordan Manier, Daris Smith; Wayne: John Hill, Matt Lewis, Daniel Hill; Thurston: Josh Miller, Marcus Jones; Redford Union: Anthony Wash, Yourye Wilson; Garden City: Joe Felice, Ron Pummill; Redford Covenant: Ben Kii, Gregory Lowe, Tony Harrison, Jamonne Chester; Canton: Chris Bailey, Brody Copia; Plymouth: Brandon Roberts, David Harvey, Mike Hanchett, Garrett Rebin, Chris Daniels; Salem: Ross Davis, Tyler Jeleniowski, Jesse Pointer, Joe Posler; Plymouth Christian: Brent Zinn, Spencer Ward; Canton Agape: Mark Mullett, Jared Miller, Joel Ruffin.

of-256) and shot 60 percent from the foul line.

"Ryan is such a workhorse," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "Everything he got was through hard work and effort."

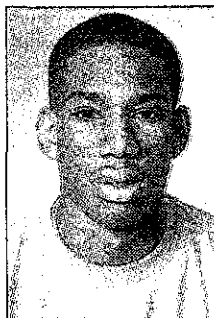
"I've never seen anybody rebound like him. He's a rebounding machine. He was always around the ball and scored in many different aspects."

**GRANT STONE, SR. F, SALEM:** The 6-5 senior capped a stellar high school career by averaging 22 points and seven rebounds a game. Stone became the fourth all-time leading scorer in the storied high school's history in just three varsity seasons.

Despite drawing the opposition's best defensive player, he was often unstoppable when driving to the basket. Stone earned first team All-



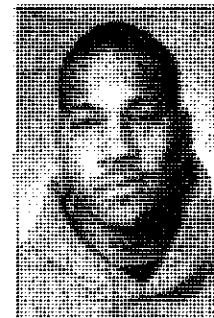
Mike Lee  
Wayne Memorial



Jamie Stewart  
Clarenceville



Earl Hardison  
John Glenn



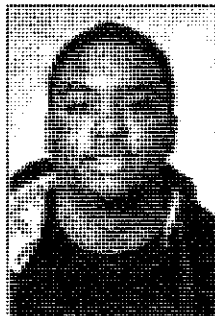
Jarmel Bloodsaw  
Thurston



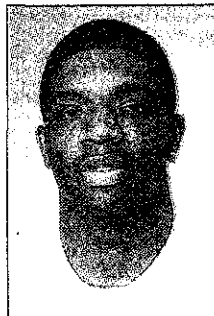
Ryan Rosenick  
Churchill



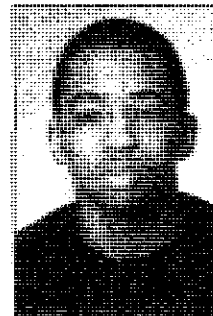
Grant Stone  
Salem



Delmichael Youngblood  
Thurston



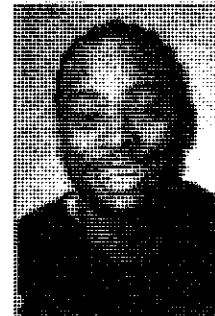
Terrell Beard  
Redford Union



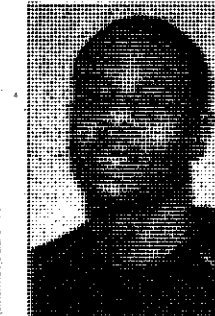
Lonnie Fairfax  
Clarenceville



Stefan Marken  
John Glenn



Keshawn Martin  
John Glenn



Martez Abney  
Wayne Memorial

#### WLAA recognition.

"Grant is a very versatile player who has an uncanny ability to score and get to the basket," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "He's very competitive and very coachable. He'll be missed around here next year."

#### SECOND-TEAM

**DELMICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD, SR. F, RED. THURSTON:** Youngblood's all-around game sparked Thurston to many wins this season. He averaged 13.4 points, 4 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game and was selected to the All-Mega Blue first team for his efforts.

"He gave us a lot of energy, he was one of our catalysts," said Bates, adding that Youngblood was a strong presence in the low post. "He did a lot of the dirty work for us."

**TERRELL BEARD, SR. G, REDFORD UNION:** Panthers head coach Brett Steele described the diminutive point guard as the "heart and soul" of his squad, and with good reason.

Beard was an All-Mega White first-team selection and RU's MVP for the second consecutive year following a season in which he tallied 16 points per game, making 60 treys and 84 percent of his foul shots as the Panthers finished 11-10.

"He is one of the three best players to wear an RU uniform in my tenure," Steele said. "Without him on the floor our team could not succeed."

**LONNIE FAIRFAX, SR. G, LIV. CLARENCEVILLE:** The 5-11 senior guard was named co-MVP of the Metro Conference along with teammate Stewart after averaging 11.7 points, 7.7 assists, 5.4 rebounds and 4.3 steals per game.

His 91 steals rank 19th all-time in

#### the MHSAA.

Fairfax shot 50.3 percent from the field and 67 percent from the foul line.

"Lonnie had a tremendous career at Clarenceville," McKendry said. "He was a joy to coach and one of the mentally toughest kids I have been around. Lonnie understood how to win and always left it on the floor. He was our heart-and-soul these past couple of years, and we're really going to miss him."

**STEFAN MARKEN, SR. F, WESTLAND GLENN:** The 6-4 senior was a major contributor for the 19-3 Rockets averaging 14 points and eight rebounds.

He was a three-point marksman as well, averaging in the low 40 percent range.

"Stefan guarded the next best guy," Young said of the All-Lakes Division selection. "He not only scored, but also defended. He was in much better condition this season and better for longer stretches. That got him over the hump and it made him a consistent threat."

**KESHAWN MARTIN, SR. G, WESTLAND GLENN:** One of the quickest point-guards end-to-end ever to come out of the Observerland, the 5-11 Marken averaged 12 points and six assists per game en route to All-Lakes Division honors.

Marken, second-team All-Area for the second straight year, missed only five free throws all season while shooting 90 percent.

"Keshawn is a great athlete and a great kid," Young said. "He was very unselfish with the basketball and much better defensively this year."

He is headed to Michigan State on a football scholarship.

**MARTEZ ABNEY, SR. G, WAYNE:** The 5-10 senior guard saved his best outings for the stretch run while averaging 14 points per game for the WLAA playoff and Western Division champions.

The lefty sharpshooter was known for his explosive outbursts.

"He played better and better as the season went on," Woodard said. "He could score in a variety of ways, going to the basket or pulling up for a jump shot."

#### CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

**BRIAN BATES, RED. THURSTON:** Bates and his solid staff set the tone, with a no-nonsense approach that always emphasized the importance of team

chemistry while still having fun on the court.

With a handful of outstanding players buying in to the plan, Thurston (20-4 overall) won the Mega Blue and then captured a district title for the first time in 33 years before bowing out in overtime against Brighton in the regional semifinals.

"I am very proud of this group of players," Bates said. "I am proud of them for what they have accomplished both on and off the court. ... It was one of the best years ever at Thurston and they should always be proud of what they accomplished."

