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THURSDAY  
July 17, 2008

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Exemplary

### State police chiefs group honors Westland officers

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fearing she would be shot dead by her handgun-waving husband, a Westland woman made a desperate phone call for help to city police officers who rushed to the house on Morley, near Ford and Newburgh.

Just doing their jobs, Officers David Hochstein and Kenneth Percin nearly lost their lives when 41-year-old gunman Kenneth Sundman Jr. let them inside the house and then suddenly revealed his weapon when they tried to arrest him.

Amid a struggle, Sundman fired a shot that grazed Percin's hand, but Hochstein pulled his service weapon and quickly responded with a bullet that struck Sundman in the chest and killed him.

It was Oct. 13, 2007, a day Percin and Hochstein will remember as the day they could easily have lost their lives in the line of duty. Their efforts to protect the woman — and themselves — have earned

them the Distinguished Service Medal from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

"I am very proud of Officers Hochstein and Percin," Chief James Ridener said. "Their actions were reviewed by several chiefs of police who recognized the danger that our officers faced, and their response was in the finest traditions of law enforcement, earning them the MACP Distinguished Service Medal."

In all, 11 officers received MACP awards this year during a recent awards banquet in Harbor Springs.

In an announcement of the winners, the MACP issued a statement saying that Hochstein and Percin "displayed exceptionally meritorious conduct involving exemplary courage, at great risk and danger to their personal safety."

Hochstein has been with the Westland Police Department since May 7, 1990, and Percin since Sept. 11, 1992.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Magic moment

(Above) Six-year-old Gemma Bida of Westland works on her fairy necklace as part of the fairy magic children's program at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland. Part of the annual summer reading program, "Catch the Reading Bug," Gemma was among youngsters who dressed the part for an enchanting morning of fairy stories, games and crafts. (At right) children's librarian associate Barbara Given reads a fairy story to the children. Upcoming summer reading activities include learning about and making curiosity cabinets for fourth-sixth-graders at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, (registration required); Mark Rosenthal's Animal Magic featuring exotic and unique animals at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 26, and Snug as a Bug Listen at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, in which youngsters will hear the story of The Crunching Munching Caterpillar and create their own colorful caterpillar to tuck into a cozy leaf bed. The program date is for ages 4-8, and registration is required.



## School board looks ahead to challenging year

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It will be a bittersweet year. That's how both newly elected trustees Patrice Mang and Cynthia Markarian, who was appointed Monday by the board as the new president, described the Livonia Public Schools' immediate future.

"It's going to be a very big year," Markarian said. "We have been cutting since I have been on the board. Any changes we make (to cut the budget) are going to be painful."

Markarian has been vice president for the past two years and served on the finance committee. In addition to running the meeting, the president sets the agenda.

The vice president will be Greg Oke, who was also sworn in Monday for his first full term. He was elected in 2007 to a one-year term.

"I will represent all of the students of Livonia Public Schools to the best of my ability. We do have a lot of challenges ahead of us," Oke said after 16th District Judge Robert Brzezinski adminis-

tered the oath of office. "I feel I'm up to the challenge."

Mang said financial stability is the top priority for the district.

"Every dollar this district spends has to be looked at to see where cuts can be made," she said. The board will examine the budget line item by item, she said, adding that she is concerned about consultant fees.

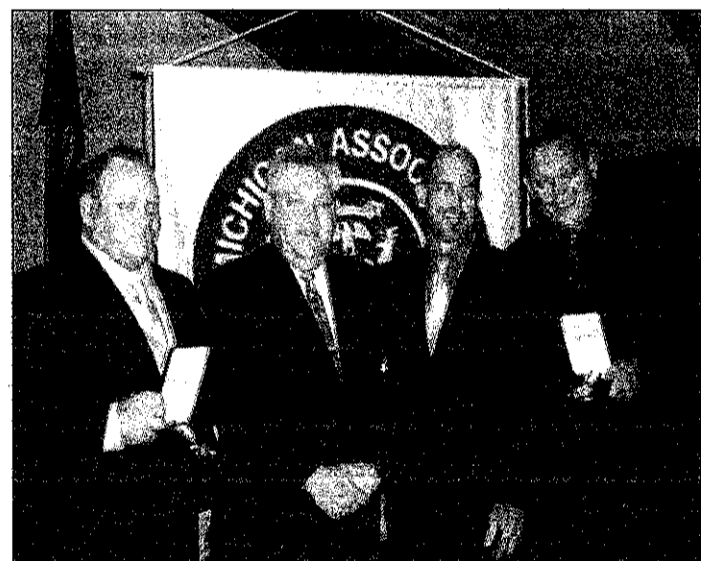
Mang said she will vote for what she believes "is in the best interest of Livonia Public Schools, as well as what I hear from the community and

the school district." Trustee Steve King said the district is in "crisis mode" and needs strong leadership. He was the lone trustee who voted against the officers who were nominated.

Markarian agrees that the district is in crisis. She said improving communication among board members is also important, and she'd like the board to set goals for itself.

Committee assignments haven't been determined.

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Officers Kenneth Percin (left) and David Hochstein (right) display the Distinguished Service Medals they earned from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. With them are Westland Police Chief James Ridener (second from left) and Deputy Chief Alan Ramsden (second from right).

## James aims to be comeback candidate

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In his campaign to revive his political career, Wayne County Commission hopeful David James called for protecting union jobs, supporting faith-based initiatives, jump-starting the housing market and bringing in new revenues from places like the new Pinnacle Race Course in Huron Township.

"I'll do everything I can to do the due diligence for the citizens of our district," said James, 50.

James, a real estate broker and Westland resident, is one of two Republican 12th District commission candidates competing for the party nomination in the Aug. 5 primary. Eight Democrats also are on the ballot. The

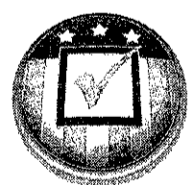
Please see JAMES, A3

### DAVID JAMES

**Age:** 50  
**Residence:** Westland  
**Employment:** Real estate broker  
**Education:** High school graduate, some college courses  
**Family:** Single  
**Community Involvement:** Former Westland City Council and Wayne-Westland school board member; Westland Planning Commission; Westland Community Foundation; Westland Lions Club; Chamber of Commerce; Westland Parks and Recreation board member.

### 12th Commission District

Today, the Observer finishes a series of profiles of the 10 candidates seeking the 12th



District Wayne County Commission seat, which represents Westland, Inkster and south Livonia. The last stories focus on the only two Republican candidates on the Aug. 5 primary ballot. A GOP and a Democratic nominee will advance to the November election. The overall winner will earn a two-year term that pays \$68,411 a year.

## Thompson: Willing to work for district

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In his bid for a Wayne County Commission seat, Thomas Thompson said he hopes to address crumbling roads, support expanding Cobo Hall and the Detroit Metro Airport area, and find ways to help rebuild economically depressed areas like Highland Park.

Thompson, 71, said his Republican campaign will be waged with virtually no money. He said he will depend on word of mouth and efforts by the media to get his message out.

Thompson, a retired Detroit Public Schools teacher who taught for 30 years, is a Livonia resident and one of two GOP candidates com-

Please see THOMPSON, A3

### THOMAS THOMPSON

**Age:** 71  
**Residence:** Livonia  
**Employment:** Retired Detroit Public Schools teacher  
**Education:** Master's degree in linguistics and bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan  
**Family:** Married, four adult children  
**Community involvement:** Former chair of the old 15th District Republican Committee; precinct delegate for 20 years; elder, Ward Presbyterian Church; served as assistant pastor, Central Alliance Church near Wayne State University campus.

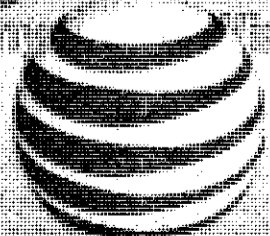
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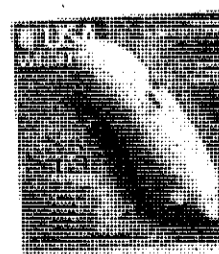


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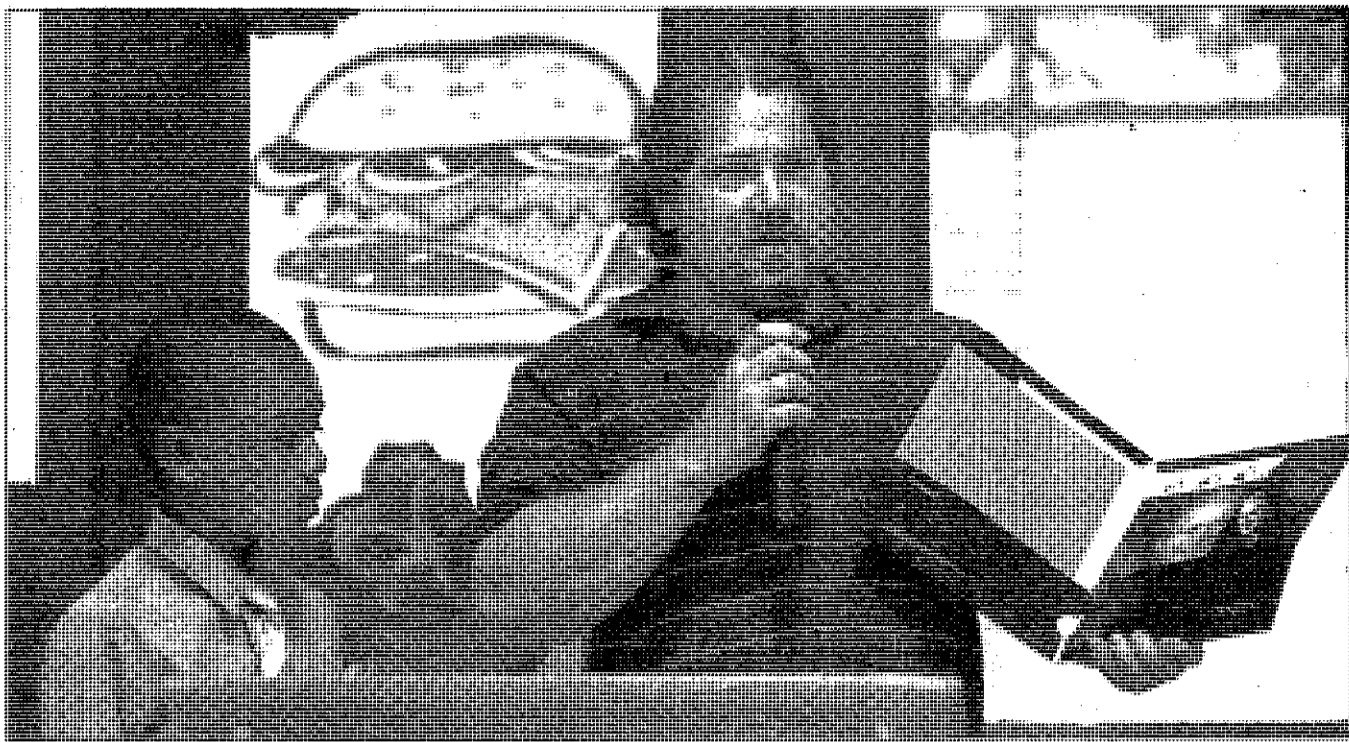
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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Surprise!**

It was a project for his art class that ended up getting Schweitzer Elementary fifth-grader Juwan Jamison some extra recognition. Juwan received letters from Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy, Westland Mayor William Wild, a senator and congressman about his portrait of President George W. Bush which was a framed and sent to the White House. But the one that caused the biggest stir was a letter from the president himself. Juwan received the letter from art teacher Paul Wilburn during the recent fifth-grade promotion ceremonies.

**Students apply for 10 Schools of Choice seats**

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Webster Elementary may welcome a handful of academically talented students from Riverview to Walled Lake this fall.

Six students from outside the district applied for 10 seats available through a limited Schools of Choice program that Livonia Public Schools has offered for the first time, according to Donna McDowell, administrator of communications for LPS.

Five of the students were recommended for additional testing. Webster's ACAT program serves students in first- through sixth-grades in a special multi-age team teaching classrooms.

Seats were open to students entering third-grade. The application process required students to submit report cards and standardized test scores.

Students from six districts — South Redford, Plymouth-Canton, Riverview, Huron Valley, Walled Lake and Taylor — applied during the two-week registration

window, which ended July 8. Eight LPS students, who had missed the testing window earlier this year, also applied for the seats. Of those, three were recommended for additional testing, McDowell said.

The selection process is expected to be complete by July 25.

In addition, Webster's academically talented program will be welcoming back two ACAT students, McDowell said. One, whose family had moved to Florida, will be returning to Livonia. Another student moving out of the district was allowed to stay in the program because of the Schools of Choice option.

The district introduced the limited Schools of Choice program at Webster as a way to bring in additional revenue.

"I think we had hoped for a few more (applicants)," McDowell said. The limited window, during summer vacations and the July 4 holiday, may have played a role, she said.

Webster has been relocated to 32401 Pembroke.

**Anderson supports Great Lakes Compact**

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson recently joined with his colleagues in the State Senate in passing a revised agreement protecting the state's freshwater and implementing the Great Lakes Compact.

The legislation bans major water diversions and increases oversight of large quantity users. Sen. Anderson co-sponsored Senate Bill 212, which makes Michigan a part of the Great Lakes Compact.

"I have been fighting for the protection of the Great Lakes my entire legislative career, and today's agreement is not just the most comprehensive legislation to date in the state, but in the entire Great Lakes region," said Anderson, who also introduced SB 721 last fall as part of a Senate Democrats' Water Package. "Our review of this package was intensive and exhaustive, and in the end, we reached a compromise that environmental, agricultural

and business interests could all agree on."

The legislation unveiled in the agreement preserved the following core protections for the Great Lakes:

- Enacts the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact.
- Bans significant diversions from Michigan waters and the Great Lakes.
- Establishes a regulatory standard which provides oversight of large quantity withdrawals and permitting for the largest water users to ensure water withdrawals, from both surface and groundwater, do not cause an adverse resource impact.
- Contains special additional protections for thermally-sensitive trout streams.
- Includes special provisions to protect Michigan's waters against large-scale withdrawals by water bottlers.
- Reaffirms our rights as citizens to seek redress if our

waters are harmed, and reiterates the state's role in protecting those waters.

Anderson is a member of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus, and earlier this month, he participated in the annual Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Conference in Chicago to discuss best practices with neighboring states and experts for managing resources in the Great Lakes Region. The caucus is a nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces who work to promote Great Lakes restoration and strengthen the role of legislators in the Great Lakes policymaking process. Participating legislators' expenses were funded by grants from the Joyce Foundation, a nonpartisan organization that supports efforts to protect the Great Lakes' natural environment.

**Children get chance to be zookeepers**

Brendan Gleason, 6, of Livonia and Jessica Maladecki, 6, of Westland recently won an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with a keeper at the Detroit Zoo in the Detroit Zoological Society and Fox 2's ZOOKEEPERS Sweepstakes.

On Saturday, June 14, the two youngsters ventured into the African Grasslands with the white rhinos, warthogs and river hippopotamus. The "honorary" ZOOKEEPERS scattered hay throughout the rhino habitat and hide treats for the rhinos to discover. They also prepare and distribute special treats for the warthogs and Jock the hippo and watch as the animals enjoy their snacks.

Parents can click on the ZOOKEEPERS icon at www.

MyFOXDetroit.com through July 8 and register kids ages 6-12 for their chance to become an honorary zookeeper. Eight more winners will be selected at random to receive an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with a keeper at the Detroit Zoo.

In addition, kids ages 2-12 can download an official certificate, redeemable for a ZOOKEEPERS lanyard at the Zoo. The lanyard contains coupons for a free child's ZOOKEEPERS T-shirt (while supplies last), small soft drink and one-way ride on the Tauber Family Railroad.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a non-profit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is

at the intersection of Ten Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The zoo is open daily at 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August. Admission is \$11 for adults age 13 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens age 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12. Children under 2 are free.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit the Detroit Zoo Web site at www.detroitzoo.org. The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round and provides educational programming with interpretive staff support from the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. For more information, call (313) 852-4056.

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Parade of ponds**

The seventh annual Elegant Environments Parade of Ponds is scheduled for July 26-27. It's a self-guided tour of Downriver gardens and ponds. Tickets are \$12 and include both days. They are available at the Westland Historic Village Park. Proceeds will benefit the Westland Garden Club. For more information, call (734) 728-1232 or (734) 522-3918.

**Bound for Olympics**

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department's Westland Stars is inviting dance teams, studios and community recreation dancers to join them in competing in the dance division of this summer's Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games. The event is open to teams and individuals in standard dance — jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical hip hop, etc. ballroom/swing, and clogging. The

AAU Junior Olympic Games will take place July 23-Aug. 2 in the metro Detroit area. The dance event will be held at the Allen Park Performing Arts Center July 28-30. Information can be found at www.aausports.org.

**Blood Drive**

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17, in the Community Room of St. Damian Parish, 30055 Joy Road, Westland. For a donation appointment, call (734) 716-2057. Walk-ins also are welcome.

**Let's read**

The Westland public library will host a "Reading Dog" program at the Dorsey Center Thursday, Aug. 14, for children who love to read, are just learning to read or want to practice reading aloud. A trained Reading Education Assistance

Dog (R.E.A.D.) will welcome elementary-age students 1-2 p.m. for individual reading sessions.

The program will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is for a child and the dog only; caregivers may stay in the reading room. Children are welcome to bring their own book or select one from the library's cart.

Elle Mae is a certified therapy dog who is friendly and supportive to emerging readers. She is non-judgmental and provides gentle encouragement to build confidence in reading aloud. The program helps to reinforce reading skills and provides an incentive for kids to read during the dog days of summer.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

**Open house**

Tammy Vermette will unveil her new photography studio,

That Personal Touch LLC, during an open house 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 19, and 3-7 p.m. Sunday, July 20. The business, she said, is ideal for photographs of high school seniors, engagements, weddings, babies, families, groups and pets, among others. That Personal Touch is at 952 Newburgh, just south of Marquette, in the Newburgh Plaza.

**Foundation fund-raiser**

The Westland Community Foundation will sponsor a Christmas in July fund-raiser with a "champagne and diamond" reception 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, July 25, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy east of Newburgh. It will feature live and silent auctions, dueling pianos, special presentations, a "strolling dinner" and an open bar.

Evening attire is requested. One woman will win a diamond. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call (734) 595-7727.

**Meals drivers needed**

Residents who have the time and available transportation can help the elderly delivering meals to homebound seniors as part of the Meals on Wheels program. The route can be done in approximately 45 minutes, and mileage is paid to the driver. Half the route is a senior high-rise lobby drop-off, the other consists of a condo route.

For more information, call Barbara Ramseur at (734) 722-7632 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Legislative briefing**

Wayne County Commissioner Ronaele Bowman, D-Westland, is host-

ing a Legislative Briefing and Community Ice Cream Social for residents of county's 12th Commission District 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friday, July 18, at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt, Inkster.

Bowman will provide an update on Wayne County's legislative agenda, which includes budget deliberations that are currently taking place. Joining her for presentations will be Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, and Kevin Kelley, director of the county's senior citizens and veterans affairs department.

The event is free and is open to the public. To sign up for the event, call Bowman's office at (313) 224-0902. The 12th District includes Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia.

**Community cookout**

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior holds a community cookout from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays at the church at 29425 Annapolis, Westland. The church also holds a community forum from 7-8:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

**YWCA enrollment**

The YWCA of Western Wayne County's preschool programs are now accepting registration for the fall.

The YWCA offers quality programs to children 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs also are available. Children learn valuable skills needed for

future socialization and educational growth.

For more information on these programs, or to enroll a child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

**Golf outing**

John Glenn High School's wrestling program will have its 11th annual golf outing fund-raiser on Saturday, Sept. 20, at Warren Valley Golf Course. Cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn, and dinner. Please contact Judy at judylaw1122@yahoo.com or (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. More information also is available at www.glennwrestling.com.

**Class reunion**

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Roma's of Garden City. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit jghs88reunion.com.

**Summer rentals**

Plan your outdoor party or gathering at one of Westland's parks. Pavilions, tables, and grills are now available through October. For more information, call the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 722-7620.

**Craft show**

It may only be spring but vendors are already being sought for St. Theodore's CCW Fall Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. Table rental is \$25. The show will be at the church at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call Mary at (734) 425-4421.



