

McCotter is the better choice in 11th District

Our Views, A8



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WESTLAND Observer

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Let there be ... Play Planet



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Buffalo Wild Wings employees Kerri Walega (left) of Plymouth and April Wroblewski of Westland tighten the swing brackets of the new Play Planet structure in Westland. Manager Brandi Rudy (center) of Westland said that 13 employees signed up to help. They also will be donating chicken wings for the grand opening.

Volunteers building space-age themed playscape

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland is home to the galaxy's newest planet.

With tools in hand, city workers, community volunteers and hired contractors are working tirelessly this week to build Play Planet, billed by outside recreation officials as one of the nation's largest, contiguous attached play structures.

The space-age theme, 25,000-square-foot structure was taking shape on a crisp, fall morning Wednesday, when community volunteers joined the effort started two days earlier by city workers and hired contractors.

"I think it's awesome," volunteer Kim Sweeney, a 47-year-old worker from Livonia-based UPS, said as she helped erect a Play Planet deck in Tattan Park, southwest of Ford and Carlson. "It's going to be great for the kids. It'll be a good place for them to go."

Linda Long, a Westland resident and UPS community relations employee, said the project helped the company continue its goal of having 5,500 workers put in 16,000 hours of volunteer service this year in a district that includes southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio.

Not far away, 27-year-old Dajuan Crank

Please see **PLAYSCAPE, A2**



Michael Yates of GameTime (left) and volunteer Bernie Brewer of the Wayne Masonic Lodge #12 in Westland place a panel on the new play structure.

Teen charged with murder in fatal accident

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Redford Township teen's troubles are mounting after he was charged Tuesday with second-degree murder amid allegations he drove over 100 mph and slammed into two vehicles in Westland on Oct. 14, killing a Walled Lake man.

Ramon Foster, 15, is facing a Nov. 3 court hearing following accusations he was fleeing from Westland police when he lost control of a silver Mercedes and struck two vehicles at Warren and Merriman — a crash that left 35-year-old Ndalima Yussuf Nzaro dead two days later.

Foster was arraigned Tuesday afternoon at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility, where he is in custody, but Assistant Prosecutor Maria Miller said the teen has been designated as an adult. If Foster is convicted, a judge would decide whether he should be sentenced as a juvenile or possibly as an adult, Miller said.

That decision could have enormous ramifications for whether Foster, if convicted, could be incarcerated for several years or up to life.

Foster was arraigned Tuesday on charges of second-degree murder; first-degree fleeing and eluding and causing an accident involving a death; operating a vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, identified by Westland police Officer Tom Lessnau as marijuana; failing to stop at an accident involving injury or death; and not having a license to drive.

Foster, remanded to juvenile custody, is expected to

appear for a Nov. 3 preliminary hearing at the Lincoln Hall of Juvenile Justice in Detroit. The court proceedings will determine whether he should stand trial on the charges.

According to Miller, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy gave Foster a quasi-adult status that means he could be sentenced as a juvenile or be slapped with a "blended sentence" that could ultimately lead to his transfer to an adult prison.

The most serious charge against him, second-degree murder, could carry a sentence of up to life in prison.

Foster, chased by police from the Wayne-Warren area shortly before 1 a.m. Oct. 14, was driving over 100 mph on eastbound Warren when he slammed into a Honda Accord and a Ford van that had stopped at a traffic signal on southbound Merriman, Lessnau said.

Nzaro, in the Honda Accord, was taken to Garden City Hospital and then airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital, where he died two days later from severe head injuries, police have said. Nzaro was described by police as a custodian who was on his way to work.

Another driver was hurt but didn't sustain life-threatening injuries.

Westland police Sgt. Ron Kroll has said Foster was accompanied by three other teens.

The Mercedes he is accused of driving belonged to an Ann Arbor resident and had been taken without permission, Lessnau said.

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Voters use cookies to pick favorite presidential candidate

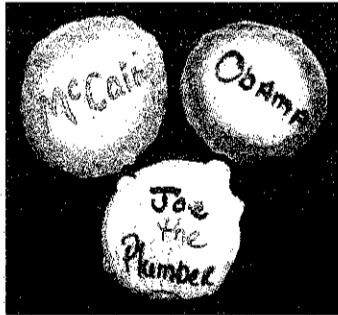
BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There are 12 days to the presidential election and in Westland, voters are already going to the polls.

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe is holding a sweet version of the presidential election by asking shoppers to vote for their favorite presidential candidate by purchasing a \$1 cookie. If you want to avoid the calories, it's OK to just vote.

"I'm surprised how much people care," said owner Mary Denning. "They get all excited about why they're voting. I had a woman in here for an hour on Friday, telling us why we should vote for McCain."

Denning is offering three "candidates" in her election: The obvious two — Barack Obama and John McCain — and that not so average working man, Joe



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shoppers at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland are already casting their votes for president by purchasing specially marked cookies.

the Plumber.

As of Tuesday, McCain was winning with 29 votes followed by Obama with 23. Joe the Plumber was a distant third with 11 votes although he had been in the lead "until all that stuff came out about him," Denning said.

This is the second time she's

done a presidential cookie vote. She did it in 2004, when John Kerry took on George Bush. Her poll had Kerry as the winner — he carried the state, but lost nationally.

She also did a cookie vote for who would win the Super Bowl this year.

For people who want to get a jump on voting or just practice, Denning's running the cookie vote through Election Day, Nov. 4. That's when she'll announce the winner and quite possibly the next president of the United States.

Oh, and if you want to talk politics in the bake shop, have no fear. Between Denning and her staff, there are four Democrats and two Republicans ready to chat it up.

"We're always telling the other one when their candidate screws up," she said.

