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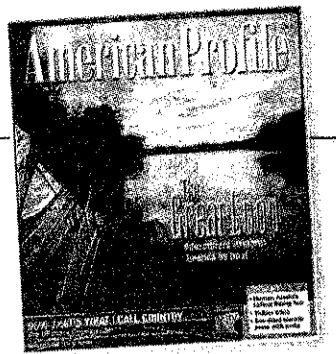
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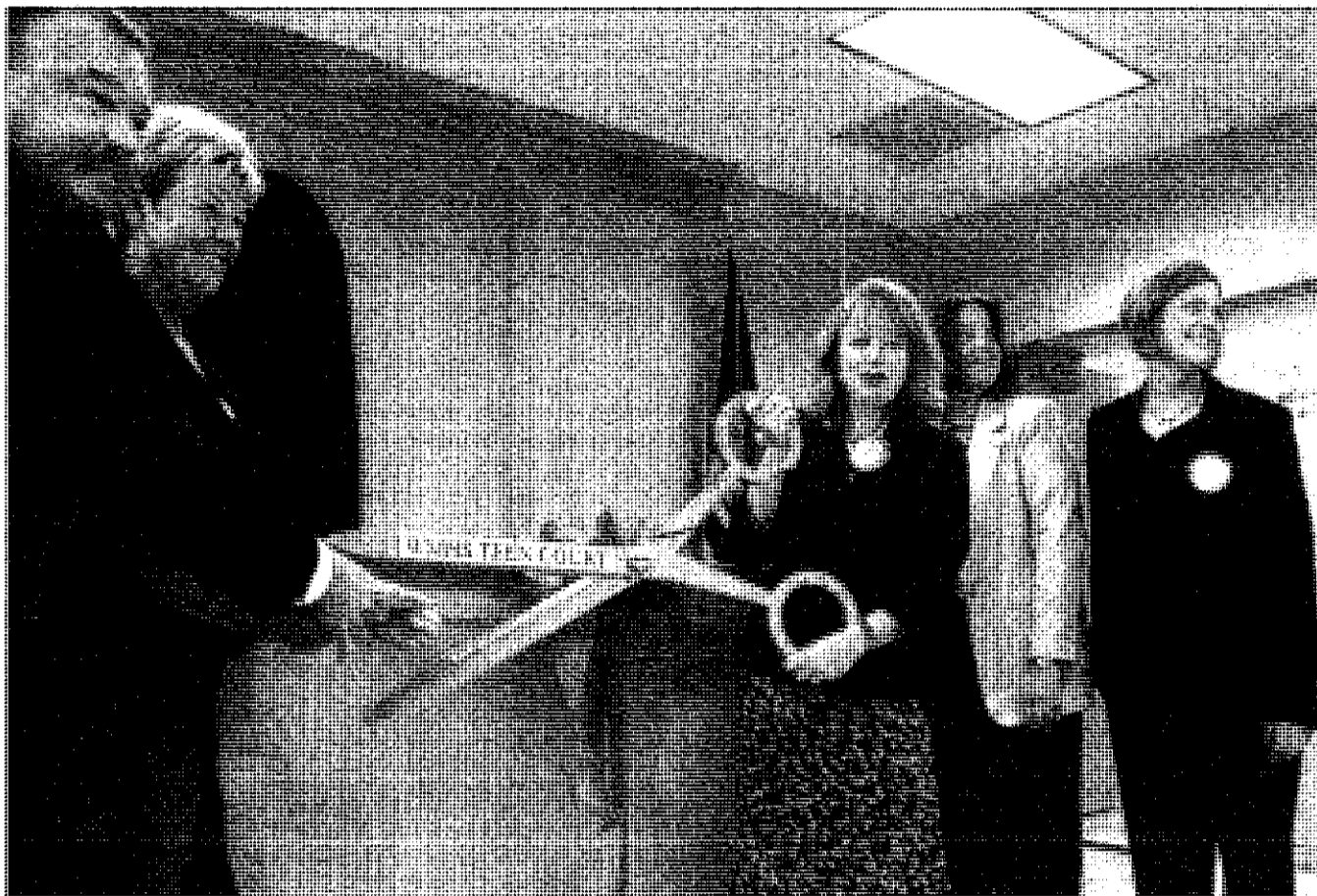
THURSDAY August 28, 2008

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Welcome to court

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Gregory Baracy (from left), school board President Martha Pitsenbarger, 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack, court administrator Linda Gable and Wayne Memorial High School Principal Valerie Orr cut the ribbon for the high school's Teen Courtroom. For story and more photos, see page A3.

## W-W teachers back job action

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools could have summer vacation extended, if the district's teachers carry through on a plan to delay the Sept. 2 start of school.

Members of the Wayne-Westland Education Association voted overwhelmingly Monday evening to authorize the job action, "if the district continues to bargain in bad faith and prevents a fair and equitable contract settlement."

The two sides have been negotiating this week in hopes of reaching a contract settlement. The teachers' contract expired Monday.

"We'd very much like a contract," said John Retzer, WWEA vice president. "We have been very disappointed by the status of negotiations and the offer by the district. Our goal is to get a contract that is fair and equitable like the one we have now."

School Superintendent Greg Baracy said the union's announcement was an attempt to put pressure on the school board and himself.

"I don't anticipate our professional staff will participate in an illegal job action, and this is an illegal action," he said. "I expect them to be in class on Tuesday."

Teachers' strikes have been illegal since 1996, and teachers who participate in such job actions can be fined or fired. The last time Wayne-Westland teachers walked off the job was in the 1970s.

Teachers were in school this week preparing for the new school year, but whether students are in the classrooms next Tuesday depends on the outcome of this week's bargaining. Negotiations were scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and Baracy indicated the district is willing to "go around the clock." However, he admitted the two sides are "light years apart."

According to Retzer, the union has three "major" issues — class sizes, health care and wages. He said that only three districts have salaries less than Wayne-Westland and that new teachers make \$6,000 less than surrounding districts.

"We want comparable salaries, quality health care and smaller class sizes," he added.

The union is pressing to have all teachers covered by the MEA's MESSA health plan. Teachers hired after 2001 have different insurance. According to Baracy, the district had offered the union a School Employers Trust and School Employers Group (SET SEG) health plan two years ago, but the union opted for a one-year pay freeze to hang on to its MESSA coverage. Nancy Starchan, WWEA president, acknowledged in an MEA press release that teachers agreed to the pay freeze and health care change "in order to help out the district financially."

"The superintendent promised us that the district was going to lead from the top down and take the same concessions we did," she said. "That never happened."

Baracy, however, said he and the other district administrators did lead the way by dropping their MESSA coverage for SET SEG two years ago.

"What we negotiated in good faith, they want to buy back," he said. "Their proposal would cost the district \$37 million over three years."

The teachers have ratcheted up the war of words. According to an e-mail from a Westland parent received by the *Observer* Tuesday, some teachers have hosted meetings "to pass the word to as many parents about the status of negotiations."

Among the information being distributed is the union's contention that "a financial analysis of the district proves they have continued to overstate their financial problems and actually manufactured a general fund deficit to fool the public," which "as a taxpayer and parent, I find alarming," the parent wrote.

"We're all thinking about the start of school, but we have to stand up for what's right," said Tim Sullivan, a fourth-grade teacher and a member of the WWEA bargaining team. "That's not 'our side,' it's the truth."

For its part, the school district has been posting negotiation updates on its Web site at www.wwcsd.net since mid-August.

According to Baracy, the district "will do what we have to do and negotiate in good faith."

"We are determined to hold school on Tuesday," he said. "Our intentions are to get a contract."

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

## 3rd cleaning goes after airborne mold

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Airborne mold spores have been found in widespread locations on the first and second floors of Westland City Hall after migrating through the

building's ventilation system from a leaky basement, environmental experts confirmed Tuesday.

But property-restoration work crews over the weekend embarked on a third round of cleaning that city officials

believe has made the aging building safer, and no closing of City Hall has been deemed necessary.

"I think we've taken care of the problem at hand," Mayor William Wild said Tuesday. Still, Wild conceded that

city leaders will face difficult and potentially costly decisions when they engage in talks this fall about City Hall, built in the mid-1960s, and other municipal buildings.

Please see MOLD, A2

## Trio charged with robbing Taylor man

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three men who live in the same apartment complex on Westland's northeast side were arraigned Wednesday afternoon on charges of plotting to rob a 24-year-old Taylor man who was visiting the neighborhood.

The victim was described by police Sgt. Todd Adams as a cousin of one of the defendants, 21-year-old Anthony Shane Jones.

The incident unfolded around 11:30 p.m. Sunday at

Hawthorne Club Apartments on Merriman south of Ann Arbor Trail, Adams said.

"A guy from Taylor was there visiting a cousin, and they were walking through the parking lot when he was robbed at gunpoint," the detective said.

Jones, the cousin, is accused of plotting the robbery with two other residents, 18-year-old Anton DeAngelo Mills and 20-year-old Stephen Louis Riley, according to police.

Riley is accused of supplying the handgun, which was earlier stolen from a Westland house, and Mills is accused of

holding up the visitor at gunpoint, Adams said. No shots were fired.

All three defendants were arraigned Wednesday afternoon in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokus on charges of armed robbery and felony firearms. Riley had an additional charge of receiving and concealing a stolen handgun.

Bokus ordered Jones, Mills and Riley jailed with \$250,000 cash bonds, and he entered not-guilty pleas for them. The judge has scheduled a Sept. 4 preliminary hearing that will

determine whether the trio should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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

The incident happened less than a mile north of the Merriman Warren shopping center, where an Aug. 12 gunfight erupted between Romulus undercover police and five men accused of trying to rob a drug informant. That incident left one suspect dead and four facing criminal charges.

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

## Information sought about fatal shooting of Westland man

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Detroit police still don't have a motive or a suspect in the fatal shooting of a 23-year-old Westland man, Craig Hall, who was gunned down last Friday on the city's west side.

Details remained sketchy, but Detroit Police Officer Leon Rahmaan confirmed that two

victims, including a 43-year-old man who survived, were shot around 4:20 p.m. Friday in the 8900 block of Vaughn near Dover.

"For some reason they were being chased," Rahmaan said.

The officer wasn't sure whether the two men had been chased in a car before they were pursued on foot.

The victims ran through a

back yard, and an unknown witness reported hearing several shots fired, Rahmaan said.

A witness contacted Detroit police, who responded to the scene and found Hall dead.

Rahmaan confirmed that the victim had been shot in the back of the head.

"Right now we don't have a motive," the officer said.

The second victim's injuries

apparently were not considered life-threatening as of Monday afternoon, according to Rahmaan.

Little else was known about Hall.

Rahmaan urged anyone who may have information about the shooting to contact the Detroit Police Department's homicide division at (313) 596-2260.



Evelyn Baran, MEA field director with the Wayne-Westland Education Association, talks with teachers who protested last week at the Wayne-Westland Board of Education meeting.

ROBERT SAYN

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Volume 44 Number 27



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Coming Sunday: Stars Stand Up to Cancer

AROUND WESTLAND

Golf outing

John Glenn High School's wrestling program will have its 11th annual golf outing fundraiser 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.

Constituent hours

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

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

Tuesday, Sept. 2, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m.

at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Office hours for Thursday, Sept. 4, are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and

Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Labor Day changes

A reminder to residents that, due to Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 1, the regular City Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, in the Council Chambers of Westland

City Hall. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland will be closed from Saturday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 1 and will re-open on Tuesday, Sept. 2. City offices and the 18th District Court also will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1. The Bailey Recreation Center also will be closed on Monday, however, the pool will remain open for the day. Rubbish pickup also will be delayed one day for the week.

MOLD FROM PAGE A1

"We'll be having some long, hard discussions on where we go from here on City Hall," the mayor said.

Nearly 40 people work in City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh, and countless other residents and business representatives use it. Some city employees have questioned whether environmental conditions inside the building may have led to health problems like recurring sinus infections,

upper respiratory problems and headaches.

Air-quality tests conducted on Aug. 7 found 21 different kinds of mold spores, including "nominal" or "very low" findings of fungus and "minor to moderate" elevations of bacteria, said Jon Datillo, president of I.A.Q. Management Services Inc., of Farmington Hills.

Many of the same findings occur outdoors, Datillo said. Still, he acknowledged that spores of Stachybotrys, commonly referred to as black mold, were found in several locations in the latest round of air testing.

Wild's administration readily released the latest air-quality report from Datillo on the same day it was received. Wild had pledged when he took office last year to be candid, even on potentially sensitive issues.

Datillo's report cited numerous findings of mold spores throughout the building — though not at alarming levels — in places like the mayor's office, the finance department, the city clerk's office, the City Council meeting room, the personnel conference room and the second-floor common area. Some people have no reac-

tion to mold spores, while others can have mild to severe reactions, particularly those with health problems like asthma, allergies, lung disease and immune-system issues, according to health experts.

When asked if he personally would be comfortable working inside City Hall, Datillo responded that he would. However, he refrained from issuing a blanket statement for employees inside the building, saying he would "defer to a physician" on whether City Hall is safe or unsafe for specific people.

Datillo confirmed that "we did not find significant elevations" of mold spores, either fungal or bacterial. Moreover, he cautioned against being unduly alarmed by the mere finding of so-called black mold. Wild's administration

ordered the first and second floors of City Hall examined after widespread basement flooding in July led to findings of mold. Already, the city has spent an estimated \$55,000 to \$60,000 to address the problem, and the full price tag isn't yet known.

Datillo confirmed that the latest tests on City Hall's first and second floors focused on airborne mold spores and not actual mold growth, which was earlier found in the basement.

David Weaver, a representative for Livonia-based Belfor, which cleaned the building, said his team of workers used cleansers like antimicrobial agents and focused on removing mold spores from places like walls, desks and horizontal surfaces. Workers also cleaned the carpet on the first and second floors, and the building's air ducts have twice been sanitized.

Datillo indicated that "nearly all" of the air-quality issues are now likely mitigated, although he and Weaver said further

testing at some point might be prudent as a safety precaution.

James McCurtis, spokesman for the Michigan Department of Community Health, said Wednesday afternoon the state has no jurisdiction in the matter, but he added that "it sounds like the city did exactly the right thing. That's exactly what we would recommend."

McCurtis said the city should next address the issue of how to properly seal the basement to keep water — and mold — out. He said "it doesn't sound like an emergency situation" that would warrant the evacuation of City Hall.

City leaders, including Wild and Westland City Council President James Godbout, have conceded they will need to find a long-term solution. Godbout said the city has responded "quickly and responsibly" to address the situation.

"We're taking care of it," Godbout said. "We're not trying to hide anything."

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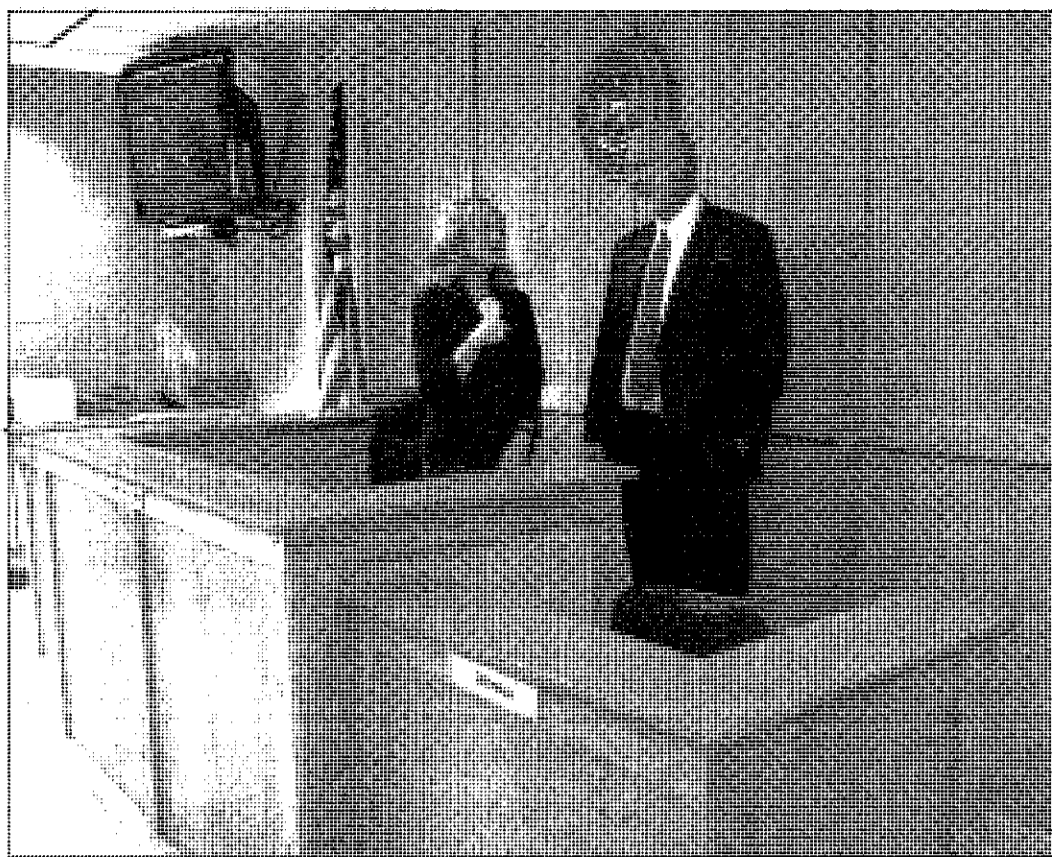
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# In session: Teen Court moves to Wayne High



Judge Laura Mack of Wayne's 29th District Court talks with Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Brian Morrow behind the bench of the new Teen Court. Mack will hold proceedings in the converted classroom once a week part of the program.

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Students at Wayne Memorial High School will have a chance to be a part of the legal system through an in-school Teen Court program.

Housed in a second-floor classroom the Teen Court has all the trappings of an actual courtroom with a witness stand, judge's bench and jury box. It'll even have a judge who will preside over the hearings planned to take place once a week at the Wayne high school.

"The more the classroom actually looks like a real courtroom, the more the jurors and juvenile offenders will respect the proceedings," said 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack who will preside over the hearings.

A diversion program for first-time low level misdemeanor offenders for youths ages 11-16, Teen Court is a "peer review" program that functions as an alternative to the formal juvenile justice system.

Juvenile offenders appear before a jury panel made up of high school students. The "jury"

doesn't make a determination of guilty or not guilty. Its sole function is to come up with the sentence for the offender. If the juvenile complies with the sentence imposed by the teen jury, he or she won't have a juvenile record for the offense.

Mack has been holding Teen Court since March of 2006, but has run into difficulty because it was held after school and student jurors and offenders were required to come to her courtroom on Sims. She approached the school district earlier this year about including it in the business and personal law class. When she received the go-ahead from then principal John Albrecht, she enlisted the help of the Wayne Rotary Club in funding the renovation of the classroom. The club "enthusiastically" approved.

"We want something like this to impress on them that they are in court, we want to impress on them that this is serious," said Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Brian Morrow who attended Tuesday's ribbon cutting ceremony. "They have to admit guilt, but the teen court doesn't adjudicate, it comes up

with the consequences."

According to Morrow, Mack has "ramped it up a notch or two" in getting the program into the school.

"We'll make it work and with Judge Mack's enthusiasm it will work," Morrow said. "We'll now be able to get more kids involved. Our goal is to show kids how court works or interest them in careers as a lawyer, police officer or judge."

Mack plans to hold court once a week at the school and will include juvenile offenders who would be placed on probation through the 29th District Court's juvenile diversion program. About 30 youths have gone through the program since it started, and Mack envisions Teen Court expanding even more, possibly three times a month. The plus is the ability of having more students involved in the proceedings.

"The goal is to increase their confidence in the justice system," she said. "This is a way for them to buy into it without being in trouble. It really is a great thing."

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

## Second time: County rejects recall language

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a second setback on Tuesday, recall organizers seeking to oust five Westland city leaders still plan to push ahead by revising their wording for a proposed ballot measure.

"We're going to get this right," recall leader Donna DeWitt vowed. "We are going to be persistent."

In a 3-0 vote in Detroit, the Wayne County Elections Commission rejected for the second time since Aug. 12 the proposed wording for a possible recall election.

The panel again declared the language unclear, blocking efforts by DeWitt and recall organizer Rosemarie Rembisz to launch a petition drive to collect 6,818 signatures of registered city voters.

That's the number of signatures the recall leaders need for a ballot measure that they hope will topple the political careers of Mayor William Wild and Westland City Council members James Godbout, Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Dewey Reeves.

DeWitt and Rembisz, along with other residents, are upset that the city leaders supported

a \$35 million senior housing complex, including a three-story apartment building, on Joy east of Newburgh, in a neighborhood long defined by larger, single-family lots.

DeWitt said the recall campaign also is tied to the larger issue of city leaders who, she said, refuse to listen to their constituents.

Officials targeted by the recall effort have repeatedly defended their decision to support developer Glenn Shaw Jr.'s proposal for Nankin Mills Village, an upscale senior housing proposal that still would require final city approval and

outside financial backing.

Wild and the four council members have said they believe their support for rezoning the property to accommodate the high-density development was in the best interest of senior residents and the city's tax base.

On Tuesday, DeWitt said she and Rembisz have learned from their first two setbacks and that they will soon submit a third proposal for petition language for the Wayne County Elections Commission to consider.