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**Got Game?**  
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# JAMES

FROM PAGE A1

November winner will earn a two-year term that pays \$68,411 a year. James realizes he has an uphill battle to claim the seat occupied for 30 years by former Commissioner Kay Beard, in a district that has been a Democratic stronghold. True to his first name, he said, "It's a David and Goliath thing, and I'm well aware of that." James will have to convince voters to support him even though he was recalled in late 2000 from his Westland City Council post over the firing of the city's former clerk, Patricia Gibbons. Eight years later, he hopes he has earned another chance to serve in public office. James, who is a single man

and a high school graduate with some college courses, said he doesn't believe that the 12th District has gotten back its fair share of tax revenues paid by local residents. "I want to be there to glean as much as I can for the 12th District," he said. James underscored his experience. He formerly served on the Wayne-Westland school board and the Westland Planning Commission, and he has been involved with the Westland Community Foundation, the Westland Lions Club, the Westland Chamber of Commerce and the Westland Parks and Recreation board. "I love politics," he said. James voiced concerns that union jobs and a middle class standard of living are eroding. "The economy of our communities are based on union

wages," he said. "When that wage declines, so does the economy." By helping to protect those jobs, he said, local people will have more money to keep the economy going and to help turn around the declining housing market. James cited faith-based initiatives as a way that local churches can become involved in helping their communities, and he said such programs don't violate the separation of church and state. Moreover, James called for implementing prudent spending measures at the county level, saying he will work to ensure that money isn't squandered if he's elected. James indicated that Westland Mayor William Wild and county officials appear to have a handle on the remediation of lead-contaminated

Central City Park, "and for me to beat the drum on that is just rhetoric." James also said he supports the Wayne County TURBO program, which provides certain tax breaks to spur development and the sale of homes. He said it's an area where bipartisan support can only help the region. He also said he hopes the Pinnacle Race Course in Huron Township will boost the area economy. James described himself as largely independent, and he said the only endorsement he is seeking is that of the voters of the 12th District. Although he has had some political troubles in the past, James hopes to overcome them. "I think people see me as genuine," he said.

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# Celebration honors reigning Miss Michigan

Westland will celebrate the recent crowning of resident Ashlee Baracy as the new Miss Michigan.

Baracy, 23, will be honored 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, during a reception at the Westland public library, on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford.

Baracy clinched the title in late June after besting nearly 30 contestants from across Michigan in the annual competition in Muskegon. She has called Westland home since the age of 3.

"We want this afternoon to reflect the high spirit we all feel for Ashlee during this very exciting time," Mayor William Wild said in a prepared statement. "Our community is 100 percent behind her as she embarks on this journey to become the next Miss America."

Members of Baracy's court as well as title holders representing local communities also will attend the reception, which will include remarks from Baracy. The public is welcome.

Baracy, a graduate of John Glenn High School and the University of Michigan and a current graduate student of Eastern Michigan University, earned more than \$10,000 scholarships in the Miss



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashlee Baracy, Miss Michigan 2008, will be the guest of honor at a celebration Sunday, Aug. 3, at the William P. Faust Public Library.

Michigan contest, in addition to the Kaye Lani Rae Rafko-Wilson Community Service Award, valued at \$1,000, and the Kirsten Haglund Swimsuit Award worth \$250.

Baracy, whose mother, Janet, was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago and is a survivor, has proclaimed that breast cancer awareness and education will serve as her platform during her reign.

Baracy has also established a support network for daughters supporting mothers with breast cancer.

Baracy, who represented Wayne County at the Miss Michigan pageant, will be going to Las Vegas to compete in the 2009 Miss America Pageant on Saturday, Jan. 24.

# THOMPSON

FROM PAGE A1

peting for his party's nod in the Aug. 5 primary. Eight Democrats also are campaigning. The ultimate victor in November will earn a two-year term that pays \$68,411 a year. Thompson, married with four adult children, formerly chaired the old 15th District Republican Committee. He said he decided to enter this year's 12th District commission race "as a stand-in" for the Republican Party, so that Democrats wouldn't have a free ride to victory. "I want to make sure the other side has to work," Thompson said. Thompson, who has a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in linguistics from the University of Michigan, said education

has always been important to him. If elected to the 12th District seat, which represents Westland, Inkster and south Livonia, he would like to be an advocate for education. Thompson also voiced support for efforts to expand Cobo Hall and the area around Detroit Metro Airport, saying it could help the local business community. However, he said any homeowners who are displaced by airport development should receive a fair payout for their homes. Thompson pledged to work toward repairing crumbling roads, and he said contractors who do the work should be held responsible for any repairs that don't hold up like they should. "We have to keep them accountable," he said. Thompson cited Highland Park as one city that the county could try to help rebuild by trying to provide some money

for economic recovery, including the facades of dilapidated storefronts. Thompson was a precinct delegate for 20 years and has been involved as an elder at Ward Presbyterian Church, as chair of the church's committee on single adult ministries, and as assistant pastor at Central Alliance Church near Wayne State University's campus. Thompson said he has taken his past involvement in activities seriously, and he said he would bring the same approach to county govern-

ment. He said he would like to examine the county budget to find areas where money has been wasted, so that he can recommend money-saving measures. Thompson acknowledged that he still is studying up on many issues, such as the proposed remediation of lead-contaminated Central City Park in Westland, but he said he would vigorously explore all facets of any issues that come before him, if he's elected to the county commission.

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## SHOPCanton and SAVE!

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**98.7 Smooth Jazz** Be sure to check out this week's **V98.7 Smooth Jazz Summer Concert!**

**Friday, July 18- John E. Lawrence**  
7-9 p.m., Centre Village Parking Lot  
(Located at the southwest corner of Ford & Canton Center. In the event of rain, concert will be held indoors at Super Bowl of Canton.)

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**Canton Downtown Development Authority**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Peace Camp for Kids**  
Kirk of Our Savior Peace Camp takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 (lunch will be served). The camp is open to children of all ages and religious backgrounds. Spend a few hours learning to work together in order to achieve success. Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jenny at 313-532-4310.

**Fall enrollment**  
Registration is now being accepted for the fall for preschool 3-year-olds and kindergarten through eighth-grade at St. Damian School, 29891 Joy, Westland. Call parish office at (734) 421-6130 for more information.

**Citizens for Peace**  
The Livonia-based Citizens for Peace, which covers the entire 11th District, invites residents the chance to join in study-discussion groups on the topic, Beyond War, during its June and July meetings. Using a study guide, the topic will be discussed in four group sessions each meeting. The June meeting will include social change; how to talk to people who think war is a good idea or inevitable; war is obsolete; and the concept that we all live on one planet. In July, the topics focus on alternatives to war, such as nonviolent conflict resolution processes and appropriate humanitarian foreign aid; international law and cooperation between nations; practical experience about what people and nations can do instead of war; and applying effective advocacy. Citizens for Peace meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Unity of Livonia, on Five mile road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. A small donation is requested for the use of the church facilities. For details, call Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079.

**Free workshop**  
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, is presenting "Natural Solutions to Digestive Problems" 7-9 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Civic Center Library, 32717 Five Mile, Livonia. This presentation will teach the audience about natural means of improving or even correcting such problems as acid reflux, hiatal hernias, ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, colitis and Crohn's disease. Seating is limited to the first 15 callers. Reservations are required. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLCHolisticWellness.com.

**Remote-controlled race day**  
Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church hosts "Remote-Controlled Race Day," 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. Racers can bring their R.C. vehicle and race it on the church's large oval track, complete with hill and jump-ramp. Ribbons will be awarded to winners. No sign-up necessary. Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. If you need more information, contact Jenny at (313) 532-4310.

**John Glenn reunion**  
John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20 year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Roma's of Garden City on Cherry Hill east of Venoy. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit the reunion Web site at jghs88reunion.com.

**Fish Dial-A-Ride**  
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

**Higher Rock Cafe**  
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

**FOR YOUR HEALTH**

**Advocacy group**  
The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

**Substance abuse support**  
A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

**Menopause & More**  
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

**Counterpoint**

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

**Toughlove**  
A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.

**EDUCATION**

**St. Raphael**  
St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade. Programs include 3-4-year-old preschool, technology updates and a host of extra-curricular activities. Computer labs, new classroom technology, Japanese class, and chess club are some of the school's newest additions. The school has a strong academic program and also offers religion class, weekly Mass and sacramental preparation including Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Latchkey and bussing is available, and all faiths are welcome. For registration information or to learn more about St. Raphael Catholic School, contact the school office at (734) 425-9771 or visit the Web site at www.straphael-gc.org.

**St. Damian**  
St. Damian Catholic School at 29891 Joy, Westland, offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680 or check out the school's Web site at www.stdamian.com.

**Academic Pathways**  
Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

**YWCA preschool**  
The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2+ to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**Karmanos Institute**  
The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed

for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

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

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

**VNA Hospice**  
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

**Seasons Hospice**  
Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. For more information please call Ruth at (800) 370-8592.

**Literacy Council**  
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

**Heartland Hospice**  
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light house-keeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

# From drama to soccer, camps keep kids busy

Parents looking for something to keep their children busy can find it with several summer camps being offered through the Westland Parks and Recreation Department next week.

Here are the camps I told you about. Let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to interview any of the teachers directly.

For children ages 6-12 there's **Kelley's Kamp**, a supervised play program filled with arts and crafts, activities, games, sporting events, indoor gym time, swimming and much more. Led by instructor Carrie Kelley, the camp will held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 21-Aug. 1, at Tattan Park Pavilion No. 2 and the Bailey Recreation Center. Drop-off is between 8:30 and 9 a.m.

Youngsters should wear comfortable outside clothes and bring bathing suit and towel for swimming, bag lunch and snack Monday-Thursday (and Friday if you don't want pizza). The program will be held inside the Bailey center during inclement weather. The cost \$100 per child per week and after care is available 3-6 p.m. and costs \$35 per week. Children must be pre-registered for after care at the same time as camp registration. They should also bring snack for after care.

Vanessa Schmidtke is the instructor for a gymnastics camp being offered noon to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, July 28-31. Gymnasts will work on floor, bars, balance beam and vault skills at their own level. No prior experience necessary. The theme of camp will be the 2008 Olympic Games, and participants ages 6-12 will learn about such things as the Olympians and the history of the Olympics, while working on their gymnastics skills.

The cost is \$54 for residents and \$57 for non-residents. After care is available 2-6 p.m. and also costs \$35. After care registration also must be completed with camp registration. Youngsters need to bring a snack for after care.

For drama kings and queens, there's a full-day drama camp being offered 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 28-Aug. 1. It's described as an intense drama camp in which

students will rehearse and prepare for a performance of a play based on a familiar fairy tale, folk tale, myth or legend. There will be performances on the last day of class in the auditorium at the Livonia Civic Library on Five Mile east of Farmington Road. Curtain times will be 2 and 7 p.m.

The cost is \$145 for residents and \$148 for non-residents. There's also a \$30 production fee payable to the teacher at first class. Students are to bring a sack lunch with beverage daily. After care is available 2-6 p.m. and also costs \$35. After care registration also must be completed with camp registration. Youngsters need to bring a snack for after care.

Sign your soccer star up for some instruction at a Rockers' soccer summer camp 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 21 - 25.

"Soccer Fun in the Sun" is the theme for the 2008 Summer camps, featuring qualified instructors and professional and college players eager to share their knowledge of the game with a new generation of soccer players.

Camp is designed for boys and girls ages 4-14 and of all skill levels. Players will learn how to develop individual techniques and team strategy. World Cup Tournament the last day of camp. Participants will receive a soccer ball and camp T-shirt.

Camp fee is \$110 per player. After care is available 12:30-6:00 p.m. After care includes transportation to the Bailey Center, daily swim in the Bailey Pool, games and other activities. All after-care participants must bring a bag lunch and afternoon snack daily. Pickup is at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$50 per week per camper. After care registration also must be completed with camp registration. Youngsters need to bring a snack for after care.

For more information about the Rocker Soccer Summer Camp, call Kathy Coyne, camp administrator, at (248) 229-2372, by e-mail at rockersoccer@sbeglobal.net or on the Web at www.detroitrockers.net.

For more information about the summer programs, call the parks and recreation department at (734) 722-7620.

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**POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS**  
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday.  
Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, July 24, 2008, various items of the City of Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction; 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	Vin
4377618	1992	GMC	C1500 SUBURBAN	1GKEC16K2NJ721387

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.  
The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.  
Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.  
Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: July 17, 2008 060812100-642.5

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeto, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 7/31/08 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:  
3150 - David Valind - Couch, Table, 5 Bags  
3190 - Keith Judkins - Dresser, Table, Mattress  
4186 - Chiquita Whitfield - Headboard, TV, Microwave  
5056 - Claire Joslin - Wardrobe, Speakers, Couch  
5094 - Barry Price Jr - Golf Clubs, 10 Boxes, Chair  
5120 - Jeremy R Semenik - Bunkbed, Washer, Dryer  
5140 - Charletta D Gates - Aquarium, Fan, Clothing

Publish: July 10 & 17, 2008 090601100-1062.5

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY  
AND DISABLED VOTERS  
CITY OF WESTLAND  
PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION  
AUGUST 5, 2008**

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2008.

Eileen DeHart, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 17, 2008 060807282-253

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

**Case #1999F - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Used Vehicle Sales, 38120 Executive Drive, Parcel #028-03-0022-300, North Side of Executive Drive, North of Ford Road, East of Hix Road, Sheri Wilkins (Glenn Shaw Jr.)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 17, 2008 060811100-4430.9

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

An Ordinance to Amend Westland Zoning Ordinance 248, by Amending Article III, Sections 3-5.1, 3-5.2, 3-5.3, 3-11.3, and 3-12.5, Article XII, Section 12-2.6, Article XIII, Sections 13-2.8, and 13-2.8 to Comply with Legislative Changes to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 17, 2008 060811018-393

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES  
MTG. 13  
7/7/08**

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

- 155- Approved Minutes of 6/16/08.
- Approved Tec Furn. Tent sale: 7/11-7/13, 7/18-7/20, 7/25-7/27, & 8/1-8/3/08, 10-7 p.m.
- Approved Traffic Control Order 2008-03: Install (2) stop signs on N. & S. Roselawn @ Lonnie.
- Approved bid from Coach's Corner for 3 yr. concession contr. for Mike Modano Ice Arena.
- Approved bid from RMR Enterprises for 3 yr. concession contr. for Golf Course.
- Approved Intergovern. Agrmt between Garden City and the City for Water Meter Installation.
- Adopted Prep. Land Div. Res. 6504 N. Hix.
- 156-Confirmed re-appt. B.Cybulsk, Cable Comm. to 7/1/12.
- 157-Approved Checklist Activity: \$1,268,617.42 and Prepaid: \$2,920,936.44.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes available at the Clerk's office.

James R. Godbout,  
Council President

Eileen DeHart,  
City Clerk

Publish: July 17, 2008 06081105-244.5

## Better Business Bureau: Beware of travel scams

With the cost of travel skyrocketing, consumers are increasingly susceptible to fraudulent offers for special deals on vacations, and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning vacationers to be wary of joining "travel clubs." Complaints to BBB show that many travel clubs promise huge discounts on hotels, airfare, and cruises but fail to deliver for members despite the high cost of joining.

"Along with increasing energy costs, the overall cost of travel is expected to go through the roof and many consumers are looking for ways to get affordable deals on flights and vacations," said Vickie Galpin, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan. "Unfortunately, many vacationers are being seduced by slick presentations and empty promises from high-pressure salesmen claiming that joining a travel club will let them in on great deals that ultimately don't materialize."

In the first quarter of 2008 alone, consumers filed nearly 350 complaints with BBB against travel clubs in the U.S.

Thousands of complaints have been filed with BBB about travel clubs in the last three years and all tell a similar story of being lured — either in person, over the phone or through the mail—to a high-pressure sales presentation with the promise of receiving free airline tickets, gas cards, or tickets to shows.

During the presentation, consumers are told they would be able to take advantage of remarkable deals on airfare and vacations if they joined the travel club for a membership fee of as much as \$8,000.

Complaints to BBB reveal a pattern of problems with booking travel arrangements and evidence that the "deals" offered by travel clubs were no better — and often worse — than what customers found on their own. Complainants also state that sales presentations were extremely misleading and many felt they were "tricked" into giving up their right to cancel contracts.

Travel clubs are extremely prevalent in popular tourist destinations such as Branson, Mo. In 2007, BBB serving Southwest Missouri received

nearly 200 complaints about 18 travel clubs operating in their area. One company, Travel More Now, lures tourists to their sales presentation with offers of free show tickets. At the presentation, the company claims they can set people up as travel agents allowing them to take advantage of hidden travel deals for a membership fee upwards of \$8,000. Complainants felt extremely misled by the sales pitches and many were shocked to learn that they had given up their right to rescind their membership within the promised three-day window by simply accepting a gift certificate to Red Lobster (Red Lobster is not affiliated with Travel More Now).

Travel clubs are a "suspect industry" with BBB due to a high level of misrepresentation and dissatisfied customers, but there are a number of reputable travel clubs operating in the U.S. Before signing up with a travel club, vacationers should do their research and check the company's Reliability Report with BBB first at www.bbb.org to make sure that it is trustworthy.

## Fox Hills event benefits mental health research

When a loved one of Tony Mitchell was diagnosed with schizophrenia a few years back, he decided he wanted to help support research into this still-befuddling illness. After much research, he came across the National Alliance on Mental Illness—Metros, a national organization with sub groups all over the United States.

When he learned more about the organization he decided to produce a charity golf outing to raise money for the cause.

On Sunday, July 20, Mitchell and good friend Vince Toia will host the third-annual "Skins and Pins Shootout," a shotgun-style start at Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth that starts at 9 a.m.

The \$85 per-person event will include brunch served in the Golden Fox Clubhouse with a plethora of delicious foods, 18 holes of golf with cart and prizes ranging from golf equipment to gift certificates, from restaurants and retailers, to autographed sports items and PGA Championship items. People may attend just the brunch for \$25.

The first event raised \$700, last year's event raised \$3,300 and Mitchell hopes this year's event raises well over \$6,000. All profits will go to NAMI-Metro to be used for education and support programs for families with loved ones suffering with a mental illness.

"We are very excited about

the amount of golfers and donations we have this year," said Mitchell. "We are hoping to raise over \$6,000 to help further research in mental illnesses and to help families affected by mental illnesses."

To learn more about NAMI, write to Sherri Solomon, Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of NAMI, at 921 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906-5137 or call (517) 485-4049. More information is available at [mi.nami.org](http://mi.nami.org)

To sign up for the third-annual Skins and Pins Shootout or to make a donation call Tony Mitchell at (313) 550-2117 or Vince Toia, (734) 634-6360.

## Forces align for, against stem cell proposal

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A ballot proposal will appear on the Nov. 2 general election ballot that would ease restrictions on embryonic stem cell research by allowing procedures that would damage or destroy the embryos.

Supporting the proposal is the Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures, a group of doctors, university officials and politicians like Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Sen. Carl Levin. The Michigan Citizens Against Unrestricted Science and Experimentation (MiCause), a joint partnership of the Michigan Catholic Conference and Right-to-Life of Michigan, oppose it.

Laura Jackson of Livonia was trying out for the Stevenson High School cheerleading team when she landed on her neck and damaged her spinal cord in 2003. Jackson was dependent on a respirator to breathe, as she suffered a C-1, C-2 injury, just like Christopher Reeve. Late in 2004, she went to China for a procedure that included stem cell treatments.

She's able to move her

neck and shoulders now, and she's able to survive without the respirator for a time. She's attending general curriculum classes at Schoolcraft College in preparation for coursework in international business at either the University of Michigan Dearborn or Madonna University.

Jackson wants more people who suffer similar injuries to get that kind of life-changing help. "These treatments can help people with many health issues," Jackson said. "The people who disagree can have their opinion, but it should be your own choice whether or not to accept (the treatment) or not. If you're in my position, you'd want to be able to have my options as well. With this legislation, there's an opportunity for even greater recovery."

The ballot proposal would put Michigan in line with the 45 states that allow that kind of stem cell research, Jackson said.

David Doyle is the spokesman for MiCause and says the ballot initiative supporters are being disingenuous when they say they're trying to lift a ban on stem cell research.

"It's deceptive language,"

he said. "The proposal allows for unrestricted and unregulated experimentation on embryos. The proposal also bans human cloning, but the wording basically says that the law is the law in that regard."

Doyle said future legislation could re-legalize human cloning and the stem cell bill would not prevent it. Future legislation notwithstanding, he said the proposal goes too far.

"It would allow any sort of research and experimentation," Doyle said. "I believe most people will have a problem with that."

It's not that he doesn't want to see cures, as he's been in a wheelchair for four years. He said adult stem cell lines have yielded cures already while embryonic cells have yet to yield a single one.

Jackson said the 500,000-plus signatures on the petition, more than was needed to put the issue on the ballot, is a good sign that Michigan voters are moving in the right direction.

"We're going to see how Michigan voters really feel about this," Jackson said. "The law is outdated. You can go to Ohio and that research is not illegal."