And while you're there,

pick up a cupcake as part of Cupcakes for a Cause, a fundraiser for CancerCare for Kids. Denning is selling specially decorated cupcakes for \$1 each through Saturday at the shop in the Oak Plaza at 7990 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

She's also teaming up with other businesses in the center — Paperbacks and Things, Toarmina's Pizza, Carlo's Mexican Restaurant, Divine Hair Salon, dentist Dr. Rita Patel, D.D.S., Ron Jackson's Allstate Insurance — and Bobby's Bouncers to hold a Children's Special Day 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Along with selling cupcakes, there will be games, food and fun for the family. Proceeds from the sale of children's books, hair cuts and food also will be donated to the CancerCare Program.

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Commission rejects W-W recall language

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Organizers of a recall of several members of the Wayne-Westland school board plan to submit new language this week after having their first attempt rejected by the Wayne County Elections Commission.

Shawn Maxwell of Wayne-Westland Parents for Quality Education called the decision "a minor setback."

"We intend to file again," she

said. "We need to step back and regroup because we don't want this to happen again."

The group had targeted school board President Martha Pitsenbarger and Vice President Skip Monit and dropped efforts to recall board Treasurer Steve Becher and Trustee Ed Turner because the two men will be running for re-election in May 2009. Maxwell is confident voters will speak by not

Please see **RECALL, A2**

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Coming Sunday:
Healthy living with
Suzanne Somers

AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner is back at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert for \$6 as well as entertainment. Dinner is being served 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020. The center also has bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

Free pumpkins

Girl Scout Troop 21265 will be giving away free pumpkins to children 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or

ON THE WEB

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

while supplies last on Saturday, Oct. 25, at National Storage Center, 39205 Ford Road, in Westland, near the Emagine Theater in Canton. Everyone is welcome.

Halloween alternative

Looking for a safe alternative to Halloween? Full Gospel Temple in Westland is inviting residents to its annual Family

Fun Night 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. No scary costumes allowed.

Activities include Moonwalks, inflatable slide, archery, Beat the Clock, paintball at live targets, petting farm and pony rides, face painting, and much more. There also will be candy for the children and a prize drawing for a girl's and a boy's bike. Suggested family donation is \$1 and there will be a minimal charge for concessions.

Full Gospel Temple is on Palmer between Wayne Road and Venoy. For more information, call the church office at (734) 326-3333.

Westland man faces sentencing for assault

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who posed as a photographer, lured a teenage woman to Hines Park and sexually assaulted her will face sentencing this week in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Steven Wayne Milam, 29, could face penalties ranging up to two years in prison when he is sentenced today (Thursday) by Judge Diane Hathaway for fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

Milam's decision to plea to a lesser offense averted a potentially longer sentence of up to 15 years that he could have received if he had gone to trial and been convicted as charged with unlawful imprisonment, criminal sexual conduct with intent to penetrate, second-

degree criminal sexual conduct, and impersonating a police officer.

Milam has remained in custody since the incident happened in July, Wayne County Sheriff Department spokesman John Roach confirmed.

Milam had been ordered to stand trial in July after the 18-year-old victim testified against him in Westland District Court, accusing him of luring her to a wooded area of Hines Park, partially undressing her and calling her "a bad girl."

The teen testified that when she tried to fight Milam off, he pushed her against a tree, put plastic zip ties on her wrists, claimed he was an undercover police officer and told her that she was in trouble for her knowledge of a murder committed by one of her friends — a killing that police said

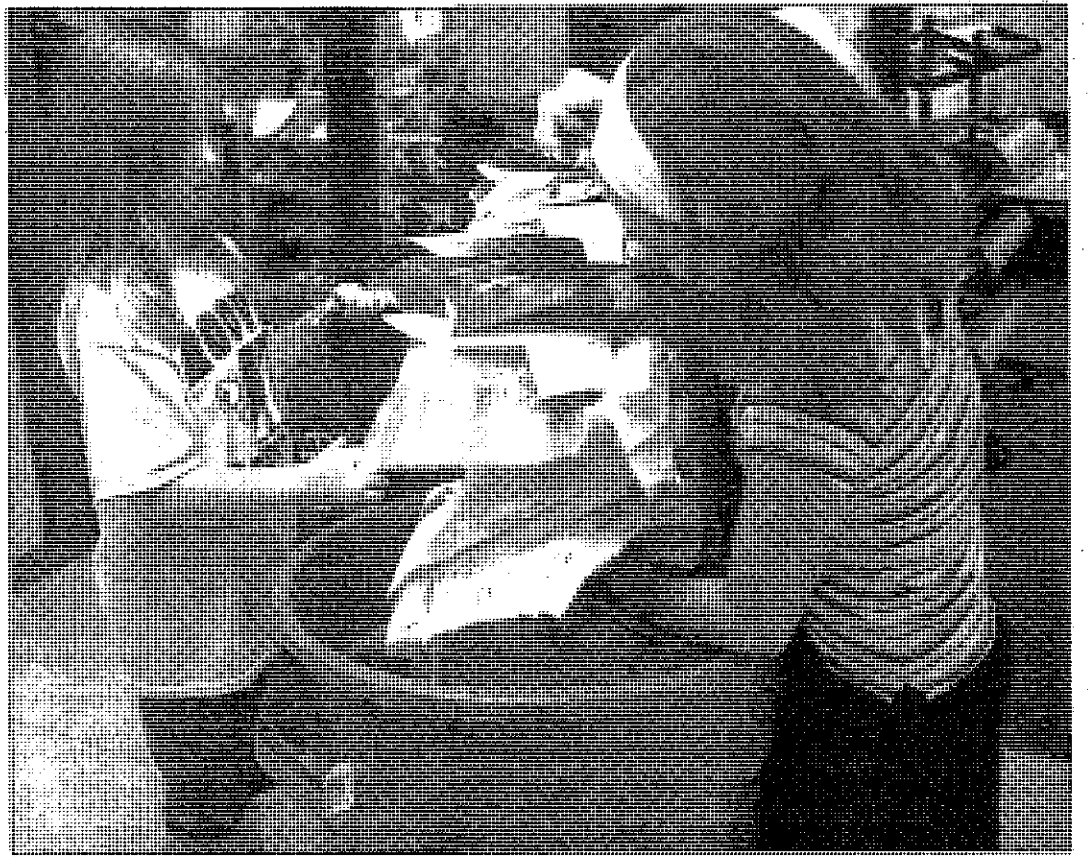
never happened.