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1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 pear, quartered and cored  
4 ciabatta rolls or foccacia squares sliced  
2 cups arugula or mixed greens  
2 slices brie per burger for melting

Combine ground chuck, diced brie and wine or port. Add salt and pepper to taste. Make into 4 half inch thick patties. Mix mayonnaise and garlic together. Add oil to sauté pan and heat over medium high heat, sauté onions with brown sugar stirring frequently until very brown, set aside. Grill pear slices just until marked. Over medium high flame grill burger until desired doneness, about 4 minutes per side for medium rare or when internal temperature reaches 160° F. Top with brie slices and melt. Grill rolls cut side down until lightly toasted about 2 minutes. Spread mayonnaise mix on bottom of roll, place burger on roll, then place caramelized onions on burger, arugula or mixed greens and finally arrange pear slices on top of greens.

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# Father and son battle with auto giants becomes movie

BY LARRY RUEHLEN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dennis Kearns sits in his Keego Harbor office telling tales of a principled man that will soon unfold on the Silver Screen.

"It was them damn Jesuits. They made an impression on him. He wasn't into living on an island. He was into making the world a better place."

The main character in the movie *Flash of Genius* is Robert Kearns, a former Wayne State professor who vanquished corporate auto titans to rightfully claim what belonged to him all along — the invention of the intermittent windshield wiper.

"Their idea was to grind us down and wait us out," said Dennis. "Patents were only good for 17 years. By the time we went to court, they had already accomplished their goal."

Dennis spent years by his father's side fighting Ford and Chrysler over the invention. While the jury deliberated, Dennis said, Ford offered \$200 million to settle the case but his father refused to be bought.

Shortly thereafter, the jury awarded them just over \$5 million, an amount that was later doubled in settlement negotiations.

**UPBRINGING**

Robert Kearns attended University of Detroit-Jesuit school in Detroit, which weaves key values into everything it teaches. Graduates are supposed to emerge from school committed to the pursuit of justice and ready to serve the world.

After serving a stint in the Office of Strategic Services, the

forerunner to the CIA, during World War II, Robert went to college to pursue engineering.

As a kid, he played in the shadows of the largest industrial complex in the world, the River Rouge Ford plant. It was only natural that he wanted to invent and manufacture something useful to the auto industry.

He had invented cold-weather batteries for the U.S. Marines and a guidance system for missiles that didn't quite take off, but it was his notion that windshield wipers should work more like eyelids that had the family hoping for big things Nov. 22, 1963.

Dennis said it was easy to remember the day his father perfected his invention because it was the same day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

The inventor bolted the thing to the family sedan, a Ford Galaxie, and took to the road whenever it rained for testing. The wipers worked and Robert was soon off to show his invention to Ford. At first Ford was interested, said Dennis, but then the company backed off before signing a deal.

Ford later began selling cars with intermittent wipers and Robert Kearns was convinced it was his patented invention under all those hoods — an invention for which he wasn't making a dime.

**LEGAL BATTLE**

In one of the longest cases in U.S. history, Kearns eventually prevailed against Ford and Chrysler. A cadre of lawyers represented the family along the way but father and son, with coaching from two law professors, took over and won one



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dennis Kearns recounts the 26-year litigation against multiple automobile manufacturers he and his father endured over his father's invention of the intermittent wiper.

of the trials. After millions in awards started coming in, all those lawyers wanted chunks of cash. The case put a huge strain on the family and Robert and his wife, Phyllis, divorced. Dennis and his five brothers and sisters went on with life. Some live in Michigan and others don't.

**VINDICATION**

During the court battle, the saga of Robert Kearns played out on the pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. It was writer John Seabrook who first took the time to get to know the man behind the invention. In 1993, he wrote about Robert Kearns in a piece titled *The Flash of Genius* in *The New Yorker*.

A member of Seabrook's family invented boil-in-a-bag vegetables and he was slightly fascinated with inventive minds.

"He said in court that he wore a badge that said inven-

# Westland seniors bring home the gold

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland senior citizens reigned at last week's Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, capturing the most medals among 16 communities that competed.

Mayor William Wild had predicted early that Westland was expecting "quite the gold rush," and he was right.

Westland seniors accumulated 75 medals, narrowly edging out Canton's 72.

Senior Director Barbara Schimmel-Marcum didn't want to appear boastful of Westland's achievements, but she couldn't hold back.

"We did the best," she finally conceded near the end of an interview. "I'm really happy and very, very proud."

Westland won 36 gold medals, compared to second-place Canton's 30. Westland also earned 20 silver and 19 bronze

medals.

More than 600 seniors from 16 communities competed in events ranging from swimming to photography, golfing and pinocle.

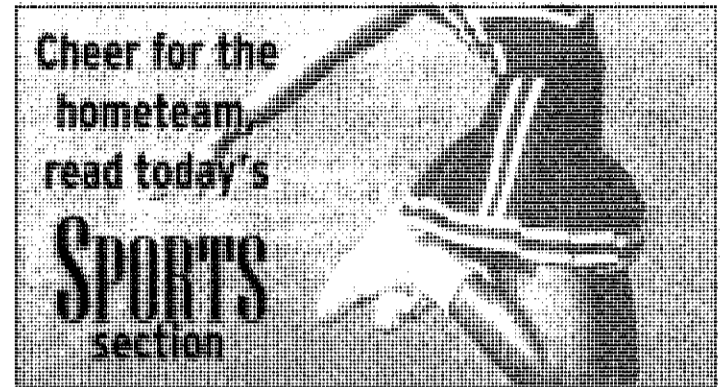
Westland hosted the fourth annual event, although events were scattered among other cities and townships. Seniors gathered last Friday at Westland's senior Friendship Center for an awards banquet.

Schimmel-Marcum commended seniors for participating, whether they seriously tried for medals or just entered the contests for fun.

"Not everybody has to be a medal winner to feel like they've achieved something," she said, adding that seniors relished huge accomplishments simply by finishing competitions like the 10-mile bicycle race.

"I'm just so proud of everyone," Schimmel-Marcum said.

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



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to State law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI, September 6, 2008 at 1:10 p.m.

#526	Todd J. Buchanan
#937	David L. Daillboust
#1232	Thomas E. Steel
#1251	Andrea Schneider
#1306	Denadi Fountian / Dennis DiLacovo

Units Contain: Misc. Household Items

Publish: August 21 & 25, 2008

**GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
6000 MIDDLEBELT  
GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON Tuesday, September 2, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BIDDING WILL START AT THE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN#
1995 INFINITI	4 DOOR	JNKN01D1SM300076
1978 SUZUKI	MC	GS75042699
1988 MERCURY	4 DOOR	2MEBM74F1JX636108
1999 MERCURY	4 DOOR	1MEFM6530XK626925
1991 FORD	2 DOOR	1FAPP6045MH124987
1993 CADILLAC	4 DOOR	1G6CD53B7P4247954

Publish: August 28, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, September 4, 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
4510805	1994	Cadillac	Eldorado	1G6EL12Y3RU622011
4510821	1994	Ford	Taurus	1FALP52U1RG242313
4510851	1998	Ford	Escort	3FALP1133WR113298
4510876	1997	Ford	Expedition	1FMFU18WXVLA14319

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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: August 28, 2008

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## Bankruptcy can help give individuals a fresh start

I received a letter from a couple in severe financial condition. They maxed out their charge cards. They worked with a credit counselor, who got their payments lowered. They called the charge card company, which lowered the interest on their debt.

Despite all that, they were still in all sorts of financial difficulty. After careful review, I recommended they file Chapter 7 bankruptcy. It was the only way to relieve them of their financial crisis.

### Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I believed there was no realistic way they could continue to maintain their payments. Recently, I received a letter from a reader who disagreed with my conclusion.

The basic premise of the letter was that people get themselves into financial difficulty and they should get themselves out.

The letter writer believed bankruptcy was immoral and something that, if up to him, would not be available. He asked me to address the issue.

I appreciate different opinions and I learn by listening to others. That being said, I stand by my original recommendation. I do not think bankruptcy is immoral.

We live in a great country, which recognizes that people make mistakes and sometimes need a fresh start. That is what bankruptcy is meant to do. It is not meant to reward, but rather an opportunity to learn and to get a fresh start.

Many people believe there are no consequences to bankruptcy. Not true. There are substantial consequences for anyone who files for bankruptcy. Not only is your credit situation hurt, but filing for bankruptcy can also impact your ability to

obtain a job. In addition, there is the psychological aspect that people go through when they file for bankruptcy.

There is another issue that rarely gets discussed, but I believe should be raised. Many personal bankruptcies are because of charge cards. There is no doubt that many people are irresponsible with charge cards and that leads to problems. However, it is important to recognize that charge card companies — in many situations — are charging exorbitant amounts of interest. One reason they charge high interest rates is to cover losses caused by bankruptcies.

The charge card companies, in effect, are charging individuals an insurance premium to insure themselves from losses due to bankruptcy. You could argue this premium is no different than any other type people pay to cover themselves in the case of a loss.

I do not believe bankruptcy should be a first choice if you run into financial difficulties. One should explore a variety of options to determine which

suits the situation. However, after exploring options, if bankruptcy is the best option, so be it.

An individual who follows the law and selects bankruptcy should not be stigmatized. Northwest Airlines, Kmart and thousands of companies that have filed for bankruptcy don't believe they cheated their creditors or their shareholders. Companies use bankruptcy laws for their best interest.

I have no problem recommending that we as individuals also take advantage of the law where appropriate.

That does not mean bankruptcy is always the best solution, because it is not. However, it is one solution that individuals facing severe financial difficulty should explore and use where appropriate.

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 from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

## College students need to prevent fires

Every year, college and university students experience a growing number of fire-related emergencies. There are several causes for these fires, but most are due to a general lack



Tom Kiurski

of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. Fire safety must be a part of their lives. College-age students may feel invincible at this age, but they aren't. Most of our children will

take responsibility for their own safety if we only show them how to do it. There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths. In more than 50 percent of adult fire fatalities, victims were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fire. Alcohol abuse often impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts. Cooking is the leading cause of fire injuries on college campuses, closely followed by careless smoking and arson. Many factors contribute to the problem of dormitory housing fires.

■ Improper use of 911 notification systems delays emergency response.

■ Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in the environment.

■ Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.

■ Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and preplanning.

■ Vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarm systems inhibit early detection of fires.

■ Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase the risk of fires.

If your child is going away to college this year, give them information on how to take responsibility for their own safety. Sit down with them and explain to them the following key points:

■ Provide students with a program for fire safety and prevention.

■ Teach students how to properly notify the fire department using the 911 system.

■ Install smoke alarms in every dormitory room and every

level of housing facilities.

■ Maintain and regularly test smoke alarms and fire alarm systems. Replace smoke alarm batteries every semester.

■ Regularly inspect rooms and buildings for fire hazards.

■ Inspect exit doors and windows and make sure they are working properly.

■ Create and update detailed floor plans of buildings, and make them available to emergency personnel, resident advisors and students.

■ Conduct fire drills and practice escape routes and evacuation plans. Urge students to take each alarm seriously.

■ Do not overload electrical outlets and make sure extension cords are used properly.

■ Learn to properly use and maintain heating and cooking appliances.

The steps that everyone can take to protect themselves and their children are fairly simple ones. Since your student may never have had to take responsibility for their own safety before, prepare them before they head out the door for college.

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

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OUR VIEWS

## Now is chance to get involved

Residents in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, listen up: This is your chance to get involved in your school district. The school board has put out the call for people interested in filling the vacancy created by the resignation last week of Trustee Frederick Weaver.

Weaver made the announcement after it became apparent that his change of job and change of address made him no longer eligible to serve on the school board. He had a commitment to the students and the district and a can-do attitude will live on in the Project 180 program he started as school board president.

It's that kind of interest and commitment the school board will be looking for in his replacement: someone who is willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved, someone who wants to continue moving the district forward and improving student achievement.

After a series of school elections in which incumbent board members ran unopposed, the past two years have seen a number of residents showing an interest in serving on the board. We hope those people who were willing to campaign for a seat then will consider a possible appointment to the board.

The qualifications are simple. A candidate must be a resident and a qualified and registered voter of the school district. No need for having children in the district, although a working knowledge of the issues facing the district would be helpful.

But don't start writing your letter of interest if you think this is a one-meeting-a-month job. School board members have plenty to do, so come prepared to work. There are plenty of school board committees to serve on as well as school activities to fill your monthly calendar.

We urge residents in the district interested in serving to submit a letter of interest, a resumé and any other pertinent information to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education by 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8. Mail it or drop it off at the administrative building at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh in Westland.

Then start doing your homework. If you've thought about getting involved, now's your chance, but don't hesitate. The remaining six school board members are expected to screen applicants and conduct interviews at a meeting on Monday, Sept. 15.

**After a series of school elections in which incumbent board members ran unopposed, the past two years have seen a number of residents showing an interest in serving on the board. We hope those people who were willing to campaign for a seat then will consider a possible appointment to the board.**

## It's your job, parents, to teach life's most important lessons

With school starting Sept. 2, parents may think they're off the hook for a while.

Not so fast.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. Parents may get a break from taking care of them from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. when school is in session, but their children don't stop learning when the last school bell of the day rings.

Children learn by example. And the lessons their parents teach are among the most important.

Parents who want their children to succeed in school — and in life — will set a good example.

This includes accepting responsibility for their own actions, doing the right thing even when "everyone else" is doing the wrong thing, and following through on their commitments.

Parents can't simply tell their children, "Do as I say, not as I do." They have to live what they teach, or their children will see through their hypocrisy.

A good education is necessary. Today, youngsters need a high school diploma and a college degree or some kind of specialized job training to be financially independent.

But character development is even more essential. A degree from a prestigious university may land a grad a job, but being an honest employee who treats co-workers and managers with respect will help him to keep it.

Parents can't depend on teachers to teach morals — they have enough to do teaching them academics.

Besides it's parents' responsibility to teach their children about responsibility, honesty and the other important lessons of life.

**A degree from a prestigious university may land a grad a job, but being an honest employee who treats co-workers and managers with respect will help him to keep it.**



Geoff Brooks 8-18-08

### LETTERS

#### Disagree with condemnation

I disagree with Westland city leaders issuing a formal condemnation of Romulus police over the recent drug-related shoot-out at the intersection of Warren and Merriman roads. While I believe it would have been wise to accept support from Westland police, Romulus officers were acting on good information that a drug deal and/or robbery was going to occur. These situations happen every day in our country, and none of them can be completely safe for people in the vicinity. Unfortunately, in this case, the suspects drew weapons and officers were forced to respond.

The notion that Westland police should have told Romulus not to proceed is inane. Is that what we should do? Advertise to criminals that we won't respond to their activity because it isn't safe? People need to realize that criminals operate in all types of neighborhoods, and therefore citizens need to be aware of their surroundings.

Police officers can only keep society relatively safe if we allow them to do their jobs. They do not set out to cause gun battles in grocery store parking lots. The criminals do that, and that is where the finger should be pointing in this case.

James K. Shook  
Westland

#### Romulus officers did good job

I would like to thank the officers of the Romulus Police Department for a job well done. Mayor Wild, instead of criticizing, should also have thanked them. Mr. Carlos Manzo, wake up and smell the coffee, man! Do you know how many armed robberies or attempted assaults with a weapon happened in the month of August 2009 in Westland? There is at least one not reported armed robbery that took place. I am sure there are more.

This was a business that has operated in our community for 28 years. In broad daylight just as those that were reported, the robbers got away. Then there were those armed robberies that took place around the same time as the incident at Merriman and Warren.

The officers of the City of Westland that still work here are fine well-trained officers. However, since Bill Wild has taken office, there are fewer than we so desperately need. Mr. Wild prefers to spend his time worrying about weeds, tall grass, etc. He thinks as well as some of our council members, that if you say to yourself and to the citizens of your city enough times "we have the crime problem in Westland under control," that indeed it becomes the truth.

Open your eyes, Mr. Manzo. We need more police officers. We need the courts to knuckle down on these criminals, not just slap them on the wrists and turn them back out into our community.

Mr. Manzo, you say, "Not in my

neighborhood." Well, it is in your neighborhood. The undesirable elements will stay in your neighborhood as long as we have a mayor siding with local bar owners who complain about their customers being pulled over for drunk driving. Instead of following some of the council members' suggestions about hiring more officers, they condemn those suggestions and side with the bar owners.

I wonder how long has it been since Westland police officers have felt backed up by our mayor and council, by the citizens that they protect? Westland desperately needs a mayor and council united in support behind our police officers. Instead, they work short-handed and underpaid. While Mayor Wild runs around in denial, the area of Palmer between Merriman and Wayne is a nightmare. Dope dealers are rampant. Robberies and assault happen daily. This type of behavior has spread to the rest of the city because there are now more criminals than there are police officers.

So, yes, Mr. Manzo, whether you have realized it or not, it's there in all of its ugly glory in your neighborhood. Instead of knocking the officers attempting to keep the criminals under control, you ought to be asking Mr. Wild where are the extra police officers we need to make this city safe? Instead of turning our backs and ignoring the situation, we all need to ask Mr. Wild why it is he expects our overworked, now smaller than needed police department to be supermen and women. So he can add some extra inspectors to keep track of the weeds? Call the number on the Realtor's sign, if you have a problem. They represent that seller.

We are now being over taken by the bad guys, time for us to show our support for those officers no matter what city they come from! Time for us to become proactive and demand more police officers to bring our city back to the standards we all deserve. After all, it is our tax dollars.

Dana Tapper  
Westland

#### Rezoning is wrong

I have to agree the rezoning of the Gray/Ravine neighborhood is wrong and the area will not support the traffic and all the reasons for not building there are all valid.

The reason I see for not building there is, look at what has been built in the area and how it has sold. You have one housing development that was started at Wayne and Joy on the south side, another just down the street on the north side, the price has been reduced on both many times and still haven't been sold. Close to Newburgh on the north side of Joy there are two homes up for auction. Look at all the homes on the stretch of Joy between Wayne and Newburgh for sale and most of them have been on the market for some time including those on the

side streets.

Now you want to add another housing complex that will most likely not be sold and set empty and end up costing the city money. I don't see how anyone in their right mind would even think of building in this area, nothing has sold, beside that, there is nothing to attract seniors to live there.

The seniors I know want to live close to shopping and restaurants and all within walking distance, if possible, and this is neither of them, it's away from everything with only one street to get any where or for emergency vehicles to get to them. I would want more than just one-two-lane road to count on for what may be my life and never know you could need be when all the kids that live in the area are getting on or off the school bus.

There are so many other places in Westland to build this that make much more sense, tear all the unused building down around the Westland mall and relocate the few where the most are empty and you will have enough land and it's close to everything and you have taken care of some empty building not making the city any money. The housing that's proposed to be built in the Gray/Ravine neighborhood will then be close to like housing and shopping and restaurants and all the walking trails they may want to keep fit and walk to most anyplace in the city.

I have supported Mayor Wild but on this one he is very wrong. If he and the council members get recalled, it's because they didn't do what they took office to do, that's to have the best interest of all the residents of Westland in mind before they do anything. They may think that income seen from this will benefit the city but what will the city gain, if it gets built and just sits there like to other two on Joy Road?

I for one would like to know who has so much clout with the city that they can convince these people to go for such a stupid thing. I have never liked any of the others but Mayor Wild, I don't understand where your head is on this.

Jim Work  
Westland

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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36251 Schoolcraft  
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### QUOTABLE

**"I let the preschoolers sit in. I let them ask questions and they answer questions. We know they know about drugs. Probably 70 percent of the parents have a problem with addiction and you'd be surprised with what they know."**  
— Sheldon Hill about youngsters in his drug and violence prevention program that prepares them to say no



## Presidential contest is close, and the question is why

The Democrats are doing their thing this week. The Republicans take the stage next week.

You'll hear a lot of the usual jibes, attacks, innuendoes and high-flying rhetorical flourishes. Unfortunately, political conventions are not the best venues for discovering what the candidates and parties are all about.



Hugh Gallagher

In a conversation last week with U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, he said congressional candidates who hold too closely to doctrinaire party positions would be the ones in danger of losing their seats this November.

But you can go on YouTube and watch a McCotter presentation on the House floor in which he drags out all the old and dreary labels for the Democrats. He attempts to "humorously" present a primer on speaking Democratic and then proceeds to equate Democrats with socialists, appeasers, big taxers, big spenders, anti-business. You know the drill. (But no, he isn't in danger of losing his seat.)

In our conversation, he said the American public is just as angry at Democratic-controlled Congress as they are at the sitting Republican president. He cites polls showing that this is the most unpopular Congress ever. But the fact is that the Democrats have only had control of Congress for two years, after 12 years of Republican control of the House. Many of the Democratic legislative initiatives have met with presidential vetoes or shortfalls in the Senate. The Senate is really an almost even split, with many conservative Democrats (and the lone wolf Joe Lieberman) giving the Republicans a majority on defense issues. It's hard to believe that the public could possibly equally blame the new Democratic majority in Congress with the president and his policies over the past eight years for the many messes the country is in.

But recent polls on the presidential race suggest a very close election.

Why? Real income is down. Foreclosures have reached historic highs. Thousands of American workers have found themselves out of work or underemployed. Many young college graduates have found it impossible to find a job in their field and difficult to find any job at all. The stock market has been in

a long skid, plunging the value of 401(k)s and making a comfortable retirement a dim prospect, even as many companies are trying to force workers toward retirement. (And we won't even mention disastrous environmental policies, no leadership on escalating health care costs and a war in Iraq that is costing us billions and short-circuited the hunt for bin Laden.)

Sen. John McCain has prided himself as a "maverick" and his personal history, his ability over time to work with Democrats and his folksy demeanor are all appealing qualities. It is interesting that voters in the Republican primaries chose the candidate who was least "doctrinaire" about Republican positions. But to seal the deal, McCain has moved back toward those doctrinaire positions. He could have, and may yet offer an alternative conservative vision, but time to make his case is running out. He has embraced a failed presidency.