### CITY OF WESTLAND PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 5, 2008

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time candidates of the following offices will be voted upon: **United States Senator; Representative in U.S. Congress; Representative in State Legislature; County Offices including Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds and County Commissioner for District 12; Republican or Democrat Delegate to County Convention; 3rd Judicial Circuit Court Judges (3) and a Wayne County Zoological Authority Proposal: The Wayne County Zoological Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008, and formed to allow for continuing zoological services for the students, residents and visitors of the County of Wayne. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.1 mill (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real property and personal property to provide revenue for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing zoological services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.1 mill on all taxable property located within the County of Wayne be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2008 through 2017. It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage will generate approximately \$5,299,640.48 in 2008. Shall this proposal be adopted? Yes or No**

#### STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJTCOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of June 23, 2008 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

#### WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Increases	Increase Effective
County of Wayne	August 8, 2000	1 mill	2009
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	August 2, 2005	0.25 mills	2010
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2001	1.5 mills	2010
Garden City Public Schools	June, 2002	18 mills	2012 (non homestead)
Inkster School District	May, 2006	21 mills	2015 (non homestead)
	May, 2006	6 mills	2015
Livonia Public School District	February, 2005	18.4568 mills	2010 (non homestead)
	February, 2005	.63 mills	2010
	February, 2005	1.12 mills	2009
Taylor School District	January, 2008	18 mills	2013 (non homestead)
Wayne - Westland Community Schools	June, 1995	18 mills	2009 (non homestead)
City of Westland	February, 2003	1 mill	2012
	Operating	6.4834 mills	current
	Police & Fire Ret. Act 359	3.35 mills	current
	Sanitation	0.0216 mills	current
	Other	2.0 mills	current
	General Fund	5.3716 mills	current
	Library	11.8550 mills	current
		0.9477 mills	current

Dated June 23, 2008

Raymond Wojtcowicz /s/  
Treasurer

The places of voting for the Primary Election to be held on August 5, 2008, will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1 & 19	Madison School, 1075 S. Carlson
2 & 32	Kettering School, 1200 Hubbard
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4 & 8	Patchin School, 6420 Newburgh
5 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
9	Jefferson School, 32150 Dorsey
10	Lincoln School, 33800 Grand Traverse
11 & 23	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
12 & 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
13 & 18	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
14	Marshall Middle School, 36100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct
16	Holliday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
24	Lutheran High School Westland, 39300 Cowan
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

Eileen DeHart, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 17, 2008

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The Michigan Humane Society has announced a program that will have more cats and kittens going home by twos!

## 'Purrfect in Pairs'

### MHS offers special two-for-one cat adoption program

With "cat" season in full swing and cat and kitten intakes at peak summer levels, the Michigan Humane Society has announced a program that will have more cats and kittens going home by twos!

The "Purrfect in Pairs" program seeks to double the number of cats being adopted by carefully matching pairs and charging only one adoption fee. The program will be offered for a limited time.

"In addition to placing more cats and kittens in loving homes, the added benefit of the program is that we know many cats do better in pairs by providing exercise, social interaction and mental stimulation for each other," said Mike Robbins, director of marketing and communications for the Michigan Humane Society. "Adopters will see that two really is twice as nice - and results in twice the love without twice the work."

MHS will adopt together cats who are well-matched and have been selected for their suitability to the program. Placing two cats together also will help maximize the available cage

space, which is critically needed this time of year for the cats and litters of kittens who find their way to Michigan's largest and oldest animal welfare organization.

MHS maintains a thorough adoption process to ensure each kitten or cat is placed in a loving, responsible home. As with all MHS adoptions, the "pair" will have the added value of the MHS adoption package, which includes sterilization surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a medical check-up, 10-day health plan and more.

"We're expecting great results from this program, yet we cannot emphasize enough the importance of greater community awareness, and the sterilization of all companion animals, as these are critical elements of long-term success in reducing cat homelessness," added Robbins. "We cannot adopt our way out of the national pet overpopulation problem."

People can visit the MHS's three adoption centers at 7401 Chrysler Dr., Detroit; 3600 W. Auburn Road, Rochester

Hills, and 900 N. Newburgh, Westland, or online at [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org) to "meet" their potential new furry family members. MHS adoption centers hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

If you are unable to open your home to a new feline family member or two, the Michigan Humane Society welcomes donations to help place more cats and kittens in good homes. Call (866) MHUMANE 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or donate securely online at [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization which cares for more than 100,000 animals each year, while working to end companion animal homelessness, provide the quality service and compassion to the animals entrusted to its care, and to be a leader in promoting humane values. For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

# High school job becomes career for GC graduate

Like many teenagers, Brent Teddy was looking for a way to earn a few bucks when he started cutting lawns for some of his neighbors in 1995 during the summer before his freshman year at Garden City High School.

He started his enterprise at age 14 with a lawn mower and an intense work ethic. By the time he graduated from GCHS in 1999, he had 130 customers and a clear career objective.

"I knew in high school that I wanted to own my own business, but I wasn't sure which industry," Teddy said, "but before I left high school, I knew this is what I was going to do."

The 27-year-old entrepreneur has taken his operation to a new level this year with his move into an expanded Livonia facility. The success of his lawn and landscape operation has enabled Teddy to establish a spin-off business this year: Global Landscape Center. His growing business is housed at a 5,000-square-foot warehouse on Stark Road, south of Schoolcraft Road.

Global Landscape Center serves as a supply center to facilitate landscaping projects, which includes a variety landscape supplies, such as paver bricks, water mechanisms and fencing. Trained personnel are on hand to advise customers on do-it-yourself projects, or they can direct customers to professional landscapers with Teddy's Lawn and Landscape.

"It makes sense to have the operations working so closely together," said Stefanie Swayze, Brent's cousin and marketing manager. "When customers come in and see all the supplies they would need and the work it entails. Many of them are convinced they need help to get the job done right, so we direct them to some of our trained staff who can help."

This latest step for Brent's businesses is the result of hard work, long days, persistence and constant education to stay on top of customer-appealing trends.

As he found more customers in high school, his business was headquartered in a 1985 F-150 pickup. While in high school, his workload grew as he landed more lawn care jobs at senior housing facilities. Teddy's work schedule did not stop him from playing soccer at Garden City High School.

"There were some days I would go to school, cut some lawns, go to soccer practice, then go out and cut some more lawns," he said.

After graduating from high school, he bought his first new truck that included a plow so he could move snow at commercial sites in the winter. He found more customers by walking neighborhoods and handing out flyers at the end of busy work days. This was a common activity for Teddy and his then-girlfriend and eventual wife, Terece. This grew his customer base which now reaches several communities throughout western Wayne and southern Oakland counties.

His company's growth did not stop him from taking classes to improve his business skills. He took business classes at Schoolcraft College and landscape design courses at Oakland Community College. As he honed his business skills, he learned to lean on members of his family to help him manage the operation. His mother Debbie, his father Harry, sister Tracy as well as his wife and Swayze play key roles in the companies.

"I like the industry and the creative things you can do with landscaping, pavers, and patios,"

he said. "I like creating and seeing the finished product when we're done. I think landscaping is an under-appreciated art."

In 2005, he moved the office for the landscape company from his home into a Livonia building on Farmington Road near Schoolcraft Road. He moved again into the larger building on Stark Road when he ignited the Global Landscape Center this past February. Even as his company grows, he continues to put in 14-hour work days on a regular basis, and typically works seven days a week.

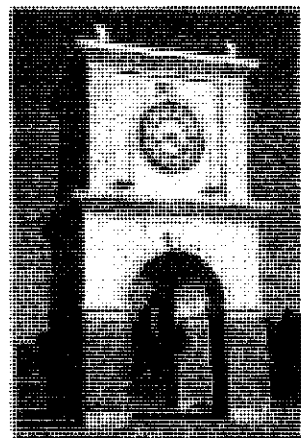
"I come from a hard-working background," Brent said. "I did take a week off last year for our honeymoon."

Teddy sees an emerging challenge in his industry. He sees people who recently lost their jobs start up their own lawn care business and charge less for services. He said that drives him to prove the value of his service through constant education.

"We always use the best products and newest technology out there to do the best possible job for our customers," Teddy said. "We are always learning how to do things differently so we can stay ahead of the competition and give our customers the best-possible service."

He added his is proud of his company's involvement in the Michigan Green Industry Association, which presented his landscaping company with several awards in recent years for exercising environmentally safe techniques and proper trade practices.

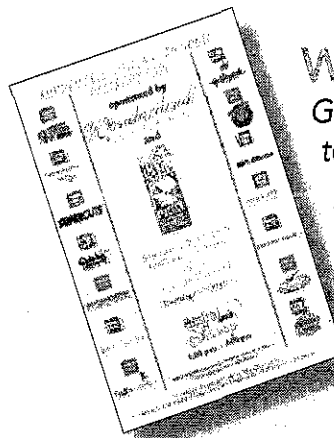
Teddy's Lawn and Landscape and Global Landscape Center are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The phone number is (734) 422-5000. The Web site is [www.globallandscapecenter.com](http://www.globallandscapecenter.com).



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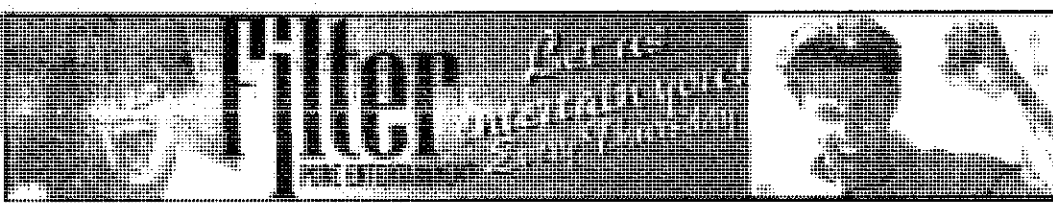
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# Be sure you save for a rainy day, have money to live on

I recently took a call on my radio show from a man who needed \$25,000 for an emergency. His belief was that his options were to withdraw money from his 401(k), sell some mutual funds or borrow against his charge cards. He wanted my opinion as to which option would be least painful.

In today's difficult economic climate many people find themselves in a situation of needing money at a time they had not planned. Whether in good times or bad, knowing where to obtain money in times of need is a crucial decision. You do not want a short-term fix to create long-term problems.

In deciding where to access money, it is important to recognize that while everyone's situation is unique, there are some common issues to consider.

The interest you pay on your charge card is the highest you will pay and it is not tax deductible. Furthermore, with charge-card debt, the terms of the loan can change. On the whole, putting additional debt on charge cards is not prudent.

I have never been a fan of withdrawing money from a retirement account other than for retirement. When people withdraw money from their retirement account for non-retirement purposes, they need to consider the consequences of their action. There could be adverse tax consequences. Remember, in most situations if you withdraw money from your retirement account before age 59½, you could be liable for an additional 10 percent early withdrawal penalty. In addition you will pay taxes on the distribution.

However, forgetting the tax consequences, there is also the lost opportunity cost and that could be substantial particularly the younger you are. If that money was left in the retirement account it would continue to reinvest and grow.

The third option — to liquidate other investments in the portfolio — is one that I generally recommend to individuals. I don't like to take on a lot of debt and so I recommend liquidating certain investments in a financial emergency.

Considering the stock market, it is not a great time to liquidate. All too often, people will sell the losers and keep the winners. Unfortunately, this is a strategy that will lead you into greater problems down the road.

I recommend focusing on what the portfolio is going to look like after the liquidations. In other words, liquidate investments so that it will leave you with a well-balanced and diversified portfolio. If that means you have to sell

your winners fine.

In this situation, the easiest way of handling the problem would have been if the individual had an emergency fund of money. It is important for investors to have three to six months of expenses liquid.

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.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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OUR VIEWS

## In 12th District, Godbout, James are best choices

On Aug. 5, voters in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District will select two candidates who they believe should represent their preferred political party in the November general election.

Ten candidates are vying for the two-year term. On the Republican side, the candidates are David James and Thomas Thompson, while the Democratic field includes appointed commissioner Ronalee Bowman, Hilliard Hampton II, Douglas Kaye, Danny Wilson, James Godbout, Joan Gebhardt, Paul Citkowski and Wanda Harris-Foster.

It is refreshing to have choices in a district that Kay Beard represented for 30 years before stepping down in March. Likewise, it is refreshing to hear candidates talk about the needs of the district, which encompasses the cities of Westland and Inkster and the southern portion of Livonia, in addition to issues facing the county as a whole.

In listening to their responses to the questions we asked and in looking at their backgrounds, we believe that the two candidates who should advance to the November general election are Democrat James Godbout and Republican David James.

Godbout has served on the Westland City Council for almost eight years and is currently council president. He has shown himself to be capable and hard working. He has an ability to work with people on both sides of an issue and has played a role in keeping the city in the black without massive cutbacks. He also has been involved with the Nankin Transit Commission and served on Westland's recycling and technology committees and the Westland Community Foundation.

What we like best is his commitment to getting a "fair shake" for the district, something that has been in short supply in recent years, and especially his focus on improvements in the 12th District portion of Hines Park.

James is by far the more serious of the Republican candidates. He admits that he faces a David vs. Goliath battle in a district that has been solidly Democratic for decades, but he doesn't shy away from the challenge.

He has experience as a former member of the Wayne-Westland school board and Westland Planning Commission and served briefly on the Westland City Council. James was recalled from the latter position after serving 11 months, but we believe he has earned another shot at government service. The fact that James didn't let the recall vote hinder his involvement in the community is a positive. He has remained involved through a variety of civic organizations and the Westland Community Foundation.

He has a working knowledge of county programs that can help spur development, and isn't afraid to talk about faith-based initiatives to help residents in these difficult economic times.

Voters will need to declare their party affiliation to vote in the primary. We believe James Godbout and David James are the Democratic and Republican candidates who should move on to the November general election. Both men are capable of representing the district and its needs at the county level.

## Lowering highway speed should be voluntary

Who isn't hurting or at least feeling the pinch from \$4 per gallon gasoline? The rise in the cost of fuel has impacted nearly every segment of the economy. Here in Michigan, it has been even worse with the Big Three suffering major losses as consumers turn away from buying SUVs, trucks and other gas guzzling vehicles.

For those who must drive long distances to get to work or who drive for a living, the skyrocketing costs at the pump have been particularly crippling.

In an effort to bring the cost of gas back down to earth, some political leaders have floated around the idea of reducing the speed limit down to 55 mph.

Virginia Sen. John Warner recently asked the U.S. Energy Department to investigate imposing a national speed limit of 55 mph, similar to the way it was from 1974 to 1995. Warner says the national speed limit of that era, which was imposed because of another fuel crisis, saved 167,000 barrels of oil a day, or 2 percent of the country's highway fuel consumption.

Closer to home, state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, recently introduced a resolution urging Congress to do exactly what Warner is advocating. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who has started riding her bike to work on some days, has also said that lowering the speed limit to deal with high fuel costs "is something we should consider."

While we commend Vagnozzi and the governor for addressing the current fuel crisis, we don't think a mandatory lowering of the speed limit on state or federal highways is the answer. It should be up to individual motorists whether or not to slow down.

However, there is no denying that slowing down will save people money. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that it can cost drivers an additional 30 cents per gallon for each 5 mph traveled over 60 mph. A car's gas mileage decreases once it gets past its optimal speed, which for most cars is between 55-60 mph. Some cars are nearly 30 percent less efficient when driven at 80 mph.



### Tiger Stadium memories

She has been alone since September 1999. She has stood for 96 years. She has served her purpose well. For some of us, she is the ultimate place to be. There will never be another place like her.

For me, last week was one of the saddest days of my life. It was like losing a member of the family. To see her go brought a tear to my eye. I have missed her dearly. Every time my grandson and I drive by, Kaden says, "There's your stadium, Pop," and it is. Tiger Stadium went under the wrecking ball, a sad day for true baseball fans.

I have been fortunate, I have been to hundreds and hundreds of games at Tiger Stadium. I have seen many memorable things at corner. I was there when Nolan Ryan pitched a no-hitter. I was there and saw at least 10 of the home runs hit over the left field roof. I was there when they honored Norm Cash with his day and Al Kaline Day, Hal Newhouser Day ... many historic moments for me. I still have the very first ball I caught at Tiger Stadium, Mickey Stanley hit it in 1971. I have caught so many baseballs in that ballpark, hundreds. I knew where "the place to be" really was — the left field corner.

I have been to a few other ballparks. I toured Yankee Stadium with my youngest brother and nephew. As they were explaining the park to us, I was gathering dirt from the field. I got four vials of dirt. We went to Fenway Park. They were so nice to us. They hid me in the Green Monster to surprise my brother and his family. They they made us guests of the day. But the best ballpark for me no doubt it is at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull.

I can remember the first game I went to when I was 4 years old, when my dad took me. I can remember when my grandfather would pick up me and my brothers and then drive by and pick up three of my cousins. If you ever run into one of my cousins, Mike Royal — he is a Wayne County sheriff — ask him about the truck rides to the ballpark. All I can say is INTERESTING.

Now the memories will be last forever. My dad is gone, my grandfather is gone. My brother-in-law, just before he passed away at the age of 26 in 1986, was given a ball by Elrod Hendricks from the Baltimore Orioles. His son still has the ball. I miss and love them all. I miss all my times at the corner. I have secret that only family members and a few friends know about her. When you see me, ask me. Let's just say that no matter what happens my Dad will be at the corner forever.

And now the old girl at the corner is going. It is a sad day for baseball, it is a sad day for me. In 2000, I tried contacting the City of Detroit. Instead of leaving it vacant, I told them to run tours of the ballpark and split the money between the city and nonprofit organizations. The city would not have to pay anyone, the organizations that were going to get part of the money would give the tour. I could show you so many things about that park — where Herby, the ground crew mem-

### LETTERS

ber who would dance and wave his hat, signed his name in cement right behind the third base side near the tunnel.

Anyway it is too late for all of this for me she may be going. The memories for me will last forever. When I had the chance to sit in the visitor's dugout, I had goose bumps to think where I was sitting. Imagine Babe Ruth, Gehrig, Mantle, Mays, Bench, Speaker, Ryan, just to name a few, sat where I sat.

The the last game at Tiger Stadium, I handed a Detroit cop my camera and he took a picture of me leaning over the left field corner scooping up the dirt — at least 2 pounds. I still have it in the same bag from that day.

She has stood alone for a number of years. She is not alone now as the wrecking balls are with her now, doing what we hoped would not happen. They can tear her down, but for a lot of us, they can't and never will wreck our memories. So goodbye to a legend. I will miss you, but will never forget you.

Bud Somerville  
Westland

### McCain: more of the same

It seems that no matter how hard John McCain tries to sell his candidacy as something other than a third Bush term, sometimes his campaign can't help but say what they really think. Whether it is McCain saying he wants to kill Iranian citizens with American cigarettes, or economic adviser Phil Gramm claiming that the current economic recession is all in our imagination, or adviser Charlie Black hoping for another terrorist attack on American soil, thinking it would help the Republicans politically, everything about the McCain campaign is entirely in lockstep with the failed Bush agenda.

The phony populism that McCain and some Republicans are trying to sell is an utterly transparent canard. They know that we can't drill our way to energy independence. They know that McCain has consistently voted against benefits for America's military veterans. The Republican domestic and foreign policy agendas are simply more of the same Bush disaster. John McCain is a military hero, but as a presidential candidate he is a fraud.

Joe Golonka  
Westland

### Festival says thank you

The Westland Summer Festival Committee would like to thank all the various businesses that sponsored events for the festival and those businesses that assisted us in getting event. They are:

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Diane Fritz  
Westland Summer Festival Committee

### McCain is disingenuous

It is extremely disingenuous of Sen. John McCain to complain about Iran when the policies of his mentor, President Bush, created the problem. If the president and Mr. McCain had known the difference between Sunni and Shia Muslims before the illegal invasion of Iraq, over 4,000 U.S. troops would still be alive and thousands more would never have been wounded. Moreover, our military presence and the continuing drum beat for war against Iran would not have contributed to the soaring price of oil.

Simply, Iraq and Iran are predominantly Shia Muslims. Democratic elections in Iraq have installed a pro-Iranian government and precipitated the exodus of millions of Sunnis to other countries. Staying in Iraq for 100 more years will not change that.

John Quay  
Redford

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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### QUOTABLE

"It might not be illegal, but it's definitely questionable what you guys are doing up here."  
— resident Charles Grantham about June 16 council approval of a planned unit development for senior citizens in the city's north end



## Run the presses: Mud Day is globe-trotting event

The fact that it's a small world was driven home last week to me.

We traveled with my in-laws, Stan and Alice Rembacki of Livonia, to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Our itinerary took us to Charlottetown, the provincial capital and largest city of Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada.



Julie Brown

I always check out the newspapers when traveling, and bring a stack back for the newsroom. My husband, Mark, pointed to the front page of the Wednesday, July 9, edition of *The Guardian*, Charlottetown's daily with the proud slogan "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew."

There was a "Big mess" - headlined front-page photo of a mud-covered Noah Baekelandt, 9, of Westland, Mich., yes, our Westland, on *The Guardian's* front page. Noah was being crowned Mr. Mud 2008 at the Wayne County Parks Mud Day, an annual event held at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland July 8.

"We occasionally look for an oddity," said Bill McGuire, *Guardian* senior news editor/assignment editor, when reached by phone the following Monday. "Bad news always sells."

Editors everywhere like a cheerful kid picture to balance things out, McGuire noted. Noah's photo being a "vertical" also fit into that day's page design.

"The editor that evening just chose that picture," McGuire said of colleague Tom Killorn, a night editor who handles page one and some inside pages. "Of course, we encourage him to get something a little funny."

The distinctive soil on Prince Edward Island is red, which you'll remember if you watched TV's *Road to Avonlea* or read the Lucy Maud Montgomery book descriptions from an earlier era. "Lots of red mud here," agreed McGuire, who noted the dark grayness of Wayne County mud in the Associated Press photo that ran in his paper.