"I was scared. I was crying. I was hysterical. I didn't know anything about it," the 18-year-old testified in July.

The victim had met Milam on July 3 while she was walking with two male friends in Westland's Norway subdivision. She said Milam drove by, asked for directions and said he was a professional photographer involved in a photo shoot at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus.

The teen testified that Milam offered her a modeling contract and arranged a few days later to meet her in Romulus. She said he shot pictures at several locations before taking her to Hines Park, where he pulled her skirt down and started assaulting her before her screams prompted him to flee.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoover Elementary third-grader Raquel Pintar (left) and fifth-grader Autumn Salts empty the recycle bin from a classroom.

Hoover students put paper in its place

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students at Hoover Elementary School are looking for lots of paper ... at least two tons worth. That's what they need to make money and keep a "Paper Retriever" bin in their parking lot.

The school on Fourth Street south of Annapolis in Wayne is among a growing number of schools, churches and nonprofit organizations turning to recycling to raise money.

"We want to get the community involved because there's no curbside recycling in Wayne," said teacher Emily Ryner, who is working on the project with fellow teacher Michelle Furlong. "And depending on how much paper we have, the more money we get."

According to Ryner, the school started looking into recycling last year because of paper waste and approached Abitibi-Consolidated Recycling Division about bringing in the Paper Retriever Program.

People living near the school can drop off newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school papers in the bin, located in the parking lot. Shredded paper in paper bags or loosely tied in a plastic bag also can be put in the bin. The one thing not accepted is phone books, Ryner said.

In the school, two students from Ryner's second-third-grade split team up with two of Furlong's fifth-grade students to go from classroom to classroom, emptying recycling containers at least once a week to add to the bin.

"We've been getting a pretty good response," said Ryner. "One teacher came up and told me she already had filled her bin this week. It's nice to know it's not going in the trash."

It's also nice to know the school is earning money to pay for such things as field trips to improve learning. But how much the school gets is dependent on how much paper ends up in the bin. For every ton up to four tons, the school



Hoover Elementary students Raquel Pintar (from left), Autumn Salts, Michael Williams and Hunter Smith take out the recycle to dump as part of the Abitibi-Consolidated Paper Retriever Program.

earns \$5 per ton and for every ton between four and eight tons, the amount jumps to \$15 per ton.

The Paper Retriever holds 1 1/2-2 tons of paper, and Abitibi will empty it as often as necessary. The paper is taken to a processing center where it is sorted and then sent to one of Abitibi's de-inking facilities in the United States where it's turned into marketable paper products, such as newsprint.

Hoover does face some competition. Franklin Middle School, which is about a mile away on Annapolis east of Howe, also has an Abitibi bin. According to Ryner, the school asked for a chance because "the community will help us do it."

And it appears residents are doing just that. "The kids have told us they've seen some people using the bin, and students have come in saying they've seen people putting newspaper in it," she said. "We know it'll take awhile to get the money, but once it starts coming in, we can get supplies and things with it."

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RECALL

FROM PAGE A1

re-electing them to the board.

Monit was pleased with the outcome of the hearing, saying that the commission "saw through the distortion" in making its ruling. He added that the recall effort was "being done because of other outside interests."

"If I know I'm doing the right thing, I'll take the heat," said Monit, who has served on the board for 10 years.

The recall language stated that the board members had rejected the Wayne-Westland Education Association's offer to extend its contract for one year with a reduction in class size at all levels and had voted to discipline teachers for conducting an illegal strike. State law provides wide interpretive

latitude for recall petitions, however, the commission's ruling found the language to be "unclear, imprecise and vague," Monit said.

"We were able to argue that the wording was incorrect and the commission upheld that," he added. "At least for the first round, we were able to have the petitions knocked down."

Maxwell said the group had a feeling that the language would be rejected, because it wasn't strong on the first part. However, the group is "standing where they're standing" on the recall issue.

According to Maxwell, the 10-member committee planned to meet Wednesday to draft new recall language.

"Everyone is disappointed, but we're not going to give up," she said. "We're doing this for our kids and the teachers and we're not going to back down."

Pitsenbarger and Monit also are standing by their work as school board members.

"If you want to recall me because I put children first then feel free to do that," said Pitsenbarger, a 12-year board member. "But, I will not be intimidated to meet demands based on distortion and lies."

"We want to work collaboratively with the union to reach an agreement," said Monit. "However, we dare not bankrupt the district to meet unreasonable demands. This board is committed to providing an excellent education for our children in our community."

He added that he "never expected, to at this point, to be waging this kind of battle."

"I will see this through," he said. "I know I'm doing the right thing as a school board member."

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PLAYSCAPE

FROM PAGE A1

held an aluminum pole steady as he helped build another deck. It was his way of working off a debt to the Westland 18th District Court work program.

"It's going to be nice for the kids," he said.

Former Westland Fire Chief Ted Scott initially offered a one-word answer when asked why he came out Wednesday: "Bolts," he said.