#### COREY MCKENDRY, LIV. CLARENCEVILLE:

After going 6-15 in his rookie year, the second-year coach guided the Trojans to a Metro Conference championship and an 18-3 record with the Trojans' only losses coming against three state-ranked teams (Madison Heights Madison, Detroit Community and Detroit Renaissance).

The 25-year-old McKendry, a 2000 Clarenceville grad, played for Bill Dyer (now at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) and coached under Kevin Murphy (Clarenceville's A.D.) before taking the varsity reins in 2006-07.

He was ably assisted this year by Thomas Martin and David Conti.

"We came so far as a program this year," McKendry said. "The kids did a great job of buying into our defensive philosophy and they really left it all on the court. I think we learned how hard you have to play to succeed at the highest level and that will certainly help us next year."

The future looks bright for the Trojans as nine juniors, including four-year starters Jamie Stewart and Jeremy Gainer, return along with one sophomore.

"We know that we took a step in the right direction this year, and we're already working on taking another big step next season," McKendry said.



Brian Bates  
Thurston



Corey McKendry  
Clarenceville



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<p><b>2008 GOLD MEMBERSHIP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all above listed benefits</li> <li>Saturday, Sunday and Holiday Tee Times available after 12:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	<p>\$2,295 Add Spouse \$2,795 Add Family \$3,295</p>
<p><b>2008 Senior Weekday Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior age 60 +</li> <li>Valid Monday-Thursday anytime excluding holidays.</li> <li>Reciprocal play restricted to Monday-Thursday.</li> </ul>	<p>\$2,595 Add Spouse \$3,095</p>
<p><b>2008 Senior Full Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior age 60 +</li> <li>Valid Monday-Sunday anytime including holidays.</li> </ul>	<p>\$1,895 Add Spouse \$2,195</p>
<p><b>2008 RANGE TWILIGHT MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlimited use of the Driving Range after 5:00 p.m.</li> <li>Unlimited golf after 6:45 p.m.</li> </ul>	<p>\$149.95 Per Month</p>
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## Aerobics can ease fibromyalgia

Jill from Eastpointe suffers from Fibromyalgia and wants tips for leading a fuller life.

Jill, almost 4 million Americans suffer from Fibromyalgia (also known



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

as FM). FM patients have unexplained whole body muscle and joint pain.

The symptoms can include chronic fatigue, muscle pain, impaired sleep patterns, and morning stiffness.

Treatments

for FM include pain relief and helping the patients sleep, but exercise can also help people with the condition. They should begin with low impact aerobics and stretching activities like yoga or tai chi. After for weeks of aerobics, it should be okay to begin a weight program. Doctors think it is likely that FM is a metabolic problem and exercise is ideal for boosting the metabolism.

Wait from Rochester emails for tips on reducing arthritis pain that do not require medication.

Wait, it is a simple fact of life. Chances are you will develop some form of arthritis if you live long enough!

Osteoarthritis is caused by wear and tear on the joints and runs in many families. It is particularly common if you have had a previous injury or have a weight problem. Faced with the painful condition, most people avoid exercise and unnecessary activity. That, however, is a big mistake. Exercise strengthens muscles and in turn takes the pressure off joints!

People with arthritis should do exercises that help with flexibility and posture. Start off gradually with non-weight bearing exercises like water aerobics and work your way up to walking.

Also, be sure to check with your doctor or personal fitness trainer for the program that is right for you.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site [www.peternielsen.com](http://www.peternielsen.com). Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

# Lupus

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OSE STAFF WRITER

Joscelyn Derene Knight tried to ignore the pain in her leg. She thought maybe the fatigue was from the split shifts she was working. Then Knight started having headaches that wouldn't go away.

Her sister, Ethel, encouraged her to make an appointment with a doctor, but Knight never expected a diagnosis of lupus. That was 1984 and she was in her early 20s. Back then Knight didn't know anything about the autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of tissues in the body. After having undergone a kidney transplant, hip and knee replacement surgeries, five years of dialysis, and a number of emergencies that left her and caregiver sister Constance spending many a night in a hospital, she decided to write *Lupus ... It Takes a Family* from Rosedog Books. Knight's goal is to help other families struggling with the disease.

"It was a nightmare," said Knight of Redford. "I wrote the book for therapy. It was so traumatic and long. I wrote the book to get a lot of this off of me."

"I would lose control of my legs. I came from a family of eight girls and two boys. Just getting through one day was the biggest challenge. It was extremely painful. You had to depend on God and your support, my mom and dad and Constance."

### SYMPTOMS VARY

Dr. Robert S. Michaels has read Knight's book from cover to cover. The nephrologist began treating kidney diseases more than 30 years ago and says Knight's descriptions of her experiences reflect those of many of his lupus patients although every patient is different. Symptoms range from joint pain to skin rash, hair loss, fatigue, loss of appetite, swelling in the legs, and a butterfly rash depending on whether the disease affects only the skin or is systemic. Complications include an increased risk for blood clotting and accelerating cardiovascular disease.

"Lupus is a disease that affects multiple organs. The lung, the heart, the kidneys, all need to be assessed to see how lupus affects each system," said Michaels, chief of nephrology at the Detroit Medical Center's Sinai-Grace Hospital.

Michaels says to develop a treatment strategy it takes a team of physicians including a rheumatologist, nephrologist, internist, and in Knight's case a transplant specialist. Knight has the systemic type of lupus.

"Nephritis is the kidney disease from lupus. We have medications that can prevent them from needing dialysis. Sometimes lupus can destroy the kidneys," said Michaels of Nephron Associates in Southfield. Michaels is on staff at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

"The current approach is to use steroids with the addition of immunosuppressant therapy which usually consists of cyclosporin. CellCept which have made a great difference for kidney survival before transplant. I look at treating lupus as protecting the kidney from the body rejecting it before transplant so maybe transplant can be prevented."

## One woman's battle with the autoimmune disease



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joscelyn Derene Knight (left) and her sister, Constance Broner-Knight, pose in their Redford home where Joscelyn wrote her book on lupus. Constance was Joscelyn's caregiver as she battled the autoimmune disease.

### GETTING BETTER

Treatment for lupus has vastly improved from 50 years ago, says Dr. W. Joseph McCune, director of the lupus clinic in the University of Michigan Health System. McCune has been treating lupus patients for more than 20 years. He is a professor in the department of internal medicine and associate chief for clinical programs, division of rheumatology at U-M.

"Our experience has been that lupus has been detected a little bit earlier in the past decade than previously and has been treated a little bit more quickly with medical regimens that have gradually improved so overall the outlook for patients has been improving," said McCune. "In the first half of the 20th century before introduction of cortisone and prednisone patients could not be adequately treated. In the 1950s cortisone and prednisone were introduced and then subsequently immunosuppressants. The last half of the 20th century is characterized by refinement of medications most of which had been in use for some years. In the past 10 years there have been trials ongoing of new and novel biologic agents, drugs made in such a way that they're tailored to specific aspects of immune response. There are many promising drugs being tried."

"We're learning how to identify and treat lupus better. Each five to 10 years we get better. We're living in a decade when about 10 treatments will be tried. In the 1990s many new therapies were developed for rheumatoid arthritis, biologic agents. This research has now been going on with lupus."