"I haven't heard of any," the newsman said of other reaction from visiting Wayne County residents. "I guess it's kind of a fluke in some ways that you happened to be there" when the photo ran.

When I got back, I contacted Wayne County and heard back from Executive Bob Ficano. It turned out that photo of Noah ran in a number of newspapers and online throughout the U.S. and beyond, and on TV.

"The extent of it, yes, a little bit," Ficano said of the photo's (pardon the pun) exposure. Mud Day's been held since 1988 and gets bigger each year, with some 700 kids this year.

"It's counterintuitive to how most kids are raised," the county exec said, noting children

are usually urged to stay neat and clean. Ficano tipped his hat to parks staff and participants: "It seems to be a real family day for everybody," he said. He chuckled when hearing of McGuire's Canadian mud description.

"Ours is good old Midwestern mud," Ficano said. I couldn't find the Baekelandts in the phone book, but told county staff I'd be glad to pass along the paper to mail to the family. Whether it was winning a spelling bee or a sports-related feat, publication meant a lot.

It's a brave new world now, with photos from local events like Mud Day ending up several states and provinces away, and even on other continents. I Googled Noah's name and hometown and saw firsthand just how many publications/Web sites ran that photo.

If you've read Thomas Friedman's *The World Is Flat*, you know how that author described our shrinking and yet also growing planet. His writing on globalization, and how technology has spread knowledge and information worldwide, applies to the simple act of a Wayne County Mud Day photo ending up distributed by the Associated Press worldwide.

Noah's photo, which included a cardboard crown designating him as Mr. Mud 2008, also ended up on the British Broadcasting Corp. news Web site. The newspaper photo was small in Charlottetown, as a good newspaper editor should think locally, with the larger front-page photo of a watershed coordinator for the local Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay.

It's good to be back from vacation, and it was a pleasant surprise to see a touch of home as far away as a downtown Charlottetown hotel. Like the Disney song says, it's a small world after all.

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

## Honor our heroes by helping our veterans organizations

Another July 4th has passed and we have celebrated America's independence and our individual freedoms with firework displays and family cookouts. Hopefully during these celebrations, we all took some time to reflect and remember the immeasurable sacrifices made every day by members of our armed forces to protect those freedoms.



Glenn Anderson

Flags were lowered across Michigan on Tuesday, July 8, in honor of the supreme sacrifice made by Livonia's Sgt. Matthew Hilton. Sgt. Hilton's service in the military was the latest chapter of a remarkable and heroic life which was characterized by a willingness to put other's safety before his own. Prior to his tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, Sgt. Hilton stood between his community and those that would harm others in his capacity as a Lathrup Village police officer.

The extraordinary willingness to give of one's self, demonstrated by the life of Sgt. Matthew Hilton, is characteristic of America's all-volunteer military. We must not allow these sacrifices to be forgotten. In addition to his duty as both a police officer and soldier, Sgt. Hilton was active in efforts to assist our local veterans community.

There are many more brave men and women, from conflicts current and past, who have given so much of themselves in our country's name. We can individually honor his sacrifice by doing our part to ensure that our local veterans who have given us so much are given a helping hand.

I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy, himself a veteran of World

War II: "As we express our gratitude, we must not forget that the highest appreciation (of our veterans) is not to utter words, but to live by them." With that said, I hope this tragedy will further strengthen the bond between this community and its veterans.

Within our community there are a number of organizations active in assisting our military veterans. There are many ways to help, including financial contributions, volunteer services or item donations. Those wishing to make a contribution in either form may call one of these organizations.

There are a number of local organizations that provide needed services and could use your help including the local Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Detroit or Ann Arbor Veteran's Hospital and Veteran's Haven. While this is far from an exhaustive list, these are a few organizations that provide an opportunity to show our support for these heroes who have served our nation with honor.

Glenn Anderson, a Democrat, represents the state's 6th Senate District which includes the communities of Garden City, Livonia, Redford, and Westland.

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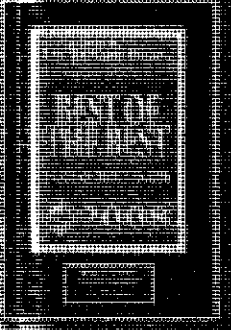
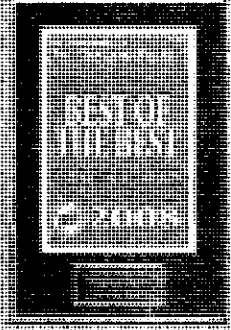
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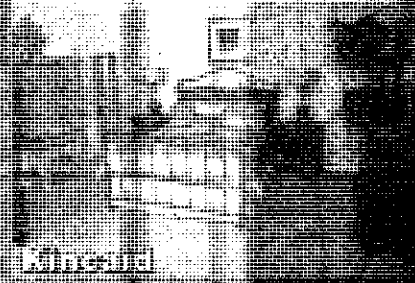
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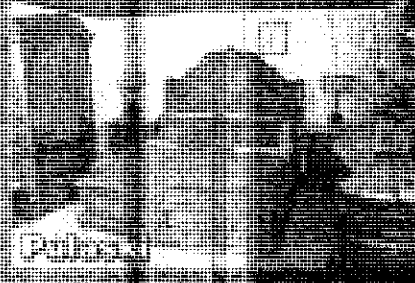
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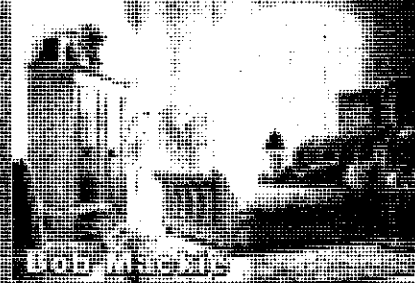
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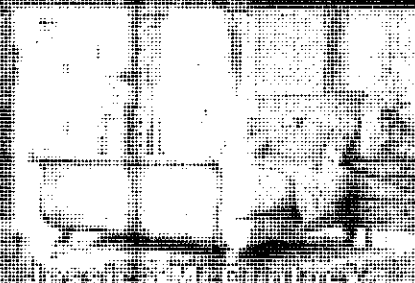
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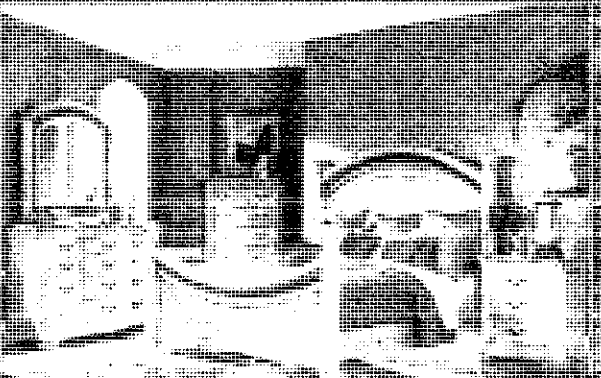
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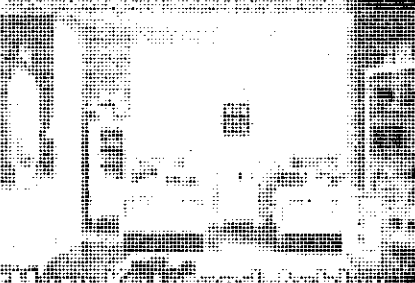
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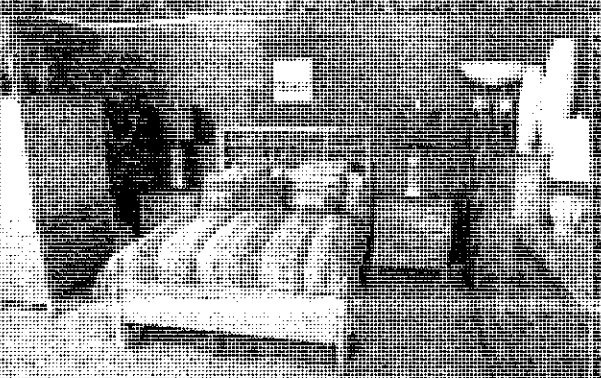
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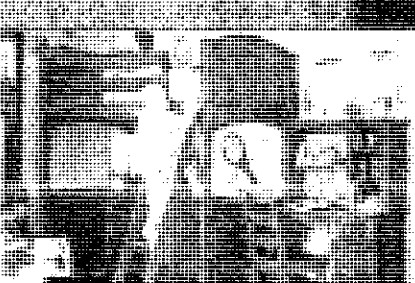
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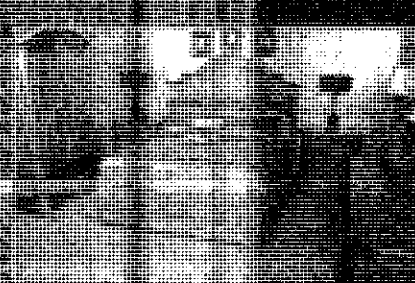
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# SPORTS

# B

Thursday, July 17, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . [bemons@hometownlife.com](mailto:bemons@hometownlife.com)

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Plymouth resident Josh Gatt was one of just 102 16U soccer players nationwide to participate in the 2008 adidas Elite Soccer Program in Denver. Gatt will be a junior at Novi Catholic Central in the fall.



Josh Gatt is pictured executing a corner kick during a recent game for the Livonia Wolves. The Plymouth resident is a junior-to-be at Novi Catholic Central.

## ELITE FEET

### Plymouth resident participates in acclaimed national soccer program

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Playing in the "Mile High City" among players loaded with mile-high talent, Plymouth resident Josh Gatt more than held his own at the prestigious week-long adidas 16U elite Soccer Program held earlier this month.

Gatt, a junior-to-be at Novi Catholic Central High School, matched his skills with 101 other top-notch players at the invitation-only event held July 3-8 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver.

"It was a cool feeling to be invited to participate in a program that included the top high school sophomore soccer players in the country," said Gatt, who netted 14 goals and 10 assists for the Shamrocks last fall. "The most important thing I left the program with was knowing that I need to keep improving and keep working hard if I want to reach my goals."

With close to 100 big-time college coaches

and scouts looking on, Gatt and his high-performance peers were led through a series of practices and games that were orchestrated by Major League Soccer Player Development Director Alfonso Mondelo, who served as the program's technical director.

"We got up early every day — about 7 a.m. — ate, then trained until lunch. After lunch, we usually played games. The days were long, but they went by fast because we were always doing something and it was fun."

Gatt's post-high school sights are set on playing for a top-of-the-line collegiate team like Indiana, Notre Dame or the University of Michigan.

It is a vision well within the talented 16-year-old's reach in the estimation of Lars Richters, Gatt's coach for the Livonia Wolves.

"The word that best describes Josh's skills is 'electric,'" said Richters, who guided the Wolves to a 20-4-6 record during his team's recently completed U.S. Soccer Development

Please see **GATT, B2**

## Rain check: 50th annual Junior Olympics to be rescheduled

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### REDFORD PARKS AND REC

Every summer, the Piontek family of Redford jots down the date for the annual Redford Parks and Recreation-hosted Junior Olympics.

Only this time around, Mary Piontek lamented that the program — because it was moved from a weekday to the weekend to celebrate its 50th year — clashed with a planned family camping trip.

"It (the Junior Olympics) was supposed to be a big one, too," said Piontek, who participated in the athletic showcase as

a youngster and has two daughters continuing that tradition.

The Pionteks and other families from Redford and surrounding communities will get a reprieve because Saturday's Junior Olympics at Hilbert Middle School were postponed due to a morning rainstorm. As of Tuesday, the makeup date had not yet been determined, said Theresa Burgess of parks and recreation's youth department.

"I'm going to find out when the make-

up date is and make sure we're there," said Piontek, adding that daughters Madeline, 11 and Faith, 6, are geared up to participate. "When I was a kid I did the Junior Olympics, and that's why it's special to us that they keep doing it."

"I guess it's a good thing it rained." Last year, Madeline won the high jump in the Girls Pee Wee Division with a mark of 3-feet, 10-inches.

According to Burgess, the program will be rescheduled instead of canceled as is normally the procedure because the event actually got started and people were disappointed to have to leave

Hilbert. She said August is looking more likely for the make-up date.

"Unfortunately, we only got part way through the first event when everything started to be a torrential downpour," said Burgess, noting there were about 50 participants on hand when the rains came. "We are going to reschedule it."

For updates about the rescheduling, please call (313) 387-2650 or go to the Redford Parks and Recreation Department's Web site, [www.redfordtwparksandrec.com](http://www.redfordtwparksandrec.com).

[tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com)

## Big Ten beckons for Chester

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Big Ten is calling for Redford Covenant's Jamonne Chester.

Chester, entering his senior year at Covenant, recently made a verbal commitment to play football at Indiana University.

"I feel very excited, I feel good about it," said Chester, who in 2007 caught 32 passes for about 700 yards while leading the Spartans to their first playoff berth. "There's a lot of pressure off my shoulders. Now I can just sit back and play."

The 6-2, 195-pound Chester will officially sign a national letter of intent to play at Indiana in February. Among colleges making offers were Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan, the University of Toledo and Ball State.



Chester

According to Covenant offensive coordinator Dewuane Jones, several high-profile universities also have been in strong pursuit of Chester. Those included the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

"I think they'd make me offers eventually, but I wanted to get it (the decision) over with," said Chester, also a top-notch prep basketball player.

Chester said what might have tipped the scales toward Indiana University was the fact friends Jeremy Gainer (Livonia Clarenceville) and Kenny Watkins (Brother Rice) have also made verbal commitments to become Hoosiers.

"I decided on Indiana

because a couple of my friends are going there, too," Chester said.

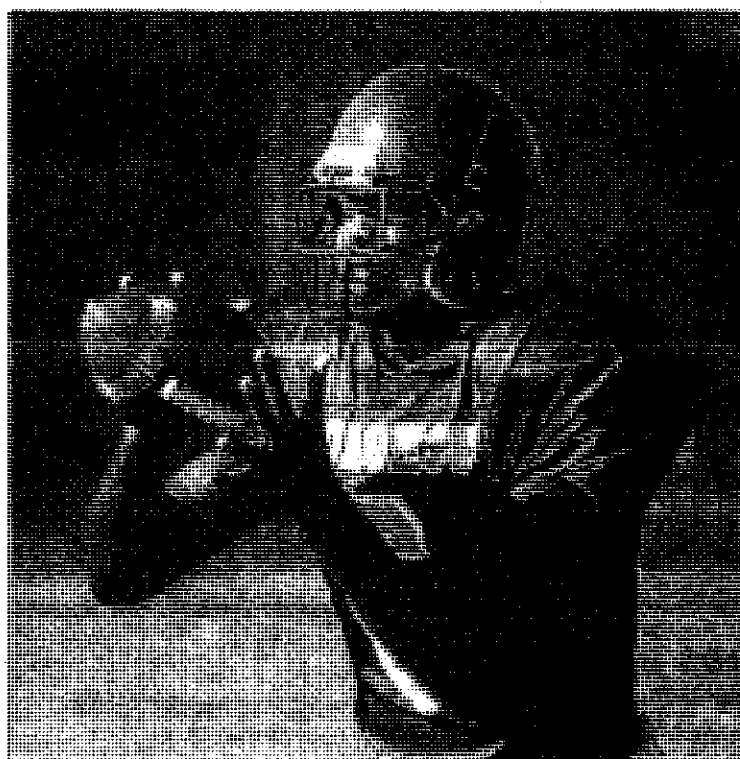
According to Jones, college coaches and scouts were able to get a good read on Chester's talents during various camps.

"Jamonne is ranked as a top-20 kid in the state of Michigan," Jones emphasized. "And he's one of the top four receivers in the state. He's been going to a lot of camps and doing extremely well."

Because Chester showed his skills against the cream of the prospect crop undoubtedly worked in his favor, the coach said.

"I did pretty good at all the camps," said Chester, who added that he intends on "attacking every corner (of the field) and be the best receiver out there" at Indiana.

Please see **CHESTER, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After an all-state junior season at Redford Covenant, wide receiver Jamonne Chester excelled during college camps. Earlier this month, Chester verbally committed to play football in the Big Ten, at Indiana University.

## Sidelines

### Hole in one

Livonia's David Siedlik shot a hole in one at Warren Valley Golf Course during his Monday night league in April.

Siedlik used an eight-iron on the 124-yard 17th West hole (Par 3) to score the first ace in the 22 years he has been golfing.

### Devon-Aire's 50th

The Devon-Aire Softball League in Livonia will celebrate its 50th anniversary Saturday, July 26. But league president Tony Perez said he needs to get in touch with former players, coaches and managers to let them know about the festivities, which will include all-star games and a picnic. Contact Perez at (734) 890-1586 or via e-mail, [mistergraphics1@yahoo.com](mailto:mistergraphics1@yahoo.com).

### Runners lauded

Three former Livonia high school track-and-field standouts earned Academic All-American honors from the National Collegiate Track Coaches. The three honorees are ex-Churchill runners Megan Maceritini (Grand Valley State University) and Kylan Cieslak (Northwood University); and former Stevenson standout Kelly Gibbons, who also attends GVSU.

### GCYBSA sign-ups

Fall registration for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association can be performed over the Internet at [www.gcybsa.com](http://www.gcybsa.com). Leagues from T-ball through 14U are offered.

### Livonia kickers win

A Livonia City Soccer Club U-18 Girls soccer team took home the tournament championship at the Michigan Soccer Classic in Rochester Hills the weekend of July 11-13.

The U-18 girls team coached by Ken Shingledacker (Livonia Ladywood) received the game-winning goal from Darcy DeRoo (Livonia Churchill) off a header en route to a 1-0 win over the Troy Cobras in the tournament championship game.

Members of the team include Alessia Vagnini (Livonia Ladywood), Megan Bauman (Livonia Churchill), Samantha Kliman (Livonia Stevenson), Joelle Williamson (Livonia Stevenson), Brooke Williams (Plymouth Christian), Allison Krueger (Livonia Ladywood), Darcy DeRoo (Livonia Churchill), Sheri Zakalowski (Livonia Churchill), Nicole Marlow (Livonia Churchill), Andrea Lopez (Livonia Churchill), Sharon Zalupski (Divine Child), Bri Waldie (Walled Lake Northern), Samantha Jackson (Livonia Stevenson), Alyssa Smith (Livonia Ladywood), Alisha Lidstrom (Livonia Stevenson), Ashley Riordan (Livonia Churchill), Lauren Vance (Novi) and Kim Cleary (Plymouth Christian).

# Rams reign over Thunder in doubleheader sweep

The Michigan Rams silenced the Tecumseh (Ont.) Thunder in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League double-header played Saturday at Ford Field in Livonia.

The Rams slugged their way to a convincing sweep, taking the opener, 13-3, before dominating the nightcap, 14-3.

The pair of triumphs improved the hosts' record to 19-7. The Thunder slipped to 2-16. The Rams ended the week with a six-game winning streak after having outscored their foes, 51-9.

The winners' hitting star in game one was Ryan Abraham, who went 3-for-4 with three RBI and two runs scored. Other key contributors were Canton grad Shawn Little (2-for-3, two RBI, two runs), Frank Persichino (2-for-3, two RBI), Joe Barnes (2-for-3, RBI) and Aaron Wick, who chipped in with two hits and two runs.

Ben Schroeder earned the

mound win by scattering seven hits and four walks over three innings. Matt Tuttle yielded one run and three hits in his two-inning stint.

Brent Walker suffered the setback for the Thunder after giving up nine runs and eight hits in just two frames.

The Rams led 9-1 after two thanks to a seven-run second inning. They put the game away with a four-run fourth.

The Rams outthrew Tecumseh, 12-10.

Former Northville star hurler Bret Spencer earned the victory in the second game as he gave up just one earned run in three innings while striking out four. James Bertakis closed the games with a pair of hitless innings on the mound.

The pivotal inning was the third when the Rams expanded their 5-0 advantage to 14-0.

Little shined again at the plate, going 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs. Wick added

two hits and two RBI while Josh Kirsten and Persichino both knocked in two runs a piece.

On July 11, the Rams edged the Dodgers, 3-1, thanks to Derek Mosher's two-hit gem. Mosher struck out 11 while walking just one. The former Ann Arbor Pioneer ace faced just 25 batters in his complete-game effort.

Brad Herman excelled at the dish for the winners, going 2-for-2 (both doubles) with an RBI and two runs scored.

On Monday, the Rams dropped a 1-0 pitchers' duel to the Monarchs at Ford Field.

Brett Shankin was the hard-luck losing pitcher as he yielded just one run and one hit while striking out eight.

Louie Sharp earned the win with seven innings of three-hit pitching. Kirsten, Herman and Wick each had hits for the Rams, who slipped to 19-8 while the Monarchs improved to 19-4-1.



## G-Major champs

The Blue Jays captured the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Mustang G-Major Division with an 11-1 record, including an 11-game winning streak. The Blue Jays outscored their opponents 142-40, along an on-base percentage of .587. Members of the Blue Jays include (front row, from left) Keenan Jones, Xavier Sanchez, Brent Webb, Nate Binkiewicz; (middle row, from left) Jordan Stasser, Noah Billingsley, Jake Giacobbi, David Connelly; (back row, from left) Joe Fortin, Griffin Riley, Andrew Klopfer, Joe Chinavare; (far back row, from left) Tom Chinavare, Tobin Jones and Dave Riley. Not pictured is Jacob Mushinski.