There were plenty of them, too, as workers and volunteers put together the play structure manufactured by Alabama-based GameTime. The city's Downtown Development Authority arranged to buy Play Planet for \$250,000 through a Michigan company, Holland's Sinclair Recreation LLC.

Scott decided to help because "I've lived here a long time," and he wanted to give back to his community.

Dennis Wuerfel, owner of Fowlerville-based Rent A

Son professional playground installers, said Sinclair contracted with his company to help.

"I've probably built 400 of these things," he said, but added that Westland's could possibly be the nation's largest. "They're still looking into that."

City officials hope the project will be completed by Saturday afternoon, when children are expected to begin playing on the new structure.

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CORRECTION

A story about a recall attempt in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools should have stated that Shawnn Maxwell's phone number is (734) 512-9110.

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The Cherry Hill Church will present a series of prophecy seminars on today's events and Biblical Prophecy, "Apocalypse Now." All sessions are free of charge, without any obligations, and each session will include a question and answer period. Some handouts will be provided.

Pastor Eduard Petreaca will be the main speaker.

All seminars will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. These nightly seminars will be conducted on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for four weeks. Childcare will be available.

Beginning on Halloween-
Friday, October 31st, at 7:00 p.m.

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- Finding Hope and Answers to the Mystery of Death and many more will be discussed.

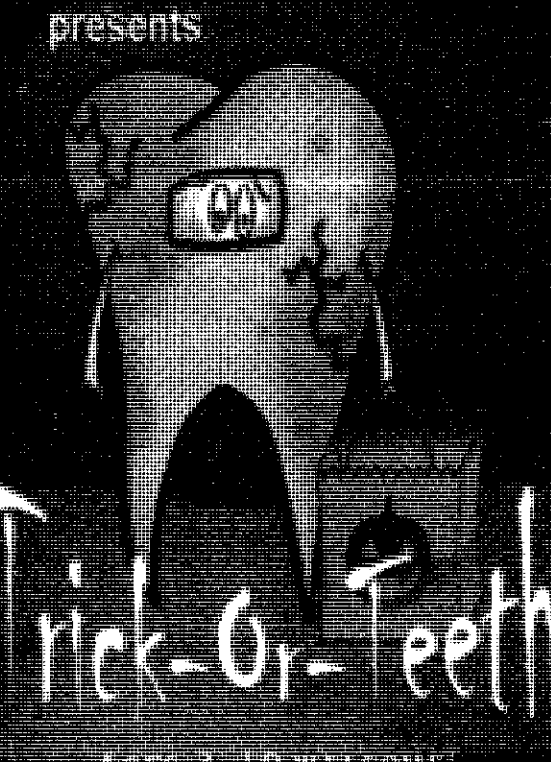


Pastor Petreaca

The Cherry Hill Church
33144 Cherry Hill Road
Garden City, Michigan

The church is located east of Wayne Road and west of Venoy, about 1 mile west of Merriman Road.

For more information please call
734 524-0880 or 734 740-5212.



AGES 3 TO WELCOME

Help Salvation Army this holiday season

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's October, but at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Christmas planning's well under way.

"Of course, it's hard economic times," said Capt. Derek Rose, corps commander with wife Joanna. This year's Wayne-Westland yule goal is \$130,000, compared to some \$114,000 raised last year.

The Red Kettle goal last year was \$100,000, which was exceeded, so there are hopes for this year.

"That is our prayer," Derek Rose said. "I know locally our Salvation Army is supported by the community. We are hopeful we will meet our goal."

You can help by being a volunteer bell ringer, which cuts down on the need to pay bell ringers. There's a Web site, www.ringbells.org, where you can navigate to Wayne-Westland and pick times

to ring. By phone, contact volunteer coordinator Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 11.

Wayne-Westland will have bell ringers out Nov. 14 through early afternoon Dec. 24. Volunteers are also needed to take applications for Christmas assistance. The Adopt a Family program will help about 100 families, the remaining 500 or so shopping for children in the Christmas toy store at the corps building.

Case worker Robin Rutledge-Clarke would be glad to hear from businesses with toys to donate, and can be reached at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 17. The Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland corps is on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland.

Red Kettle locations are: Kroger on Merriman, Westland; Kroger on Michigan Avenue, Westland; Kroger on Ford, Westland; Kroger on Middlebelt, Westland; Michael's Craft Store on Warren, Westland;

Northside Hardware on Wayne, Wayne; Kmart on Wayne, Westland; J.C. Penney on Warren, Westland; Sears on Warren, Westland; Macy's on Warren, Westland; Heartland Market on Ford, Westland; The Palace on Venoy, Westland; Value City on Warren, Westland; Big Lots on Ford, Westland.

Tabletop "mini" kettles will be at: American Family Restaurant in Westland; Big Boy in Westland; Bray's Hamburgers in Westland; Brownie's Diner in Wayne; Nankin Hardware in Westland; Norman's Market in Westland; Pete's Place restaurants in Taylor and Romulus; Ram's Horn, both Wayne Road and Middlebelt in Westland; Century 21 Dynamic Realty in Westland; Goody's Pet Supply in Wayne; Leo's Coney Island in Westland; and Taco Bell in Wayne.

Salvation Army leaders are still working on additional kettle sites.

Westland man pleads guilty to stalking teen

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man pleaded guilty Tuesday to stalking a 13-year-old boy who lived a couple streets away from him on the city's southwest side.

Cherokee Lee Hunter, 29, decided to plea to stalking a juvenile on the day his trial was set to begin in Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin's courtroom in Detroit. Hunter will be formally sentenced Nov. 5, but a court clerk confirmed that the plea was made in return for an agreement that he will serve nine months in the Wayne County Jail and remain on probation for two years.