For the last five years, McCune and Emily Somers, Ph.D., have been in the midst of research to determine the prevalence of lupus in Washtenaw and Wayne counties as part of the MILES Project funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

"Previous estimates have suggested that approximately nine out of 10 patients are women. One out of every 2,000 Caucasian and one in 500 African American women

**'We're learning how to identify and treat lupus better. Each five to 10 years we get better. We're living in a decade when about 10 treatments will be tried. In the 1990s many new therapies were developed for rheumatoid arthritis, biologic agents. This research has now been going on with lupus.'**

DR. W. JOSEPH MCCUNE, director of the lupus clinic in the University of Michigan Health System

may be affected by lupus. The study is designed to confirm this estimate," said McCune. "I think we're going to find out there's more lupus than people expect."

### SUPPORT'S THERE

While there is no cure for lupus, there is treatment and support. An inaugural walk for the Lupus Foundation of America will be held in May to raise funds for research and support for patients and their families. Call (419) 423-9313 or visit [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org) to learn more about the disease.

The Foundation is among the lupus organizations, including Michigan/Indiana Lupus Alliance and Alliance for Lupus Research, to provide support and research funding.

"We provide support and education as well, support in the form of support groups," said Bob Scherger, president of the northwest Ohio and Michigan region of the Lupus Foundation of America. "Our goal is to grow, that as complicated as the disease people can come together and share what their success of dealing with the disease until a cure is found. That's the best medicine until a cure is found."

Knight received her younger sister Sandy's kidney in 2000 at U-M. Knight has been in clinical remission ever since ever but the disease could reactivate at any time.

For more information about Knight's book, visit [www.rosedogbooks.com](http://www.rosedogbooks.com).

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

## Expert warns about the dangers of sun

As Old Man Winter continues his grip on Michigan, many people have winter vacation plans to a warmer climate or Spring Break getaway. This is a good time to remind adults and children to practice sun safety - whether they're in the Bahamas in March or Traverse City in July.

"Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States," said Henry Lim, M.D., chair of Dermatology at Henry Ford Hospital, "and most skin cancer are related to exposure to the sun."

More than one million skin cancers are diagnosed annually, and one in five Americans will develop skin cancer.

"Everyone should be able to enjoy the sun. But with a little common sense and some practical sun safety tips, people can protect themselves while playing outdoors and reduce their risk of developing skin cancer,"

said Lim who recommends these sun safety tips for people of any age when outdoors:

Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sunscreen protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.

Sunscreen is designed to protect against ultraviolet B rays, which cause sunburn. Reapply frequently.

Wear protective clothing such as sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat as well as pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

Seek shade when appropriate. The sun's rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Avoid tanning beds. The UV light from these and the sun causes skin cancer and wrinkling.

Check your birthday suit on your birthday. See a dermatologist if something on the skin is changing, growing or bleeding. Skin cancer is treatable when caught early.

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### MARCH

##### The C Club

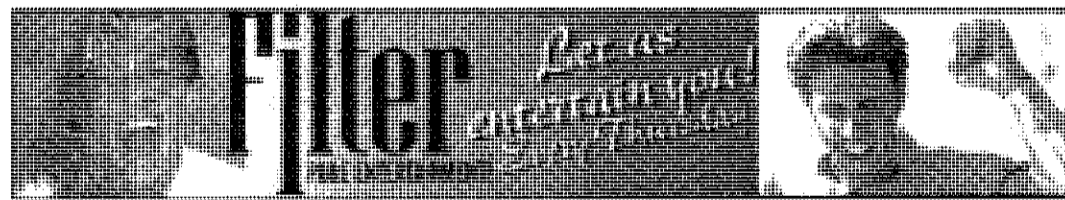
Reclaim, Reshape & Renew the New You for Conquerors workshop presented by The C Club for Cancer Conquerors 4-6 p.m. Monday, March 24, at Shrine Conference Center, 29130 Woodward, Royal Oak. Cost \$20, includes signed copy of *Me, Myself and Why? The Secrets to Navigating Change* by Lisa Mininni, founder of The C Club. Visit [www.thecclub.org](http://www.thecclub.org), call (734) 223-3938, or send e-mail to [info@excellerateassociates.com](mailto:info@excellerateassociates.com).

##### Divorce support group

Learning to love after divorce, Lisa Pasbjerg discusses the new science of happiness, what researchers have learned that can make us happy and how it applies to your life, she will also present strategies to help you build assertiveness skills and self esteem needed to love yourself and your new life 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

##### Health seminar

Dr. Judith Reichman will be in Detroit 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, to host a digestive health seminar at the Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., during a pre-show event before the performance of Menopause the Musical which begins at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (313) 963-9800.



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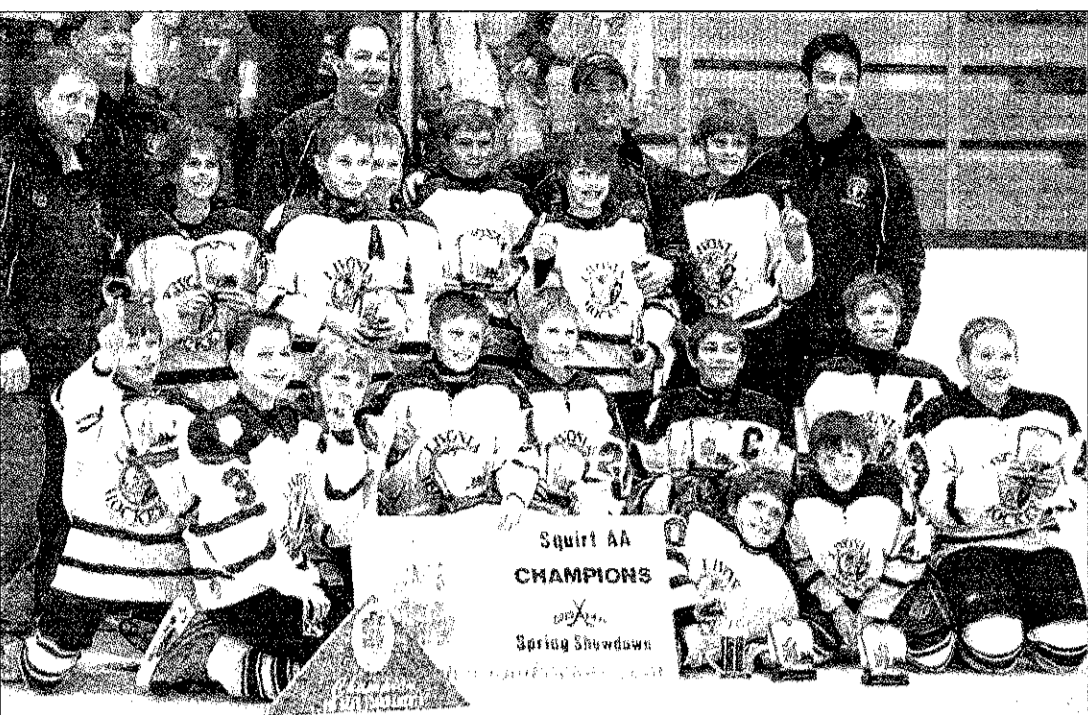
Dr. Randy Bernstein

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### Knights win title

Robbie Hamill took tournament MVP honors. The '97 Knights came away with the Squirt AA Division title at the Big Bear Spring Showdown held March 7-9, in Grand Rapids. The Knights defeated the Hespeler Shamrocks, 5-1, in the championship final as Andrew Rozenbaum was named game MVP. Earlier in the day, the Knights downed the St. Louis (Mo.) Affton Americans, 6-1, after posting preliminary round wins over Hespeler, 3-1; the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Comets, 5-0; and the Kentwood Falcons, 6-0. Other members of the Knights include: Griffin Ahmet, Jack Behen, Alex DeFlorio, Josh Denomie, Jack Engel, Vincent Glenn, Cole Heigemo, Daniel Hudy, Alex Hunt, Matt Jankowski, Zachary Owings, Robert Schneider, Blake Veri and Michael Warner. The Knights are coached by Jerry Ahmet, Jr., Joe Ahmet, Bob Hamill, Ken Hunt, Mark Jankowski and Danny Veri.