Despite that, recent national polls show him and Sen. Barack Obama in a dead heat.

State polls from last week do show Obama pulling ahead in Michigan, the state that was the first to feel the full impact of a fast shifting global economy and an inadequate federal response. For far too long, many Michigan voters have been conned into voting against their own economic best interests.

Obama offers an opportunity to break that bad habit.

Obama is not a doctrinaire Democrat, much to the distress of some in that party. He does have serious economic ideas that borrow from across the political and academic spectrum, from Reagan to Clinton, from Friedman to Galbraith. His ideas are nuanced, pragmatic, based on free market principles.

But already the pundits are upset that the Obama campaign is pulling its punches, in its so-far tepid ads and at the convention. What are they waiting for, when Republicans have been girding themselves for the political lashing eight years of Bush "leadership" deserves.

Are we incapable of actually considering the real ideas of these candidates? Do we make all our decisions on which campaign can be more negative, more snarky, more misleading?

Too bad, here in southeast Michigan, we need ideas not sound bites.

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

## Schools pleased with progress, but results are 'horrific news'

"Pleased with progress" ... that would be in the eye of the beholder when it comes to Michigan 11th-grade students' devastating lack of performance on the MME. So a couple of Wayne-Westland high schools show modest improvement only based upon



Marcie Lipsitt

terrible performance. Detroit is an obliterated educational nightmare, but from the rest of Wayne's reported test scores, it is not the only city and school district in Michigan killing the educational lives of its students. And clearly the charters and public schools are doing no better and actually worse, if you factor in the students with

disabilities they want no part of educating.

The newly released results from the Michigan Merit Exam reflect horrific news; end of story. Buried in this terrible news are red flags the size of Mt. Vesuvius. For example: not only Detroit Public Schools, but the entire Wayne RESA has 15 high schools reporting zero proficiency for students in math and writing and 35 more reporting fewer than 8 percent of students are proficient in "all" content areas. Let's not discuss the percentage proficient in the 10-50 percent range — as no one with a conscience can refer to those percentages as acceptable or even as "improvement."

The ACLU is currently examining the egregious numbers of students (especially black Americans) losing their educational lives and ending up in what they refer to as the "school-to-prison pipeline." Especially Michigan with its interesting interpretation of "zero tolerance" reflects that far too many of our urban and economically challenged districts decide it is easier to suspend and expel than to educate Michigan's children; especially our black American students tossed out at a 4-1 rate versus their white male peers. Why don't we simply save Michigan taxpayers billions of dollars and identify our children the day they are born as either a future taxpayer or tax burden. Why give children false hope they will be educated in our schools and have an opportunity to become a

productive adult?

Folks, if your children are in Detroit, River Rouge, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Ferndale, Southfield, Oak Park, Pontiac, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Redford, Inkster or Gibraltar — and this only covers the Tri-County areas — far too many are poster-children for suspensions, expulsions, illiteracy, poverty, incarceration and a hopeless future. Right now their opportunity and ticket to the American Dream is anywhere but Michigan.

Michiganers must get educated, angry and fight for all of our children's rights to a meaningful and maximally productive public education. It is time to take a blow torch to public education in Michigan and re-create it to be the educational system our children deserve — or do we simply believe children are the future everywhere but in the State of Michigan?

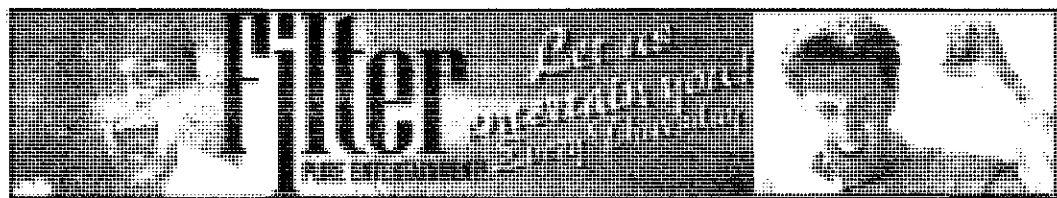
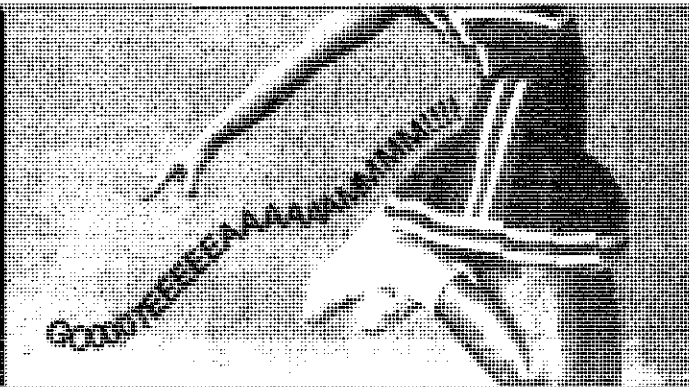
The second go-round of Michigan students have now taken the MME and ACT and with statistically insignificant increases and decreases in their writing, math, science and social studies test scores although a 3 percent decrease in social studies borders on statistically bad news. Michigan is a public education disaster and lacking a governor and legislature dedicated to the education revolution our 1.7 million students need and deserve.

The only good news — if there is such a thing in Michigan's no-one-cares, abysmal public education system — is that Michigan's budget crisis won't suffer from being overburdened by students earning the \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship. And, for the fewer than 50 percent who earn the first \$2,000 — most likely the state won't have to cough up the \$2,000 balance since the majority of our kids aren't prepared to make it in college, let alone make it past the first two years, into post-graduate programs or the global workforce.

Does no one remember that every time a child is born we have the obligation and opportunity to turn 98 percent into future workers, leaders and taxpayers?

Marcie Lipsitt of the Michigan Alliance for Special Education lives in Franklin.

Cheer for the  
hometeam,  
read today's  
SPORTS  
section



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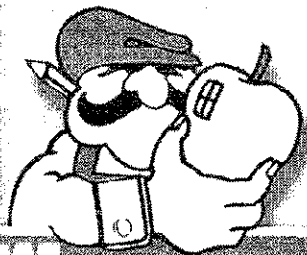
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# SPORTS

**B** (LW)

Thursday, August 28, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

## New KLAA a gas when it comes to traveling

Gas consumption is down across the nation, except when it comes to the opening night of football in the newly formed 23-school Kensington Lakes Activities Association, which was originally designed to cut down on travel expenses.

So how about these gas-guzzling first-week matchups? Livonia Churchill at Hartland (73 miles round trip); Waterford Mott at Westland John Glenn (60 miles round trip); Wayne Memorial at Waterford Mott (60 miles round trip); and Brighton vs. Canton at Plymouth (64 miles round trip).

And then there's the Redford Thurston at Croswell-Lexington matchup, which has the KLAA matchups beaten by



Grid Picks

Brad Emons

Call that one the Michigan Mega-Blue Water Area Conference challenge. Thank goodness for Livonia Franklin at Livonia Stevenson on opening night.

Week No. 2 doesn't get any closer: Waterford Kettering at Churchill; Walled Lake Western at Franklin; Stevenson at Howell; John Glenn at Pinckney; Mott at Wayne; Brighton at Plymouth; and Lakeland at Canton.

a whole tank of fuel — a Mapquest 194 miles round trip, to be exact.

And don't forget to allow yourselves that extra 30 minutes for rush-hour traffic.

But once division play starts in Week No. 3, travel will be reduced considerably.

Here is a look at this week's matchups as Livonia-Westland Sports Editor Brad Emons tries to retain his grid picks prognostication title against Redford-Garden City Sports Editor Tim Smith and Plymouth-Canton Sports Editor Ed Wright:

**THURSDAY'S GAMES**  
(ALL 7 P.M. STARTS UNLESS NOTED)  
LUTH. WESTLAND (5-4, 4-3) at D.H. ANNAPOLIS (6-4, 4-2), 4:30 p.m.: Annapolis is coming off a playoff season, while the Warriors, with only four seniors on their roster, find themselves in a major rebuilding mode: PICKS: Emons (Annapolis); Wright (Annapolis); Smith

(Annapolis).

Det. University Prep (2-6) at Liv. Clarenceville (1-8, 1-6): The Trojans hope to rebound from their worst season in 10 years with the addition of Detroit Cody transfer Dominique Jones and Indiana University recruit Jeremy Gainer. PICKS: Emons (C'ville); Wright (C'ville); Smith (C'ville).

Liv. Churchill (7-3, 4-1) at Hartland (3-6, 2-5): This is where the KVC and the WLA lock horns for the first time. Churchill's backfield duo of Jeff Ricketts and Matt Kowalis is potent. Hartland, meanwhile, is expected to be much improved after several close losses last year. PICKS: Emons (Churchill); Wright (Churchill); Smith (Hartland).

Liv. Franklin (7-5, 3-2) at Liv. Stevenson (13-1, 5-0): Didn't these two teams play just a couple of weeks ago? The last meeting, a state playoff quarterfinal, went to the Spartans, 10-7. Should be another good

matchup of backfields with Austin White and Wade Stahl of Stevenson against Franklin's David Fortin and newcomer Mike Baumgardner. This could be the best game of the night. PICKS: Emons (Stevenson); Wright (Stevenson); Smith (Stevenson).

Waterford Mott (7-3, 7-1) at Westland Glenn (5-4, 3-2): Mott made the playoffs last year out of the OAA Blue, while Glenn is under new leadership with Tim Hardin. Where's Keshawn Martin when you need him? PICKS: Emons (Glenn); Wright (Glenn); Smith (Mott).

Wayne (4-5, 2-3) at Waterford Kettering (4-5, 4-4): Have these teams ever met? Kettering also comes out of the OAA Blue, while the Zebras will implement their spread option attack under the guidance of rookie coach Kevin Weber, the KLAA's youngest. PICKS: Emons (Wayne); Wright (Kettering); Smith (Wayne).

Brighton (3-6, 3-4) vs. Canton (5-4,

Please see PICKS, B3

## Signings

### O&E Men's golf

The 2008 Observer & Eccentric Men's Open 36-hole medal play event will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-21, at Livonia's Fox Creek and Whispering Willows golf courses.

The entry fee is \$95 (cart not included) with a maximum handicap of 20.

Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Entries will be limited to the first 200 golfers. (Starting times and pairings will be available after noon on Thursday, Sept. 18.)

For more information, call (248) 476-4493.

### Blazers tie Saline

Junior goalkeeper Marissa Ellswood made 11 saves as Livonia Ladywood opened its 2008 girls field hockey season with 0-0 tie Tuesday at Saline.

Sarah Ogar made five saves for the Hornets (0-0-1).

The Blazers (0-0-1) return to action at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5 at home against Ann Arbor Huron.

### Spartans net third

Christ Martin captured the No. 1 singles flight Saturday as the Livonia Stevenson boys tennis team took third in the eight-school Monroe Trojan Classic.

University of Detroit-Jesuit captured the team title with 21 points followed by Canton and Stevenson with 18 and 15, respectively.

Stevenson's Kevin Francisco added a runner-up finish at No. 4 singles, while the third doubles duo of Vince Sabatini and Paul Franchina also placed second.

Stevenson's No. 2 doubles team of Josh Rochette and Simjae Holman-Rayos, along with the No. 4 squad of Jeff Sondergaard and Paul VanGilder each finished third.

### SHS grid parking

Auxiliary parking for tonight's Livonia Franklin at Livonia Stevenson football game will be available behind the visitor bleachers beginning at 6.

To access, take Farmington Road north to Curtis and head west (left) towards old Marshall Elementary School. Enter the far west side, into the lot, and drive through the gate onto the grass. Follow the orange cones and park on the grass behind the visitor bleachers. Parking attendants will be on hand to assist.

You may purchase a ticket at the gate near the visitor bleachers for \$5 apiece.

For more information, call the Stevenson athletic department at (734) 744-2894.

## PKs decide

### Stevenson survives; Churchill falls, 1-0

Brian Klemczak's penalty kick midway through the second half proved to be the difference Monday as host Livonia Stevenson downed Warren DeLaSalle in a battle of perennial boys state soccer powers, 2-1.

The win improves the Spartans' overall record to 2-0-1, while the Pilots fall to 4-2-1.

Miguel Lipari's goal in the 15th minute gave DeLaSalle a 1-0 lead, but Stevenson's David Simor tied it on an unassisted goal late in the first half.

The score stayed that way until Klemczak was fouled in the box.

Conner Burton went all the way in goal for Stevenson.

The Spartans also got a sterling effort from Chris Long, who anchored their back line.

"They (DeLaSalle) really came out strong, but we battled back at the end of the first half and had a bit of an edge the second half," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said.

**NORTHVILLE 1, CHURCHILL 0:** University of Michigan recruit Latif Alashe scored on a penalty kick with a minute left in the first half Tuesday as the host Mustangs (4-0) spoiled the

Please see **SOCCER, B3**



Farmington's leading scorer, Tyler O'Hara (left), tries to win a foot race to the ball with Westland John Glenn's Will Jenkins in soccer action Monday. The Falcons jumped out to a 4-0 halftime lead and held on for a 4-3 win.

## Prep spikers ready to carry torch

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia's Kyndra Abron loomed larger than life over Observerland volleyball courts the past few years.

As a junior, the 6-foot-2 Abron helped the Chargers to the state Class A championship and during her senior year earned Michigan's coveted Miss Volleyball Award.

The hard-hitting Abron has moved on to Michigan State, while another key performer for Churchill, All-Division choice Jordan Kerr, now plays for Schoolcraft College.

Churchill may be hard-pressed to



Kristen Nalezcz Churchill



Lindsay Graciak Churchill

duplicate last year's 45-3-3 overall record, but the cupboard is far from bare as coach Mark Grenier returns a veteran cast, led by two first-team All-

### PREP VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Observer performers in 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter Kristen Nalezcz, along with 5-6 senior libero Lindsey Graciak.

"We're mixing some seniors, who saw a lot of floor time last year with some talented juniors," said Grenier, who is entering his fifth season as the Chargers' coach. "I would expect that if we maintain the hard work, and if we stay positive, we'll have a successful season."

Another area team to watch is Lutheran High Westland, which is coming off a 28-5-5 season and a Class D district title.

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B3**

## Lady Ocelots start off '08 with four wins

Schoolcraft College opened the 2008 women's volleyball season with a near-perfect weekend showing at Delta College as the Lady Ocelots romped to 3-0 victories in all four conference matches — defeating Alpena and Delta two matches each.

**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL** On Friday, Schoolcraft defeated the

Lumberjacks 25-13, 25-15 and 25-5 before hammering the host Pioneers in similar fashion, 25-11, 25-13, 25-8.

"We only committed 12 unforced errors in this match," said Schoolcraft coach Richard Lamb about Friday's triumph over Delta. "We were able to see what all the players bring to the table."

Lamb saw the Lady Ocelots basically repeat Friday's strong performance on Saturday. Schoolcraft (4-0) romped to a 25-7, 25-13, 25-11 victory over Alpena and wrapped up the weekend with a 25-8, 25-19, 25-13 win over Delta.

"Delta really brought their A-game during the second set," noted Lamb. "At one point, we were down by four."

"Our team maintained their calm and we were able to run the last six points for the win."

Canton's Virginia Butler (Westland John Glenn) sparked Schoolcraft's offense with a total of 40 kills over the four matches.

Freshman defensive specialist Jordan Kerr (Livonia Churchill) opened her college career in style. She totaled 42

Please see **OCELOTS, B3**

## Hawks swoop to opening victory

So much for the so-called sophomore jinx.

Leah Miller, a 10th-grader, recorded 10 kills as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran opened its 2008 girls volleyball season with a 3-1 win over host Sterling Heights Parkway Christian.

Senior setter Kayla Stockdale chipped in with 17 assist-to-kills, while senior Samantha Barber served six ace serves in the 25-14, 22-25, 25-14, 25-21 triumph.

### Spartans start off 1-4

Livonia Stevenson got an early jump on the 2008 girls volleyball season Saturday by going 1-4 at the Carleton-Airport Invitational tournament.

The Spartans were competitive in all five matches, but only came away with one victory, a 28-26, 25-14 triumph over

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

Dearborn.

Losses came against the host Jets (17-25, 23-25), Birmingham Groves (23-25, 25-17, 10-15); Dearborn Divine Child (20-25, 25-16, 15-11); and Troy (20-25, 23-25).

Kaylee McGrath was Stevenson's top hitter on the day with 26 kills.

Brooke Knochel was the Spartans' top all-around player with 24 kills, 43 digs and seven ace serves, while Meg Iafraate chipped in with 22 kills and 12 solo blocks.

Top defensive players included Christine Armstrong (43 digs) and Shelby Wilson (25 digs).

Setter Katie Vellucci had 57 assist-to-kills and five aces.

### Patriots finish 0-5

It was a learning day for Livonia Franklin, which opened its season Saturday with five losses in the South Lyon Tournament.

The Patriots lost all five matches including: Ann Arbor Pioneer (9-25, 7-25); North Branch (8-25, 3-25); Garden City (18-25, 12-25); Fenton (13-25, 24-26); and Howell (19-25, 17-25).

Junior setter Liz Hollaway led Franklin with 19 kills, 22 assists and three aces.

Other statistical leaders included: senior Ashly Butkowski, eight kills and eight digs; sophomore Chelsea Williams, six kills; libero Kate Zurenko, three aces and 10 digs; and defensive specialists Sam Culp, nine digs, and Ellen Hurt, eight digs.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU Sunday fall hoops

The Madonna University men's basketball program and All-Star Basketball Camps will stage its 2008 fall basketball league on Sundays, Sept. 7 through Oct. 26.

The league will provide instruction in preparation for the upcoming winter basketball season from MU players.

Division II (ages 11-13) starts at 1 p.m. each followed by Division I at 3 p.m.

The cost is \$125 per player (includes reversible game jersey with number).

For more information, call Chuck Henry at (734) 432-5991 (office) or (734) 398-5975 (home); or e-mail him at chenry@madonna.edu.

Girls softball tryouts Additional tryouts for the Livonia Storm girls fastpitch softball team age groups will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Sunday, Sept. 7, at Bicentennial Park (fields nos. 9-10), located off Seven Mile Road (at Wayne Road).

For more information, visit http://www.livoniasstorm.com.

Boys hoop league

Beginning the week of Sept. 23, the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage a fall

boys basketball league at the Livonia Community Recreation Center gym.

Team placement tryouts for Division I (ages 9-11) will be from 6-7 p.m. and Division II (ages 12-14) from 7-8 p.m., both Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the LCRC.

Team notification will be Tuesday, Sept. 16.

Division I practices will be Tuesday, Sept. 23 and 30 followed by games on Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4 and 11.

Division II practices will be Thursday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 followed by games Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6 and 11.

The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 8 and starts Monday, Aug. 18 (LCRC pass holders); Tuesday, Aug. 19 (Livonia residents); and Thursday, Aug. 21 (non-residents) at the LCRC, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Fees are \$49 (pass holders), \$58 (Livonia residents) and \$65 (non-residents).

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Girls hoop league

Beginning the week of Sept. 28, the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage a fall girls basketball league for ages 10-13 at the Livonia

Community Recreation Center gym.

Team placement tryouts will be from 6-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, followed by practices on Sept. 26 and Oct. 3. League games follow Oct. 10, 17, 24; Nov. 7, 14 and 21.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 11, and starts Monday, Aug. 18 (LCRC pass holders); Tuesday, Aug. 19 (Livonia residents); and Thursday, Aug. 21 (non-residents) at the LCRC, located at 15100 Hubbard.

Fees are \$49 (pass holders), \$58 (Livonia residents) and \$65 (non-residents).

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Men's fall basketball

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a managers meeting for its seven-week, 2008 men's fall basketball league beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (conference room), located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The fee is \$320 per team (plus officials fees each game). The season starts Nov. 5.

For more information, call Erin Knieper at (734) 466-2412.

Adult women's hockey

An adult women's hockey league will begin its fall session (Oct. 3 through Sept. 12) at Veterans Arena in Ann Arbor.

Beginners are welcome. No experience necessary.

The registration fee, due by Sept. 12, is \$190 (includes jersey). Games will be scheduled at 7:50 p.m., 8:50 p.m., 9:50 p.m. and 10:50 p.m. on Fridays.

To register online, visit www.macrh.com.

Coaches wanted

Wayne Memorial High School is seeking a boys cross country coach in the fall and a girls varsity bowling coach for the winter.

Previous high school coaching experience is preferred.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resume to: Greg Ambrose, athletic director, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI 48184.

Information can also be faxed to (734) 595-2227.

Youth baseball tryouts

Tryouts for the Westland Warthogs, a 13-and-under travel baseball team will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5; and Wednesday, Sept. 10,

at Wayne-Ford Civic League baseball fields, located at Wayne Road, just south of Ford.

For more information, call Keith Kiesznowski at (734) 846-3513.

Tryouts will be staged the next few weeks for the 2009 WaCo Wolves, a 14-and-under team which will play in the 15-and-under division of the Kensington Valley Baseball-Softball Association, along with regional events.

The Wolves will start play in early April and end in late July with close to an 80-game schedule which includes the Omaha (Neb.) Slump Buster held during the College World Series.

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820.

Baseball Academy

The Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be conducting showcase sessions for high school players as well as skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

The latest pro pitch trainer will be used and former Phillies pitcher Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

Adult flag football

Players are need for an adult flag football league, which runs Mondays and Wednesdays, during the months of September and October, in Royal Oak. The sponsor is Waterford Flagstar Bank.