Hunter had earlier been described by police Sgt. Debra Mathews as a registered sex offender accused in a 1997 incident involving charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a 12-year-old girl.

However, authorities said Hunter wasn't treated as a habitual offender when the outcome of the latest case was worked out.

Hunter, who lived on Surrey Heights, was accused of befriending the 13-year-old boy in June on Springer Drive and offering to help him fix his scooter.

"After awhile, the kid became uncomfortable around him," Mathews said at the time.

Hunter was accused of stalking the boy June 8-23, at one point going into his parents' back yard, drinking a beer and waiting for the child to come outside, Mathews said.

The boy "ran next door and got his mom," who was visiting a neighbor, Mathews said.

Authorities said the stalking continued when Hunter rode by the boy's house on a bicycle and when he sat outside in a vehicle.

If Hunter had gone to trial and been convicted as a second-degree habitual offender, he could have faced more than seven years in prison.

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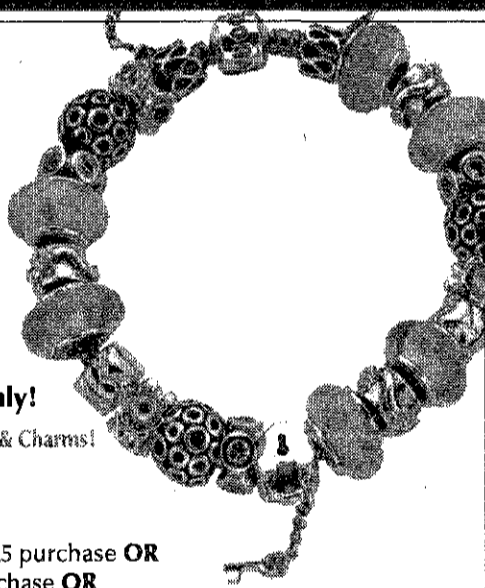
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Commission moves closer to altering parks millage

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission moved closer Tuesday to passing an ordinance that will take a portion of the county's parks millage and dedicate it back to local communities for recreation initiatives.

Meeting in Canton, the Commission's Ways and Means Committee voted in favor of altering the 0.25-mill tax, which county voters first authorized in 1996 and have renewed twice since. It generated more than \$13 million for the county parks system in 2007.

If it ultimately passes, the ordinance — proposed by Commissioners Kevin McNamara of Canton, Laura Cox of Livonia and Bernard Parker of Detroit — would transfer 25 percent of the annual millage back to cities, townships and villages to use on local parks projects.

Tuesday's public hearing attracted a large audience, including Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack, two of the millage's biggest critics. Both expressed support for the proposed ordinance.

"Livonia puts in about \$1.25 million each year. In return, we've received pennies on the dollar," Kirksey said. "This (the ordinance) is a bright spot, to say to local communities we want to partner with you in these difficult economic times."

Yack said the ordinance would take the politics out of where the millage money is spent.

However, Wayne County Assistant Executive Alan Helmkamp warned the commissioners that the ordinance was illegal, because it would "constitute a different purpose" than what voters approved.

"This is a very tantalizing proposal, especially at this time of year," Helmkamp said, referring to the upcoming election.

Commissioner Cox said the ordinance was about making sure there was an equitable distribution of funds from the parks millage.

"Every community will see this," she said. "We need to level the playing field."

The proposed ordinance now moves to the full commission. However, many of the details still have to be worked out on how local communities will be able to use the money, such as for capital improvements or maintenance, or both, and if the county must first approve the projects. Several com-

missioners, including Phil Cavanagh of Redford, said they were in favor of simply providing the communities with a check for 25 percent of what they contribute to the millage.

Only Commissioner Keith D. Williams of Detroit voted against the measure.

"I think we're going down a slippery slope. We're going to start pitting communities against one another," he said.

Helmkamp said the measure could end up in court, but he is hoping the ordinance can be killed in the legislative process.

McNamara said he is not worried about Ficano vetoing the measure.

"We are going to succeed with this ordinance, and we have the votes to pass it," he said.

The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI); League of Women Voters chapters in Ann Arbor, Dearborn-Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Northwest Wayne County, Troy; Oakland County Bar Association; Washtenaw County Bar Association; Chambers of Commerce of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth; AAUW of Michigan; Association of Black Judges of Michigan; Michigan Campaign Finance Network; Michigan Impartial Courts Coalition; National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section; and National Lawyers Guild/Detroit & Michigan Chapter.

Forum focuses on influence in Supreme Court race

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is sponsoring several non-partisan forums entitled, "A Fair and Impartial Michigan Supreme Court."

The League of Women Voters Oakland Area will host a forum 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Schoolcraft College, VisiTech Center, Presentation Room, Haggerty and Seven Mile.

Featured speakers are Judge Edward Thomas, Wayne County Circuit Court (retired); Detroit Free Press columnist Brian Dickerson; and Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network. State Rep. Paul Condino, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, will moderate the event.

Races for the Michigan Supreme Court have become

expensive and highly contentious, with more than \$20 million spent to elect justices since January 2000. The growth of contributions from competing special interest groups and donor disclosure loopholes combine to create the appearance, if not the reality, of conflicts of interest in the Court's selection of cases and its decisions.

"Political influences are jeopardizing the integrity of the institution we rely on to protect our rights," says Eva Packard, president of the Oakland County League of Women Voters. "The Court is accountable to the Constitution and the laws, not to politicians and groups with a political agenda."

The forums are intended to raise awareness about the problems with the current system for electing justices,

present ideas for reform, and encourage citizens to take action.

The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI); League of Women Voters chapters in Ann Arbor, Dearborn-Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Northwest Wayne County, Troy; Oakland County Bar Association; Washtenaw County Bar Association; Chambers of Commerce of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth; AAUW of Michigan; Association of Black Judges of Michigan; Michigan Campaign Finance Network; Michigan Impartial Courts Coalition; National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section; and National Lawyers Guild/Detroit & Michigan Chapter.