# Madonna publications notch top marks

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Sports Information Directors of America announced the results of their annual Publications Contest, with the Madonna tandem of Matt Fancett and Patrick Moore earning five total awards.

At the top of the list for Fancett and Moore: a "Best in the Nation" selection for the 2007 volleyball media guide and a "Best Cover" nod for the 2008 baseball media guide.

In addition to the first place finish for volleyball and a fourth place overall finish for the baseball guide, the 2007-08 MU men's basketball guide took home a top-10 placing while the MU women's bas-

ketball guide, created cover-to-cover by Moore, earned a seventh-place finish.

The honors by NIAA-SIDA come on the heels of last week's announcement by the College Sports Information Directors of America (COSIDA) who honored Madonna's SID office with a fourth place national finish for the 2007 volleyball guide.

The most recent awards for the MU Sports Information Office bring the total during Fancett's tenure to 11 top five media guide finishes and two top-five website awards.

He has now been honored with a pair of No. 1 media guides (2007 volleyball, 2003-04 basketball), two No. 1 covers

(2008 baseball, 2006 baseball) and a No. 1 website (2005-06).

"It is always nice to be recognized by your peers," commented Fancett. "To have SIDs around the country view your work among the best across the nation is always a nice feeling."

The latest round of awards are made even more special, according to Fancett, because of the group effort involved in producing this batch of publications.

"Being able to share these honors with Patrick makes this years honors more special," Fancett stated. "It was a group effort on every guide and in the case of women's basketball, Patrick deserves 100 percent of the credit."

## GATT

FROM PAGE B1

Academy campaign. "He's not the biggest guy out there, but because of his quickness, instincts and one-on-one ability, he makes things happen."

"Next year is a big year for him because that's when the college recruiting intensifies. He's definitely the kind of player the elite college programs will be keeping their eye on."

Gatt's passion for soccer was ignited at the age of 5 when his parents signed him up for a YMCA clinic.

"I think they wanted to find something that let me run off some of my energy," said Gatt. "I played other sports growing up — basketball and baseball — but soccer's the sport I've dedicated most of my time to now."

Gatt is the member of an athletic family.

His older brother, Stefan, was a state-qualifying wrestler at CC and will grapple for Heidelberg (Ohio) College beginning this fall.

## MU's Rizzo named WHAC's top AD

Madonna University Director of Athletics Bryan Rizzo was named the 2008 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference AD of the Year for the second time in his career.

Rizzo, who was also honored in the same capacity in 2004, is in his sixth year at the helm of the Crusader program. He was also named the 2005 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Region VIII AD of the Year and 2005 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics General Sport Turf Central Region AD of the Year.

Under Rizzo's guidance, the 2007-08 year saw MU win four regular season conference titles, three WHAC tournament titles and a pair of teams advance to their respective NIAA National Tournaments (men's soccer, volleyball). MU finished just one-and-a-half points shy of winning their second conference all-sports title.

"I really believe in the mission of Madonna University and feel that athletics has its own unique way to carry out that mission" states Rizzo. "I feel we

have an unbelievable staff that exhibits dedication, commitment to excellence and a desire to do things ethically."

"That, to me, is what this job is all about. I'm humbled to be a part of Madonna Athletics and my goal is to make our department the best it can be."

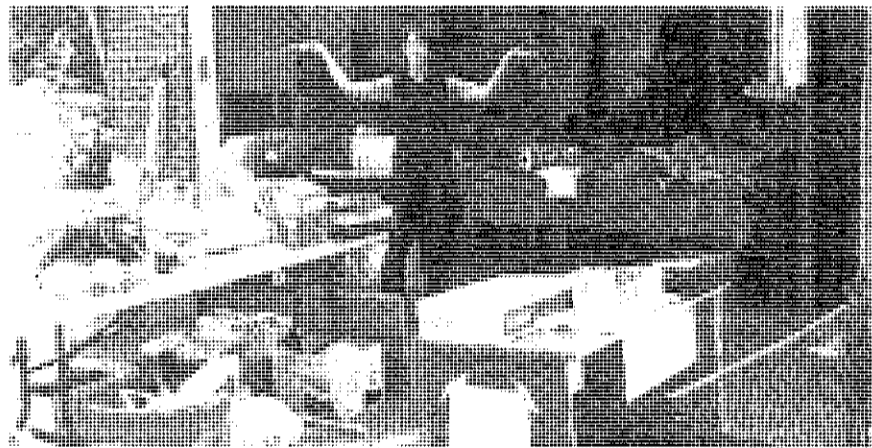
Rizzo was appointed to his current post in July of 2002 but has been a longtime member of the Crusader athletic family.

Previously, Rizzo served as Madonna's Assistant Athletic Director as well as its first ever Sports Information Director, from October 1994 through June of 2002.

During his time at Madonna Rizzo has also been involved in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) as well as the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Rizzo assisted in Madonna's admission to the WHAC in 1997. Since then he has served as the conference Media Relations Director for several years and more recently has been President of the WHAC for the past four years.

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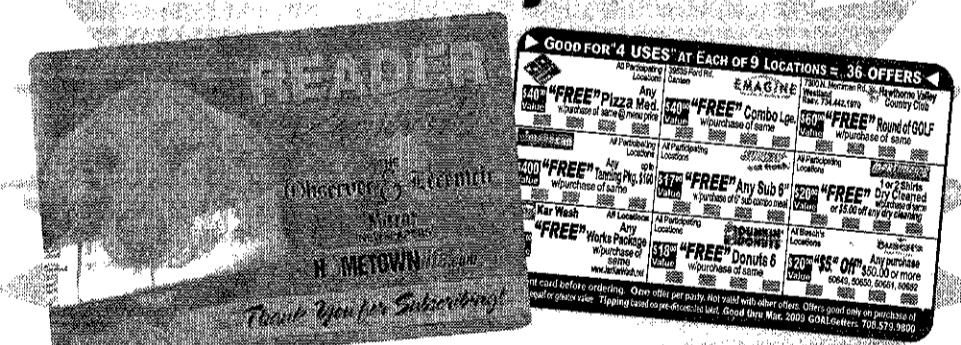


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# Reader Rewards

# Diesels defeat Cougars

BY CHRISTIAN YOUNG  
CORRESPONDENT

Ask anyone of the Detroit Diesels, and they'd say that this was a heck of a homecoming.

After three weeks on the road and a holiday week off, Western Wayne County's minor league football team celebrated their return to Livonia Franklin High School Saturday in a gritty, yet good style, downing the Lakeshore Cougars 14-6.

The greatness started when a Detroit defensive stand gave the Diesels the ball inside the Lakeshore red-zone. Three plays later, Brandon Fender tossed an 11-yard scoring pass to John Craven (Farmington).

"Our offense is steadily improving," Diesels general manager Al Seder said. "It was truly one of our better games all around."

The second touchdown came at the beginning of the second half, when TJ Dillard (Wayne Memorial) busted a 17-yard scoring run between the tackles.

Even with those two decisive scores, there were even more touchdowns left on the field, with two fumbles and three interceptions committed by the offense.

"We were able to recover from those mistakes and pull out the win," Seder said.

But that's also the amount of turnovers the Diesels defense forced as well, holding the Cougars to less than 50 total yards until the final minute of the game, when they mounted a long drive to finally score. The game was well in hand anyway.

Fender threw nine passes in the first half, connecting on five, for a touchdown and two interceptions before giving way to Andy Hess (Lutheran Westland) in the second half. He went 6-of-8 with an interception. Dillard ran for 74 yards on 15 carries as well as his second half score, and Craven had four catches for 64 yards and a two-point conversion as well as his score.

The Diesels even their GLFL record at 2-2, and now stand at 2-3 overall. They will return to Franklin on July 19th to play the Belleville Giants at 6:30 p.m.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE**  
Friday, July 18  
(at Livonia's Ford Field)  
Mich. Rams vs. Det. Eagles, 5:45 p.m.  
Trailblazers vs. Tecumseh Thunder, 8:15 p.m.  
(at Livonia's Bicentennial Park)  
Blue Knights vs. Mich. Monarchs, 5:45 p.m.  
(at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central H.S.)  
Mich. Dodgers vs. Mich. Bulls, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, July 19  
(at Livonia's Ford Field)  
Trailblazers vs. Mich. Bulls (2), noon.  
Mich. Dodgers vs. Mich. Monarchs (2), 5 p.m.  
(at Livonia's Bicentennial Park)  
Mich. Rams vs. Blue Knights (2), noon.  
(at Tecumseh, Ont. LaCasse Park)  
Tecumseh Thunder vs. Det. Eagles (2), noon.  
**MIDWEST ALLIANCE TRAVEL BASEBALL**  
Friday-Sunday, July 18-20  
MAISL Charity Showcase Tournament  
**UNITED SOCCER LEAGUES PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**  
Sunday, July 20  
Michigan Bucks vs. Toronto Lynx at Varsity Centre (Ontario), 4 p.m.  
**W-LEAGUE**  
Saturday, July 19  
Michigan Hawks vs. Minnesota Lightning at Livonia Stevenson H.S., 6 p.m.

## CHESTER

FROM PAGE B1

Jones said Chester has the potential to make an impact in the Big Ten.

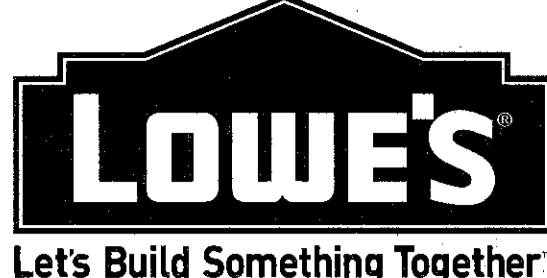
"It's the big time," said Jones about Indiana University. "But he has big-time ability. ... He's just scratching the surface on his ability."

Meanwhile, Jones said having another Covenant athlete headed for the Big Ten lime-light puts the small, independent high school in a better position. Durrell Summers, an outstanding basketball player for the Spartans, is entering his second season at Michigan State.

"To go the Big Ten, that's huge for us," Jones said. "There's a lot of recognition in the state right now for us."

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## SUMMER CAMPS &amp; CLINICS

## Plymouth YMCA clinics

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering three sports clinics this summer.

The facility's experienced staff will lead players through fun activities that are intended to stimulate curiosity and excitement of the players.

Close personal attention will help the players improve their game skills and develop a love for the game.

Among the offerings will be:  
 ■baseball (July 21-25) for is 9-11-year-olds;  
 ■soccer (July 28-Aug. 1); and  
 ■basketball (Aug. 4-8).

Soccer and basketball are open to 6-9-year-olds. The clinics will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The programs are open to YMCA members and community members.

For more information, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org).

## Motor City Pirates tryouts

The 2009 Motor City Pirates 12U baseball team will hold tryouts on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 3-5 p.m. at the UAW Fields, located at 48055 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

The Pirates play in the Kensington Valley Baseball and Softball Association and will play in several tournaments in 2009. Players interested in trying out should contact coach Angelo Lanava at [alanava@wowway.com](mailto:alanava@wowway.com).

## Churchill pom-pom clinic

The Livonia Churchill varsity pom-pom team will be offering a pom clinic on Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at Churchill High School for kids between the ages of 6 and 14.

All who attend the workshop will be performing a routine at a Churchill varsity soccer game. To register, call Robin Schwarz at (734) 464-0556.

## Summer Blast Soccer

Garden City Soccer Club is holding its "Summer Blast Soccer Camp" Monday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 18 through Friday, Aug. 22 at Maplewood Community Center, noted club president Paul Schultz.

For just \$30, campers ages 5-14 will be able to enjoy a learning experience in a fun environment. Campers will work with several trained, experienced and licensed coaches on foot skills, technique and goalkeeping.

The registration fee includes a camp T-shirt, water bottle and a pizza party on the last day of camp.

All registrations must be received by Aug. 1 in order to guarantee T-shirt size. Walk-in registrations will be accepted.

People can call (734) 458-9734 for more information. Maplewood, where the fields are, is located at 31735 Maplewood in Garden City. It is west of

Merriman and east of Venoy, between Ford Road and Warren roads.

## Glenn football camp

The Westland Senior High football camps for any student entering grades 9-12 for the 2008-09 school year will be from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 21-23, at John Glenn High School.

For camp fees and registration information, call camp director Tim Hardin at (734) 419-2329.

## RU Wing-T football camp

Redford Union is hosting the Panther Wing-T-camp for football players entering high school this fall from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, through Friday, Aug. 1.

For more information, call Miles Tomasaitis at (313) 575-4753.

## Franklin boys basketball

The Livonia Franklin boys basketball camp for grades 4-9 (fall of 2008) will be from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, July 21-24, at the high school.

Included in the \$65 registration fee is a camp T-shirt and red, white and blue basketball. The camp also features contests, awards, skills and games.

For more information, e-mail [franklinbball@gmail.com](mailto:franklinbball@gmail.com); or to obtain a printable brochure for mail-in registration, visit [franklinbasketball.googlepages.com](http://franklinbasketball.googlepages.com). (Walk-ups also welcome for \$75).

## Sports development

Redford Parks & Recreation is presenting a one-week camp, Monday through Friday, Aug. 11-15, for youngsters ages 3-7, to help teach them basic motor skills necessary to play organized sports while working one-on-one with their parents.

Skills include throwing, kicking, catching and batting.

The program fee is \$25, and parent/guardian participation is required. Classes will be at Pearson Education Center, located on Beech Daly between Eight Mile and Grand River.

For more information, call (313) 387-2650. The camp fee is \$25 per participant.

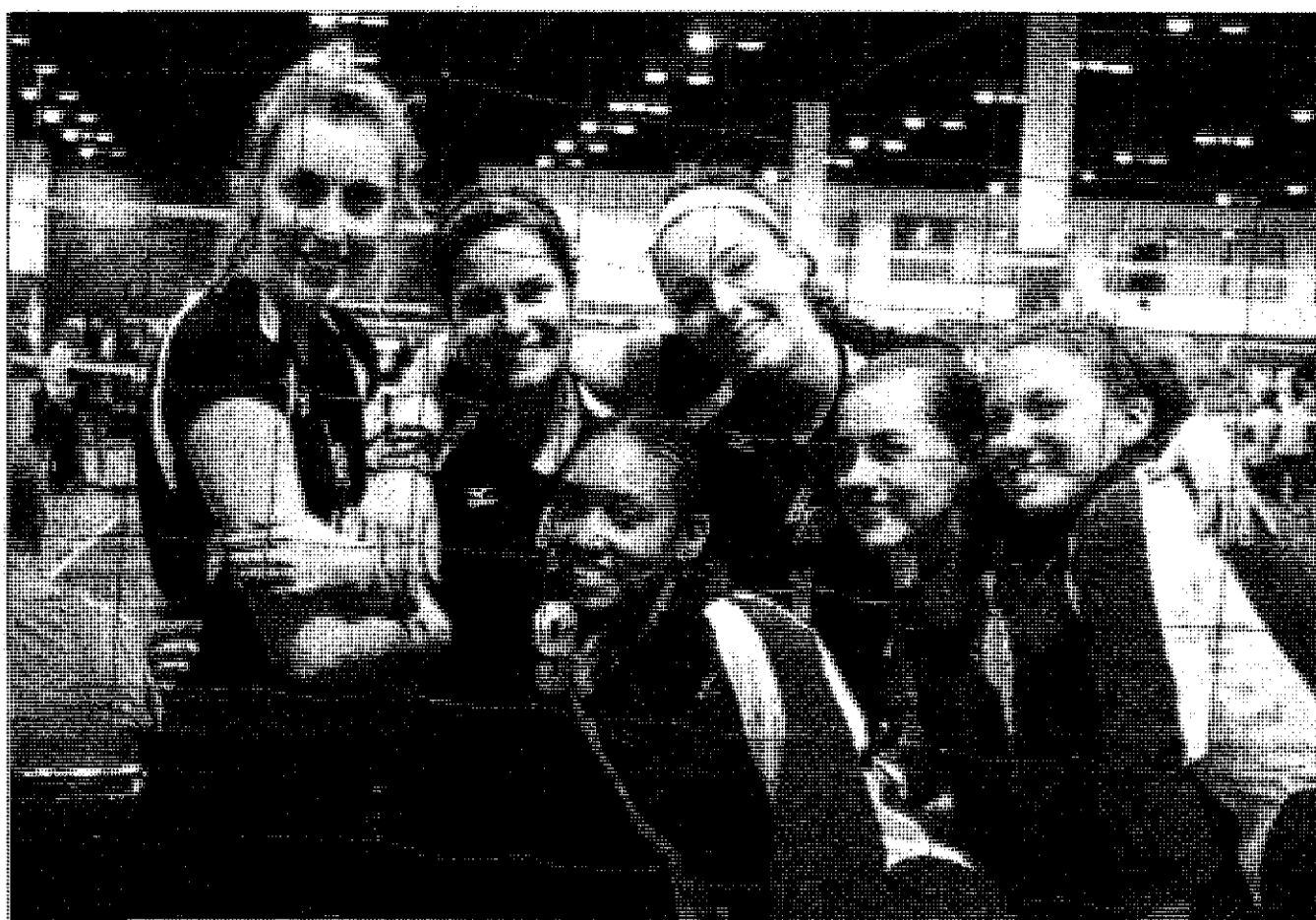
## Future Stars wrestling

The Livonia Franklin Future Stars wrestling clinic for those entering grades 1-9 will be from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, July 22-23, in the mat room (second floor of the fieldhouse).

No experience is necessary. Basic to advanced moves will be covered. Groups will be based on age, weight and level of experience.

The cost is \$35 (includes T-shirt if registered by July 8). Walk-up registrations will be accepted.

For more information, call Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola at (248) 752-2340; or e-mail [chiola44@yahoo.com](mailto:chiola44@yahoo.com).



The Instant Replay 17-U Amateur Athletic Union volleyball team competed at last month's national championships in Florida. The squad includes: (back row, from left) Redford Union's Loran Stenzel, Farmington Hills Mercy's Sara Wojcik and RU's Kristine Vulaj; (front row, from left) Mercy's Nia Martin, RU's Tory Hebner and Danielle Sweeney.

## RU spikers compete at AAU nationals

Several Redford Union varsity volleyball players recently traveled to Orlando, Fla. with the rest of their "Instant Replay" Amateur Athletic Union teammates to take a shot at a national title.

After reaching the semifinals at the state tournament in Grand Rapids and earning a Bronze Medal, Instant Replay's collective goal was to make a similar splash at the 35th Annual AAU Volleyball National Championships in mid-June.

But although the Irick Gardner-coached squad came up a little short at the Orange County Convention Center, it finished in a still-respectable third place in the Blue Division of the 17-Under Club Division.

Among those competing for the team were Redford Union's Loran Stenzel (her third trip to the championships), Danielle Sweeney, Tory Hebner and Kristine Vulaj as well as Nia Martin and



Enjoying the sun and fun at Disney World during a break in the volleyball nationals is Instant Replay, the AAU team that features a Redford Union contingent. The team is coached by Irick Gardner (far right).

Sara Wojcik of Farmington Hills Mercy. According to Gardner, the experience

will be valuable for the girls, particularly if they apply it during the high school season this fall.

Instant Replay the past two years (with Stenzel on the squad) finished first, but in lower-level divisions: Places for 17U are: National, Classic, Consolation, Red, White, Blue, Yellow and Purple.

A total of 317 teams in 18U, 17U and 16U divisions from the United States, Puerto Rico and South America participated at Orange County Convention Center as well as Disney's Wide World of Sports Milk House.

Of those, 103 were assigned to the elite open division while 214 (including Instant Replay) were in the club division.

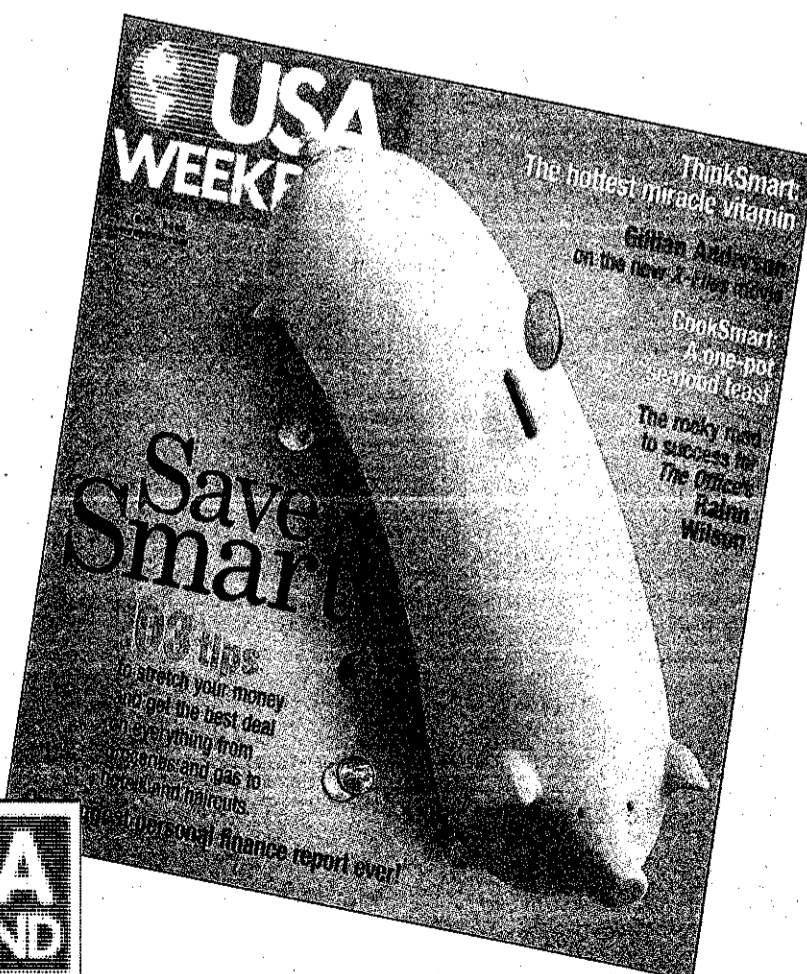
Capping off the week was an AAU-sanctioned beach volleyball tourney in Cocoa Beach, about 90 miles from Orlando. Stenzel and Vulaj played in the 18-U division.