### Midget A champs

The Redford Royals, a Midget A (1991-92) boys hockey team, captured the Tier-1 playoffs of the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League with a 4-2 win over the Macomb Mavericks March 16 at Adray Ice Arena in Dearborn. The Royals, coached by Jim Bushong, advanced to the finals on March 9 with victories over the Motor City Jaguars and Grand Rapids Griffins. Members of the Royals include: David Balint, Chris Bourdaganis, Peter Bushong, Steve Deuby, Matt Fox, David Gasior, Travis Gosselin, Kevin Inglis, Brad Martin, Aaron Michener, Matt Regan, Sean Root, Nathan Spease, Stephen Sudek and Andrew Tucker, all of Livonia; Richie Mamo, Redford; and John Slavik, South Lyon. Assistant coaches include Matt Spease and Bob Regan. The team manager is Jim Bourdaganis.

# Farmington High grad 2nd in NCAA Indoor pentathlon

BY DAN O'MEARA  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

University of Michigan junior co-captain Bettie Wade of Farmington has earned All-America honors in women's track and field for the second year in a row.

Wade finished second in the pentathlon with a career-best score of 4,366 points at the NCAA Indoor Championships March 15 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Her performance helped the Wolverines to a third-place team finish - the highest in U-M history - at the Randal Tyson Track Center on the University of Arkansas campus.

"I was very pleased with the finish," Wade said. "I consider myself an extremely confident person, not to be confused with cocky. When I step into a competition, I'm looking to that No. 1 spot."

"My whole season has been kinda down. I was looking to take one of the top three. When I finished second, I thought, 'This is why I came here.' Obviously, first place would have been a dream come true, but I was very pleased with (second)." Wade was the runner-up to Arizona State University's Jackie Johnson, a fifth-year senior and three-time national champion who scored 4,496 points, a collegiate record.

Wade, who was fifth last year, placed seventh in the 60-meter hurdles (8.67), first in the high jump (5-11.25), third in the shot put (43-3.75), second in the long jump (20-5) and 11th in the 800 run (2:26.61).

Wade didn't have the kind of start she wanted in the hurdles and was fighting disappointment and reduced expectations after just one event.

"After the hurdles, I told myself, 'I thought I was going to do well. I guess I can try for top eight and still get All-American,'" Wade said. "Then things started to go my way."

With her winning height of 5-11.25 in the high jump, she tied the collegiate record for the indoor pentathlon and broke the meet record.

"I had jumped the day before in the open high jump," Wade said. "Generally, I have a 100-percent success rate improving upon my performance from the past day. I looked at tape and said, 'These are the things I need to do.' The next day I got in a rhythm and did well."

Her high-jump win vaulted Wade into second place behind Johnson, and she moved into first place by finishing third in the shot put. Wade's best throw was a

personal record by two feet.

"On the second throw, as soon as she started going through the circle, her technique was great," Chip Bridges, Wade's former coach at Farmington High, said. "I knew it was going to be a big throw as soon as it was in the air."

"I was really happy, more shocked, when they said the measurement," Wade said. "I was like 'What?' PRs - you never get enough of them. It was cool to see my name in first place on the screen, but anything can happen."

"I told myself, 'I can't by any means rest on this, because I have two more events.' In the multi's, you can't let a good or bad performance mess with your focus. You can use them to hype yourself up in a sense, but you can't rest on them."

Wade had a PR in the long jump, and her runner-up finish kept her in the lead.

"To tell the truth, I was just feeling it that day," Wade said. "My coach and I worked on my finish before the meet. I felt my approach and speed were good. I was just so hyped; I just popped it off and sailed through the air."

In the last event, the 800 run, Wade had to finish within four seconds of Johnson to win the championship.

But the 800 was a strong event for Johnson and not Wade. Johnson ran an indoor PR and finished 15 seconds ahead of Wade to capture first place overall.

"I was not in really good shape for the 800," Wade said.

"A lot of my training has been focused on jumps and hurdles. I knew I was kinda out of shape for that event and Jackie could spring a 2:12."

"Basically, it was cool to see my name in first place. But I knew she was going to go crazy, and my body wasn't really feeling it. I did enough to secure second place."

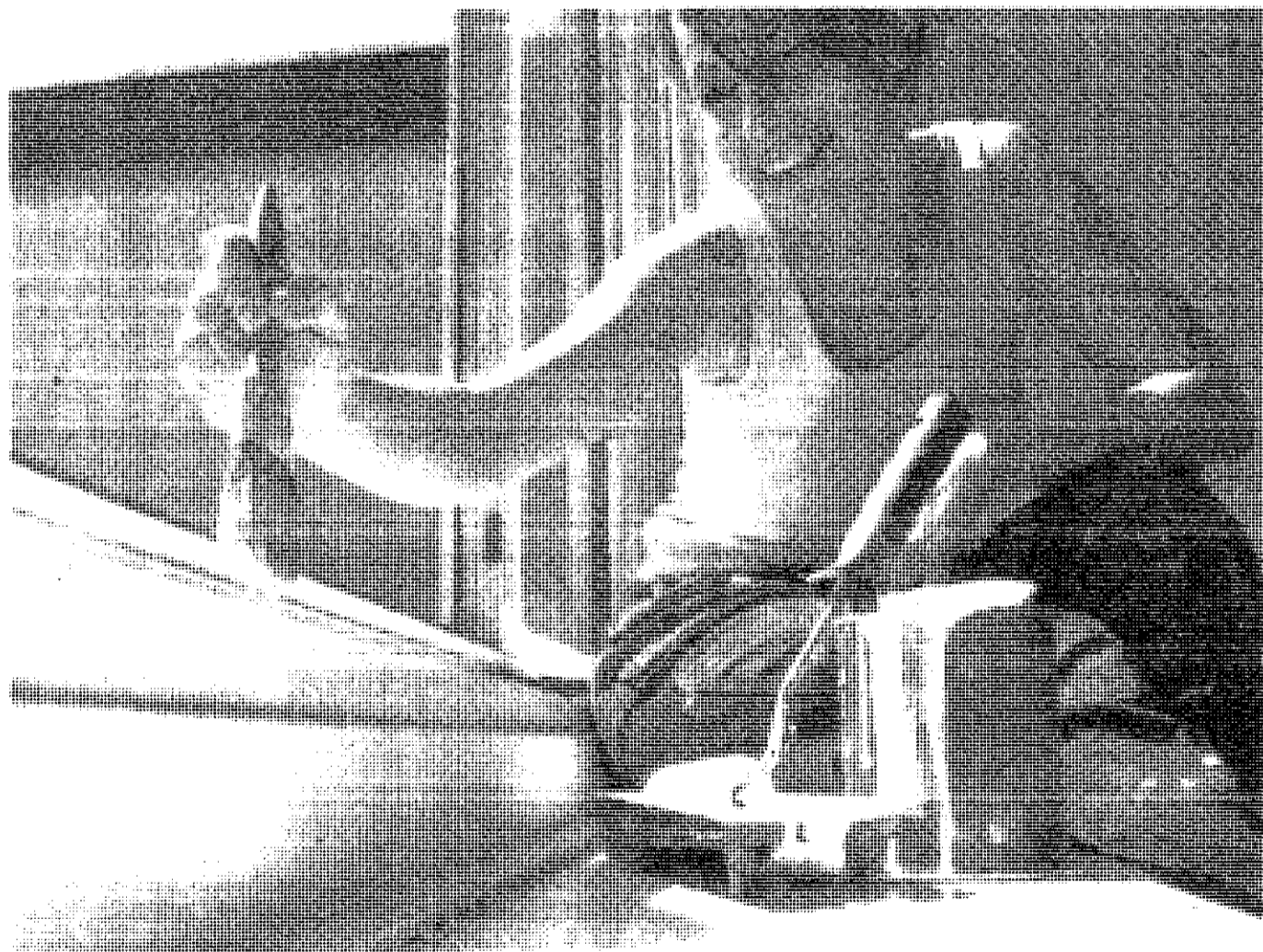
Wade already has her sights set on next year's indoor meet and Johnson's NCAA pentathlon record of 4,496 points.