The registration deadline is Sunday, Aug. 31.

For more information, call (248) 246-3180.

Travel baseball-softball

The Kensington Valley Baseball Softball Association is accepting applications for travel baseball and softball teams for the 2009 season.

There are currently openings in all age brackets in both baseball and softball for new and existing teams.

Baseball features multiple divisions - community, advanced, open - for under-9 through under-18. Softball divisions will be determined by interest for under-10 through under-18.

Meetings for the upcoming season will begin in October.

For more information, e-mail Jeff David at jeff.david@kvbsa.com; or visit www.kvbsa.com.

GIRLS SWIM RESULTS

KENZIE KLASSIC GIRLS SWIM MEET RESULTS Aug. 23 at Howell Parker TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Howell, 350 points; 2. Westland, John Glenn, 263; 3. Fontaine Notre Dame Prep, 252; 4. Jackson, 221; 5. Walled Lake Western, 151; 6. Waterford United, 124; 7. Ypsilanti Lincoln, 80; 8. Holly, 26. FINAL RESULTS 200-yard medley relay (Heat 4): 1. W.L. Western (Alexia Fregonara, Sarah Krueger, Samantha Hudson, Christy Ostach), 1:58.85; 4. John Glenn (Jordan Burgess, Kelli Aloti, Ashley Sells, Jessica Fiehrer), 2:03.53; (Heat 3): 1. Howell, 2:09.17; (Heat 2): 1. Howell, 2:18.77; (Heat 1): 1. Howell, 2:28.72. 200 freestyle (Heat 4): 1. Khiry Sparks (WJG), 2:06.96; (Heat 3): 1. Alyssa Varsanik (NDP), 2:16.44; 2. Rachel Alholinna (WJG), 2:18.24; (Heat 2): 1. Kaleigh Mullin (NDP), 2:14.61; 3. Lindsey Bessinger (WJG), 2:19.96; (Heat 1): 1. Christine Convery (NDP), 2:19.5. 200 individual medley (Heat 4): 1. Casey Peterson (WJG), 2:24.69; (Heat 3): 1. Chelsea Mackenzie (NDP), 2:26.95; 2. Chelsea Rauss (WJG), 2:38.17; (Heat 2): 1. Jessica Hatfield (H), 2:36.11; 3. Jennie Humbach (WJG), 2:42.68; (Heat 1): 1. Katie Fillingner (H), 2:41.37; 2. Kate Moran (WJG), 2:51.83. 50 freestyle (Heat 4): 1. Megan Sidge (H), 26.23; 2. Fregonara (WJG), 26.28; 3. Burgess (WJG), 26.43; (Heat 3): 1. Gabe Montesanti (H), 27.34; (Heat 2): 1. Audrey Andrews (J), 28.07; (Heat 1): 1. Shannon Schultz (H), 27.99. 1-meter diving (Heat 3): 1. Haley Waynes (H), 168.25 points; 2. Sophie Daugherty (WJG), 165.40; 3. Desiree Clenney (WJG), 159.95; (Heat 2): 1. Katy Harris (WJG), 136.20; 3. Adrienne Hall (WJG), 129.15; (Heat 1):

Kaitlyn Gralopp (H), 154.80; 3. Brooke Graham (WJG), 103.45. 100 butterfly (Heat 4): 1. Sells (WJG), 1:02.51; 2. Hudson (WJG), 1:03.46; (Heat 3): 1. Rachael Myers (J), 1:12.77; (Heat 2): 1. Shelby Fultz (WJG), 1:20.17; 2. Kristin Jacob (WJG), 1:21.73; 3. Bessinger (WJG), 1:22.41; (Heat 1): 1. Howell, 1:16.27. 100 freestyle (Heat 4): 1. Alex Dhaenens (H), 58.24; 2. Sparks (WJG), 58.48; (Heat 3): 1. Sidge (H), 58.53; 2. Fiehrer (WJG), 1:04.12; (Heat 2): 1. Mullin (NDP), 1:03.56; (Heat 1): 1. Shannon Kaus (H), 1:04.68; 3. Ashley Solberg (WJG), 1:08.73. 500 freestyle (Heat 4): 1. Hudson (WJG), 5:35.71; 2. Peterson (WJG), 5:40.37; (Heat 3): 1. Ostach (WJG), 6:09.43; (Heat 2): 1. Megan Kuckuk (H), 6:14.45; 3. Alholinna (WJG), 6:26.49; (Heat 1): 1. Myers (J), 6:30.08. 200 freestyle relay (Heat 4): 1. Howell (Dhaenens, Reni Schmidt), Montesanti, Sidge), 1:48.32; 3. John Glenn (Sparks, Fiehrer, Marlene Nicolous, Kara Weaver), 1:50.75; (Heat 3): 1. Howell (Katie Lorkowski, Emily Lorkowski, Hatfield, Sarah Cook), 1:54.62; 3. John Glenn (Kati Aloti, Harris, Alholinna, Jacquelyn Hewitt), 1:59.08; (Heat 2): 1. Howell (Cody Owens, Kaus, Tashina Obrecht, Kuckuk), 1:59.52; 2. John Glenn (Margaret Wright, Kelsie Yax, Clenney, Kelly Peterson), 2:06.85; (Heat 1): 1. Notre Dame Prep (Ava Healy, Emily Kay, Cara Stewart, Audrey Tatum), 2:15.8; 3. John Glenn (Zarab, Burke, Ginda), Notesco. 100 backstroke (Heat 4): 1. Fregonara (WJG), 1:03.29; 2. Sells (WJG), 1:07.03; (Heat 3): 1. Montesanti (H), 1:10.2; (Heat 2): 1. Shelby Altricht (H), 1:14.15; (Heat 1): 1. Courtney Hammond (H), 1:13.0; 3. Moran (WJG), 1:22.08.



Powerade champs

Livonia '97 Red, a 12-and-under boys soccer team, captured first place with a 4-0 record while outscoring their opponents 20-2 in the under-13 division, Aug. 10, at the Livingston County Powerade Invitational. Members of '97 Red, which merged the Livonia Meteors and Livonia Wings, include (front row, from left): Tyler Kaufman, Andrew Smutek, Dominic Rea, Danny Bessenes, Aaron Wilson, Matthew Freed, Kent Peterson, Brendan Dilloway; (second row, from left) Hunter Mullett, Brian Alsbrooks, David Vandekerckhove, Harrison Chen, Austin Rynicki, Greg Kilroy, Tyler Melow and Andrew Moyer. (Not pictured is coach Les Neal.)

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PICKS

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3-2) at P-CEP Varsity Stadium: The Chiefs didn't make the state playoffs for the first time in eight years and that's motivation enough. Brighton has also had some lean times of late. Cliff Kiefer takes over as the Bulldogs' head coach for Bill Murray, who guided the immortal Drew Henson (now of Detroit Lions fame). PICKS: Emons (Canton); Wright (Canton); Smith (Canton).  
Salem (1-8, 1-4) vs. Plymouth (6-4, 2-3) at P-CEP: The Rocks are hungry to turn their program around, but must do it against the neighboring Wildcats, a playoff team which defeated Salem twice last year, 31-14 and 55-6. PICKS: Emons (Plymouth); Wright (Plymouth); Smith (Plymouth).  
Garden City (2-7, 1-5) at Taylor Kennedy (4-5, 3-3): The Cougars are dropping down to the Mega Blue, while Kennedy remains in the Mega White. Kennedy took last year's season opener, 21-0. PICKS: Emons (Kennedy); Wright (Kennedy);

Smith (Kennedy).  
Redford Union (5-4, 3-3) at D.H. Crestwood (5-4, 5-1): Both teams fell one win short of making the playoffs a year ago. RU remains in the Mega White, while Crestwood is a member of the Mega Gold. PICKS: Emons (RU); Wright (RU); Smith (RU).  
Red. Thurston (3-6, 2-4) at Crosswell-Lexington (3-6, 3-4): The Eagles, members of the Mega Gold, make a long road trip on opening night against the Pioneers, members of the Blue Water Conference. PICKS: Emons (Thurston); Wright (Thurston); Smith (Thurston).  
FRIDAY'S GAME  
Det. Allen Academy (0-0) at Redford Covenant (8-3, 4-1), 4:30 p.m.: The Spartans, led by Indiana recruit Jamonne Chester, went two rounds into the Division 8 playoffs a year ago, while Allen Academy is just getting its feet wet. PICKS: Emons (Covenant); Wright (Covenant); Smith (Covenant).  
Brad Emons is the Livonia-Westland Observer sports editor. He can be reached at (734) 953-2123; or via e-mail at bemons@oe.hometownlife.com.

SOCCER

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season opener for Livonia Churchill (0-1).  
"We created a lot of great chances, but they (Northville) probably had it 65-45 in possession," said Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs. "We lost a similar game to them (1-0) last year. But overall I thought our guys played well, especially our keeper Adrian Motta and our center-back Adam Bedell."  
FARMINGTON 4, JOHN GLENN 3: Westland John Glenn (0-2-1) made a furious second-half comeback, but came up short in a nonleague match Monday at home against the Falcons (2-1).  
Farmington roared out to a 4-0 halftime lead on a pair of goals by Tyler O'Hara and one each from Tomek Boley and Zach Schulz with three goals coming within a four-minute span.  
The Rockets stormed back in the second half on goals by Nelson Kenne, Jacob Gates and Steve Thompson and nearly tied it in the final minutes.  
"I was disappointed with the way we played the first half, but

I'm proud of my boys the way they attacked and came back the second half." Glenn first-year coach Jimmy Mortada said.  
MILFORD 3, WAYNE 2: In a KLAAC crossover Monday, host Wayne Memorial (0-2-1) played the final 60 minutes one-player short after a deliberate handball in the box in a setback to Highland Milford (2-1).  
Jacob Hewitt scored both goals for the Zebras, while goalkeeper Corey Taylor made 12 saves in the setback.  
"I think we played really well being a man down — we're starting to come together," Wayne first-year coach Ashley Cooley said.  
W.L. WESTERN 3, FRANKLIN 0: After a scoreless first half, Walled Lake Western (2-1) broke through with two goals by Alex Thomson and a third by Stephen Magee at the end of the game Monday against visiting Livonia Franklin (0-3).  
Thomson was set by Raul Garcia and Joe Deverteuil on run-and-pass plays. Deverteuil also assisted on the Magee goal.  
"Our goalkeeper (Blake Hunter) played brilliantly and made 10 first-class saves," Western coach Lee Fruman said. "He kept us in the game, and we finally were able to break through."

OCELOTS

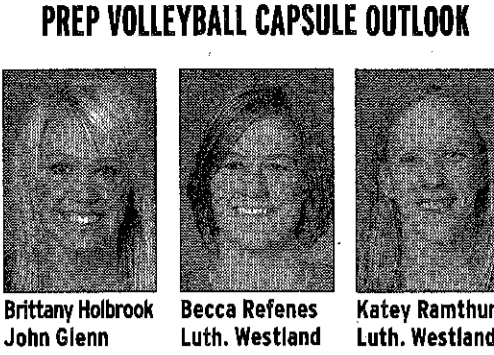
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defensive digs.  
Registering 69 assists was freshman setter Brittany Denter while freshman outside hitter Kaitlyn Litteral chipped in with 10 blocks.  
"Overall, it was a good start," Lamb said. "We still have a lot of work to do, but this team is highly competitive and has a strong desire to improve on areas that need it."  
"I am impressed with their composure and maturity at this point in the season."  
MU cruises to title  
On Saturday, the 10th-ranked Madonna University

got 13 kills from Lubovj Tihomirova and 12 kills from Mary McGinnis to clinch the 2008 Early Bird Challenge against No. 25 Mount Vernon Nazarene (Ohio) in a match at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.  
McGinnis hit at a .476 clip and setter Inta Grinvalds had 35 assist-to-kills as the 5-0 Crusaders won in three straight, 27-25, 25-17, 25-16, giving coach Jerry Abraham 849 career wins, just three behind Mt. Vernon coach Paul Swanson's record of 852.  
Earlier in the day, MU downed Point Park (Pa.) in three straight, 25-15, 26-24, 25-19, as Tihomirova had 11 kills, while Whitney Fuelling and McGinnis each added nine.

PREP VOLLEYBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL  
Head coach: Mark Grenier, fifth year.  
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (South Division).  
Last year's overall record: 45-3-3.  
Titles won last year: Western Lakes Activities Association, Lakes Division, Class A district, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Temperance Bedford and WLAA/Mega Challenge tournament champions.  
Notable losses to graduation: Kyndra Abron (first-team All-Area; Miss Volleyball); Jordan Kerr (third-team All-Area); Jackie Griebek, Shannon Warner.  
Leading returnees: Lindsey Graciak, 5-6 Sr. Libero (first-team All-Area); Kristen Nalecz, 5-10 Sr. OH (first-team All-Area); Jessica Stroud, 5-10 Sr. OH; Katie Matz, 5-9 Sr. OH; Katherine Krupsky, 5-9 Sr. OH; Kristy DeClercq, 5-6 Sr. Setter.  
Promising newcomers: Sarah Suppelsa, 5-11 Jr. OH; Darcy DeRoo, 5-10 Jr. OH; Cierra Yeltz, 5-9 Jr. OH; Kristine Maleske, 5-8 Jr. OH; Taylor Kerr, 5-6 Jr. DS; Kristine Walker, 5-6 Jr. DS; Cory Urbats, 5-6 Soph. DS-Setter.  
Grenier's 2008 outlook: "Since January, these kids have worked very hard. In addition, we had a good summer camp, followed by a great showing during this summer's team camp. Our goal is to maintain the hard work and hopefully that will help us transition into being competitive within our division."



Brittany Holbrook, Becca Refenes, and Katay Ramthun.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN  
Head coach: Linda Jimenez, third year.  
League affiliation: KLAAC (South Division).  
Last year's overall record: 7-26-8.  
Notable losses to graduation: Ashley Price (third-team All-Area); Sara Slack.  
Leading returnees: Ellen Hurt, 5-3 Sr. Setter; Sam Culp, 5-5 Sr. Libero; Ashly Butkowski, 5-7 Sr. OH; Liz Holloway, 5-8 Jr. Setter; Kate Zurenko, 5-2 Jr. Libero; Amanda Borio, 5-7 Soph. OH; Chelsea Williams, 5-8 Soph. OH.  
Promising newcomers: Savannah Haig, 5-8 Jr. OH; Amanda Nixon, 5-4 Jr. OH; Emma Green, 6-0 Jr. OH; Cassie Pietron, 6-2 Soph. OH; Nicole Williamson, 5-2 Fr. Libero; Kathryn Chinavare, 5-7 Fr. OH.  
Jimenez's 2008 outlook: "Our captains — Holloway, Butkowski and Hurt — bring positive energy and a great work ethic every day. As a result, the rest of the team does the same. We will run a 5-1 offense with lefty setter Holloway, who will also be an offensive threat and a key blocker. Outside hitters Butkowski, Haig and Borio are finesse rather than power hitters, while the backbone of our team will be our four defensive specialists — Williamson, Hurt, Culp and Zurenko. Our two sophomore middle hitters, Williams and Pietron, are very athletic, but inexperienced. Last year we were young, and unfortunately we're even younger with only one starter returning in holloway."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN  
Head coach: Julian Wargo, third year.  
League affiliation: KLAAC (South Division).  
Last year's overall record: 10-22-6.  
Notable losses to graduation: Kirstin Kirk (second-team All-Area).  
Leading returnees: Brittany Holbrook, 6-0 Sr. MH (first-team All-Area); Stacey Truskowski, 5-9 Sr. OH; Jennifer Michalek, 5-6 Sr. OH; Shelley Sportsman, 5-4 Sr. DS; Brittanni Robinson, 5-7 Jr. OH; Lauren Baker, 5-5 Jr. Setter; Haile Baker, 5-11 Soph. MH.  
Promising newcomers: Brooke Zwick, 5-3 Soph. DS; Katie Down, 5-3 Soph. DS; Brianna Domen, 5-7 Jr. OH; Mercedes Robinson, 5-5 Jr. OH; Mackenzie Stephens, 5-9 Jr. OH.  
Wargo's 2008 outlook: "With the change in our league, we're looking to be more competitive this year. I'm very pleased and excited about the improvement that all the players have made by working so hard in the off-season. Their level of commitment to the team and the sport will be evident to anyone who has watched us play the past couple of year. The key to our success on the floor will come from our back row players and how well they control the ball and get it into the hands of second-year setter Lauren Baker. We'll continue to play the type of hard-nosed and scrappy defense, that has become one of the hallmarks of the Rockets' volleyball."

WAYNE MEMORIAL  
Head coach: Robin Thomas, second year.  
League affiliation: KLAAC (South Division).  
Last year's overall record: 1-27.  
Notable losses to graduation: Jessica Novack, Jillian Novak, Katie Wilson.  
Leading returnees: Caitie Badrak, 5-7 Sr. OH-RH; Samantha Dye, 5-10 Sr. OH; Bianca Hayes, 5-5 Sr. Setter; Jessie Harris, 5-4 Sr. OH; Emily Rudy, 5-9 Jr. OH; Colleen Blake, 5-7 Sr. DS.  
Promising newcomers: Taylor Krohn, Jr. Setter; Brittany Grubbs, Jr. MH.  
Thomas's 2008 outlook: "Our booster club helped send most of our team to the U-M team camp this summer. This helped us move forward in our development as a team and provided much needed individual skills training. We're hoping to continue to build our program with this type of off-season opportunity in the years to come. Emily Rudy is one of our shining stars. She attend the U-M hitting camp this summer and has been polishing her jump serve. She shines in the middle, but is a strong all-around player. Caitie Badrak also attended the hitting camp and is jumping higher and hitting harder than ever. She is strong at any spot on the court, but is generally hitting outside for us this season. Both Harris and Dye are both returning from injuries that took them out last season. Both are strong outside hitters. Blake has been shifted from her role from right-side hitter to defensive specialist and has helped improve our defense and serve receive. Grubbs will also be filling the gap we had in our front row on the right side."

LIVONIA STEVENSON  
Head coach: Kelly Graham, 15th year.  
League affiliation: KLAAC (Central Division).  
Last year's overall record: 20-21-4.  
Notable losses to graduation: Natalie Fenech.  
Leading returnees: Meg Iafraite, 5-9 Sr. MH (second-team All-Area); Brooke Knochel, 5-8 Sr. OH; Kaylee McGrath, 6-0 Sr. MH; Katie Vellucci, 5-5 Sr. Setter; Christine Armstrong, 5-4 Sr. Libero.  
Promising newcomers: Emily Hollandsworth, 5-7 Jr. OH; Claire LeBlanc, 5-8 Jr. Setter; Shelby Wilson, 5-3 Jr. DS; Alisha Linstrom, 5-10 Jr. OH; Amanda Wigand, 5-10 Jr. OH; Coley Favaro, 5-8 Jr. OH.  
Graham's 2008 outlook: "We have a solid returning senior squad of very good athletes. I'll be relying on their experience as well as talent to help the team work toward being competitive. The juniors new to the program have a great deal of talent with not a lot of experience. I believe the more opportunity they have to play and to be out there on the court with seniors will only add to their success as well as the team. If we stay healthy, we'll be competitive in the division."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD  
Head coach: Erin Grubbs, eighth year.  
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).  
Last year's overall record: 17-17-5.  
Titles won last year: Class B district champions.  
Notable losses to graduation: Catherine Phillips (first-team

All-Area).  
Leading returnees: Julie Rhodes, 5-8 Sr. Setter (third-team All-Area); Alex Mirabatur, 5-7 Sr. Libero; Rachael Fuller, 5-9 Sr. OH; Ashley Hines, 5-8 Jr. OH; Katy Rooney, 6-1 Soph. MH; Caitlin McCloy, 6-1 Soph. MH; Shannon Hogg, 6-1 Soph. RSH; Julie Siregedas, 5-9 Soph. OH; Courtney Smith, 5-6 Soph. Libero.  
Promising newcomers: Claire Dezeliski, 5-8 Jr. OH; Clare Hudson, 6-0 Jr. MH-RH.  
Craggs' 2008 outlook: "Rhodes is an experienced setter and has the ability to keep her composure in all situations. Mirabatur is our returning libero. She has more confidence this year and leads the team with energy and intensity. Fuller will be our leading offensive threat. She has the ability to hit from all positions and is an intimidating blocker. This team works very well together. We have great size and the ball control to be extremely competitive this year."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE  
Head coach: Wendy Merschan, third year.  
League affiliation: Metro Conference.  
Last year's overall record: 13-19-3.  
Notable losses to graduation: Amanda Moody (third-team All-Area); Amber Mills, Amber Deryme, Chelsea Lawler, Corrine Clark.  
Leading returnees: Marlene Azar, 5-8 Sr. MH; Kat Hall, 5-7 Jr. OH-DS; Teresa Parent, 5-1 Jr. Libero; Angela Bell, 5-5 Sr. OH; Samantha Giordano, 5-5 Sr. DS; Lisa Wilson, Sr. DS; Katie Blacker, 5-5 Sr. Setter.  
Promising newcomers: Laisha Patterson, 6-0 Sr. MH; Ashley Welch, Jr. Setter; Ashley Devon, 5-6 Jr. DS; Morgan Tressler, 5-5 Jr. OH; Megan McLaughlin, 5-7 Jr. MH.  
Merschan's 2008 outlook: "We're really excited to get things started. The girls are determined to have a better season than last year and are working very hard. They seem to gel and play as a team. We should be very competitive with the other teams."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND  
Head coach: Kevin Wade, third year.  
League affiliation: Metro Conference.  
Last year's overall record: 28-5-5.  
Titles won last year: Class D district champions.  
Notable losses to graduation: Myrian Storck, Julie Jongsma, Sam Terranella.  
Leading returnees: Becca Refenes, 6-2 Sr. MH (first-team All-Area); Katay Ramthun, 5-9 Sr. OH (first-team All-Area); Allyson Yankee, 5-9 Sr. OH; Lauren Gieschen, 5-6 Sr. Setter; Abi Gieschen, 5-6 Sr. DS.  
Promising newcomers: Rachel Storck, 5-8 Jr. OH; Nicole Zehel, 5-4 Jr. DS; Lauren Switzer, 5-4 Jr. Setter; Emilie Freeman, 6-2 Jr. OH; Emily Watson, 5-8 Jr. OH.  
Wade's 2008 outlook: "We have the potential to be very good. We have a good mix of experienced talent and young, raw talent. We'll get better as the season goes along and hopefully everything comes together at the right time."