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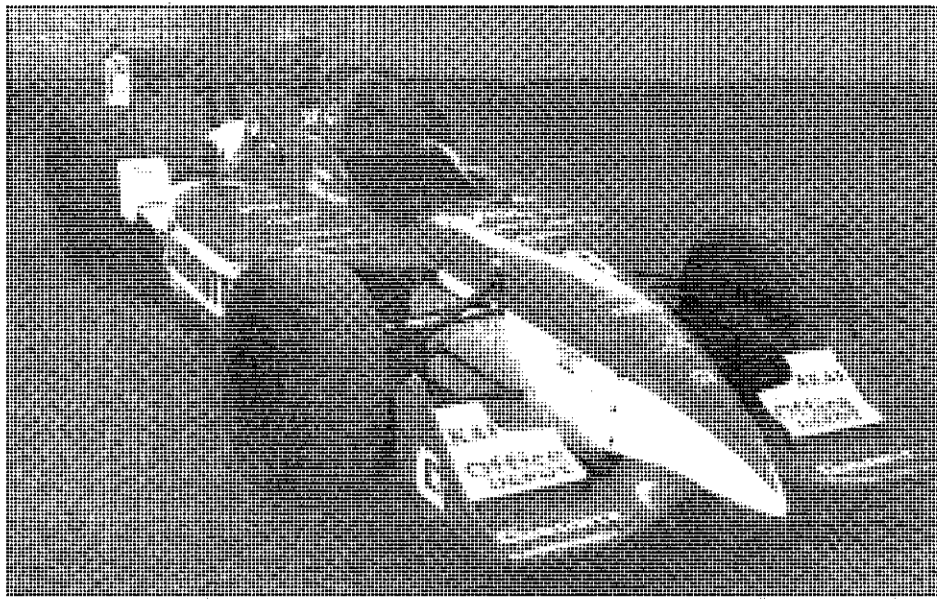




# Church hopes to attract visitors with race car

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Scott Minch never dreamed that God had a plan for the Team Rahal Indy car the Livonia man recently purchased. Minch owns Kar Kraft Engineering in Livonia and bought the bright red machine with the hope of racing it on a track. It wasn't until speaking with his pastor at Garden City Presbyterian Church that the two came up with the idea of using the car to promote God's word. An elder for the church, Minch went to work and researched the Bible. He found that at the end of his life, the Apostle Paul, sensing he did not have much time left, wrote to Timothy "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." Since the church's We Have A Vision Committee is always looking for ways to revitalize the church and attract new members it was easy to come up with a sermon and event to illustrate the message. On Sunday, July 20, at the 10 a.m. service, Rev. Herschel Ele, pastor of Garden City Presbyterian Church, will talk about "Finding the Finish Line" while running the race of faithful service to God. To help demonstrate that goal, the Indy car will be on display in the newly dedicated gazebo setting on the church grounds. Everyone is invited to hear the message. "We're pretty excited about it. The pastor is going to relate the car and driver with the apostle. It's pretty interesting," said Minch of Livonia. "And we're going to



Scott Minch of Livonia bought this Team Rahal Indy car with the thought of racing it but God had other plans. On Sunday the bright red machine will be the focus of an outdoor service at Garden City Presbyterian Church.

offer a photo opportunity for the kids to sit in the racing car." "We're revitalizing the youth group and completely computerized Sunday School so kids can learn about the Bible on the computer." Garden City Presbyterian Church is located at 1841 Middlebelt on the corner of John Hawk Street, south of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 421-7620 or visit [www.gardencitypresbyterian.org](http://www.gardencitypresbyterian.org).   
lchomin@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2145

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

### MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to [cbcwomensministries@](mailto:cbcwomensministries@)

hotmail.com.

### LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit [www.fumc-northville.org](http://www.fumc-northville.org) or call (248) 349-1144.

### HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

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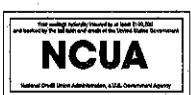
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BAPTIST	UNITED METHODIST	LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
<p><b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. &amp; Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180 <i>Virgil Humes, Pastor</i></p> <p>Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Clarenceville United Methodist</b> 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia <b>248-474-3444</b> Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p><b>Redford Aldersgate United Methodist</b> 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship &amp; Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship <a href="http://www.redfordaldersgate.org">www.redfordaldersgate.org</a></p>
<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1870 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 28310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</b></p> <p><b>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH</b> 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 <b>734-522-6830</b></p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-613-8413</p> <p><b>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</b> Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 4891 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1625 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3198</p>	<p><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</b></p> <p><b>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca</p> <p>Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible &amp; Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English &amp; Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.</p> <p>Worship Service 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided</p> <p>The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor</p>
<p><b>NON DENOMINATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program</p> <p>Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p> <p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 <a href="http://www.rosedalegardens.org">www.rosedalegardens.org</a></p> <p>Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am</p> <p>WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>	<p><b>HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 9600 Levene • So. Redford • 313-937-2424 "Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rockrohr" Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m. Education Hour 10:45 a.m. Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233</p>
<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</b> 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400</p> <p>Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery &amp; Sunday School During the 9:30 &amp; 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WNUZ Word Station For additional information visit <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</b></p> <p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1189 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p><b>Risen Christ Lutheran</b> David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) <b>(734) 453-5252</b> Summer Worship 9:30 am Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend <a href="http://www.risenchrist.info">www.risenchrist.info</a></p>
<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire</p> <p>Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan &amp; Schoolcraft • Nursery provided</p>	<p><b>ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN Church, USA</b> 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. <a href="http://www.stpaulsilivonia.org">website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</a></p>
<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 313-222-2333 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:dhart@hometownlife.com">dhart@hometownlife.com</a></p>		

# We're Giving Away 500 Cold Ones :)

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www.hometownlife.com

## FILTER gets a facelift

You might notice this week that something's different about FILTER.

The Observer & Eccentric's weekly entertainment section has gone from tabloid to broadsheet. Aside from its shape, not much has changed.

FILTER will still be your guide to entertainment in metro Detroit, filtered for you by our staff of hip and talented writers.

It will still appear each Thursday, and will contain features you're used to, including Pure Picks (a weekend's worth of top entertainment picks) and Get Out (our calendar of events), along with expanded coverage of everything from local festivals and entertainers to art exhibits and pop culture.

We'll continue to profile a restaurant each week in Table Hopping, and round up events in our City Bites calendar, but our food and wine coverage will be supplemented by the O&E's weekly "Focus on Wine" column by Eleanor and Ray Heald, along with occasional food features and recipes.

To accommodate the change, we are shifting our home and garden coverage to Sunday's Hometownlife section.

Favorite columnists like Rick Broida ("Tech Savvy"), Joe Gagnon ("Appliance Doctor") and Terri Guastella ("Design Solutions"), will also move to Sunday's Hometownlife.

We hope you enjoy the format. Please send comments, questions, suggestions and story ideas to me at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

Wensdy Von Buskirk  
features editor

# U S I N E

# MAKERS



Jeff Robinson mixes a song for the band Severance.

### THIRD MONK RECORDS

**What:** Third Monk Records  
**Who:** Owner Jeff Robinson  
**What he does:** Records/mixes music then coaches bands to market and promote themselves  
**Current projects:** Robinson has strong hopes for the indie band Woodward performing Aug. 9 at the Berkley Front, 3087 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Hear them at Myspace.com/woodward. He also believes in Christian alt-rockers The Mark White Band performing at various locations. Hear them at Myspace.com/markwhiteband.  
**Contact:** E-mail [thirdmonkrecords@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thirdmonkrecords@sbcglobal.net); visit [www.thirdmonkrecords.com](http://www.thirdmonkrecords.com)



Jeff Robinson of Third Monk Records helps local musicians take their project from its earliest demo stage to master recording to distribution.

## Plymouth studio owner helps launch new bands

BY LANA MINI  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Rewind two years: Recording engineer Jeff Robinson, of Plymouth, is asked to judge a high school battle of the bands.

While the other judges sit at a table taking notes near the back of the room, Robinson immerses himself in the middle of the teenage audience; observing their reaction

to each band and occasionally getting lost in the music himself with a nod of the head or hearty applause.

The winner, a twosome hip-hop Kid Rock-type band, earned a recording session with Robinson at his studio, Third Monk Records in Plymouth.

Flash forward to present day: Robinson is on the faculty at Schoolcraft College in the recording technology program. And, he's still busy at Third Monk. Currently he's mixing the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra's first live CD — under the prestigious

leadership of conductor Nan Washburn.

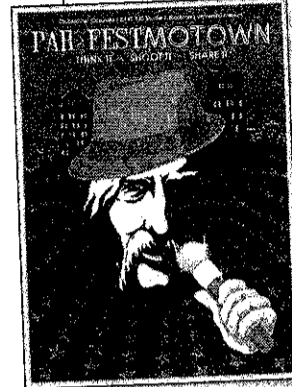
Robinson, who has a long history in the music industry, offers musicians his recording and mixing talents. But what makes Third Monk special is what happens after the CD is mastered. He doesn't just collect the paycheck and turn away.

"When a band approaches me I first have to decide if their music is a demo or if it's going to be a legitimate release ... meaning whether the band is working hard to take the music to the next level or not,"

Please see **MUSIC, D4**

## MADONNA U. HOSTS DIGITAL MEDIA FESTIVAL

Christopher Coppola is in town for the second annual Project Accessible Hollywood Motown Digital Media Festival, underway at the Livonia campus of Madonna University through July 20.



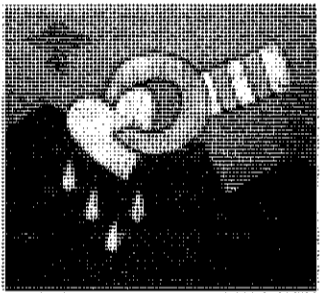
PAH-Fest, an intense week-long workshop in storytelling and film-making that's com-

pletely free and open to the public, is the brainchild of Coppola, nephew of director Francis Ford Coppola and brother to actor Nicholas Cage.

PAH-Fest will 'wrap' with Closing Night Ceremonies hosted by WXYZ's Dennis Neubacher at Kresge Hall, 6-8 p.m. Sunday. The ceremony, which includes screenings of films created during the week, is a great way to get a glimpse of what PAH-Fest is all about.

Madonna University is located at 36600 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia.

Call (734) 432-5578 or visit [www.madonna.edu](http://www.madonna.edu) or [www.pahnation.org](http://www.pahnation.org).



Listen for the heart of the "Robot Heart" July 19 at MOCAD.

### LISTEN FOR A HEARTBEAT

Experimental noise and performance art group Princess Dragonmom examines the mysterious *Robot Heart* Saturday, July 19 with an opening at The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. Get ready for artwork and performances by PDM's Davin Brainard, Warn DeFever, Ronald Cornelissen and Dion Fischer. It's a Time Stereo and UFO Factory event, that according to Livonia native Brainard, could be considered "a horror story and sci-fi mystery told from the rarely seen and heard robot's perspective." The art show begins at 7 p.m. and a live performance is set for 10 p.m. at MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Stop by to find out "Who stole the robot's heart? Or did he have it all along?" Visit [www.mocadetroit.org](http://www.mocadetroit.org).

# All that JAZZ

New or old school: choose your festival this weekend

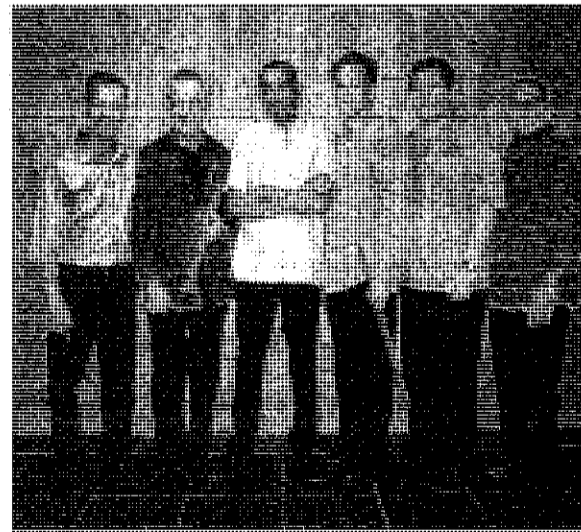
BY LANA MINI  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Two free, long-running jazz festivals — one in Birmingham and the other in Livonia — are both happening this weekend.

What a weekend for music! Livonia's is the Michigan Jazzfest at Schoolcraft College featuring traditional, swing and old-school jazz played by both young and older musicians. Birmingham's is The Community House Jazzfest featuring smooth and newer jazz sounds at Shain Park.

You can choose one, or both. Livonia's is on Sunday, July 20 and Birmingham's is Saturday

Please see **JAZZ, D4**



Tumbao Brave, of Ann Arbor, plays its Latin jazz at The Community House Jazzfest in Birmingham at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 19; and at the Michigan Jazz Festival in Livonia 12:15 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

### MICHIGAN JAZZ FESTIVAL

**When:** Noon-9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 20  
**What:** The Festival features six stages — five of them indoors, 18 groups, five big bands, six piano workshops, plus the Steinway Cafe teaching visitors how to listen to jazz. Wine and beer available for purchase. Hear a lot of old school jazz, big band and Latin here.  
**Admission:** Free  
**Where:** Schoolcraft College on Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads in Livonia  
**Information:** <http://Michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com>

### THE COMMUNITY HOUSE JAZZFEST

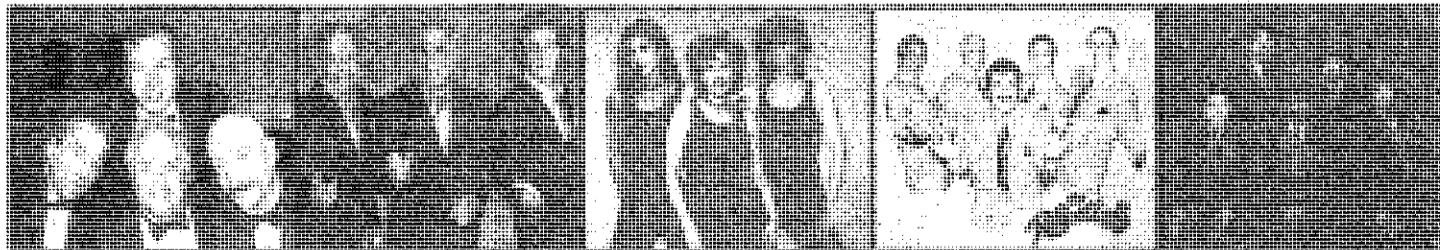
**When:** 1-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 19 & 20  
**What:** Newer jazz, smooth jazz and some Latin sounds. The festival takes place over two days and is located outside on one stage. There is a children's program on Saturday.  
**Admission:** Free  
**Where:** Shain Park, downtown Birmingham, on South Bates just south of Maple and west of Woodward.  
**Information:** [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com)

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Live statue Robert Shangle entertains Alyssa Costyk at the fair last year.

## Farmington's Art on the Grand focuses on art and kids' fun

Thousands of families will visit the Farmington Hills Founders Festival July 18 to 20 to celebrate the city as the state's first Quaker settlement.

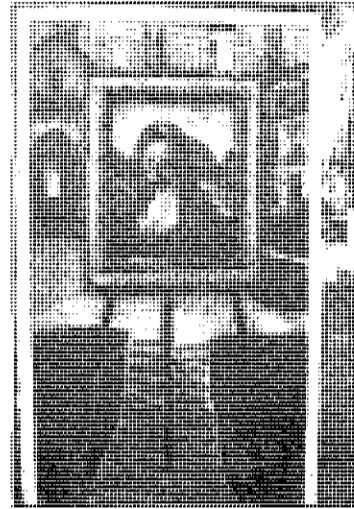
It's highlighted with a parade, historic tours, a prestigious juried art fair, music and hordes of events of kids.

The parade is at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, July 19, at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Liberty Street with a "good old summertime" theme featuring barbershop quartets and a lot more.

At Art on the Grand, artists from across the country will display their work in mediums such as oil and watercolor, sculpture, photography, jewelry, pottery, fiber and more.

Music includes jazz, pop and oldies. There's face painting, "live statue" street performers and other kinds of fun.

Gemini, a beloved children's entertainment act is performing Sunday. It's two twin brothers who have released six recordings for kids. Their video *Fancy*



There's all types of quirky fun for kids at Art on the Grand at the Farmington Founders Festival.

*That!* was voted one of the Top 10 children's videos by the American Library Association and Random House.

The brothers have a flair for involving the whole audience in the music — from tots to grandparents.

- Lana Mini

### FOUNDER'S FESTIVAL

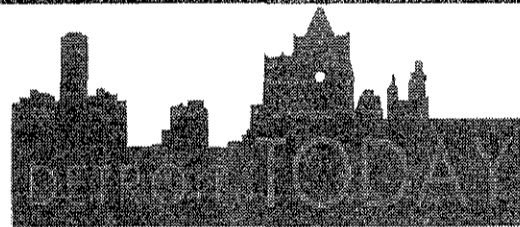
**What:** The art festival that's part of the Farmington Hills Founders Festival for families  
**When:** Friday through Sunday, July 18-20  
**Where:** Downtown Farmington, corner of Farmington Road and Grand River by Masonic Hall  
**Hours:** Noon-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.  
**Call:** (248) 473-1870.

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE AT ART ON THE GRAND

**Friday, July 18**  
Noon-8 p.m., Children's Free Art Tent  
4-9 p.m., 2clowns.com, Free Artistic Face Painting  
4-6 p.m., Brazil and Beyond, Latin Jazz  
7-9 p.m., Randy Brock Group, Blues/Rock

**Saturday, July 19**  
11 a.m.-8 p.m., Children's Free Art Tent  
11 a.m.-9 p.m., 2clowns.com, Free Artistic Face Painting  
1-7 p.m., Robert Shangle, Live Statue  
12:30-2:30 p.m., Tom Dennis Quintet, Featuring Vocalist Linda Piccoli  
3-4 p.m., Campaneros de Flamenca, Flamenco Dance & Guitar  
4:30-6:30 p.m., Austin Scott and the Detroit Cowboy Association, Contemporary Country  
7-9 p.m., Rock and Soul, Pop, Oldies, Rock

**Sunday, July 20**  
Noon-5 p.m., Robert Shangle, Live Statue  
Noon-5 p.m., 2 Clowns.com, Free Artistic Face Painting  
Noon-5 p.m., Children's Free Art Tent  
1-2 p.m., Gemini, Children's Music  
3-5 p.m., Matt Watroba Trio, Folk/Country



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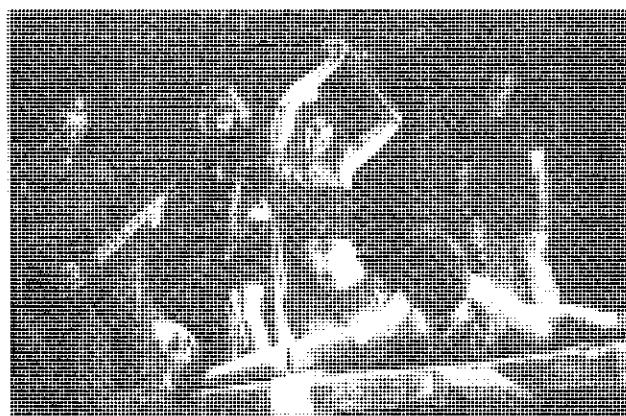
# pure picks

Filtering your entertainment best bets this weekend, July 17-22

**18** Those who caught his act at the 2007 Cityfest in Detroit know to expect a lot from parody rocker **Weird Al Yankovic**. Who can forget hits like *Eat It*, the Madonna-esque *Like A Surgeon* or *Smells Like Nirvana*? It's a spectacle that will make you laugh and sing right along. Don't miss **Weird Al** 8 p.m. tonight at Meadowbrook Music Festival, on the campus of Oakland University at Walton and Adams roads in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$18.50 lawn to \$35.50 pavilion, visit [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com).