"If all goes well, I hope to smash that next year," she said. "Considering the hurdles didn't go well and I didn't run as fast as I could in the 800, (the 130-point difference between her and Johnson) is not a lot of points."

"I'm an extremely hard worker. I'm very goal-oriented, so that's going to be one of my top goals for next year."

"Bettie proved to herself she can compete with the very best," Bridges said. "She knew that, but now she's done it. Her confidence level has risen another notch."

"She was fifth last year and this year she was the runner-up, so she's definitely headed in the right direction."



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## Forgiveness issue can be complicated

It is common for people to speak of forgiveness, especially in couple relationships. It either should happen or should not. People speak about it and expect it to be there at will — when, in fact, forgiveness can be a long and complicated process. Even spiritually forgiveness gets misused. The Bible, both Hebrew and Christian versions, describes a God of forgiveness; Jesus promises it. So when we want it, it should be available. And it should be OK for us not to forgive if we don't want to.



Chat Room

Paul Melrose

It is true that forgiveness is an individual decision. But is has some aspects to it, I was reminded about in some reading I did recently, that I want to share. The Smalley Center and several other authors point to being able to forgive and to let go of past hurts as a critical tool for a marriage relationship. Additionally, being able to forgive is a way to keep you healthy both emotionally and physically. There are healthy aspects to forgiveness. If you hold on to old hurts, disappointments, petty annoyances, betrayals, insensitivity and anger, you are wasting both your time and your energy. Nursing a perceived hurt can eventually make it in to something more — hate and extreme bitterness. Lack of forgiveness can wear you down. Additionally, being unforgiving is not good for either your physical or your mental well being.

Here are some steps one author has for how to forgive.

Be open.

Make a decision to forgive your spouse. When images of the betrayal or hurt flash in your mind, think of a calming place or do something to distract yourself from dwelling on those thoughts.

Don't throw an error or mistake back in your spouse's face at a later date.

William Menninger wrote (in *The Process of Forgiveness*): "Forgiveness, then, is not forgetting. It is not condoning or absolving. Neither is it pretending nor something done for the sake of the offender. It is not a thing we just do by a brutal act of the will. It does not entail a loss of identity, of specialness, or of face. It does not release the offenders from obligations they may or may not recognize. An understanding of these things will go a long way towards helping people enter into the forgiveness process."

Engaging in the tough process of forgiveness can give you and your partner more of a chance of a greater and healthier relationship.

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

## 'An amazing American talent'



Peter Soronen



Jody Soronen

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

## Peter Soronen gowns featured in charity auction

His fashions are donned by red carpet divas; they grace the covers of fashion magazines and they've even been spotted on a first lady hopeful on the campaign trail.

Distinctive in style and classic femininity, the pieces created by Peter Soronen are timeless, bold and not just for the skinny girls, said Ellen Carey, owner of New York-based Seedhouse, a talent publicity firm.

"His designs give the lift, form and shape to areas of your body that you may not have seen in awhile," said Carey, noting the intricate inside work, including Victorian corset-inspired boning and seaming craft work.

The chic, always flattering designs have been worn by many celebrities, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Reese Witherspoon, Hilary Swank, Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Lang and Eva Longoria. Brooke Shields' co-stars on the new TV hit series *Lipstick Jungle* wore Soronen's designs in the series premiere and in the promotional material for the show.

A Soronen suit was spotted recently on Michelle Obama as she took the stage with her husband, presidential hopeful Barack Obama at a campaign rally, said Carey.

Tender, in Birmingham, exclusively carries Soronen's designs. His spring collection is now available at Tender, a boutique that supports up and coming talent, said Carey.

"(Tender owner) Karen Daskas' forward thinking has made him known in the city where he was born," said Carey. "They support new talents, and I think that's amazing."

Soronen, a Farmington Hills native, has donated seven dresses, of varying sizes, to a special event honoring his mother, Jody Soronen, an active member of the community and former Farmington Hills mayor who lost her battle with cancer in 2005.



Sarah Jessica Parker, in a Peter Soronen gown.



Hilary Swank sports a hot cherry red dress by Peter Soronen.



Michelle Obama purchased this Peter Soronen suit at a shop in Chicago.

Please see AUCTION, C3

Christine Hinkle has created a sizeable endowed scholarship fund to provide scholarships for students at Schoolcraft College.



## Northville woman's gift to fund Schoolcraft scholarships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christine Hinkle lives simply, but comfortably in an apartment surrounded by cuddly stuffed bears, crafts and her cat, Casper. Her frugal lifestyle is one of the reasons the 86-year-old Northville woman was able to present a sizeable estate gift to the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

The endowed scholarship fund

was announced Tuesday, March 18, during a spaghetti dinner and wine glow to raise money for the college's Women's Resource Center which provides help to men and women preparing to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Hinkle first learned about the center through Dorothy Gay, a friend who volunteered there. WRC offers support programs and scholarships for those in financial need.

The college will begin awarding the Hinkle-funded scholarships to students enrolling in classes for the fall 2008 semester. After it's fully funded, the Hinkle estate gift will be the largest scholarship fund in the college's history and one day could provide 30 full tuition scholarships each academic year.