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN  
Head coach: Mike Dest, fifth year.  
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).  
Last year's overall record: 16-19-2.  
Titles won last year: MIAC-Red Division champions.  
Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Adloff (third-team All-Area); Emily Helwig, Sarah Schaffer, Nicole Smith, Brandy Nocella.  
Leading returnees: Kayla Stockdale, 5-2 Sr. Setter (second-team All-MIAC); Samantha Barber, 5-10 Sr. MH; Leah Miller, 5-7 Soph. MH; Abby Hoff, 5-7 Sr. DS; Cristina Gutierrez, 5-7 Sr. OH; Staci Hatzung, 5-7 Sr. OH.  
Promising newcomers: Devon Linderman, 5-6 Jr. OH; Anna Schaffer, 5-5 Jr. Libero; Olivia Bogenschutz, 5-6 Jr. Setter; Katie Markham, Sr. DS.  
2008 outlook: "The Hawks were hard-hit by graduation losses, losing several key players including outside hitter Lauren Adloff. Former head coach Kris Ruth will again assist Dest on the Huron Valley bench. Huron Valley won their season opener in four games Tuesday against Sterling Heights Parkway Christian as Miller had 10 kills.

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

The Warriors are coached by Kevin Wade, who guided Lutheran Westland last June to the Division 4 baseball finals before losing 2-1 to Bay City All Saints.  
Wade boasts one of the area's stronger lineups led by 6-foot-2 middle hitter Becca Refenes and 5-9 senior middle hitter Katey Ramthun, both first-team All-Area selections.  
"The seniors have a bitter taste in their mouth after last year's (Metro) conference tournament loss and hopefully it continues to drive them to work hard every day and get the championship that eluded

them," said Wade, who is recovering from recent appendectomy surgery.  
Another top player to watch is Westland John Glenn's 6-1 senior middle hitter Brittany Holbrook, a fourth-year varsity player and first-team All-Observer pick who is committed to Oakland University.  
"We're expecting big things from Brittany, who has carried the yeoman's load in the past," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "But more importantly, we should be able to distribute the ball to offer more balance in our offense."  
Glenn will look to improve upon last year's 10-22-6 overall record, while Livonia Stevenson, 20-21-4 overall, joins the KLAAC's Central Division and is aiming to get

over the .500 hump with the return of third-year varsity member Meg Iafraite, a 5-9 senior middle hitter.  
Rebuilding, meanwhile, is the task for KLAAC-South Division members Livonia Franklin (7-26-8), which lists only three seniors on its roster, and Wayne Memorial (1-27).  
Wayne is led by 5-9 middle hitter Emily Rudy, while the young Patriots will look to captains Liz Holloway, Ashly Butkowski and Ellen Hurt.  
Also seeking to make it over the .500 mark will be Livonia Ladywood, which is coming off a 17-17-5 season and a Class B district title. The only notable loss was first-team All-Observer pick Catherine Phillips.  
Setter Julie Rhodes, libero

Alex Mirabatur and outside hitter Rachael Fuller hope to carry the load for coach Erin Craggs.  
Livonia Clarenceville (13-19-3) plans to make some noise in the Metro Conference paced by senior middle hitter Marlene Azar and senior setter Katie Blacker.  
Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (16-19-2) is coming off a Red Division championship in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.  
If the Hawks hope to repeat, they must replace five graduated seniors. The team leader is 5-2 senior setter Kayla Stockdale, who actually crossed paths last season in a tournament match with the foot-taller Abron.

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**GIRLS GOLF RESULTS**

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN INVITATIONAL**  
 Aug. 18 at Fox Creek G.C.  
**TEAM STANDINGS:** Westland John Glenn, 414; 2. Livonia Franklin, 423; 3. Canton, 424; 4. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 450; 5. Salem, 530; 6. Milan, 814; 7. Plymouth, 883; 8. Redford Thurston, 963.  
**Medalist:** Lindsey Lammers (Milan), 77.  
**Glenn scorers:** 3. Heidi Irvine, 96; 4. Courtney McKinney, 97; 12. Michelle Bishop, 110; 12. Samantha Baker, 111; 23. Justin Woodard, 124. **Franklin scorers:** 5. Natalie Polakowski, 100; 6.

Georgia Patrick, 102; 10. Samantha McAtee, 107; 15. Heather DeGuise, 114; 16. Alexis Smith, 115; 27. Mariah Barcus, 127.  
**Canton scorers:** 2. Chelsea Osburn, 95; 6. Kara Gregory, 102; 14. Michelle Nagy, 112; 16. Mary Winther, 115; 23. Erin Lixie, 124; 27. Alexandra Wee, 127.  
**Salem scorers:** 16. Jamie Bricker, 115; 27. Lizzy Mazorwicz, 33. Kelly Janiczek, 139; 34. Eva Zajac, 149; 35. Mary Johnson, 153.  
**Plymouth scorers:** 23. Megan Haggerty, 124.  
**Thurston scorers:** 8. Adrienne Jones, 103; 36. (tie) Chelsea Ball and Meagan Nystrom, 180 each.

**CHELSEA INVITATIONAL**  
 Aug. 21 at Reddeman Farms G.C.  
**TEAM STANDINGS (16 schools):** 1. Mount Pleasant, 345; 2. Lansing Catholic Central, 355; 3. Sallie, 361; 4. Ann Arbor Greenhills, 372; 5. Dearborn, 419; 12. Livonia Franklin, 424.  
**Medalist:** Amy Ruthenberg (Okemos), 78.  
**Franklin scorers:** 39. Georgia Patrick, 101; 52. Samantha McAtee, 106; 56. Alexis Smith, 107; 62. Natalie Polakowski, 110; 67. Lauren Beahon, 114; 80. Samatha Nesbitt, 123.

**Trojans clip Southfield Christian**

Phil Strachan's goal from Gareth Hintzman with only 11 minutes left provided the final margin of victory Tuesday as Livonia Clarenceville is off to a 2-0 start on the boys soccer season following a 1-0 non-conference triumph over visiting Southfield Christian. Goalkeeper Garrett Gregg made seven saves, including a key stop with 20 minutes remaining, as the Trojans avenged a 6-0 loss to the Eagles last season. "It's the best win I've had since I've been here," Clarenceville second-year coach Trevor Johnson said. The loss drops Southfield Christian to 0-2 overall. **HURON VALLEY 4, CALVARY 1:** Aaron Howell scored twice Tuesday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (2-1) won a non-conference match at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian (0-5). Austin Tranchida and Matt St. John also scored goals for the victorious Hawks, who went winless a

**BOYS SOCCER**  
 year ago. Goalkeeper Kyle Tacia made six stops for the Huron Valley. Kendall Hunley tallied a goal for the Cougars. **PCA 1, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 0:** Blair Robinson's header off a throw-in with only eight minutes remaining gave host Plymouth Christian Academy (4-0) the non-conference win Tuesday over Lutheran High Westland (2-1). "The ball bounced in over our defense, but overall I'm pleased with our effort and the way our guys looked," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "If we can learn from game-to-game we'll only get better." PCA goalkeeper Brent Zinn made 13 saves to post his third shutout of the season. **LUTH. WESTLAND 3, MICH. LUTHERAN 0:** Lutheran High Westland (2-0) dominated the action Saturday en route to the Westland Huron Valley Invitational boys soccer tournament title. The Warriors outshot St. Joseph

Michigan Lutheran 24-3 as Mitchell Boehm tallied his first career goal, the game-winner, off an assist from Josh Kruger in the ninth minute. Gage Flanery made it 2-0 from Jakob Andrzejewski in the 48th minute and Kruger, who had five goals the previous day in a victory over Newport Lutheran South, notched his sixth of the season in the 64th minute from Flanery. Goalkeeper Micah Hausch made three saves to post his first shutout of the season for the 2-0 Warriors. The loss dropped the Titans to 2-1 overall. **HURON VALLEY 3, LUTHERAN SOUTH 2:** In the consolation final Saturday, host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-1) got a pair of goals and one assist to beat Newport Lutheran South (0-3). Falk scored at 8:36 of the first half from Bryan Gruenewald and his second came in the 63rd minute from Aaron Howell. Aaron Howell also scored for the Hawks at 13:38 of the first half from Falk. Tony Southern scored both goals for the Saints during the first 10 minutes of the second half.

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Recycle this newspaper

**MU women upend No. 17 Houghton**

It took nearly the entire women's soccer match Tuesday before a goal was scored at Madonna University's home opener against No. 17 Houghton College of New York. But it was Madonna's Andrea Johnson to find the target on a penalty kick with just 1:52 remaining at Greenmead Field in Livonia. That was enough for the Crusaders to earn the 1-0 non-conference victory and improve to 2-1-0 on the season. Stopping the one shot she faced for the shutout was Madonna's Brittany Warner. Johnson, a senior defender from Canton, beat Houghton goalkeeper Erin Asquith for the goal.

**COLLEGE SOCCER**  
 The defeat dropped Houghton to 0-1-0 on the season. On Saturday, the Crusaders blanked Illinois Tech, 4-0, in Deerfield, Ill. Scoring for MU were junior forward Kaila Moore, junior forward Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin/Schoolcraft), sophomore midfielder Diana Brda of Westland and junior forward Jaclyn Ventimiglia. **SCHOOLCRAFT 1, CINCINNATI ST. 1 (MEN):** In a season-opening matchup between NJCAA-Region 12 teams, host Cincinnati State and Schoolcraft College battled to a draw.

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**BOYS TENNIS RESULTS**

**LIVONIA STEVENSON 6 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 3**  
 Aug. 26 at Franklin  
**No. 1 singles:** Chris Martin (LS) defeated Stephen Payne, 6-3, 6-0; No. 2: Walter Woods (LS) won by default; No. 4: Kevin Francisco (LS) won by default.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Chad Dorton-Steve Trapp (LF) def. Josh Rochette-Simjae Holman-Rayos, 6-1, 6-4; No. 2: Paul Franchina-Vince Sabatini (LS) def. Mike Geraci-Peter Lee, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6); No. 3: Nate Warrick-Bill Shafer (LF) def. Giang Nguyen-Kyle Fan, 6-0, 6-1; No. 4: Dave Kruse-Garrett Adams (LF) def. Mike Kaplan-Alex Wood, 6-0, 6-0; No. 5: Jeff Sondergaard-Paul VanSilder (LS) won by default.  
**Dual match records:** Stevenson, 2-1 overall; Franklin, 0-2 overall.

**FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON 8 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 0**  
 Aug. 26 at John Glenn  
**No. 1 singles:** St. Michael Success (FH) defeated Zach Ernst, 6-3, 6-1; No. 2: Michael Cleland (FH) def. Khari Stargell, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Matt Bailey (FH) def. Nik Hubbard, 6-0, 6-0; No. 4: Derek Ried (FH) won by default.  
**No. 1 doubles:** John McDonald-Ben Samoylov (FH) def. Zach Edwards-Tommy Ruark, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2: Cole Tritt-Paras Garg (FH) def. Asie Cheikh-Carlo Tjedia, 6-3, 7-6(6); No. 3: Michael Erickson-Naveed Carim (FH) def. Jacob Tormina-Karl Lawrence, 6-0, 6-1; No. 4: Sohem Trivedi-Andrew Lazon (FH) won by default.  
**Dual match records:** Harrison, 2-1 overall; Glenn, 0-1 overall.

**CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS**

**SOUTH LYON INVITATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY MEET RESULTS**  
 Aug. 23 at Island Lake State Park  
**GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 49 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 76; 3. Canton, 80; 4. Northville, 85; 5. Temperance Bedford, 88; 6. Livonia Franklin, 121; 7. South Lyon, 184; 8. South Lyon East, 227; 9. Ann Arbor Skyline, 275.  
**Individual winner:** Courtney Kalika (Stevenson), 19 minutes, 11 seconds (5,000 meters).  
**Other Stevenson finishers:** 12. Karli Kuchka, 21:20; 16. Julia Capenka, 21:41; 18. Katie Wilder, 21:46; 29. Victoria Saferian, 22:57; 40. Rebecca Gidley, 24:31.  
**Franklin finishers:** 2. Megan McPherson, 19 minutes, 54 seconds (third all-time in school history); 17. Brittany Dilley, 21:42; 25. Tiffany Lambie, 22:36; 35. Megan Wickens, 23:35; 42. Tiffany VanOrden, 24:45; 46. Kelly Walby, 25:30.  
**BOYS TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Novi, 66 points; 2. Temperance Bedford, 87; 3. Canton, 99; 4. Northville, 108; 5. Ann Arbor Huron, 115; 6.

South Lyon, 120; 7. Livonia Churchill, 150; 8. Livonia Stevenson, 202; 9. Livonia Franklin, 234; 10. South Lyon East, 271; 11. (tie) Detroit Mumford and Ann Arbor Skyline, no team scores.  
**Individual winner:** Mike Blaszyk (Novi), 16 minutes, 09 seconds (5,000 meters).  
**Canton finishers:** 11. Kyle Clinton, 17:10; 12. Zach Spreitzer, 17:13; 14. Duncan Spitz, 17:23; 22. Mitch Clinton, 17:48; 40. Steve Watts, 18:14; 59. Greg Reed, 18:58.  
**Churchill finishers:** 16. Nathan Wise, 17:31; 17. Mark Waterbury, 17:37; 36. Steve Zoski, 18:07; 38. Tom Winkle, 18:12; 43. Quinn Osgood, 18:19; 63. Ryan Keeling, 19:10; 67. Matt Szado, 19:30.  
**Stevenson finishers:** 20. Joe Urso, 17:47; 25. Shawn Howe, 17:58; 51. Matt Williams, 18:39; 52. John Lynch, 18:41; 53. Andrew Longhi, 18:44; 55. Brian Fenech, 18:49; 65. Jordan Burger, 19:19.  
**Franklin finishers:** 20. Austin Jones, 18:00; 42. Dylan Taylor, 18:16; 44. Nik Gherardini, 18:21; 58. Pete Walby, 18:54; 61. Robert Freed, 19:09; 62. Bobby Wilson, 19:10; 66. Jason Riffel, 19:22.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township resident Bill Skubik is prepared to compete in his first full-fledged triathlon Saturday in Plymouth, Mass. The 46-year-old Realtor has completed 10 marathons.

# Enduring qualities

Plymouth Township man primed for first triathlon

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like millions of Americans, Bill Skubik will be going for a swim this Labor Day weekend. What makes Skubik's water-based activity so unique is that he'll be swimming 2.4 miles in 68-degree salt water that's expected to be a little choppy. And when his extended dip in the Plymouth Sound is over Sunday morning, he'll barely have time to dry off before jumping on his ultralight bicycle and pedaling 112 miles through the eastern Massachusetts countryside. To top his day off, the 46-year-old Plymouth Township resident will lace on his running shoes and complete a 26.2-mile marathon. No, Skubik's not crazy — he's a budding triathlete who is eagerly anticipating his first full-fledged triathlon — a grueling 140-mile-plus athletic test that truly separates the men from the ironmen. "About a year ago I was talking to a guy who works out at the same place I do and he told me he had just finished a full triathlon," Skubik said, explaining why he has chosen labor over leisure this coming holiday weekend. "I thought to myself, 'He's 43 (years old) and he did it, so maybe I can do it, too.' I've completed 10 mara-

thons, so I knew I could do the running part." **Fine-tuned focus** Once his mind was made up, the father of two sons — Plymouth High School students Matt, 17, and Adam, 16 — and husband of Julie started a regimen that included two to six hours of training per day. "I'll work out two to three hours in the morning before work, either swimming or running on an elliptical, along with some weight lifting," Skubik said. "At night, I might go biking or running. On the mornings I don't swim, I'll bike for two or three hours." Surprisingly, the toughest of the three legs of the race for Skubik is the one that allows him to sit down. "I have the most room for improvement with the biking," he said, smiling. "I've heard the course has some rolling hills to it, which I don't mind. For me, the wind is more of a negative." The other two legs are less worrisome for Skubik due to his extensive long-distance running resume and a well-thought-out aquatic training regimen. "Back in January, I started swimming 20 minutes a day, three days a week," he said. "I added five minutes every time I worked out every week. By

the end of March, I was up to one hour and 30 minutes per workout, which is about the length of time I'll be in the water during the triathlon." **Realistic expectations** Skubik said he has no idea who will win his age division on Sunday, but he's pretty sure who won't. "I don't think I'll be anywhere near the (awards) podium when it's over," he said, chuckling. "I'd like to do well for myself, but since this is my first one, just finishing is my ultimate goal." "When I completed a half-triathlon earlier this summer, I finished in just over seven hours. Well, the guys who placed in my age group did it in about five hours and 20 minutes, so they had time to finish the event, eat a meal and were on their way before I crossed the finish line." What advice would Skubik pass on to anyone who may want to follow in his ironman footsteps? "Take it slow and build on it," he said. "Like I did for swimming — add five minutes a week. It doesn't seem like much, but it adds up. You can do it for running and biking, too." ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

# Endless argument

MHSAA's view on chasing gridiron's Holy Grail

BY JOHN JOHNSON  
CORRESPONDENT

In my daily pan through a variety of newspaper web sites recently, I found a story about a high school football event Labor Day weekend which was designed to help pursue what its creator called the endless argument — which state plays the best high school football? In pursuit of this Holy Grail, teams from seven states — including Alabama, Florida and Utah — are traveling to Ohio; and another group of teams from Georgia, Ohio and Pennsylvania are trekking to play in Texas. Sponsors, of course, are paying most of the travel expenses of the teams, but I pity the poor parent who has to drive the 1,800 mile, 26-hour route from Sandy, Utah to Canton, Ohio. For that matter, in four other matchups in this event, fans will have to travel 1,000 or more miles one-way; and three additional games will require round trips of over 1,000 miles for their followers. Doing the math, the average round trip for those eight games I just mentioned is about 2,200 miles. So if your car gets what is supposed to be the average miles per gallon — an optimistic 27 — you'll be spending about \$325 on gas at four dollars a gallon to get to the site. One person flying, for example, from Pittsburgh to Dallas for one of these monumental games is about \$350 with a Saturday night stayover,

so figure in another \$50 to \$100 for that, plus either cab fare or a rental car, and food. Plus, after the \$14 admission price for adults (\$16 the day of the game), you really pay a premium for that hot dog and soda at these stadiums compared to your local high school field. And remember, that's just one person. So now you've spent your family's vacation money for the year on this trip. The school may have traded in a home game with a bigger payday to benefit all of its sports teams. But for what? Oh yeah, settling the endless argument. What endless argument? There's no realistic argument to be had about which state plays better football. These games are more about feeding the college sports junkie's need to know where their next recruit is coming from. Comparing teams and states will always be an apples and oranges situation. The real argument is about perspective. About keeping our athletic programs' priorities in line with the educational responsibility that schools have. National events and national travel for the few elite teams and individuals is not a responsible way to conduct a program of educational athletics. These events skew our perspective and open the door to the same kinds of abuses that occur at other levels of sports sponsored by other groups. Besides, with the cost of travel even from county to

county becoming an issue, the responsible conduct of school sports programs means keeping them what they are truly supposed to be — educational in scope and local. Schools have already been looking for several years to keep their schedules and their travel local. Participation in the school athletic program is no less beneficial because you played your neighbor as opposed to a New Yorker or a Nebraskan. There are lots of other opportunities in life to travel the country, and school sports shouldn't be one of them. It's going to be another great high school football season here in Michigan. A big part of the beauty of the games is when two communities come together to watch their children play. Where the city or the county championship is sometimes a bigger thing than winning any state tournament. We don't need to compare ourselves with the rest of the country about playing ability when real our focus is on learning life's lessons locally — which is truly what high school sports are all about. John Johnson is communications director for the Michigan High School Athletic Association. He can be reached at (517) 332-5046, or by e-mail at media@mhsaa.com. This commentary can be heard this week on the radio program MHSAA Perspective, which airs on over 25 radio stations across the state, and is also available on-demand on the MHSAA Network, www.mhsaanetwork.com.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP FOOTBALL**  
Thursday, Aug. 28  
Luth. Westland at Ann Arbor, 4:30 p.m.  
Univ. Prep at Clarensville, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Hartland, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Waterford Mott at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at Waterford Kettering, 7 p.m.
- BOYS SOCCER**  
Thursday, Aug. 28  
Clarensville at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m.  
Stevenson at Churchill, 5:30 p.m.
- BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**  
Thursday, Aug. 28  
N. Farmington at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
- GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING**  
Thursday, Aug. 28  
Wayne State Invitational, 5:30 p.m.  
Churchill at N. Farmington, 6:30 p.m.
- BOYS TENNIS**  
Thursday, Aug. 28  
Churchill at Ft. Harrison, 4 p.m.  
W.L. Western at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
Friday, Aug. 29  
Schoolcraft at Owens Express Classic, TBA (Point Loma Nazarene, Calif. Invitational)  
Madonna vs. Ashford, noon  
Madonna vs. Mt. Marty, 9 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 30**  
Schoolcraft at Owens Express Classic, TBA (Point Loma Nazarene, Calif. Invitational)  
Madonna vs. College of Idaho, 1 p.m.  
Madonna vs. Point Loma, 8 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**  
Friday, Aug. 29  
Madonna at Point Loma (Calif.), 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 30**  
Madonna vs. MidAmerica Nazarene at Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.), 10 a.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**  
Saturday, Aug. 30  
Jackson CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.  
TBA — time to be announced.