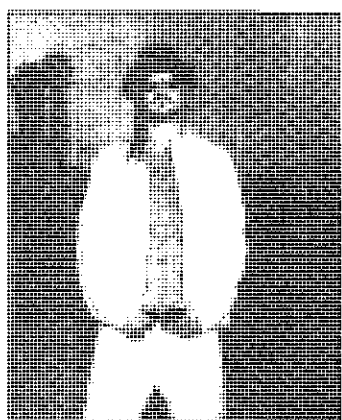
Weird Al Yankovic



Craig Martin (from left), Lauren Brielle, Laura Lyon, Simon Burzynski and Colby Veil star in "Attitude for Destruction," premiering 5 p.m. July 19 at the Motor City Nightmares convention in Novi.

**19** Don't get scared now, it's time for the **Motor City Nightmares Convention**, a spooky slice of Horror and Sci-fi films and fodder. Though the event runs, July 18-20, tonight's the night to see the Detroit premiere of *Attitude for Destruction* (think fictitious Sunset Strip-era Guns-n-Roses if Axl had been murdered by his bandmates and returned to avenge his death), starring Colby Veil and Jed Rowen and directed by Ford Austin. The movie starts at 5 p.m. tonight. It all goes down at the Novi Crown Plaza, 2700 Sheraton Dr. Visit [www.motorcity-nightmares.com](http://www.motorcity-nightmares.com) for the particulars.

Kid Rock


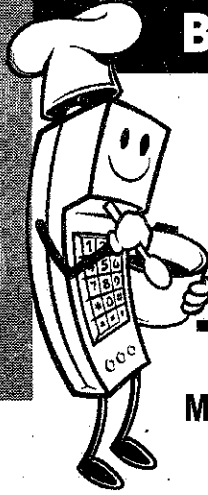


**21** Not even **ABBA** predicted this, the screen version of the hit musical stage show *Mamma Mia* hits theaters this weekend, complete with an all-star cast including **Meryl Streep**, **Christine Baranski** and **Pierce Brosnan**. Take a chance on this heart-felt comedy with a penchant for pop.



**20** Tonight's the last night to catch Detroit's original **Cowboy Kid Rock** accompanied by his 11-piece Twisted Brown Trucker Band and special guest **Rev. Run** of rap legends Run DMC, and of course **Uncle Kracker**. The show kicks off at 7 p.m. tonight at DTE Energy Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Tickets \$29-\$55, visit [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com).

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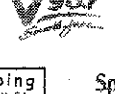
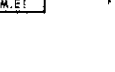
**Artist Preview Party**  
**Friday, July 25 - 6pm until 9pm**




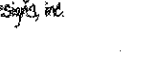
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**JAZZ**  
FROM PAGE D1

and Sunday, July 19 and 20. Birmingham features one stage and the audience congregates on the grass at Shain Park. Livonia features six stages, including one outdoor stage stocked with a lineup of younger talent. Livonia's jazzfest has a jazz cafe to teach you how to listen to jazz and notice the wild,

well-honed improvisation created by musicians live on stage. Birmingham's has a children's program so your little ones will have plenty to keep themselves occupied. Flutist Alexander Zonjic returns as the artistic director for the festival in Birmingham. On Friday, there's a kickoff party at the Community House from 6 to 9 p.m. with drinks, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by Carl Cafagna & North Star Jazz. Tickets are \$75. Call (248) 644-5832.

Cafagna is one of just several musicians performing at both festivals. He is a saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist and vocalist. Tumbao Bravo, playing Latin jazz, plus music students in The Motor City Quartet also perform at both. The Community House Jazzfest almost didn't happen this year, but was pulled together at the last minute when sponsors pledged their help. "In spite of a challenging economy I am so pleased to announce the 2008 Community House Jazzfest is back and better than ever," Zonjic said. "Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and a lot of hard work from the Community House and our Jazzfest Committee, jazz lovers will once again enjoy a weekend of world class jazz."

In Livonia, the festival offers several stages to suit the huge, rich talent pool of Detroit-area jazz musicians. "Detroit is an incredible jazz town," said bass player Ray Enderle. "There are so many talented musicians that deserve more exposure."

**THE MUSICIANS**  
Visit each festival's website listed here for the full lineup. Examples in Livonia include Tartar Sauce Traditional Jazz Band at 6:15 p.m.; Johnny Trudell Big Band at 8 p.m. and the Terry Lower Sextet at 1:30 p.m. In Birmingham, performers include Sunday with Zonjic & Friends with Nelson Rangell and The Motor City Horns at 7:30 p.m., University of Toledo Faculty Jazz Ensemble at 4 p.m.

**LOCAL BANDS AT CONCERT OF COLORS**

Don't forget this weekend is the Concert of Colors, the free world music festival where Grammy Winner Don Was is performing with some of the area's best musicians. The festival is at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit Friday to Sunday July 18-20. Was, a founder of the band Was (Not Was), performs at 7:15 p.m. Sunday. His super session includes Luis Resto on keyboards, Randy Jacobs on guitar, and Terry Thunder on percussion. Also performing are David Was, activist John Sinclair, the MC's Wayne Kramer plus members of The Black Bottom Collective; Detroit Cobras; The Dirtbombs; The Ramrods; Black Merda; The Muldoons; Sisters Lucas and Lola Morales. Visit [www.concertoofcolors.com](http://www.concertoofcolors.com).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOSCO!**



The bosco lounge is having a party.

It's seven years old and still cool! The bosco in Ferndale, consistently voted best lounge by tons of entertainment publications, is ready to party. This is the place that's visited by creative people when they roll through metro-Detroit. What makes it special? Nightclub & Bar Magazine's calls it one of the nation's top 100 bars/nightclubs. Its drink menu is imaginative, its design style is New York/Amsterdam and it has a dress code: casual hip. Celebrate the birthday 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, July 18 with DJ Michael Geiger. The bosco is located at 22030 Woodward Ave., next to the Magic Bag, in Ferndale. Call (248) 541-8818.

**SPEAKING OF THE MAGIC BAG...**



Tony Lucca plays the Magic Bag.

Pontiac's own singer/songwriter Tony Lucca, who has a big fan base online, performs 8 p.m. Sunday, July 20 at the Magic Bag with musicians Joe Firstman and Brian Wright. Tickets are \$10, 21 and over. In his teen years, Lucca played in garage bands throughout Oakland County. At 15, he moved to Orlando working as a Mouseketeer on the Disney Channel's *All New Mickey Mouse Club*. Then, he went to L.A. and landed a role on Aaron Spelling's *Malibu Shores* before he realized he wanted to focus on music. His music been featured in the WB television show *Felicity* and he has shared the stage with Macy Gray, Alanis Morissette, Sheila E and Jonny. Lucca has also toured with Marc Anthony and N'Sync. Firstman, of North Carolina, is the son of a professional opera singer. He has played piano since the age of 10, and toured with Sheryl Crow. He signed with Atlantic Records in 2001. The Magic bag is located at 22920 Woodward Ave., in Ferndale. Call (248) 544-1991. Compiled by Stephanie Casola, Lana Mini, Wensdy Von Buskirk

**MUSIC**  
FROM PAGE D1

Robinson said. "If it's a baby (young) band, I have to see if the project will go the distance, and look at their chemistry to see if the musicians are serious." When Robinson determines the band has potential, and once the recording is finished, he helps arrange to get the CD ready for sale with an actual bar code — from start to finish the average project can cost up to \$10,000. He then guides the artists about the business side of music. His studio isn't just for vanity projects — that's what Myspace is for, he said. "They're getting more than a CD, they're getting facilitated growth ... we make a campaign to make some noise about the CD." Robinson knows his recording studio has heavy competition. Musicians today can mix music on their home computers — but most of them will not take it further. "In 1965 there were 215 albums," Robinson said, quoting statistics from Top Ten Review. "In 2007 there were 37,000." Most CDs just get passed around to friends and then fade away. Robinson is making noise for the indie rock band

Woodward; the band takes its modern sound (with an '80s vibe) to clubs throughout metro Detroit. He also has faith in The Mark White Band. "Mark White is a Christian band, so it's a niche market," Robinson said. "The sound is alternative — imagine the Barenaked Ladies with Christian lyrics." He's also recorded and mixed (sometimes producing) bands like Penumbrae; Verb and Black Grass Orchestra. He's currently working to bring Los Angeles country rockers Merle Jagger to the Motor City. In the late '80s, he worked in the radio industry at Q 106. FM in Lansing, for example. Later he relocated to L.A. to work in the recording industry. But, as the industry changed, Robinson came home to Michigan. Today a band doesn't have to live in L.A. for success. Technology has changed that and Robinson can work here near his family. Wherever he lives, he wants to guide musicians and protect them from entities that take too much money. "There are some websites that will take a band's money and do nothing to help sell CDs," Robinson said. "The bands would make as much money selling straight from their own Web sites."

Where available by deadline, features are listed.

**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

Call your local theatre for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

<p><b>AMC THEATRES</b> The World's Best Theatres <a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a> Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Starting Before 6:00pm Now Accepting VISA &amp; MasterCard</p> <p><b>AMC LAUREL PARK 10</b> 734-462-6200 <a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a></p> <p><b>AMC LIVONIA 20</b> Haggerty &amp; 7 Mile 734-542-9909 <a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a></p> <p><b>AMC STAR FAIRLANE</b> 18900 Michigan Ave. Dearborn 313-240-6389 <a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a></p> <p><b>AMC STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING</b> I-75 at Baldwin Rd. Great Lakes Shopping Center 248-454-0366 <a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a></p> <p><b>AMC STAR JOHN R 15</b> 32289 John R. 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Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham</p>	<p><b>248-644-FILM</b> 248-644-3456 <a href="http://www.birmingham8.com">www.birmingham8.com</a></p> <p><b>CINEMARK MOVIES 16</b> The Best Seat in Town 28600 Dequindre Rd. • Warren 586-558-7520 Reel Family Monday's With Parties Of 3 Or More - 50¢ Admission Monday is Seniors Day All Seats \$1.00 The First Show Of The Day Monday-Friday Before 6:00pm Is \$1.00 Bargain Tuesday All Seats All Day \$1.00 All Shows \$1.50 Except Fri-Sun After 6PM All Shows \$2.50</p> <p>7/18/08-7/24/08 THE STRANGERS [R] SPEED RACER [PG] WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS [PG13] MADE OF HONOR [PG13] FORBIDDEN KINGDOM [PG13] STREET KINGS [R] BABY MAMA [PG13] TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS [PG13] PROM NIGHT [PG13] COLLEGE ROAD TRIP [G] HORTON HEARS A WHO [G] SUPERHERO MOVIE [PG13] WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS [PG13]</p> <p>CALL FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p> <p><b>EMAGINE THEATERS</b> ONLINE TICKETS <a href="http://www.emagine-entertainment.com">www.emagine-entertainment.com</a> CALL 888-319-3456 VOTED BEST MOVIE THEATRE 2006 BY THE DETROIT NEWS! 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# city bites

The latest in local restaurant and food news.

## PI OFFERS BREAKFAST

**Pi Restaurant & Lounge in Southfield** now offers breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m.

Specialties include Italian style eggs Benedict, \$8, featuring an English muffin topped with tomato, basil, fresh mozzarella, poached eggs and a hollandaise sauce; Stuffed Pancakes, \$9, with mascarpone, blueberries and a balsamic orange reduction; and Belgian Waffles, \$7, with vanilla whip cream and berries.

Pi is located at 28875 Franklin Road, at 12 Mile and Northwestern Highway. Call (248) 208-7500 or visit [www.piosouthfield.com](http://www.piosouthfield.com).

## OAKLAND HILLS EARNS AWARD

The American Culinary Federation honored **Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills** with an Achievement of Excellence Award at the 2008 ACF National Convention in Las Vegas, July 14-17.

Oakland Hills was one of four facilities to receive the award in the Private Clubs or Resorts category, which recognizes food-service establishments that exemplify a commitment to excellence in their area.

Oakland Hills offers upscale casual, comfort and fine dining. The club's extensive wine list complements menu options including cedar-planked salmon, five-spice seared ahi tuna and sake-marinated sea bass.

The club is ranked sixth nationally as a Platinum Club of America and has hosted 12 major golf championships. Oakland Hills, which is gearing up to host the 90th Annual PGA Tournament Aug. 4-10, is located at 3951 W. Maple Road in Bloomfield Hills. Visit [www.oaklandhillsc.com](http://www.oaklandhillsc.com).

## WINE LOVERS SWEEPSTAKES

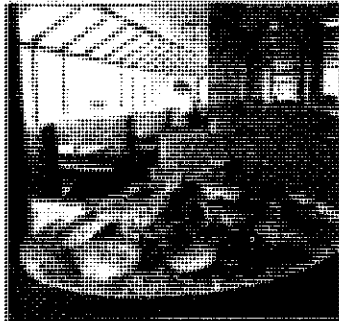
To celebrate the introduction of the annual Fleming's 100 wines-by-the-glass list, **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar** is offering one lucky wine lover a one-hundred bottle collection of wine from the 2008/2009 Fleming's 100. The top prize includes 70 bottles of vintages from around the world; 30 bottles

hand-selected by Fleming's Director of Wine Marian Jansen de Haar; and a wine refrigerator for storage.

One hundred runners-up will receive one bottle each from the Fleming's 100. To enter "Win the Fleming's 100," click on [www.fleming-steakhouse.com/100](http://www.fleming-steakhouse.com/100) and complete the online entry form by July 30. Winners will be announced July 31.

Fleming's offers steakhouse dining and regularly hosts wine dinners and tastings to encourage learning and experimentation.

Locations in Michigan are at 323 N. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham, (248) 723-0134; and 17400 Haggerty Road, Livonia, (734) 542-WINE.



Grecian Café is one of the restaurants in Plymouth that will participate in Plymouth's crawl.

## TWO GRUB CRAWLS

**Plymouth's 9th Annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl** is planned for 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6.

Participating this year are Grecian Café, Hermann's Olde Town Grille, Station 885, Crawford's Kitchen and Plymouth Fish & Seafood.

Tickets, (\$15 for adults; \$5 for children under 12) can be purchased at select restaurants or the Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Call (734) 453-1540.

**Northville's 4th Annual Grub Crawl** is 6-10 p.m. Thursday, July 29.

Tickets (\$40) may be purchased at the Northville Chamber of Commerce, Gardenviews and Good Time Party Store. The price includes free shuttle service, a BBQ Apron and drawing for a grill. Crawlers must be 21 years or older. Call (248) 349-7640 or visit [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org).

- Compiled by Lana Mini and Wensdy Von Buskirk

# Koji serves favorite dishes of Japan, Korea

BY PAM FLEMING  
GUEST WRITER

## KOJI JAPANESE AND KOREAN RESTAURANT

146 Mary Alexander Court, downtown Northville, (248) 344-0888  
**Hours:** 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday.  
**Menu:** Lunch items range from \$7.95-\$9.95; dinner choices range from \$13.95-\$15.95, with some fresh fish entrees priced up to \$19.95.

**Carryout:** Available, and the restaurant plans to offer catering in the future.

When Steve Song first opened a business in downtown Detroit, he used to sleep at his store to prevent burglaries.

He now feels safe and sound and invites area residents to come for lunch — or dinner — at his new restaurant, Koji, in downtown Northville.

The Japanese and Korean eatery opened June 6.

The word Koji has a few different meanings in Japanese, according to Song.

The most popular use is a boy's name. It's also the name of a city. But for the restaurant, Song liked the meaning "truly trustworthy."

A native of Seoul, Korea, and the son of a retired school principal who later opened a construction business, Song has lived in Novi for about 10 years with his wife, Jin, and daughters Helen, 16, and Linda, 13.

He moved to the United States in 1984. "I remember the year I moved here because the Detroit Tigers won the World Series that year," Song said.

It was his wife's idea for him to open a restaurant after he operated men's clothing stores for 20

years. With the current economy, he found it difficult to compete with the large department stores in the area. He has a few friends in the restaurant business, so he learned the ropes from them. He then hired a chef, Jung Park, who formerly worked at Mine Sushi in West Bloomfield and Sushi Ko in Farmington Hills.

Sushi is Koji's specialty, with soup and rice served with most dishes. Japanese green tea is also served. A favorite is the traditional Japanese bento, a lunch box that features compartments for several different items.

"This is a service business," Song said. "So, I teach my employees to always treat the customers right. I'm praying every day the business becomes a success."



Bento box lunches serve up delicious choices at Koji.

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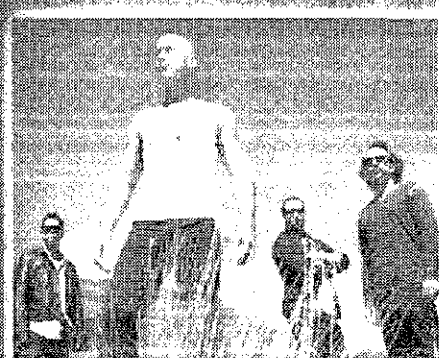
<b>BREAKFAST SPECIAL</b> 2 Eggs, Hash Browns, Toast & Jelly Mon.-Fri. 6-10 a.m. <b>\$1.99</b> With this coupon. Expires 7-24-08	<b>DINNER SPECIAL</b> Buy 1 Dinner Entree, Get the 2nd Dinner Entree <b>50% off</b> With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 7-24-08
<b>ANY MEAL SPECIAL</b> <b>10% off Your Entire Bill</b> With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 7-24-08	<b>SUMMER SPECIAL</b> 3/4 lb. Burger and Fries <b>\$4.95</b> With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 7-24-08

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ALL **ticketmaster** OUTLETS. CHARGE AT 248.645.6666.

## Gear up for Concours d'Elegance

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

In its 30th year, the Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance has developed into much more than a prestigious automotive exhibition celebrating the history, design and culture surrounding vintage cars. It's a celebration of the luxurious lifestyle that surrounds those vehicles. It's appropriately set on the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall, a 1920's Tudor-revival mansion built by Matilda Dodge, and serves as the single largest fund-raiser supporting the historic mansion.

Each year spectators of all ages mingle among the rare Ferraris and Bentleys on the Rochester Hills property. They seek out automotive-related art and bask in the lush green surroundings near Oakland University. This year 235 cars, hailing from 38 states, will be represented and will compete for the coveted "Best in Show" award.

"This will be a breakout year for Concours," said Matthew de Larcinese, executive director for the event.

The West Bloomfield resident first became involved in Concours d'Elegance in 1999 as event director. Over the years he has taken on a variety of roles, each helping to shape the event. Over the past 10 years, he said, sponsorship of the Concours d'Elegance has grown from car companies, like Ford and General Motors, to German aviation company Lufthansa and the financial firm Smith Barney.

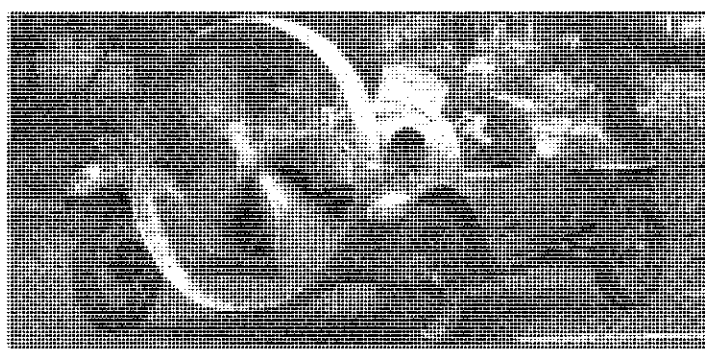
This year's festivities kick off today. Here's a rundown of what's to come, in Concours-style:

### NEXT GEN MIXER

From 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17, in the Grand Court at the Somerset Collection, catch a precursor to the Concours d'Elegance. Young professionals are invited to wander among some spectacular vehicles, enjoy appetizers by McCormick & Schmick's Seafood in Troy and gear up for the main event. About 200 people are expected to attend. Tickets \$25.

### SECOND ANNUAL HANGAR PARTY

From 6:30-11:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Oakland County International Airport in Waterford, watch Concours celebrations shoot from the road



This propeller-driven Helem is a real-life example of the sort of vehicles found only at Concours d'Elegance.

to the sky. In its second year this gala event features planes and automobiles. According to de Larcinese, last year's event featured a grand entrance by GM's Bob Lutz, taxiing up to the party in his private jet. This year the Saab Performance Team will hit the track with stunts.

### MEADOW BROOK CONOURS MOTORING TOUR

From 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, vintage vehicles chosen for the 2008 Concours d'Elegance will take to the streets from Meadow Brook Courtyard to the GM Heritage Center for a tour.

### ART RECEPTION, ART AUCTION AND RM AUCTION PREVIEW

From 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, art enthusiasts can experience antique automobile-inspired works by 16 artists from across the globe and get a sneak peek of vehicles up for auction at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. Tickets to the art reception are \$35. The auction is invitation-only.

### DESTINATION D'ELEGANCE

Destination d'Elegance, beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, will feature catered foods, Ferrari seminars, vendors like Churchill Cigars and two culinary seminars with Chef Michelle Bommarito, a Ferndale resident who has been featured on the Food Network. Sign up for her 11 a.m. *Che Buono! Panini with the Posh Lifestyle*, or the 1 p.m. demo for *Cooking Healthy* (\$60 each). At noon and 1:30 p.m. wine enthusiasts may attend *If Wine Matters, So Does the Glass*, a wine tasting and lesson by Dan Schwartz of W.J. Deutch & Sons, Ltd. and Robert Hall of

Bottega del Vino Crystal (\$45).