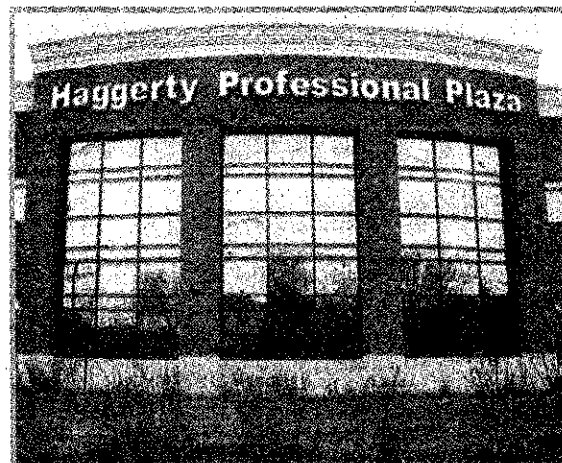
The Schoolcraft College district includes the public school districts of Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-

Canton, and part of Novi but draws students from all over.

"I would like to inspire people if they're able financially to inspire these young people so good minds don't go to waste," said Hinkle. "Being local they can stay at home and find out what they want to do."

Hinkle says her late husband, Lawrence, was a firm believer in education. He was an attorney who

Please see GIFT, C3



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# Spaghetti dinner to raise money for medical bills

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's tough for Rick VanOver to ask for help, but since falling and breaking his hip last October the 59-year old Livonia man's incurred an estimated \$60,000 in medical debt.

Friends are coming together to help the out-of-work welder by putting on a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser 3-7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Wolverine Sports and Conservation Club, 27531 Grand River, one block west of Inkster Road in Livonia.

Tickets are \$10 for adults (in advance), \$3 for children age 10 and under; \$12 adults (at the door), \$5 children age 10 and under.

For more information, call Heidi at (248) 420-0495 or Diane Hamilton (248) 231-4269.

"Rick has no health insurance," said Hamilton, a friend. "Back in October when his fall

happened he went in for emergency surgery and resulted in over \$20,000 in bills. He had three pins inserted and his leg did not heal. It cost over \$30,000 for a total hip replacement in January. He could not put any weight on his leg, but now he's getting around on a walker and four-pronged cane. It will probably be about four months before he can even think about going back to work."

VanOver is presently receiving therapy three days a week while Hamilton and daughter Heidi Ray organize the fund-raiser with the help of family, friends and local businesses.

"It was my daughter's idea," said Hamilton of Livonia. "Her and I both worked together thinking even if with got a few people together it would help."

"It will be a spaghetti dinner cooked by an Italian friend of my daughter. We have people who have donated the noodles - Value Center and my uncle Robert Savage, and rolls being

donated by Leon's Family Restaurant in Livonia."

Ram's Horn in Livonia is donating salad along with Toarmina's Pizza on Seven Mile near Inkster Road.

An Ernie Harwell autographed baseball is just one of the donations given for the silent auction. Tickets to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Science Center, Detroit Tigers, and Toledo Mudhens, and Century Bowling are among the items up for bid along with wrestling memorabilia, hair styling baskets and gift certificates.

"Rick's very touched by the whole thing. We've gotten quite a few donations," said Hamilton. "Wolverine Sports & Conservation donated their bingo hall. We're having a 50/50 raffle, face painting and a bake sale. Rick might make some pies. He's itching to help some, but just can't be on his feet very long."

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Members of Merriman Student Ministries from Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City competed in the Area Teens Involved event at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint on Feb. 23. The students continue to the regional level of competition to be held April 19.

# Students to go on to regional competition

Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City sent 20 students to compete in the Area Teens Involved event at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint on Saturday Feb. 23.

The event is sponsored by Word of Life Fellowship to encourage youth in Christian service.

Members of Merriman Student Ministries prepared in categories including large and small vocal groups, male and female soloists, instrumentalists, dramas, special

presentation, and preaching. Qualified students continue to the next level of competition, the regional event, which will be held April 19. All of the Merriman students qualified for this next level of competition.

"We're encouraging our students to be devoted to the Lord and serve the community by using their gifts," said Associate Pastor Jeff Buchholz. "This venue gives them the opportunity to discover their gifts." Participant Nick

Walters prepared for preaching, large vocal group, and drama. Asked about the full day event he said, "Its fun to put your talents to a good use and this event was very encouraging."

Merriman Road Baptist Church has an active youth program with many opportunities for fellowship, training, and ministry for students in 7-12th grades. The church is located at 2055 Merriman. For information, call (734) 421-0472.

# Exhibitors wanted for Art from the Heart

The Livonia Arts Commission is looking for artists for its third annual Art from the Heart show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15, on the grounds of Livonia City Hall at Farmington Rd. and Five Mile.

The events was formerly known as Art in the Village

and was held at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

For more information, call Livonia's Community Resources Department at (734) 466-2540.

An application can also be downloaded from [www.artsinlivonia.com](http://www.artsinlivonia.com) or the city's Web site at [www.ci.livonia.mi.us](http://www.ci.livonia.mi.us).

Admission to the annual event is free and shuttle service provided.

Additional activities and services include arts and crafts fun for children, package pickup and delivery, hourly raffles, entertainment, a sidewalk chalk-drawing contest, and food.



# Collectible toy show comes to Livonia

Winross Collectors Club of America, Michigan Chapter presents its' Spring 2008 Collectible Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801

Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$3, children under age 12 free.

For information, call (586) 795-8281 or (248) 363-9495. The show features vendors with collectible and die cast

toys, Hot Wheels, model car kits, promos, action figures, sci-fi, and Matchbox.

Winross is a national club that specializes in collecting American-made 1/64th scale dies cast trucks.

# Recital spotlights traditional Polish, novelty dancing

The PRCUA (Polish Roman Catholic Union of America) Tetry Dancers are holding a recital 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Crestwood High School, 1501 Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights.

The afternoon spotlights traditional Polish dancing and lively novelty dances.

Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. For information, call (313) 274-0183.

# Golden Agers mark anniversary

The Golden Agers, a senior citizen group that operates under a theme of "sharing, caring and concern for others," is marking its 35th anniversary this year.

A special celebration marking the occasion will be at 11 a.m. Monday, April 21, at the Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile. Main speakers are the Rev. Mark McGilvrey of Memorial Church of Christ and the Rev. Todd Lackie of Kenwood Church. Music and other special events will be presented by Joel Paul.

The Golden Agers began back in 1973 at Kenwood Church of Christ, where members met for 19 years. Other churches began joining these meetings and soon the group included people from 20 different communities representing three different counties.

Led by Ralph Congdon, members gather monthly, except during the summer, for fellowship, lunch, entertainment and outreach projects. They send monthly contributions to a senior retirement home called Great Lakes Christian Homes in Holt, Michigan. Members also donate craft items for a fall boutique, where funds raised are used for the residents.


Golden Agers also show their spirit by helping the American Legion with pop can rings, which are redeemed for medical equipment for hospitalized children, and performing outreach for the Lutheran Senior City in Columbus, Ohio; the Detroit Rescue Mission; American Cancer Foundation; and others.

Lunch entertainment, over the years, has included the Livonia Police Department Canine Unit, Livonia Firefighters, Silver Strings Dulcimer Society, Holmes Middle School Choir, Great Lakes Lighthouse-keepers Association, Spirit of Detroit Chorus of Sweet Adelines, USS Enterprise Exhibit and others.