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FROM PAGE B6

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Living Water series

Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Couple prayer series

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

New schedule

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

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup

Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service

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

Worship

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

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food.

Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, 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. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to 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.fumcnorthville.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.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth

Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbc-women.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish

to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsahigherrockcafe.4t.com.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. A Christian women's group.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Your Invitation to Worship

BAPTIST

UNITED METHODIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180



Virgil Humes, Pastor

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.

Clarenceville United Methodist

20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444

Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-9170

9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96

734-522-6830

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creedon

CATHOLIC

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

More than Sunday Services

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth

45201 North Territorial Road (West of Steubert Road) (734) 453-5280 www.plumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Minds & Doors 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149

Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

9500 Levene • So. Redford • 313-937-2424

Pastor - Reverend Paul Lindlin 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

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23810 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule: First 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

NON DENOMINATIONAL

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 28015 Jameton • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p. Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32785 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a. Fri. 8:30 a. Sat. 6 p. Sun 9a

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church

33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880

Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program

Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

9901 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org

Chapel Worship Service 8:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road just west of I-275 Northville, MI 248-374-7400

Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 580 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 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) 455-3186

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA

25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth

1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

Beacon Hill Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) "Where Your Light Shines!"

Worship Service: 1 pm St. Michael Lutheran Church - Chapel 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton, Michigan 48187-2753 "Enter through the south double doors next to the play area"

Rev. Dr. Wayne Ten Roberts & Minister Dr. Carolyn Ann Roberts, Co-Pastors 313-402-6900 & 313-806-PRAY or beaconhillccdoc@aol.com

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church

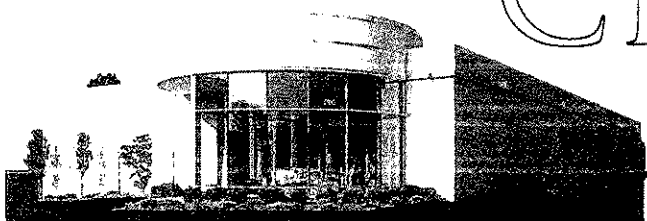
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290

Jill Hegdal, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 313-222-2333 or e-mail: dhart@hometownlife.com

# ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND

# 1/2 OFF CELEBRATION



**Kids Bedrooms**

**house of bedrooms**

**Master Bedrooms**

Thursday, August 28, 9-9

Friday, August 29, 9-9

Saturday, August 30, 9-6

Sunday, August 31, 11-5

Labor Day, September 1, 11-5

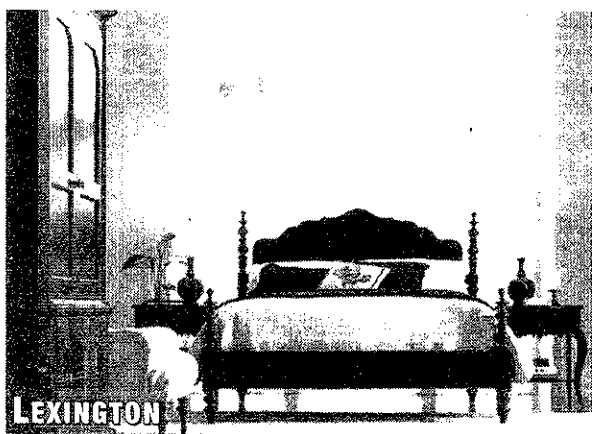
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**Buy Your Dream Bedroom  
Now Through Labor Day and  
Get Every-Second Item of Equal or Lesser Value Half Off!**



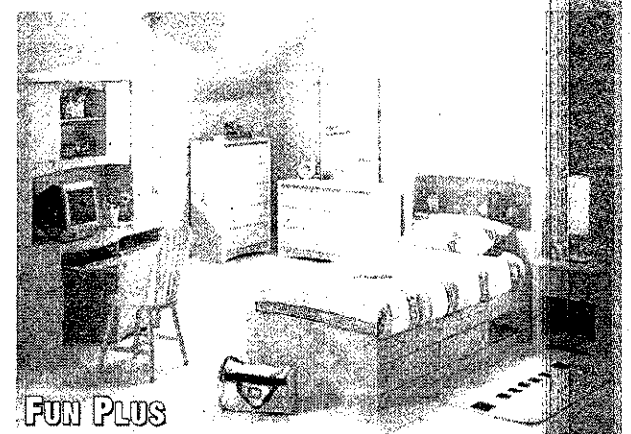
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NEW CLASSIC



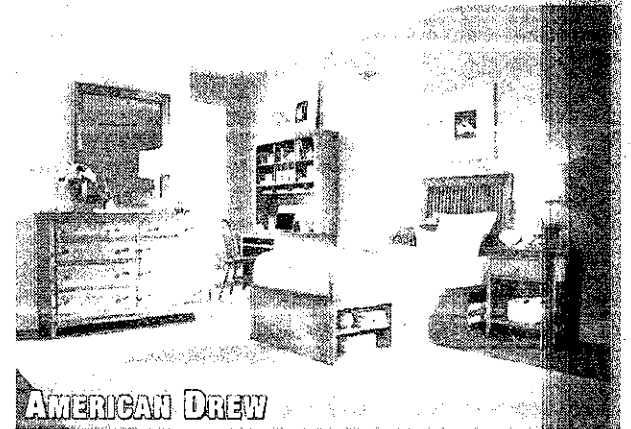
LEGACY CLASSIC KIDS



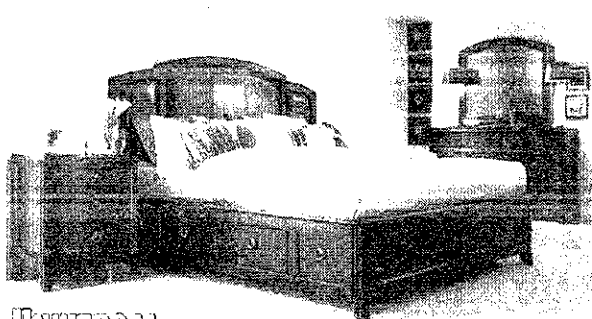
STANLEY



YOUNG AMERICA BABY



AMERICAN DREW



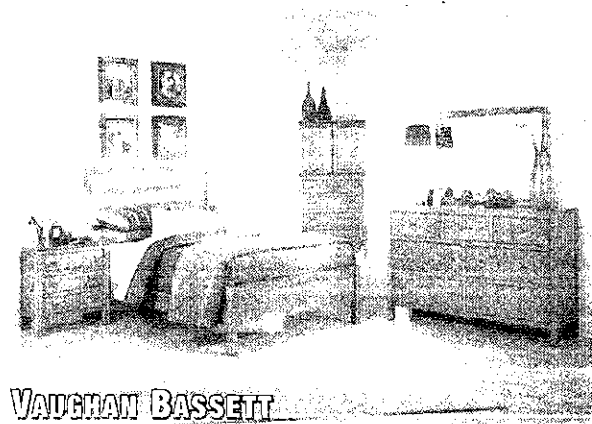
UNIVERSAL



KINCAID



STANLEY



VAUGHAN BASSETT



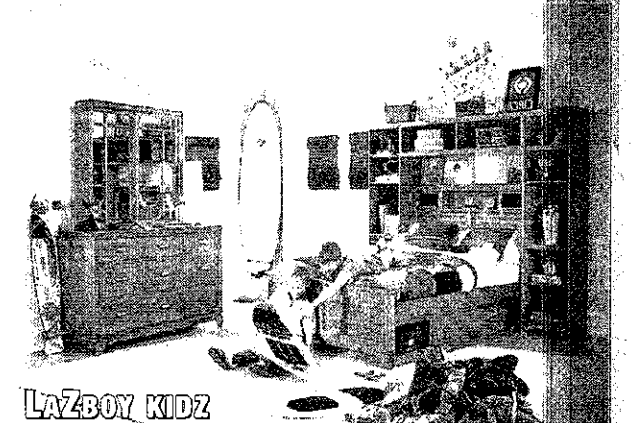
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HOOKER



RAGAZZI FINE FURNITURE



LAZBOY KIDZ

OPEN DAILY 9-9, SAT. 9-6, SUN. 11-5  
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Don't scream: Try these special places for ice cream

PAGE D5



Former Detroiters Neil LaBute puts his human touch on a thriller film

PAGE D2

Page - D8  
Film - D2  
Table hopping - D5

# D

Thursday, August 28, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com



Crowds will again fill Saginaw Street and beyond in Pontiac for Arts Beats & Eats. The annual Oakland County festival runs Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

# The D offers up its big

Arts Beats & Eats, Detroit International Jazz Festival, Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix are on tap this weekend

Metro Detroiters who aren't heading out of town this Labor Day weekend will feel the area transform once again into a mecca of music, art, car culture and culinary feasts. For the second year, the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau hopes to entice area visitors, residents and stay-cationers alike with its fully-energized 3 Days in the D campaign.

"Labor Day Weekend is the perfect time for metro Detroiters and visitors to truly experience The D," according to Larry Alexander, DMCVB president. "We anticipate this year's 3 Days in The D to be bigger and better than last year.

"With all the new activities at each event, we encourage metro Detroiters to spend some of this Labor Day Weekend in The D. And Detroit is an accessible, affordable alternative as a Midwestern big city vacation destination."

Beginning Friday, Aug. 29 and stretching from the Detroit River to the northern suburbs, the sounds of jazz, the rev of engines and the area's most exciting art festival will converge, making that traditional at-home barbecue sound completely tame by comparison. The three signature events of 3 Days in The D include Pontiac's enormous party, Arts Beats & Eats, Aug. 29-Sept. 1;

The ever-expanding Detroit International Jazz Festival, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, and the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, Aug. 29-31.

But family-friendly fare extends beyond those annual favorites to include the ongoing Michigan State Fair, now through Sept. 1, Romeo's 77th annual Michigan Peach Festival, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, and the Michigan Renaissance Festival, now through Sept. 28 in Holly.

FILTER has compiled some of the must-see events related to 3 Days in the D in this Thursday's edition — and for more information, see [www.3daysinthed.com](http://www.3daysinthed.com).

Compiled by Stephanie Angelyn Casola, O&E Staff Writer

## Pure Picks

Filtering your best entertainment best for the weekend of Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, 2008:

**29** Listen for hits like *Tempted* and *Black Coffee in Bed* when Squeeze hits the stage at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Doors open at 7 tonight and Aimee Mann starts the show at 8 p.m. Located at 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. Tickets \$40-\$59.50, visit [www.royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://www.royaloakmusictheatre.com).



Squeeze



Don Cheadle stars in Overture Films' thriller "Traitor" opening Aug. 27 in area movie theaters.

**30** Don Cheadle stars in Overture Films' latest thriller, *Traitor*, in metro Detroit theaters now. Find out what happens when all clues in an FBI investigation lead to U.S. Special Operations Officer Samir Horn (Cheadle). This jigsaw-puzzle of a story also features Guy Pearce and Michigan's own Jeff Daniels. It's rated PG-13.

**31** Head on over to Yates Cider Mill where, in addition to that traditional fall fare of apple cider and donuts, you can now order up a hand-dipped cone, malt or flurry at the new Ice Cream Shoppe. Indulge in a signature donut sundae, open 1-9 p.m. at 1990 E. Avon Road, Rochester. Call (248) 651-8300.



**1** This Labor Day savor the unofficial end of summer vacation with a half-priced dinner on the Woodward Avenue Brewers patio. Soak in the sun and pay 50 percent less for a Topopo Salad, Chicken Cashew Sandwich or Veggie Wrap. Located at 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Call (248) 546-3696.

Compiled by Stephanie Angelyn Casola, O&E Staff Writer

### IN BRIEF

#### AFTER JAZZ JAM FEST

**DETROIT** — Jazz Cafe at Music Hall will be the hot spot to be — and play — after the lights go down at The Detroit Jazz Fest. Musicians are encouraged to bop on over to 350 Madison Ave., Detroit for The After Jazz Fest Jam Sessions, Aug. 29-31, and join fellow Jazz Fest performers as well as other local musicians for an inspired late night of impromptu creativity. Each night will have a designated ringleader — Friday, R.J. Spangler; Saturday, Carl Cafagna; and Sunday, Patrick Prouty. All genres and non-musicians are welcome. Sets start at 10 p.m. Admission is \$5. Call (313) 887-8532 or visit [jazzcafe@detroit.com](http://jazzcafe@detroit.com) and [myspace.com/jazzcafedetroit](http://myspace.com/jazzcafedetroit).

By W. Von Buskirk

#### SENIORS GET IN FREE AT DETROIT ZOO

**ROYAL OAK** — Seniors age 62 and older along with one caregiver will get free admission and parking at the Detroit Zoo during "Senior day at the Zoo" 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3. The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan, which sponsors the event, will also offer free blood pressure checks and health information. Call (800) 882-5720 or visit [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org).

By W. Von Buskirk

#### METRO MUSIC EXPO TAKES OVER ROCK

**NOVI** — Musicians and music lovers of all ages and skill levels will want to mark their calendars for the first annual Metro Music Expo, Sept. 12-14 at Rock Financial showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi. The MME will be a weekend jam packed with music, education, networking and fun. Highlights include a Backstage Rock Art Gallery, two live music stages, music industry panel discussions, sound and lighting clinics, a music store and more. Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, noon-9 p.m. Saturday, and noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 per day; \$25 for three-day passes. For more information, call (248) 348-5600 or visit [www.metromusicexpo.com](http://www.metromusicexpo.com).

By W. Von Buskirk

## You can't stop the beat

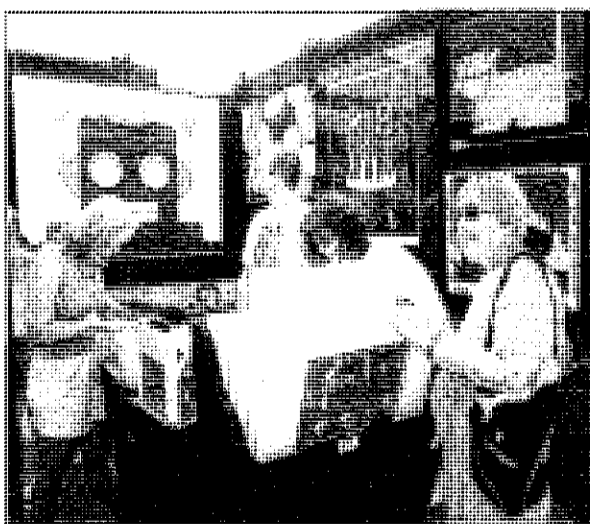
Arts Beats & Eats going strong 11 years on

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

For one weekend every summer the tastes, sounds and culture of Oakland County converge for a street festival unlike any other in downtown Pontiac. And from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, Arts Beats & Eats festival will move steadfastly into its second decade — with an eye on greening the event, garnering fans based on *Guitar Hero* licks, and even ushering its patrons straight into the blogosphere.

For the first time, AB&E will feature The Blogin Cafe. Organizers are touting it as the largest outdoor multimedia station for bloggers contributing to one blog at the same time

Please see **ARTS, D7**



More than \$1 million in artwork is sold each year during Arts Beats & Eats, set for Labor Day weekend in Pontiac.



#### ARTS

The HealthPlus Art Fair brings together artists in all forms of media — from digital to drawing, jewelry to metal, painting to sculpture — for an art gallery atmosphere in the middle of downtown Pontiac.

#### BEATS

The sounds of this year's festival include local and national acts on six stages, as follows:

**FRIDAY, AUG. 29**  
**MILLION DOLLAR MADNESS STAGE:**  
5 p.m. Harmonica Shaw  
6 p.m. Monkey Jacket  
7 p.m. The Hard Lessons  
8:30 p.m. Blues Traveler  
10 p.m. Rusted Root  
**DODGE AMERICANA STAGE:**  
4 p.m. The Urban Nomads  
5:30 p.m. The Random Family

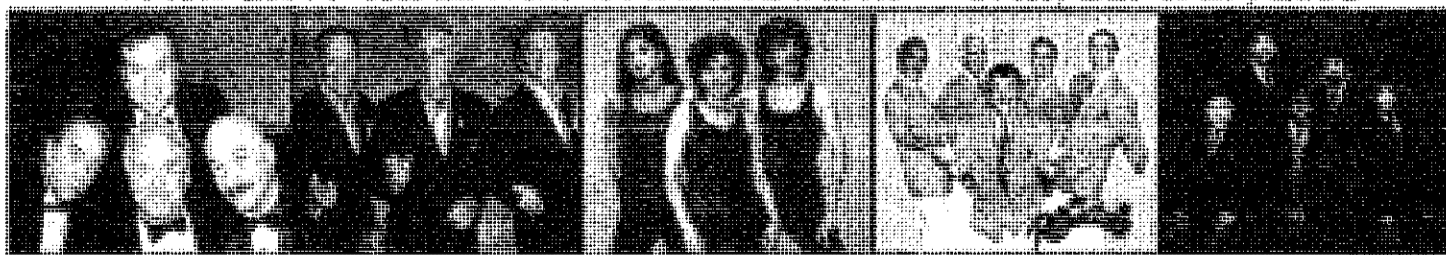
Please see **SCHEDULE, D6**

## Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 MICHIGAN AVE., DEARBORN, MI — PRESENTS

"A ROCK N' ROLL FAIR SPECTACULAR" • SAT., SEPT. 27, 2008

SHOW TIMES:  
7:00 pm & 8:40 pm  
**Ticket Prices:**  
\$27, \$37, \$47, \$57 & \$67



THE BELMONTS  
"RUNAROUND SUE"

JAY SIEGEL & THE TOKENS  
"THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT"

THE SHANGRI-LAS  
"LEADER OF THE PACK"

THE REFLECTIONS  
"JUST LIKE ROMEO & JULIET"

POOKIE HUDSON'S SPANIELS  
"GOODNITE SWEETHEART, GOODNITE"

Call the Performing Arts Box Office at: 313.943.2354 ext. 1

Coming: Saturday, December 6, 2008; The Beatle Maniacs - Ultimate Tribute from London, England

Cash Bar!  
Free Parking!  
Live Orchestra!

080911572



Neil LaBute directs Samuel L. Jackson on the set of "Lakeview Thriller" opening Sept. 19.

## Former Detroiters Neil LaBute puts his human touch on a thriller film

BY LANA MINI  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Few directors can make a film-goer feel uncomfortable like Neil LaBute can.

In his films, LaBute taps into intimacy in such an honest way that when you watch a couple arguing about their relationship, you begin to feel nervous.

LaBute creates that same discomfort when he deals with the issue of race in his newest film *Lakeview Terrace* starring Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington and Patrick Wilson.

(Look for a review of the film in the next issue).

LaBute was born in Wayne, Mich. and lived here several years with his blue-collar parents before moving to Spokane, Wash. in the '70s. His father, he said, had issues with race and that impacted how he dealt with this film.

"In a backward way there's a Detroit connection. My father had certain views ... he was a blue collar man, a truck driver ... union man," LaBute said at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham last week while visiting metro Detroit to promote the film. "He was not a monster but he had issues ... like a lot of people he didn't trust people who were different."

In *Lakeview Terrace*, the racist is Samuel L. Jackson's character Abel; a cop who doesn't like the interracial relationship of his newly married, new neighbors. All hell breaks loose when Abel decides to harass them.

"I don't call it reverse racism (in the film)," LaBute said. "Racism is racism."

*Terrace* is a thriller, a first for LaBute. He

### NEIL LABUTE

**Who:** Neil LaBute - writer-director

**Home:** Born in Wayne, Mich., currently living in L.A.

**Past films:** "Wicker Man" with Nicolas Cage and Ellen Burstyn; "Possession" with Gwyneth Paltrow, Aaron Eckhart and Jeremy Northam; "Your Friends & Neighbors" with Aaron Eckhart, Nastassja Kinski, Jason Patric and Ben Stiller

**Current project:** "Lakeview Terrace" starring Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington and Patrick Wilson.

**The plot:** A young couple (Wilson and Washington) moves into their California dream home when Abel, their racist neighbor - (Jackson) begins to terrorize them because he disapproves their interracial relationship. The couple has no where to turn because Abel is a respected cop. These persistent intrusions into their lives turn tragic when the couple fights back. (SCREEN GEMS) Rated PG-13.

**Genre:** Thriller

**Release date:** Friday, Sept. 19

wouldn't have been interested in it if the producers just wanted explosions and car chases. Producer (and actor) Will Smith came to him to add human element.