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Prosecutor opens out-county location

A new Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Out-County Office was officially opened Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008 at noon.

The new office is in the Dearborn Heights Justice Center at 25637 Michigan Ave., Dearborn Heights. The opening of the new office is the culmination of the efforts of Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Dearborn Heights Mayor Dan Paletko, the Police Chiefs of Wayne County, the Dearborn Heights City Council, and many others, who made this possible.

"We know that this office will improve our ability to serve our out-county communities by bringing justice closer to their homes," said Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Government financial package has benefits for taxpayers

There's been much written about the \$700 billion package that Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed. Most of the conversation has to do with Troubled Asset Recovery



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Program, a plan that will allow the government to buy equity positions in certain financial institutions and troubled mortgages. The purpose of TARP is to provide financial institutions with the necessary liquidity to start loaning money and

easing credit. Although the money for TARP is the most important aspect of the bill there are other aspects of the legislation that can be valuable to you and me. In the legislation that creates TARP, there are a number of tax law changes that potentially can affect you and me. One of these provides some planning opportunities with regard to charitable contributions. For the last couple of years, individuals who were over age 70½ and required to take min-

imum required distributions from their IRA had the option to have the distribution donated to a charity. This provided a great planning opportunity for people who do not itemize their deductions.

The law that allowed this tax treatment expired and was not valid in 2008. However, with the new plan this has changed and you now can, if you are over 70½, contribute your required minimum distribution to a charity and avoid having to report the distribution on your income tax return. For individuals who are charitable in nature and who do not itemize their deductions, this is a great planning opportunity.

The legislation also contains temporary relief from the alternative minimum tax. Under the new law, the alternative minimum tax exemption for a single individual has been raised to \$46,200 and for a married couple, \$69,950. Without this temporary fix, millions of Americans would have been subject to the alternative minimum tax. The tax was established in the 1960s to tax the very wealthy that were using certain shelters to avoid taxes. Because Congress never indexed the exemp-

tion to inflation, many middle-income people are now subject to the tax. The temporary fix will spare millions of this additional tax burden.

The education deduction that had expired has been extended for 2008-09. This deduction allows you to deduct \$4,000 in education expense for a child, spouse or even yourself, whether or not you itemize your deductions. To qualify for this, if you're single, your adjusted gross income must be \$80,000 or less, and if you're married, \$160,000 or less.

Another important temporary tax break extended to 2012 deals with forgiven mortgage debt. Under previous law, if a mortgage company forgave your mortgage debt, such as in a short sale, the debt was taxed as ordinary income. As foreclosures started to mount, Congress passed a temporary fix and this has been extended to 2012. Basically, for the majority of people, if your mortgage debt is forgiven, the money will not be taxed.

Other tax law changes included in the recent legislation include energy tax credits for home improvements and the extension of

the sales tax deduction. The sales tax deduction had expired in 2007 but now has been extended to 2008 and 2009. The \$500 property tax deduction for non-itemizers has also been extended to 2008.

I always tell individuals their goal is never to lower taxes but rather have more money in their pocket. In other words, don't let the tax tail wag the dog and don't do anything for tax reasons alone. However, that does not mean we do not want to take advantage of the laws available to us.

Take the opportunity to see if any apply to you and take advantage of the changes. Taxes are a necessary evil, however, it is not more patriotic to pay more money in taxes than you must. The key is to be smart about taxes and to make sure the tax laws work for you.

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

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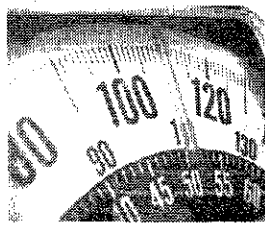
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patients are suffering from severe health issues due to excess weight or merely looking to lose 15 to 20 pounds, all receive a full medical consultation with scientific measurement of their body mass and basal metabolic rate and individual body composition analysis to accurately predict weight-loss results.

The center uses the latest techniques and medical data, and has access to high-quality nutritional products and the newest FDA-approved weight-loss medications that are available only to medical doctors.

The average weight loss experienced by patients is 21 pounds in four weeks. In addition to the weight loss itself, health benefits include a decrease in dependence on blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol medications, as well as lesser risk of chronic disease such as congestive heart failure, clinical depression and sleep apnea. Many successful patients refer to their experience at The Center for Medical Weight Loss as life-changing, and in many cases, life-saving.

To locate a center nearest you, call 1-800-MD-BE-THIN or www.mdbethin.com.

The doctors at The Center for Medical Weight Loss have specialized training and use a variety of techniques to achieve rapid weight loss.

* Average weight loss based on a random sample of 58 men and 61 women on the medically prescribed diet.

According to Dr. Kaplan, "Treating people with weight problems isn't simply a matter of telling them to eat less and exercise more," he says. His research found that a central factor is addiction - to food - and an unhealthy pattern of eating. His primary approach, therefore, is to break food addictions and help patients reach a safe and healthy target weight quickly. Most importantly, the center's program teaches patients how to maintain their weight loss permanently.

"Unlike many consumer weight-loss programs whose staff requires no medical knowledge or training, The Center for Medical Weight Loss' physicians are certified professionals," notes Dr. Kaplan. "They fully understand the complex factors that are related to weight gain such as individual psychology and genetics, contributing illnesses and prescription medication."