The group invites all retired people to join them during their monthly gatherings on the third Monday of every month from September through May at the church.

For more details about the celebration or the group, call (734) 353-6722.

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**GIFT**

FROM PAGE C1

graduated from Wayne State University. She worked her way up to management during a 40-year career with an insurance company. Hinkle said they lived on his salary and she put her money in the bank and bought bonds. She retired from the Wausau office in Southfield in 1986. Since then she's stayed active by keeping her hands busy with crafts, basket making and painting, and volunteering with the Northville Historical Society and Northville Library. They had no children.

**VALUE OF EDUCATION**

"He was very interested in investing. I'm doing this on his behalf also. Education was very important to him," said Hinkle of her husband who died in 1996. She moved to Independence Village in Northville not long after losing her partner of nearly 49 years.

The Hinkles' longtime C.P.A. and financial adviser, Richard Gillikan, suggested the Schoolcraft College Foundation about eight months ago when Christine was trying to decide where the couple's estate would go after her death. Joanne Kwasnik, an associate of Gillikan, has been working with the Foundation to create the Hinkle endowed scholarship fund.

Kwasnik's been helping Hinkle ever since she encountered problems applying for Social Security. Hinkle was turned down because she wasn't a citizen. She never knew that her family immigrated to America from Scotland when Hinkle was 9 months old. Her mother died when she was 14 and never told her. She had to wait five years before she was able to take the test to become a citizen.

"I became close with her (Christine), took her shopping. She got to know my girls," said Kwasnik, an accountant who lives in Livonia. "I think the estate gift is wonderful, the whole idea of it helping people who wouldn't otherwise go to college. I think it's amazing.



Christine Hinkle attended the Women's Resource Center spaghetti dinner Tuesday night where it was announced she created a major endowed scholarship fund for students in financial need.

Especially since I have two girls, age 16 and 12. My oldest is thinking of Schoolcraft for the first year because it's local and inexpensive.

"The Foundation created a plan and worked with her (Hinkle's) estate attorney. You can have it just tuition but hers is all inclusive, it includes the recipient's children."

**GIVING WAYS**

According to John Walsh, executive director of development and governmental relations and Foundation board member, Hinkle is typical of the donors who support the college for years before deciding to develop an estate plan.

"She started with small gifts and attending different events which is the traditional path for our donors. They start by coming to a culinary extravaganza or taking a community ed course," said Walsh of Hinkle, who's taken classes at the college as a senior citizen. "The story is great because she is an ordinary person, not born to great wealth. She and her husband worked hard and saved their money. She's trying to give it away in a way that's meaningful for the future. She wants everyone to know anyone can do this. This type of gift permits us to help students

to attend school. Very often it makes a difference between whether or not a student can even attend here.

"We have a \$10 million endowed balance in the Foundation. Her estate plan allows us to grant more scholarships to more needy students only on interest earned. That means it will be perpetual."

Walsh suggests anyone considering leaving their estate to the foundation consult an attorney or financial adviser "so they're not jeopardizing their future." For more information about setting up an

endowed scholarship fund, call the Schoolcraft College Foundation office at (734) 462-4455 and ask for Walsh or Jason Valente, director of development.

"Nationally the trend is people are doing more estate planning gifts because the federal government had made it worth their while," said Walsh. "There's a great deal of wealth accumulated by baby boomers who are now thinking about their estate and tax advantageous rulings."

lchomin@hometownlife.com  
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**AUCTION**

FROM PAGE C1

The dresses will be showcased in The Celebration of Creativity fashion show and luncheon event at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 5, at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Each dress will be up for auction, with proceeds to benefit the Farmington Area Arts Commission, an organization that was close to Jody Soronen's heart.

Peter Soronen said he's happy to participate, in honor of his mother.

"When they approached me about it, I thought it would be a great way to give back to the community that I left so long ago," said Soronen, who lives in New York.

Guests will enjoy lunch from the award-winning OCC Culinary Institute, live harp music, and a silent auction.

Peter Soronen will be on hand to pay tribute to his mother, who served as chair of the Michigan Municipal League Legislative Committee, and executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. She was active with the Farmington Community Arts Council, the Farmington Founders Festival and many other organizations.

Her son's interest in fashion design began in Farmington Public Schools and contin-

ued at Oakland Community College, where he took his first pattern design class. His career started in Chicago in the early 1990s, where he found his niche in turning corsets into garments.

He designed wedding gowns and evening attire, carving out his own distinct style with every piece. Soon, his business grew and moved to New York City, where his prolific work includes seasonal collections and runway shows.

"He is so successful in a difficult economy — he's truly an amazing American talent," said Carey.

Besides visiting Tender on Maple in downtown Birmingham, his creations may be seen at www.petersoronen.com.

Rita Dilanian of Farmington Hills said she's excited to present this event to the public and that she's grateful for Soronen's involvement and his generosity.

"We're all so proud of him," she said. "He's a good person to offer us all of these gowns."

The fashion show models include: Miss Oakland County Samantha Steckloff, Marianne Carolan, Kristi Bowden, Erica Huyck, Diane Sarkisian and Susie Ellwood. Celebration of Creativity tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, or by calling (248) 473-1848.

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First, consider your back as a precious resource; you should preserve its use for special occasions. Whenever you can use a set of muscles other than your back muscles, do it.

Second, always bend down, not over. When an object is on the floor or pots are on a lower shelf, kneel to reach the object or the pots. If getting up from the kneeling position is difficult for you, then part of the task of kneeling includes finding a chair or ledge to help you raise yourself up.

Third, as much as possible sleep on your back and side, not on your stomach. When you sleep on your stomach, you accentuate the lordotic curve the greatest support; being on your stomach puts the lordotic curve at its maximum strain.

Fourth, stand and walk with good posture; your stomach should be even with your chest, and your ear should be even with your collar bone. This posture puts the least stress on your low back, and uses intra abdominal pressure rather than back muscle contracture to hold you upright.

Fifth, take regular exercise, whether it is walking, swimming, or going on a treadmill, bike or track. For your back muscles to keep flexible and strong, you need to keep your body flexible and strong. After age 50, consider exercise as medicine; you need to take it once a day, every day.

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## 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE, at home on-and off-road

Advertising Feature

### CA Report



By Dave Menard  
Avanti News Features



The 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE. A capable performer no matter the terrain.

So many SUVs are sold to people who have no intention of using them for anything resembling "sport." I have to admit I would be one of them. I'm not an off-roader, so an SUV's off-road capabilities don't matter to me much on a personal level. On a professional level, though, I know there are lots of you who want something you can take off-road, as well as look good on city streets. If that describes you, I'd advise you to take a good look at the 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE.

Simply put, the LR2 seems equally at home no matter where you drive it. It's an impressive-looking SUV, with a clamshell bonnet, stepped roof, and wraparound headlights (with headlight washers). The headlights are available as either halogen lights, or High Intensity Discharge projector lamps, with Adaptive Front Lighting - which allow the lights to swivel with the direction of travel - available as part of an optional lighting package (\$1,050). Eighteen-inch aluminum alloy wheels are standard, as are front and rear fog lamps.