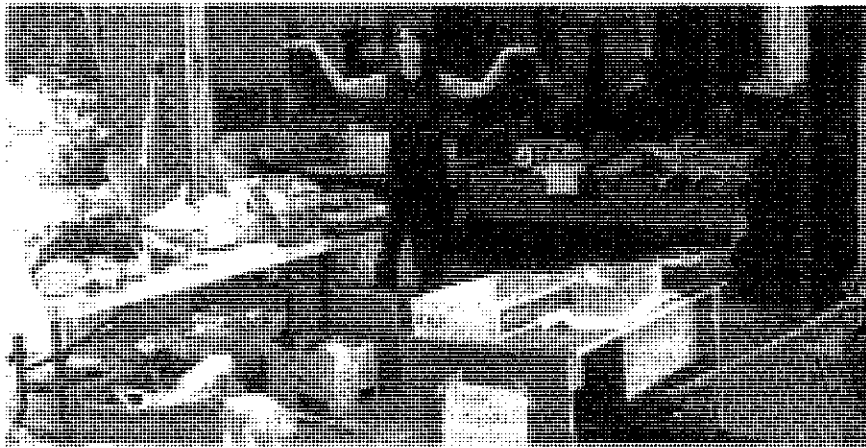
"It was obvious that the producers wanted a different kind of a thriller otherwise they wouldn't have come to me," LaBute said. "It's not like anyone could say 'hey we love all your past thrillers' because there are none."

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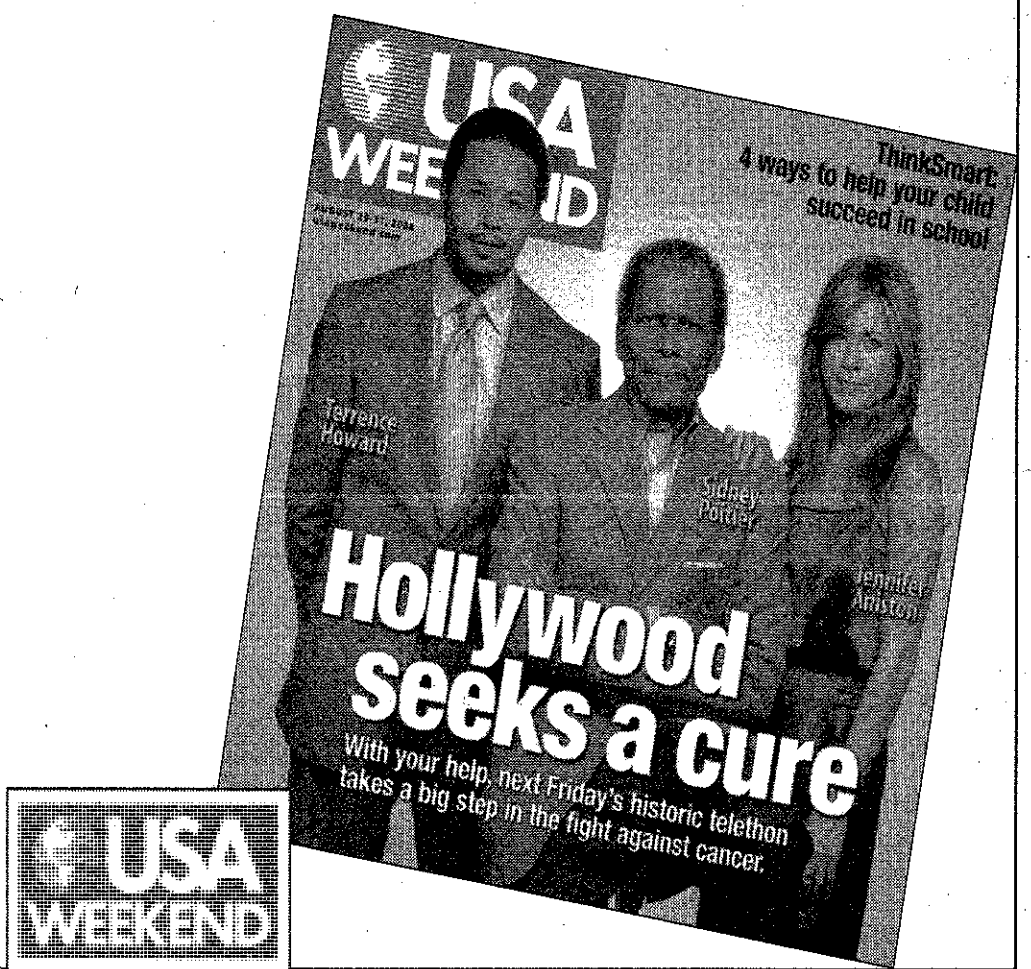
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# A Disappearing Number

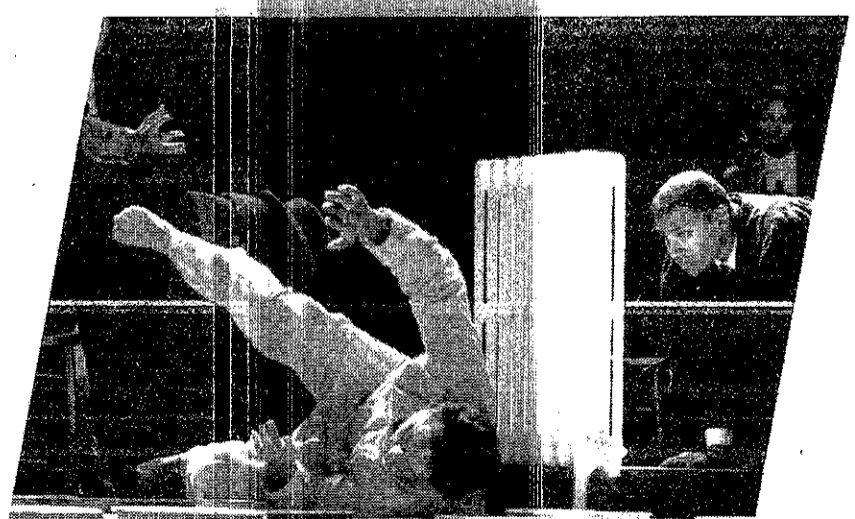
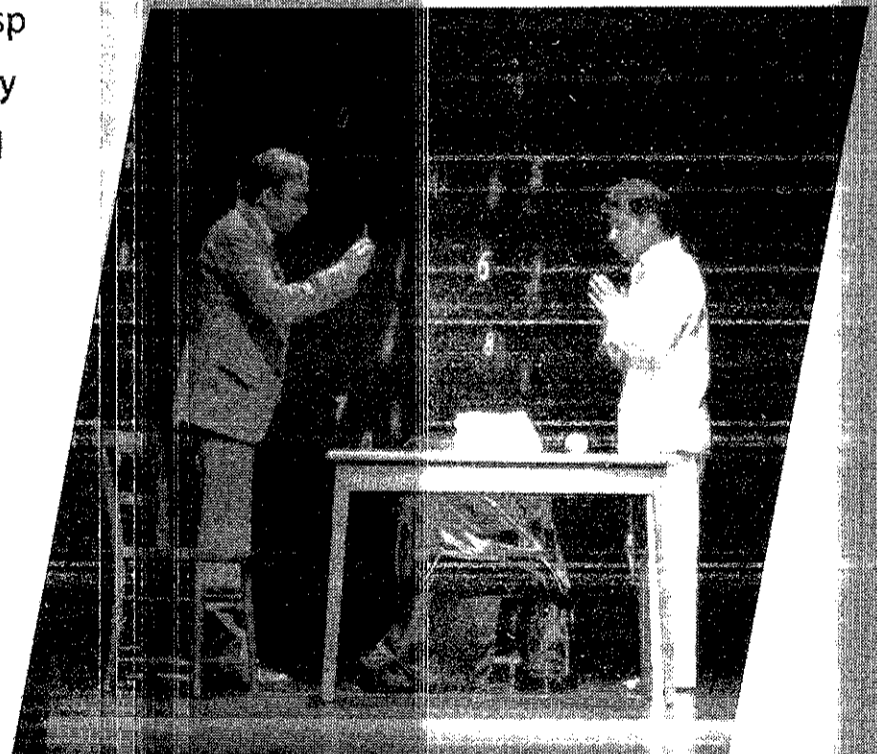
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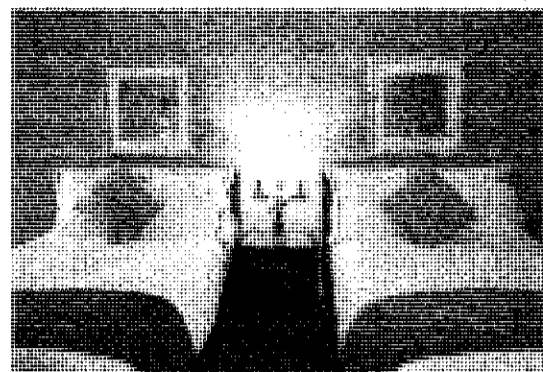
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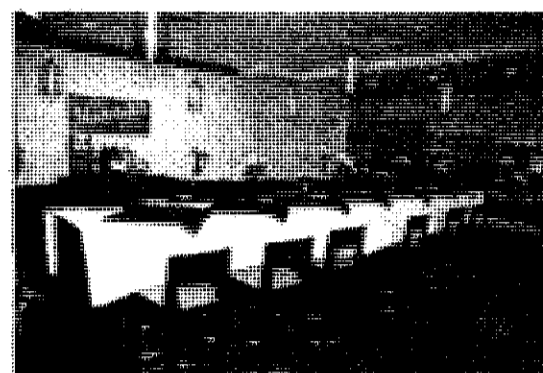
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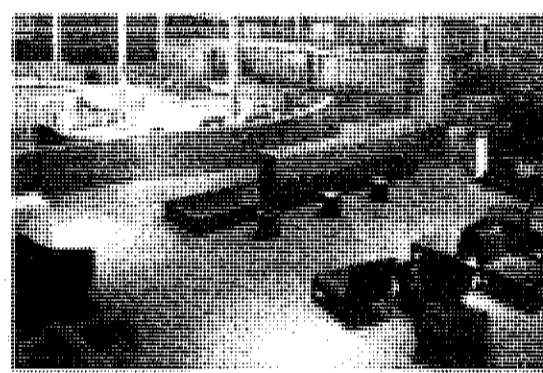
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- 6th-9 pm-1am** Twisting Tarantulas-Rockabilly
- 12th-9 pm-1 am** Bomb Squad  
60's & 70's Non Stop Dance Beats
- 13th-6:30- 8:30 pm** Just Sinatra-Name Says It All
- 19th-9 pm-1 am** Bomb Squad  
60's & 70's Non Stop Dance Beats
- 20th-6:30- 8:30 pm** Just Sinatra-Name Says It All
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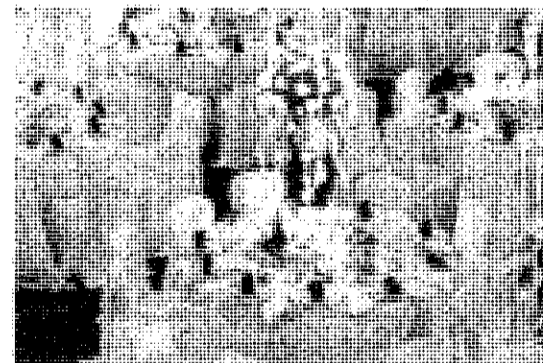


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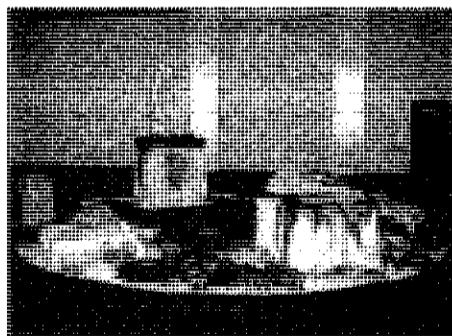
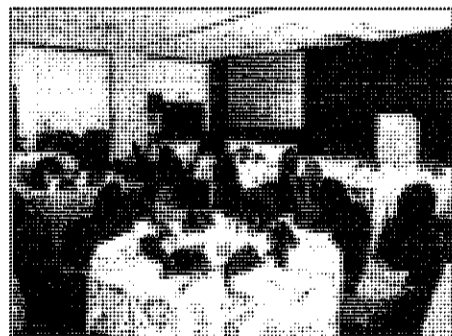
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# Looking for special places for ice cream? Try these...

Summer's quickly coming to an end, giving you the perfect excuse to stop by a local ice cream parlor to beat the heat. Here's a look at some staff favorites to help you indulge in the best the area has to offer:

*Wendy's picks:*

## BIRMINGHAM STAPLES

Growing up in Birmingham, it was always a treat to walk with my parents to Dairy Deluxe, on Woodward at 14 Mile, for a chocolate and vanilla swirl cone or hot fudge sundae. Even Puppy, our dog, got a cup. As a teen, I'd 'borrow' money from Gramps and ride my bike up with friends. If we were feeling extra daring, we'd cross Woodward and head up toward Maple for the Dairy Mat's grape slushes. Mmmm.

## CUSTARD TIME

My husband has a soft spot for custard, and can't pass Ritter's Frozen Custard on Eight Mile Road in Livonia without a stop. In the summer, there are plenty of picnic tables set up to accommodate cravings. Jeff always orders a large vanilla cone so he can enjoy his custard in its pure form.

## DESTINATION NORTHVILLE

When we're not in the mood for 'squeezed' ice cream, we take our son to Rebecca's in downtown Northville. The restaurant and ice cream parlor caters to kids with a Nemo aquarium, toy bins, a working train, and of course, ice cream. Superman flavor is a favorite for tots, but Rebecca's puts me in the mood for an old-fashioned milkshake. If you're going to make a special trip to Northville for ice cream, you can't forget Guernsey's, which makes its own ice cream. Expect to wait in line for your Moose Tracks here — the place is always packed.

*Stephanie says:*

## MILKSHAKES AT THE MALL

It takes a pretty great amount of willpower to pass up the Haagen Dazs stand at Somerset Collection North.

Tucked right into the third floor food court there's generally some sort of gathering around those heavenly gallons of iced cream and in my weaker moments I'm among them ready to order up a good old fashioned creamy strawberry milkshake. Made with real cream and milk, this is the best indulgence.

## BATTER UP IN BIRMINGHAM

Coldstone Creamery has earned something of a cult-like following thanks to its original flavors — like decadent Cake Batter or spicy Cinnamon — and the endless choices of mix-ins, folded right into the good stuff on an icy slab. I'm a sucker for the Birthday Cake remix — with its colorful sprinkles and fudgy brownies. Locations seem to be everywhere from downtowns in Royal Oak and Birmingham to Livonia, Farmington, Plymouth, Canton, Rochester Hills, Bloomfield Hills and Troy.

## FIRST NAME IN ICE CREAM

Whether you're in Royal Oak or passing through, Ray's Ice Cream is a destination for anyone with a sweet tooth. From its old fashioned soda fountain to 50 years of cutting edge flavors — like this month's features from Mackinac Island Fudge to Guinness — it just doesn't feel like a lazy summer day unless you're enjoying a melty ice cream cone and sitting outside the parlor on Coolidge, between 13 and 14 Mile roads. Some area restaurants, like Royal Oak's Town Tavern, uses Ray's ice cream in its dessert offerings.

*Lana suggests:*

## ICE CREAM ALTERNATIVES

There's something for every member of the family at Baskin Robbins and the possibilities seem endless and ever-changing. My aunt, who is diabetic, loves the sugar-free, non-fat Caramel Turtle. I don't eat dairy and opt for sugar cones with a double-scoop serving of Lime Daiquiri Ice



Labrador Jake Cross licks down ice cream at Dairy Dans in Westland. The roadside stand offers ice cream topped with dog treats.

(with real lime) and the Lemon Ice with real lemon zest. If you need low-fat, find flavors here. And, if you want something gooey, try a waffle bowl with chocolate/butterscotch and hot fudge toppings with ice cream flavors like the seasonal Baseball Nut with vanilla ice cream, cashews and a black raspberry ribbon. Locations seemingly everywhere.

*Quick hits:*

## DAIRY GO ROUND

They have merry-go-round horses that you can sit on while enjoying frosty treats. Need I say more? Kids will be enchanted. 1226 S. Main St., Plymouth.

## DAIRY KING

232 S. Main St., Plymouth. They have frozen yogurt, flurries, shakes and indoor seating in a warm environment. And the crowds love the Guernsey ice cream.

## SCOOPY'S ICE CREAM & DELI

They even have special ice cream for your dogs! 45300 Hanford Road, Canton.

## STUCCHI'S

There's 50 flavors, cute wooden chairs and tables and



Ice cream stand worker Alisha June hands Jennifer Cook a heaping, sprinkle-coated frozen yogurt at King Kone in Garden City.

MONICA FOUTS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

... they have a Myspace. Old fashioned meets hip. Located at Fountain Park Plaza, 33316 Plymouth Road (East of Farmington Road), Livonia.

## HAN D DIP DAIRY BARN

The cute classic barn has

been visited for generations and when it opens, Livonia residents are reminded that yes, summer is here. 32624 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

## MAGGIE MOO'S ICE CREAM TREATERY

This fun chain offers more than 40 flavors of ice cream, along with unique treats like Jones Soda Floats, Blue Ribbon Banana Splits, and Ice Cream Cupcakes. Look for locations in Plymouth and Rochester Hills.

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**SCHEDULE**

FROM PAGE D1

7 p.m. The Tim Diaz Band  
8:30 p.m. Barbara Payton  
10 p.m. The Twistin Tarantulas  
**FLAGSTAR ACOUSTIC STAGE:**  
4 p.m. Hawks & Owls  
5:30 p.m. Jimmy Atto  
7 p.m. Matt Ratzka  
8:30 p.m. The Micekeys  
**MILLER LITE ROCK STAGE:**  
4 p.m. Bear Lake  
5:30 p.m. The Offramps

7 p.m. The Killer Bs  
8:30 p.m. Band B  
10 p.m. The Howling Diablos  
**DIET PEPSI R&B STAGE:**  
4 p.m. Pete Big Dog Fetters  
5:30 p.m. Darnell Kendrick  
7 p.m. Joey Spina  
8:30 p.m. Priscilla Price  
10 p.m. The McKinney Zone  
**DETROIT NEWS STAGE:**  
5 p.m. Sworn Rival  
6 p.m. Stolen Liberty  
7 p.m. Seven Story Fall  
8 and 11 p.m. Detroit Techno Militia  
**SATURDAY, AUG. 30**  
**MILLION DOLLAR MADNESS STAGE:**  
4 p.m. Hunter Brucks

5 p.m. Marcel  
6 p.m. Steve Cochran  
7 p.m. Billy Currington  
9 p.m. Tim Bowman  
10 p.m. Boney James  
**DODGE AMERICANA STAGE:**  
11 a.m. The Mea Culpa  
12:30 p.m. Phil Treais  
2 p.m. Domingo  
3:30 p.m. Billy Kirig and the Idyls  
5 p.m. Redhill  
6:30 p.m. The Basiks  
8 p.m. Whitey Morgan & 78s  
9:30 p.m. Sunkwa  
**FLAGSTAR ACOUSTIC STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Rachanee  
12:30 p.m. Rude Dog

2 p.m. Chris Bathgate  
3:30 p.m. Frankie D Angelo  
5 p.m. DCWS Brass Quintet  
6:30 p.m. Brandon Calhoun  
8 p.m. Mary Maguire  
**MILLER LITE ROCK STAGE:**  
11 a.m. View  
12:30 p.m. Shoe  
2 p.m. Schaeffer  
3:30 p.m. Liquid Motor Commission  
5 p.m. Nuroksol  
6:30 p.m. Monkey Jacket  
8 p.m. Flophouse  
9:30 p.m. Universal Temple of Divine Power  
**DIET PEPSI R&B STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Jesse Patter

12:30 p.m. David Gerald & Insurrection  
2 p.m. CEL  
3:30 p.m. Moment Notice  
5 p.m. Thornetta Davis  
6:30 p.m. The Ffellaz  
8 p.m. JStokes  
9:30 p.m. Tumbao Bravol  
**DETROIT NEWS STAGE:**  
Noon Cajun  
1:30 p.m. Cowboy Alan  
& The Steel Horse Band  
3 p.m. Whitey Morgan & The 78  
4:30 p.m. Justine Blazer  
6 p.m. Austin Scott  
7:30 p.m. Anabelle Road  
9:30 p.m. Willie Nash  
**SUNDAY, AUG. 31**  
**MILLION DOLLAR MADNESS STAGE:**  
4 p.m. Leighton with  
special guest Steve Kostan  
5 p.m. Beatlemania Live  
7 p.m. Loverboy  
8:30 p.m. Back in the Day Band  
10 p.m. Chaka Khan  
**DODGE AMERICANA STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Cowboy Alan  
& The Steel Horse Band  
12:30 p.m. TJ Kelly  
2 p.m. The Robin Horlock Band  
3:30 p.m. Superdot  
5 p.m. Manna & Ouail  
6:30 p.m. Back Forty  
8 p.m. The Marcy Levy Band  
9:30 p.m. Impact 7  
**FLAGSTAR ACOUSTIC STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Dave Stoddard  
12:30 p.m. Andru Bemis  
2 p.m. Jen Cass  
3:30 p.m. Golden Rain Percussion  
5 p.m. Annie Capps  
6:30 p.m. Emily Rose  
8 p.m. The Harvestmen  
**MILLER LITE ROCK STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Twin Pigs  
12:30 p.m. Guitar Army  
2 p.m. The Cult Heroes  
3:30 p.m. Smokin Moses  
5 p.m. Broadzilla  
6:30 p.m. Stellar Drive  
8 p.m. The Muggs  
9:30 p.m. Rev RightTime  
**DIET PEPSI R&B STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Charlie Kemp Ensemble  
12:30 p.m. Doc Holiday  
2 p.m. Nite Flight  
3:30 p.m. Rev. Marc Falconberry  
5 p.m. Billie Holiday Review  
featuring Sky Covington  
6:30 p.m. Midtown Underground  
8 p.m. Sky Covington  
9:30 p.m. HotSauce  
**DETROIT NEWS STAGE:**  
Noon The Phage  
1 p.m. Desolation Angels  
2 p.m. The Hadiuptoheres  
3 p.m. Solitary States  
4 p.m. Love Meets Lust  
5 p.m. Doop & The Inside Outlaws  
6 p.m. The Questions  
7 p.m. Brave Rifles  
8:30 p.m. Dutch Pink  
10 p.m. The Orbittsuns  
Monday, Sept. 1

**MILLION DOLLAR MADNESS STAGE:**  
2 p.m. Arts, Beats and Eats  
Best of the Beats  
3 p.m. Avienne  
3:30 p.m. Critical Bill  
4:30 p.m. Rev Theory  
6 p.m. Puddle of Mudd  
**DODGE AMERICANA STAGE:**  
10 a.m. Quincy Stewart  
11 a.m. Cowboy Messiah  
12:30 p.m. David Shelby  
2 p.m. Alyssa Simmons  
3:30 p.m. Persuasion  
5 p.m. Longneck Strangler  
6:30 p.m. The Orbittsuns  
**FLAGSTAR ACOUSTIC STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Julie Nager  
12:30 p.m. SCS Strings  
2 p.m. Ian Thomas  
3:30 p.m. Mo Kauffey & Harmonica Buzz  
**MILLER LITE ROCK STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Ian Thomas  
12:30 p.m. The Ragbirds  
2 p.m. The Tom Butwin Band  
3:30 p.m. Hotness  
5 p.m. Jill Jack  
6:30 p.m. The Reefermen  
**DIET PEPSI R&B STAGE:**  
11 a.m. Paul Miles  
12:30 p.m. Julie Nager  
2 p.m. Pathe Jassi World Experience  
3:30 p.m. The Chunky Funk Band  
5 p.m. Eric Tessmer  
6:30 p.m. Laith Al-Saadi  
**DETROIT NEWS STAGE:**  
11:30 a.m. Overloaded  
12:20 p.m. Pistol Day Parade  
1:10 p.m. 60 Second Crush  
2 p.m. Matt Austin  
2:50 p.m. Core Effect  
3:40 p.m. The Unheard  
4:30 p.m. Paper Street Saints  
5:20 p.m. Dirty Americans

**THE EATS**  
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# Scout out Adam Shirley Designs

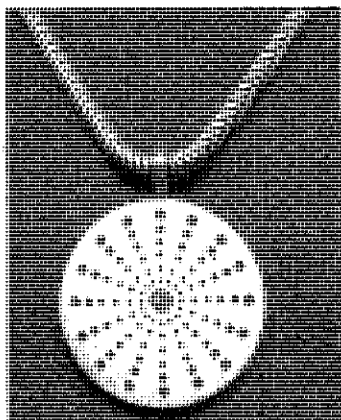
BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Chances are you've never seen anything quite like Adam Shirley's jewelry designs. And that will be obvious for visitors to his booth during this weekend's Arts Beats & Eats festival in downtown Pontiac.