### RM AUCTIONS

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 the vintage motor car auction will take place at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. Admission is by catalogue only, visit [www.rmauctions.com](http://www.rmauctions.com) for details or call (800) 211-4371.

### GALA VINEYARD

Each year the night before the Concours features a gala — and this year's event will span the tastes and cultures of the globe under the theme Vineyard on the Hill. Sample wines and food pairings from five countries as well as a silent auction, art exhibit and afterglow. Tickets \$150 each. For de Larcinese, the event celebrates the camaraderie of motorists involved in the world-class event.

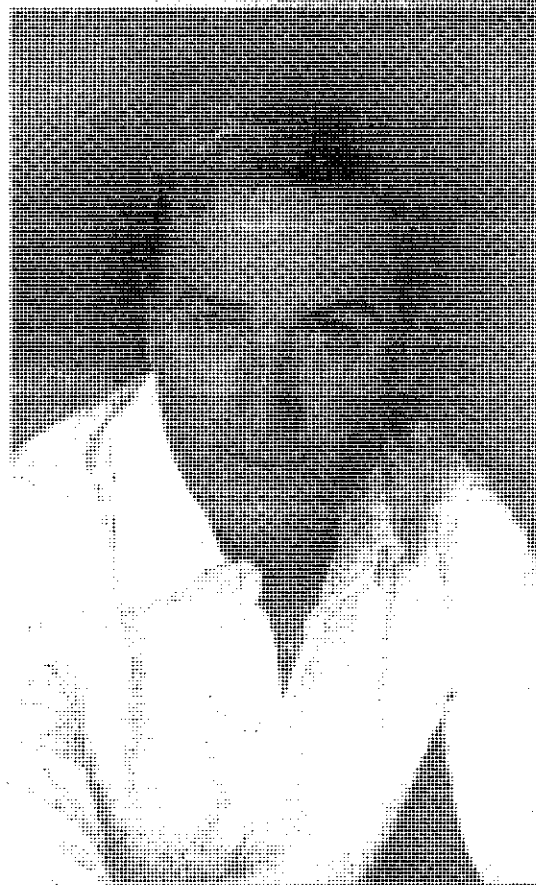
### CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

The main event is set for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 around and inside Meadow Brook Hall. Newer vehicles and Cadillacs will pave the road to the hall, while the Concours itself will be featured behind the mansion on what de Larcinese called "sacred ground." No vehicles developed after 1969 will enter that space. Highlights this year include the largest selection of 8-litre Bentleys in one space, at least 20 Ferraris from across the country, the centennial anniversaries of both General Motors and of the Ford Model T, vintage motorcycles with sidecars and much more. Tickets are \$25 each, or \$20 each for groups of 10 or more. Children 12 and under and students with ID enter free.

Call (248) 643-8645 or visit [www.meadowbrookconcours.org](http://www.meadowbrookconcours.org) for tickets to any Concours d'Elegance events.

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**BELLE TIRE**  
CONCERT SERIES



# Water Works returns to Shakespeare

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Vanessa Renee Sawson set her sights on playing the part of Lady Capulet in the Shakespeare classic tragedy *Romeo & Juliet* and the Ferndale-based actress landed just that role.

It's her third show performing with Water Works Theatre Company — the only area company producing Shakespeare as it was meant to be seen, outdoors.

"I absolutely wanted this," said Sawson, describing her part prior to a July 9 rehearsal at Royal Oak's First United Methodist Church. "We're playing it like she got married at 14 and was trapped in the marriage." Sawson was eager to explore the dynamics dancing between the mother and daughter, her Lady Capulet and Juliet, in this open air presentation, set to begin July 24.

For castmate Brandon Chownen of Oakland Township, the show will mark his first outdoor acting endeavor. And he said performing *Romeo & Juliet* around sunset makes for a suitable, romantic setting. Chownen saw the auditions posted at Wayne State University this spring and earned two parts.

He portrays Gregory in the action-filled opening scenes of the show and returns later as Paris, Juliet's husband. "He loves Juliet and is willing to die for her," said Chownen.

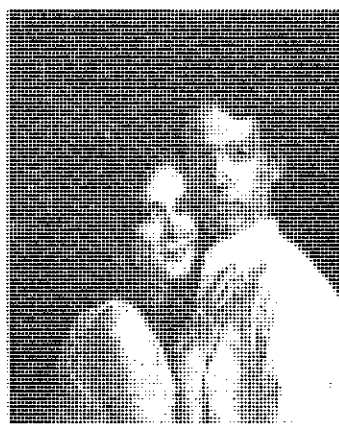
Company Artistic Director Jeff Thomakos is also directing the show and has prepared his cast for the unexpected elements of theater in the park — everything from planes flying overhead to road noise. "You don't really know where your voice is going to go," said Thomakos, so his actors must project as best they can.

Since the theater company, founded by Ed Nahhat of Royal Oak, got its start in 2001 the actors said the shows run more and more like a well-oiled machine. One uncontrollable factor — rain — is the only reason the show might not go on.

The actors will perform on



Jaclyn Stretz, Dylan Stuckey, and Michael Brian Ogden appear as Benvolio, Romeo and Mercutio in Water Works Theatre Company's production of "Romeo & Juliet."



Anne Marie Damman and Dylan Stuckey appear in Water Works Theatre Company's production of "Romeo & Juliet" July 24 to Aug. 10 at Royal Oak's Starr Jaycee Park.

platforms constructed to fit in a 40-foot space in Starr Jaycee Park. For this production the rather elaborate design incorporates a balcony and multiple levels. When the sun sets trees will be lit from the ground, amping up the atmosphere.

"I think it will be really beautiful," Thomakos said.

## ROMEO & JULIET

**What:** Water Works Theatre Company returns with this classic for Shakespeare in the park

**When:** Shows begin at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday from July 24-27; July 31- Aug. 3 and Aug. 7-10

**Where:** Starr Jaycee Park, 1101 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak

**Tickets:** \$16-\$20, group rates available. Kids Free Sundays, buy one hour prior to performance or online at [www.waterworkstheatre.com](http://www.waterworkstheatre.com).

**More information:** Low-to-the-ground lawn chairs are allowed and group discounts are available. Send a message to [waterworkstheatre@earthlink.net](mailto:waterworkstheatre@earthlink.net).

This version of *Romeo & Juliet* will take place at the turn of the century, a "Godfather-era" in Verona. Expect sleek black suits or vests and flowing flowery dresses rather than Elizabethan costumes — which will be more conducive to performing in the summer heat.

The choice of show marks a return to Shakespeare after last summer's brief hiatus, when Water Works presented the Neil Simon comedy *Barefoot in the Park*.

The troupe tends to draw 100 to 300 spectators per show, up to 2,500 for the run of the production. Scott Myers, spokesperson for Water Works Theatre Company, said the excitement does seem to build each year.

Plan ahead to picnic or pack lawn chairs to see the family-friendly performance. Or choose a seat on one of three bleachers set up in the park for the run of this production.

[scasola@hometownlife.com](mailto:scasola@hometownlife.com) | (248) 901-2567

## movies

# Batman, Abba music, X-files highlight July

OPENING FRIDAY, JULY 18

**THE DARK KNIGHT**  
*The Dark Knight* and IMAX — *The Dark Knight* reunite director Christopher Nolan with star Christian Bale, who returns to continue Batman's war on crime. With the help of Lieutenant Jim Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), Batman sets out to destroy organized crime in Gotham for good. The triumvirate proves to be effective, but they soon find themselves prey to a rising criminal mastermind known as the Joker (the late Heath Ledger), who thrusts Gotham into anarchy and forces the Dark Knight ever closer to crossing the fine line between hero and vigilante. Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Heath Ledger, Gary Oldman, Aaron Eckhart, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Morgan Freeman. PG-13.

**MAMMA MIA!**

Meryl Streep leads an all-star cast in the feature-film adaptation of the beloved musical seen by more than 30 million people in 8 languages around the world. Inspired by the storytelling magic of ABBA's songs from "Dancing Queen" and "S.O.S." to "Money, Money, Money" and "Take a Chance on Me," *Mamma Mia!* is a celebration of mothers and daughters, old friends and new family found. PG-13.

**SPACE CHIMPS**

An intergalactic comedy that highlights the antics of astronaut chimps with the "wrong stuff." Ham III (Samberg), the slacker grandson of the first chimp blasted into space before manned

spaceflight, joins two other astronaut chimps for a dangerous mission through a black hole to a populated planet. While stranded, the chimps must help the inhabitants rid themselves of a tyrannical leader, then figure out how to get back to Earth. Featuring the voices of: Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Kenan Thompson, Stanley Tucci, Kristin Chenoweth and Patrick Warburton. G.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008  
**BRIDESHEAD REVISITED**

A heartbreaking romantic epic of forbidden love and loss of innocence in the pre-WWII era. Charles Ryder becomes entranced with the noble Marchmain family, first through the charming and provocative Sebastian Marchmain, and then his sophisticated sister. The rise and fall of Charles' infatuations reflect the decline of a decadent era in England between the wars. Directed by Julian Jarrold. Starring Matthew Goode, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell and Emma Thompson. PG-13.

**THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE**

A stand-alone story in the tradition of some of the show's most acclaimed episodes, this film takes the complicated relationship between Fox Mulder (Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Anderson) in unexpected directions. Mulder continues his unshakable quest for the truth, and Scully, the passionate, intelligent physician, remains inextricably tied to Mulder's pursuits. Starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. PG-13.

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# pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk . Features Editor  
(734) 953-2019 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

## New 'Project Runway' features Troy designer

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK  
ORE STAFF WRITER

Summer's TV doldrums are over now that *Project Runway Season 5* is on the air.

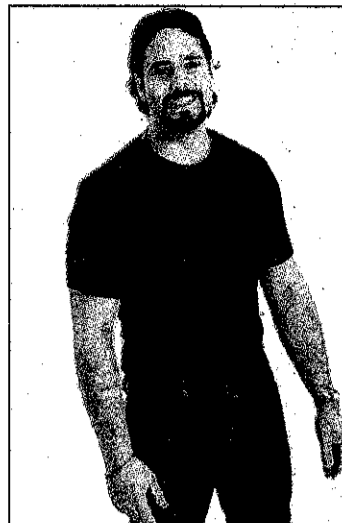
Making the fashion design show even more exciting is a local contestant from Metro Detroit.

Joe Faris of Troy made his debut with the show's premiere last night. The 41-year-old is co-founder of Inkslingers USA, a company that designs jeans and tees emblazoned with tattoo-inspired artwork.

Faris is a graduate of Parsons School of Design, and has worked in the fashion industry for 18 years at Bugle Boy, Ralph Lauren, and Rochester Hills-based Pelle Pelle.

He currently travels between New York and Detroit promoting his boutique jean and leather line, which is sold at about 300 venues across the country. Inkslingers USA is best known for its men's and women's jeans, which feature vintage washes, sexy cuts and sturdy hardware, along with burning hearts, pin-up girls, flames and skulls drawn by Faris' partner Mike Jeziak, founder of the Inkslingers tattoo chain.

Faris reportedly works in a studio above an auto body shop in Royal Oak, and is keeping



Joe Faris of Troy is among contestants on "Project Runway" Season 5.

hush-hush for now about his experience on *Project Runway*. According to his bio on Bravo.com, Faris' favorite designers are Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint-Laurent and Betsey Johnson, though he spends most of his time in a simple black T-shirt.

He says he is most inspired by his wife, and daughters Keely and Mia.

Watch *Project Runway Season 5* (the last season before the show moves to Los Angeles and Lifetime) Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on Bravo. And stay tuned to PINK for updates on how this local designer fares in the competition.

## Glamorous Marlaina Stone tells stories in her jewelry

BY LANA MINI  
ORE STAFF WRITER

Oh, to own a Marlaina Stone necklace. A pretty, sexy, couture Marlaina Stone art piece — as beautiful and unique as the enchanting, tall, model-thin, platinum blonde fashionista who designs them.

When you see a Marlaina Stone piece, you cannot mistake it for any other design — just as there is no other Chanel, Betsey Johnson or Gaultier.

Marlaina Stone, the vogue Royal Oak designer whose one-of-a-kind necklaces, bracelets and rings are available only through a few prestigious locations — such as the Museum Shop at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Art Leaders Gallery in West Bloomfield and The Cove Atlantis in the Bahamas — has created a line that touches on human emotion, be it with a whisper or a shout.

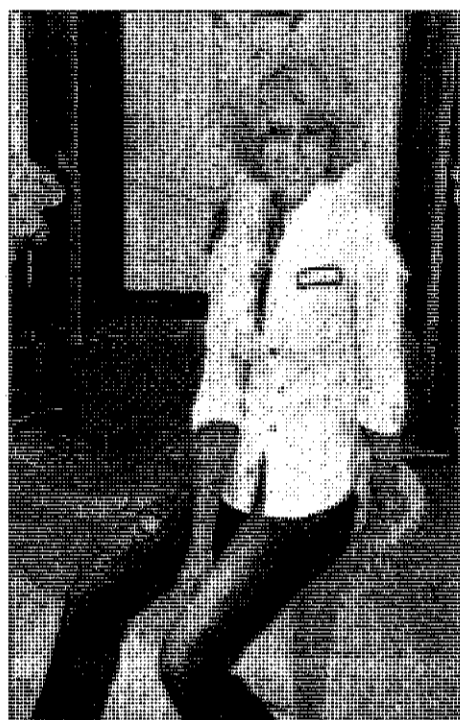
Her pieces are daring arrangements of rare stones that she has found around the world. The necklaces are bold and often chunky, yet can feel either demure or daredevilish. They can be worn, surprisingly, with everyday denim.

"People think big, brave jewelry is supposed to be with simple monochrome outfits," Stone said. "But I think of mine as the spice for a plain outfit ... for when you want to funk it up."

The necklaces, bracelets and rings, ranging from \$800 to several thousand dollars and higher, are each original art pieces.

Each has a name and story behind them.

For instance the necklace named Magdalena has rounded turquoise stones, nearly three-dozen pieces of long of black coral, one rare piece of red coral, a pearl



Marlaina Stone's couture jewelry is created at her Royal Oak studio. She uses rare stones, most with history behind them, from across the globe.

drop and centered pendant of amber stone that's surrounded by sterling silver. Magdalena represents peace, love and ripped denim.

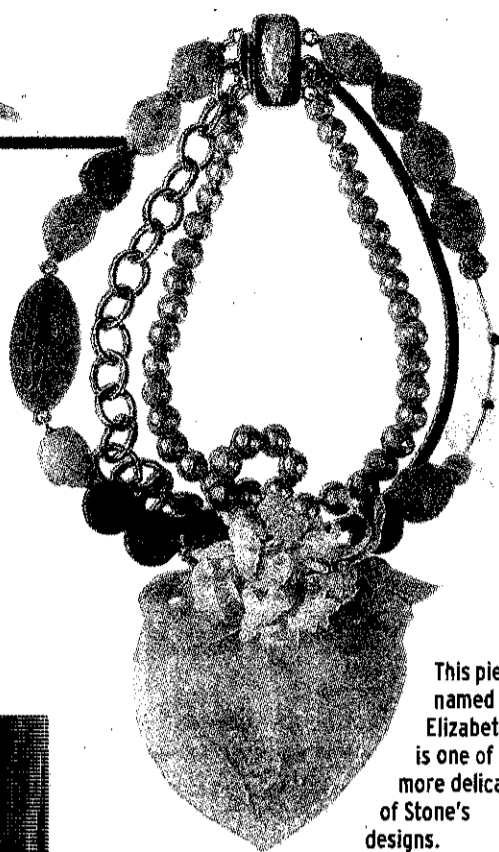
The story of Magdalena, as if it has soul (which it does, as Stone explains, because the artist sees the jewelry's spirit grow as she designs it) is otherworldly; she rests on your neck to show you the secrets of the universe with her goddess soul.

Does that suit you?

Or meet the jaw-dropping necklace Rex. The warrior. The highlight of this stunner is a one-of-a-kind piece of Jade with a very subtle dragon carved into it.

The story behind Rex is that, like many women, Rex's spirit is stronger after each loss. Every chain on the necklace is a reminder of a struggle, which Rex has turned into a learning lesson and opportunity. The piece also features turquoise, black onyx and calcite.

Why have just a piece of jewelry, when you



This piece, named Elizabeth, is one of the more delicate of Stone's designs.

can have a creation containing stones and beads that no one will ever see on anyone else's neck?

For the softer soul, there's Elizabeth, who cries in loneliness, but still feels hope despite her lost loves. As Stone describes, this is the soul that runs after the rainbow with her Southern belle beauty and a thousand gentlemen wanting her attention.

Elizabeth includes pink Peruvian opal, lava rock, glass, vintage chains and hand-carved Jade.

Stone, whose savvy website is an experience itself, is no stranger to setting trends. For years, she helped decide what teens and 20-somethings would wear — defining the style at Contempo Casuals, one of the first stores to make super-trendy clothing affordable. Now Stone is creating looks not as a purchaser, but a designer.

Stone's prestige is obvious; getting into the DIA Museum store is no easy feat. Seeing her line accepted by Kerzner International, a major developer of destination resorts and also the owners of the lush Cove Atlantis of Paradise Island in the Bahamas, is an accomplishment on its own.

Her style is pure glamour. Everyone woman can use some Marlaina in her life.



"Sierra" is hand-knotted and includes green onyx, carved Carnelian leaves, gold filled chains, resin and wood.

## pink picks

- Wear It!**  
Bangles
- Experience It!**  
Drive-in movies outside Compuware Arena in Plymouth
- Drink It!**  
French Toast Martinis at the Traveling Fork, Livonia
- Don't Wear It!**  
Sweatsuits
- Kick It!**  
Avon Healthy Remedies Detox patches for feet
- Go To It!**  
Anchors Away carryall at www.fredflare.com
- Face It!**  
Estee Lauder TurboLash All Effects Motion Mascara, the world's first vibrating mascara, — making its debut today at Saks Fifth Avenue
- Watch It!**  
Bento box lunches at Sushi House, Farmington Hills
- Hear It!**  
Cut Copy *In Ghost Colors*
- TV It!**  
Season 5 of *Project Runway*, featuring Joe from Troy!
- See It!**  
*Mamma Mia!*
- Read It!**  
Kate Reardon's *Top Tips for Girls*
- Click It!**  
www.AngelasEye.com
- Watch for It!**  
Drew Barrymore filming *Whip It* around Ann Arbor!



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*Before After*

## Malls & Mainstreets

**Yeohlee for Fall**  
**SOUTHFIELD** — Stop by Lynn Portnoy to preview Yeohlee's Fall 2008 Collection 11 a.m.-7 p.m. July 17 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. July 18. The epitome of understated, contemporary, packable clothing in luxurious fabrics. Lynn Portnoy is located at 29260 Franklin Road. Call (248) 353-2900 or visit www.goinglikelynn.com.

**Rochester Sidewalk Sales**  
**ROCHESTER** — Merchants will offer discounts and promotions during the city's annual Sidewalk Sales, July 17-19. Call (248) 656-0060 or visit www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.

**MIXX hosts Cut-A-Thon**  
**ROCHESTER** — MIXX Salon and Spa will host a Cut-a-Thon during the Rochester Sidewalk Sales 5-8 p.m. July 18. Cuts, \$10 for children 1-12; \$15 for men; \$20 for women, benefit the Career Dress Program at Lighthouse of Oakland County. MIXX is located at 303 South Main Street. Call (248) 651-8288 or visit www.mixxsalon.com.

**Brows for Bow Wows**  
**ROCHESTER** — Mariposa Beauty Boutique & Studio will host "Brows for Bow Wows" July 21-26. Book an appointment to have your brows shaped, and 10 percent will be

donated to the Michigan Humane Society. Mariposa is located at 6814 N. Rochester Road. Call (248) 656-3400.

**Peek-A-Bootique Grand Opening**  
**WEST BLOOMFIELD** — Sisters Marla Bednarsh and Alisa Berke invite shoppers to celebrate their new upscale children's clothing shop, Peek-A-Bootique, 10 a.m. July 21 at The Boardwalk shops. The store features trendy labels and a kids area with TV, toys and books. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Call (248) 935-4503.

**Garage Sale benefits Judson Center**  
**BLOOMFIELD HILLS** — Armani

Hawes, 15, will host garage sale to raise money for the Judson Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 19 in the front lobby of Lahser High School, 3456 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills. All items will be under \$10. Call (248) 723-0794 or ahawes93@yahoo.com.

**Antique & Garage Sale**  
**ROYAL OAK** — More than 300 dealers will sell wares at The Royal Oak Antique & Garage Sale July 19-20, in the parking structure on Lafayette Ave. between Fifth and Sixth. Del Guidice Gallery will offer free "Antiques Roadshow"-style estimates Sat. and Sun. Call (248) 547-4000 or visit royaloakchamber.com.

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