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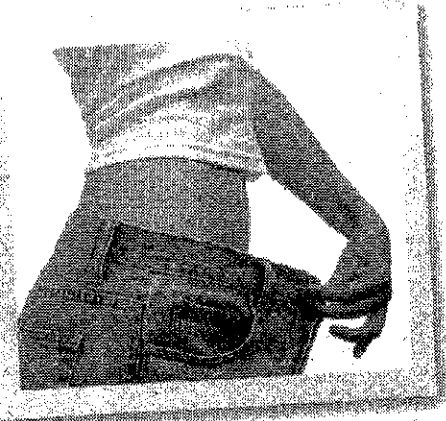
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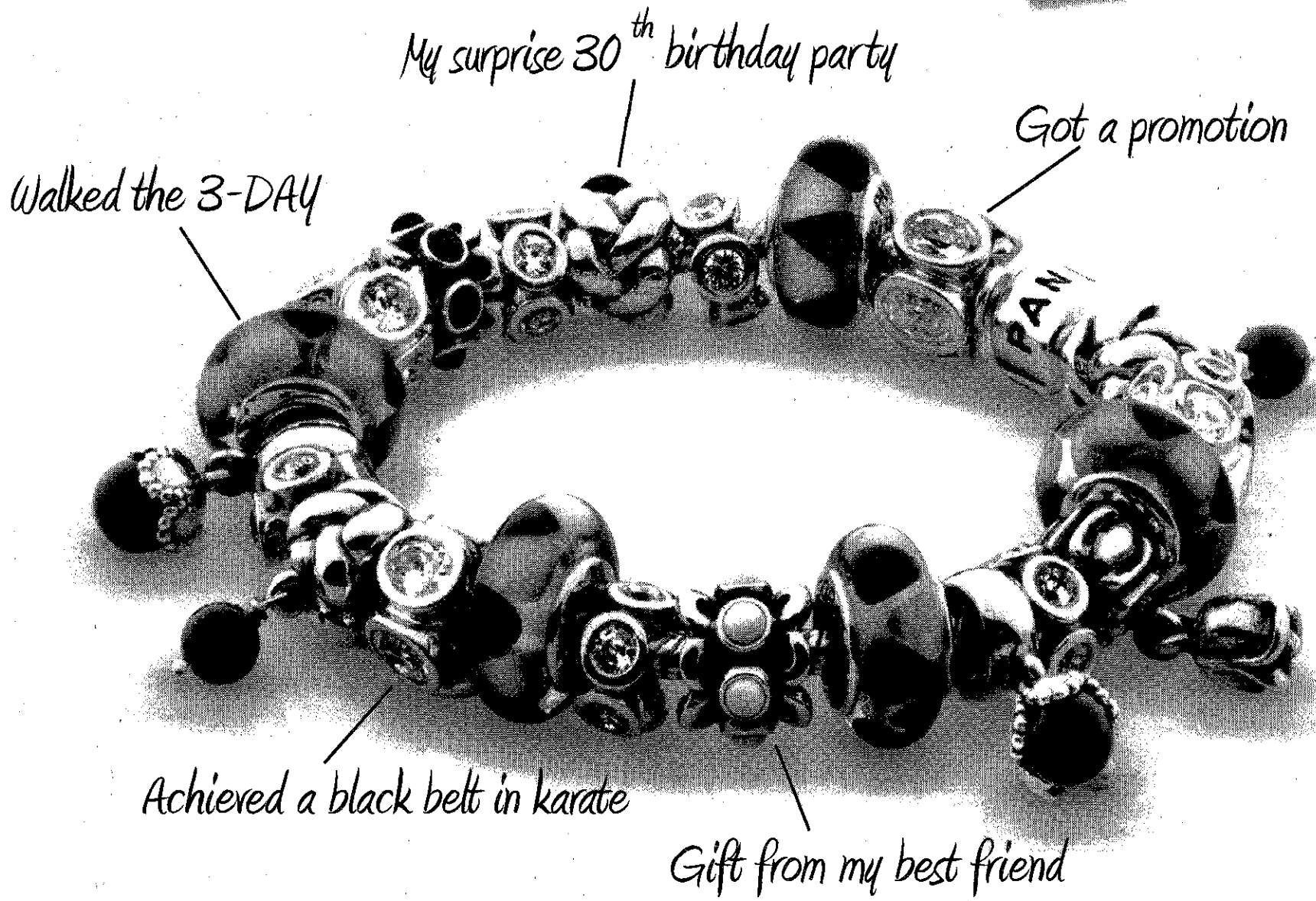
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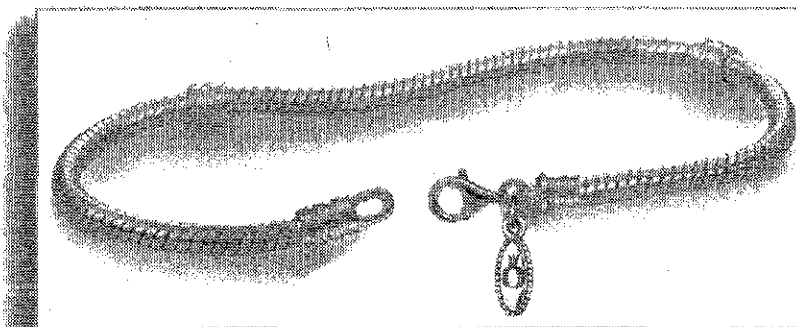
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Volunteers to make cards for troops

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're into rubber stamping and card making, set aside some time Saturday, Oct. 25, to help make a difference.

That's when volunteers will gather at the Church of the Divine Savior in Westland to stamp and assemble 800-1,000 Christmas cards that will be sent to three military units that have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The project is one of thousands of activities being conducted around the country as part of the 18th annual Make a Difference Day.

"We're not sending cards to the troops as cards from us, but cards they can put their own message in and send back to their loved ones," said Dianne Teslak, who is coordinating the project. "It's something we can do to make a difference for someone who is doing so much for us."