Inside, the cabin is functional with a touch of elegance. Instrumentation includes a tachometer and coolant temperature gauge; there's a driver's information center in the middle of the instrument panel, as well. The leather-wrapped steering wheel also features audio controls and the cruise control switches.

The standard leather seats are comfortable and provide excellent support, even during long trips. The seats are six-way power adjustable, including height-adjustable. Driving position is excellent, and rear seat passengers enjoy an excellent view, thanks to the "stadium seating" design, which places rear passengers at a slightly higher elevation than those in the front seat.

There's plenty of room in the LR2, both for cargo and for people. Total luggage volume is almost 60 cubic feet with the rear seats folded forward and 26.7 cubic feet when the seats are raised. The rear cargo area features a reversible load floor cover; one side is carpet for those items you might not want to scratch, while the other side is a water-resistance surface on the other for sports equipment or things that might otherwise get the carpet dirty.

The roof line is high enough for tall drivers, and there's

a lot of leg and shoulder room, as well. The standard power tilt-and-slid sunroof with sunblinds provides nice natural light for the cabin during the day. Visibility is excellent, thanks to the liberal use of glass.

The LR2 comes with some nice standard features. Power windows, rear park distance control, dual-zone automatic climate control, cruise control and the above-mentioned sunroof are all standard.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system with eight speakers and a subwoofer. For \$3,500, you can upgrade to a system that features Dolby Pro-Logic II 7.1 Surround Sound, upgraded amplifier, 14 speakers, sub-woofer, six-disc in-dash CD changer, rear seat audio controls, satellite radio, Bluetooth connectivity, and integrated navigation system.

Both the upgraded audio and navigation systems are excellent; the navigation system is clear and easy to use (with a nice feature that allows you to turn off the voice guidance system, if you like), and the sound system is one of the best out there.

There is a Cold Climate Package offered as an option. This \$700 package gets you a heated front windshield, heated front row seats and heated windshield washer jets.

I'll admit I didn't go off-road with the LR2, so I can't give you a first hand account of how it would do off-road, but I can tell you that on city streets and long highways, the LR2 is a joy to drive, and I don't say that about a lot of SUVs.

The ride is excellent for an all-wheel drive vehicle, and it's fairly easy to handle. You can choose for four different Terrain Response settings to get the right driving environment for you: General Driving, Grass/Gravel/Snow, Mud/Ruts, and Sand. Each provides different responses from the gearbox, engine, chassis and center coupling to maximize traction as necessary.

Dynamic Stability Control, Hill Descent Control and

Electronic Traction control are part of the LR2's drive system, as well, allowing it to adapt to various driving conditions.

The LR2 is powered by 3.2-liter, 24-valve, in-line, 6-cylinder engine. It's rated at 230 horsepower and 234 lb.-ft. of torque. It gets you under way fairly quickly, with a 0-60 time of 8.4 seconds. Mileage is respectable for an all-wheel drive vehicle - 16 mpg in the city and 23 on the highway.

The engine is mated with a six-speed automatic transmission. You can choose a driving mode that fits your needs: sport or normal. You can also shift the gears yourself, if you like, using the LR2's Command-Shift mode. I wouldn't bother; the automatic gear selections suit everyday driving just fine.

Anti-lock brakes are standard and they are excellent. The LR2 also comes with dual-threshold driver and front passenger airbags, driver's knee airbag, side-impact airbag for driver and front seat passenger and side-curtain airbags for first- and second-row occupants.

The 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE starts at a little over \$35,000. Add the Cold Climate Package, Lighting Package, and the upgraded audio/navigation system and you're close to \$41,000. Not bad really for an all-wheel drive SUV you can really take just about anywhere.

Maybe next time I will.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE  
Vehicle class: SUV  
Power: 3.2-liter in-line six-cylinder engine.  
Mileage: 16 city / 23 highway.  
Where built: Halewood, Great Britain.  
Base price: \$35,375.  
Price as tested: \$41,400.  
Price as tested: \$38,254.

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DEALER (734) 524-1264 <b>FUSION SEL 2006</b> , leather, moon, low miles, \$16,995. <b>Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</b> <b>FUSIONS 2007</b> , 14 to choose, all colors, low miles, from \$14,999. <b>Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</b> <b>MUSTANG 2004</b> Convertible, dark blue, 22K, auto, \$13,995. <b>Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500</b> <b>MUSTANG 2005</b> Convertible, \$14,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 <b>MUSTANG 2007</b> Convertible, auto, loaded, leather, satellite radio, 4 to choose from. Starting as low as \$18,999. 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## 2008 MALIBU

Air, tinted glass, P/wind, cruise, tilt, P/locks. Stock #9541

**\$0 Down \$0 Security\*\* \$232\* Per Mo. Lease**  
\$232 Total Due  
GM Employee Price

## 2008 SILVERADO WT

Deep tinted glass, camper mirrors, tow package, On-Star, auto trans, 5.3 V8. Stock #4241

**\$0 Down \$0 Security\*\* \$249\* Per Mo. Lease**  
\$249 Total Due  
GM Employee Price

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## 2008 IMPALA

P/wind, P/locks, P/seat, tilt, cruise, On-Star. Stock #9564

**\$0 Down \$0 Security\*\* \$259\* Per Mo. Lease**  
\$259 Total Due  
GM Employee Price

## 2008 TRAILBLAZER

Sunroof, CD player, On-Star, auto trans, P/W&L, tilt, cruise, RR def, air, deep tinted glass. Stock #3892

**\$1000 Down \$0 Security\*\* \$250\* Per Mo. Lease**  
\$1250 Total Due  
GM Employee Price

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# Lou LaRiche

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\*All leases offers 36 months, 10,000 miles per year. Plus tax, lic., doc & title. Lease with option to purchase at term for pre-determined amount. Lessee responsible for excess wear & tear and miles & 25¢ per mile. \*\*See dealer with lease inquiry. With approved credit. Subject to availability.

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per mo

\$1,914 Due at Signing

**Up To 26  
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\$2,025 Due at Signing

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MILES PER  
GALLON**



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**\$199\*\***  
per mo

\$2,202 Due at Signing

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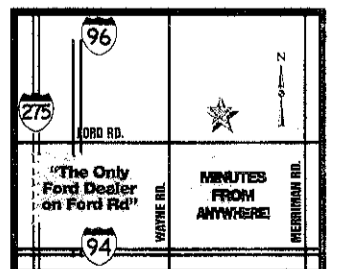
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\*Available on Fusion, Taurus, Escape & Explorer. Expires 3-31-08. Up to \$500 max. payment. \*\*Cash due at signing includes first months payment, acquisition fee, waived security deposit; excludes title, taxes, and license fees. Payments based on 24 mo. 12,000 low mileage red carpet lease. Ford credit financing required. Must take delivery out of dealer stock by 2/29/08. See dealer for details. MPG estimate based on 2008 Focus 2.0 manual I4, 2008 Escape 2.3L I4, 2008 Fusion 2.3L I4, 2008 Edge 3.5L V6, 2008 F-150 5.4L V8, 2008 Explorer V6. Residency restrictions apply. All payments are for AZ plan customers and eligible family members. Payments may vary; dealer determines prices. Not all lessees will qualify. +Holidays excluded.