Shirley, a West Bloomfield native and Hamtramck resident, has been present at every AB&E festival since it began 11 years ago and has garnered plenty of new fans and clients from it. "It's not just an art fair," said Shirley. "It's Arts Beats & Eats. It's a different environment. There are people from all over."

His substantial, strong rings — found in anything from platinum to rose gold to silver — are shaped in rounded triangles or "finger-fit shape" as he calls it. The shape mimics the natural curvature of a finger rather than forming a perfect circle, and it's part of his trademark. It holds the ring securely in place, keeping the stone from slipping left or right, and is "way more comfortable" to wear, the artist noted.

Another trademark of Shirley's inspired designs involves the way he encases gemstones within the setting rather than placing them atop traditional prongs. The stone

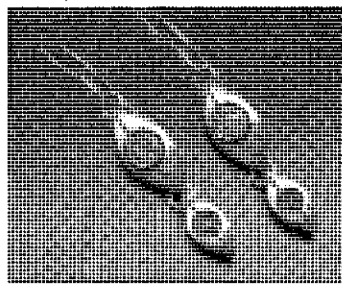


Coming from a background that blends jewelry-making and a more industrial take on metal working, Adam Shirley's pieces show a modern flair.

is visible from the top and bottom, touching the wearer's finger, and he sometimes cuts them into the sides of the setting to show off more sparkle.

Regardless of whether he's crafting a pair of earrings, necklace, brooch, bracelet or ring, his clients are assured it's a one-of-a-kind piece.

Shirley traces his interest in crafting jewelry back to childhood. By the age of 14 he served as an apprentice at the former Weinstein's Jewelry in West Bloomfield, where he learned the tradition of molding metals. While a student at Groves High School, under the



Adam Shirley designs earrings that are unmistakable.

guidance of his teacher George Landino, Shirley was encouraged to explore jewelry-making and design, and to pursue it as a career.

He attended the College for Creative Studies in Detroit — the school where he now teaches. Shirley considers the city of Detroit and its environs to be a major influence in his style, which embodies a sort of modern industrial appeal.

While he's worked for traditional jewelers and even designed eyeglasses in the past, Shirley's focus lies squarely on his own artistic style. He works side-by-side with his clients to create a personalized piece they'll keep forever. He's a jewelry artist, not a jeweler, he'll tell you.

A significant amount of his business surrounds wedding and engagement rings. Shirley said he enjoys knowing that his rings are the sort of pieces his

clientele will have and wear for a lifetime.

And his style is recognizable. It's best not to walk into Adam Shirley Designs in Birmingham with a photograph of a traditional ornate ring. Though he has the skills to recreate it, that's just not what Shirley does.

His work is best known for its minimalist design with clean lines, and pieces are crafted to be worn without showing signs of wear. Shirley said his favorite material to work in is platinum, for its rare status, density and the way it lends itself to setting. His pieces are split to about 60 percent women's jewelry and 40 percent men's and among his most treasured are the modular rings which come with three pieces and can be interchanged to alter the overall effect.

Look for them — and his interesting mix of metals like 18 carat white gold and 14 carat rose gold — at Arts Beats & Eats, Aug. 29 to Sept. 1. Though Shirley may sell some pieces on site, most of his business deals in custom-made one-of-a-kind jewelry. For more information, call (248) 901-1710 or visit by appointment his store at 124 S. Old Woodward Ave. in Birmingham.

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## ARTS

FROM PAGE D1

— at [www.blogincafe.com](http://www.blogincafe.com). Visitors are encouraged to contribute on laptops and Web cams to join the cyber-discussion on arts, culture, food, music, the environment and more. Patrons who try their hand at blogging will earn a \$1 food ticket redeemable at the festival. More than a penny for their thoughts, Event Producer and Co-founder Jon Witz said they'll give patrons "a dollar food ticket for their thoughts."

"It's going to be a cool experience," he said.

It's part of an overall effort to improve quality of the festival — an event that already draws more than a million people over four days.

Attendees this year will surely notice the festival's extensive efforts to go green, a concept dubbed ITC Greenways. "We started our environmental efforts by suggesting an alternate way to get to the festival," said Witz. From a partnership with SMART buses to a bicycle corral, there will be prizes for those who choose alternate transportation. All AB&E vendors have been required to use biodegradable cups, plates and silverware. And a significant effort, including help by festival volunteers, will encourage responsible waste removal and recycling throughout the grounds.

"So many people are trying to go green," said Witz. "We are trying to take a look at everything we do and transform our behavior. And hopefully our efforts will subconsciously or consciously help people think about their habits, too."

Fans of the interactive rock n' roll video game *Guitar Hero* won't want to miss the Metro Detroit Guitar Hero Championships at this year's event. Ages 6 and up will be divided into age groups and compete for prizes at The Crofoot, in the heart of the festival.

Other visitors might

want to try the scratch and win lottery game Million Dollar Madness, where concert-goers have a shot at becoming millionaires. The Chrysler Freedom Fest will this year offer free breakfast, parking, carnival rides and more to U.S. service men, women and their families. And visitors can experience The Great Lakes Sensations exhibit — highlighting some of Michigan's most revered traveler attractions.

But the mainstays of the AB&E festival won't be short-changed in light of its new additions.

The HealthPlus Juried Art Festival, Witz said, has "ranked in the top 20 art festivals in the country — as high as number 7 — for the last few years. That's something the region should be proud of." The art fair sells more than \$1 million in original works over the course of the weekend.

The "Beats" portion of the event, Witz added, features "the best free musical lineup of the summer," with headliners like Puddle of Mud, Chaka Khan, Blues Traveler and Boney James. When it comes to the "Eats," Witz said those vendors who actively seek out patrons or share flyers do manage to call attention to their establishments — and these are local restaurants rather than "carnival carts," he said.

For Witz, the most rewarding aspect of the annual event goes beyond its entertainment, culture and menu to the melting pot of people that it draws. "Our motto has always been 'something for everyone,'" he said.

Of the events that fit under the 3 Days in the D umbrella, this one seems to draw the largest local contingent, said Witz. With high gas prices and tightening family budgets, he said: "We are such a great solution to come out and not spend too much money, not travel too far for a full entertainment package with no admission."

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# Detroit Jazzfest lineup is sizzling

BY LANA MINI  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Can we clone ourselves yet? Please?

You will want to — just so to have two or three of your own selves to cover all the ground at the Detroit Jazzfest this weekend, Friday through Monday, in downtown Detroit.

And it's free.

No matter what your style: world jazz, gypsy jazz, jazz standards, Detroit and Philly sounds, brass band, bebop, bluesy jazz, or the smooth stuff ... the schedule is intense.

Get ready, because this is just a glimpse of who's performing. For the full schedule visit [www.detroitjazzfest.com](http://www.detroitjazzfest.com).

This is one festival that makes Detroit as unique as it is — here is where you can see the true level of musical talent honed in this city and from around the world.

### ALL THAT JAZZ

**Where:** Detroit Jazz is from Hart Plaza on the riverfront to three blocks north to Campus Martius Park. There are three stages on the North end and three stages at Hart Plaza, plus a Jazz Talk Tent and the Kid Bop Area.

**When:** The festival will open on Friday evening, Aug. 29, and run through Sept. 1.

**Cost:** Free.

**Anticipated crowd:** More than 750,000. Most are avid jazz friends but everyone is welcome.

**Parking:** Dozens of municipal and privately owned parking lots in the theatre district, Greektown, Cobo Hall and the nearby sports arenas. Most lots are within a five-minute walk of the festival.

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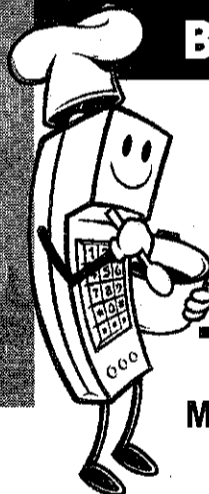
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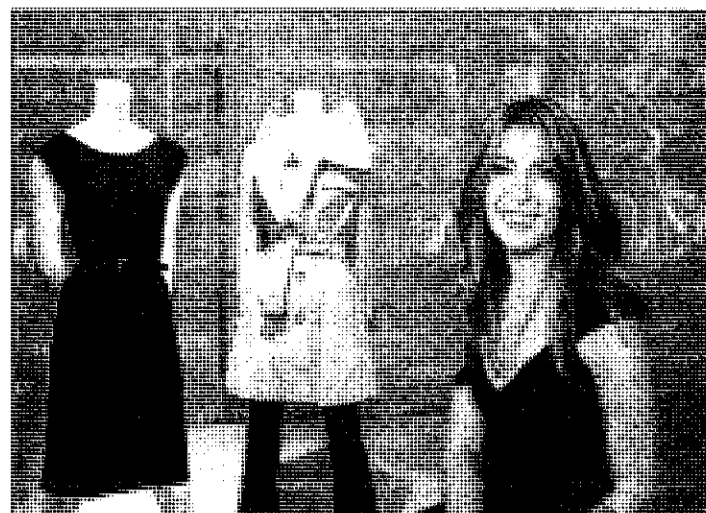
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NBC PHOTO BY HEIDI GUTMAN

'Project Runway' judge Nina Garcia recommends a little black dress and statement coat among her Top 10 fashion must-haves.

## Dr. Sadick and Saks share a prescription for youthful skin

From dawn till dusk last Thursday, world-renowned dermatologist and researcher Dr. Neil Sadick consulted with clientele at Troy's Saks Fifth Avenue location, inside Somerset Collection South, to promote healthy skin



Stephanie Casola

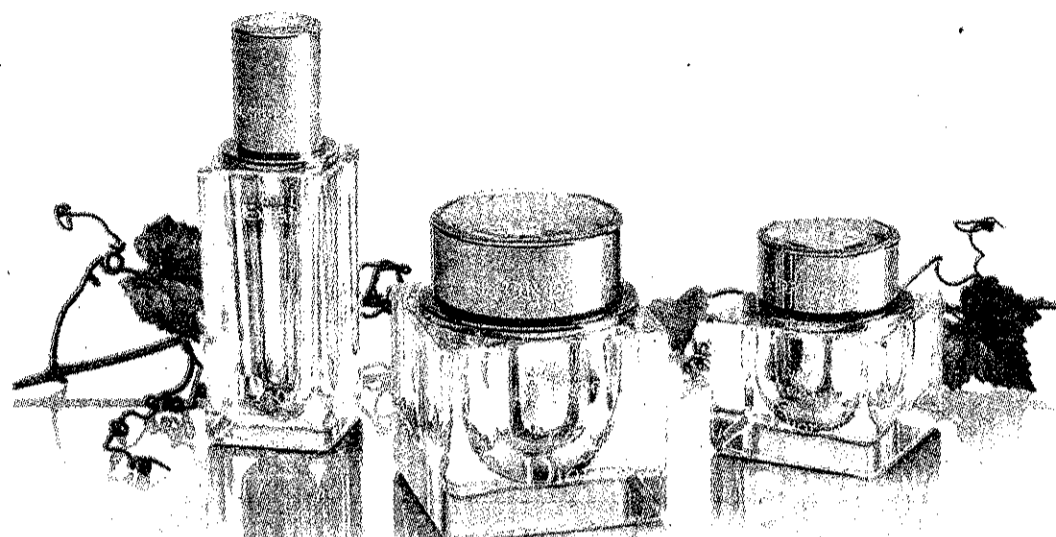
practices and teach women how best to maintain that radiant, healthful glow — no matter their age.

As Global Medical Advisor for Christian Dior, Sadick worked

with more than 250 researchers in France to craft innovative, technologically advanced products in skin care. And recently Christian Dior's L'Or De Vie line was recognized by the Journal of Drugs & Dermatology for proven effectiveness and unparalleled results to protect against aging. While he named other antioxidants of value, like coffeeberry and vitamins C and E, Sadick said L'Or De Vie contains the highest concentration of antioxidants on the market today.

He should know. Sadick has been lauded for his many contributions to rejuvenation dermatology. He is certified in Dermatology, Cosmetic Surgery, Internal Medicine and Hair Transplantation, has been published in hundreds of articles and scientific journals, authored more than 10 books, serves as Professor of Dermatology at Cornell University and is president of the Cosmetic Surgery Foundation.

His stop in Troy was a first



Sadick

for the Saks location and part of a nation-wide tour he takes a few times each year. He took a few moments to share his expertise with PINK.

While he's involved in researching up-to-the-moment non-invasive procedures to lessen the appearance of everything from varicose veins to

cellulite, Sadick is constantly confronted with the question "What can I do at home."

His advice?

Start the day with a broad-spectrum sunscreen — one that blocks out both UVA and UVB rays. Then add a proven antioxidant product, which will combat free radicals that can cause damage and will help promote a youthful appearance.

In the evening, Sadick said, the focus is on skin rejuvenation — which makes it the perfect time to apply Retin A or alpha hydroxy products.

Sadick said beginning an appropriate skin routine, and keeping free radicals at bay, can slow the aging process by 10 to 15 years.

But the women he consults — whether they're 20 years old or 80 — are most concerned with maintaining beautiful skin.

"It's not necessarily younger," said Sadick, "It's better and

younger." With the range of available whole-body non-invasive treatments, he said women can achieve their natural best in a safe, cost-effective manner, now with little to no downtime. Surgery isn't the only option.

Over the years, that's the change he's witnessed. Products and procedures are not limited to the face, but now address concerns of the whole body in an effort to resurface and smooth skin.

"A whole body regimen can lead to better self-esteem," he said.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola plans to stop aging right now, in her early 30s, and she knows Dr. Sadick will continue researching innovative new ways for women to stay beautiful, and natural, as time marches on. She writes about beauty, fashion and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Have an idea suitable for Dollface? Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com

## 'Project Runway' judge picks top 10 buys for Fall

Nina Garcia helps make the call on "Project Runway" about who's in and who's out.

In her new book "The One Hundred: A Guide to the Pieces Every Stylish Woman Must Own" (Collins), she advises on what to buy and what to keep.

A well-stocked wardrobe is full of classic items that don't fall out of favor but can be tweaked to work with whatever the current trends might be. In the introduction, she calls classics from the cocktail ring to Converse sneakers "the pieces that have stood the test of time."

So, what will Garcia — with her new day job as fashion director at Marie Claire — be wearing this fall? She e-mailed her top 10 looks to the Associated Press:

■ **The little black dress.** "It's always reliably chic. It can take you from classic to dangerously sexy this season."

■ **Statement jewelry.** Garcia predicts a big comeback in Art Deco cuffs, chunky necklaces, gothic rosaries — which can all be layered.

■ **Lace.** With its heirloom quality, the look of lace ranges from demure to Goth. She'll be mixing lace with a white poplin shirt, mimicking the new

Prada look, or with leather, a pairing she spotted on the Givenchy runway.

■ **Well-tailored jacket.** It could be masculine or formfitting, the key is the fit.

■ **Clutch handbag.** "If you still have not invested in a clutch, this is the season to do so. There are so many styles to choose from, from romantic to punk."

■ **Sexy high heels.** High heels don't have to be power pumps. Garcia recommends loafer styles and shoe booties.

■ **Wide-leg trousers.** These pants are for day or evening since the look will drastically change if they're made of pinstripes or satin — or even sequins.

■ **A blouse.** Preferably with ruffles, lace or a bow. "The perfect feminine piece to complement the fall wardrobe, frame the face and add some femininity to your tailored looks."

■ **A great coat.** It's a key investment, she says, because it allows you to make an entrance with style.

■ **Floral prints.** "Don't retire your florals just because summer is over. Winter blooms are still strong and feminine for fall."



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA SHERWOOD

Varla Jean Merman models the winning design by Troy's own Joe Faris.

### JOE ROCKS RUNWAY

Joe Faris of Troy won his first challenge on "Project Runway" during the "Good Queen Fun" episode. Tune in Wednesdays at 9 p.m. to see how our local contestant fares in the fashion design reality show.

Associated Press

## pink picks

**Wear It!**  
Berry colors for Fall

**DON'T Wear It!**  
Low-rise pants that expose too much when you bend over

**Take It!**  
Designer-inspired purses from Oh! Tres Chic in Northville, open the first weekend of each month

**Kick It!**  
Moccasins at Sundance Shoes in The Boardwalk plaza, West Bloomfield

**Smell It!**  
Victoria Beckham Signature for Her

**Face It!**  
NARS Jungle Red set, available Sept. 12 at Saks to mark release of *The Women*

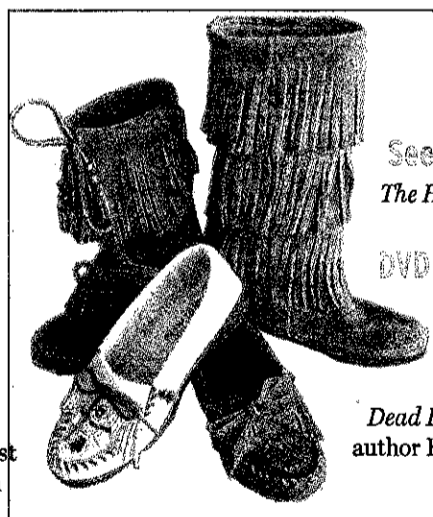


## HAIR & MAKEUP

**An Evening of Wine & Fashion**  
**PLYMOUTH** — Grape Expectations Wine Bar & Merchant, 555 Forest Ave. in downtown Plymouth, will host "Dressing for Every Occasion — An evening of Wine and Fashion," 6:30 p.m. tonight, with Bella Mia boutique and Salon Awesome. Tickets, \$28, include dinner, two drinks and dessert. Call (734) 656-0057, or visit www.shopbellamia.com.

**Late Nite Thursdays**  
**ROCHESTER** — Tonight's the last of Downtown Rochester's "Late Nite Thursdays." Merchants will stay open until 9 p.m. or later, and shoppers can enjoy street entertainment and the "Summer in the City" scavenger hunt, with prizes valued at nearly \$2,500. Call (248) 656-0060 or visit www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.

**Summit Sports Summer Freeze**  
**BLOOMFIELD HILLS** — Summit Sports, located at 28942 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, will host a "Summer Freeze" sale through Sept. 1, with ski and snowboard gear up to 90 percent off. The first 50 customers each day will receive free gloves, no purchase necessary. Visit www.summitsportsinc.com.



**See It!**  
*The House Bunny*

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*What Happens in Vegas*

**Read It!**  
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**Hear It!**  
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