From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., volunteers meet at the church at 39375 Joy, west of Hix, in Westland to assemble the cards. No card making experience is necessary. According to Teslak, "if you can put tape on paper, you're experienced."

Teslak has 20-30 people signed up to help, but more volunteers are needed. She also has 300 completed cards donated by card makers who won't be able to participate in the event.

Four women have been meeting for weeks at night and on weekends to help cut and fold paper and create the backgrounds for the cards. Experienced card makers will do the stamping, while other volunteers will put on the adhesive and assemble the layers of each card.

"You don't have to have a lot of experience, we'll show you what to do," Teslak said.

The plan is to have the cards in the mail by Nov. 5, so that the soldiers will have time to write their own greetings and ship the cards back home to their loved ones.

Members of the church also have made donations to cover the cost of supplies, but there also will be a donation canister at the event for people who'd like to help. Teslak estimates the cost of supplies will exceed \$600, but there's also the expense of getting the cards to the soldiers.

If Saturday's project is a success, Teslak is looking to continue making and sending various types of greeting cards to the deployed units throughout the year.

"I became inspired by another woman who has been doing this for a troop," said Teslak, an avid card maker. "I've coordinated other events at the church and decided I could coordinate this."

People interested in helping out can call Teslak at (734) 945-0960 for more information. Donations to help fund the project can be sent to Church of the Divine Savior, 39375 Joy, Westland, MI 48185. Checks should be made payable to the church with a notation that the money is for the cards for the soldiers' project.

"We began with one troop and now it's three," Teslak said. "If we have enough cards, we'll be able to incorporate another troop."

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



Star Power

Members of the Westland Stars Cheer and Performance team were honored at a recent Westland City Council meeting by state, the county and city officials for their bronze medal-winning performances at the this summer's Junior Olympics.

Westland youth picked to compete in pageant

A Westland youth has been selected to compete in the National Inc.'s 2008 Miss Pre-Teen Detroit pageant next month.



Janet Kostiuk

Janet Kostiuk, a seventh-grader at Stevenson Middle School

in Westland, will compete in the pageant slated for Sunday, Nov. 2. She was

selected for the competition after submitting an application and participating in an interview with the Detroit pageant coordinator, Patty Neidert.

Janet will compete in the pre-teen division of the pageant where contestants will be judged on modeling rou-

tines including casual and formal wear as well as in an interview with the judging panel. Contestants will vie for cash prizes and speciality gifts.

The winner of the Detroit pageant will receive an expense-paid six days-five nights trip to Orlando, Fla.,

to represent Detroit and the surrounding area in the Cities of America National Competition where more than \$60,000 in prizes and awards will be presented.

Janet is being sponsored in the pageant by her parents, David and Janet Kostiuk of Westland.

Voters Guide now available at libraries

Looking for information about the candidates in the Nov. 4 general election?

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County's 2008 Voter Guides, covering candidates running for state representative, Wayne County Commission, circuit and district courts and Township offices are now available in all public libraries in Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Wayne, Redford, Garden City and Northville. On-line versions of the voter guide are also available on the League's Web site at www.lwvwww.org.

In addition to responses received from questionnaires sent to state and local candidates, voters can also find the Voter Guide for federal offices, university governing boards, the Michigan Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals that was produced by the League of Women Voters of Michigan at local libraries and on the League's Web site.

Because the League believes that every candidate's voice should be heard, third party candidates are also included in the Voter Guide as well as pro and con positions for the two state-wide ballot proposals.

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 - 2004 – Felicia Jones – TV, Desk, Dresser
 - 3038 – Terence Hunter Jr – 2 Ladders, 20 Boxes, Misc Items
 - 5056 – Claire Joslin – 10 Boxes, Couch, Armoire
 - 5094 – Barry Price Jr – Boxes, Bags, Misc Items
 - 5110 – Stephanie Ann Hatcher – Boxes, Bags, Misc Items
 - 5120 – Jeremy R Semeniuk – Dryer, Microwave, Washer

Publish: October 16 and 23, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, October 30, 2008, various items of the City 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:

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4688249	1990	Pontiac	Sunbird	1G2JB14K1L7638564
4688274	1997	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1248VM145149
4746791	1984	Chevrolet	Camaro	1G1AP87G2EL112346
4746808	1977	Lincoln	Town Car	7Y82A825764
4746822	1990	Chrysler	New Yorker	1C3XY66R1LD756899

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, October 29, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: October 23, 2008

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USA WEEKEND MAGAZINE

This Sunday in...

Observer & Eccentric and Mirror NEWSPAPERS

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's Sports section

OUR VIEWS

WCCCD deserves yes vote on tax

Last year, Wayne County Community College District was handed a resounding defeat when it asked voters to approve a 10-year renewal of its 1.5-mill tax levy, a good three years in advance of its 2010 expiration date.

The move angered some people and prompted a state lawmaker to propose legislation that would prevent millage renewals being placed before voters unless it's within 18 months of expiring.

Undaunted, WCCCD is putting its millage request before voters again in the Tuesday, Nov. 4, election, but this time the requested renewal is for a reduced rate of 1.25 mills for 10 years. The money raised by the levy — the tax would cost \$125 a year for a homeowner who has a \$200,000 house with a taxable value of \$100,000 — represents 40 percent of WCCCD's budget for its 72,000-student, five-campus district.

In these difficult economic times, it's hard to think about a tax renewal, but in this case, we believe voters in the college district, including those in a small portion of Canton (people living with the Wayne-Westland and Van Buren school districts), should do just that and vote yes.

Why? The Wayne County Community College District has been a wise steward of the money it receives. It has improved its facilities, including the acquisition of the University of Detroit Mercy's Outer Drive campus for its new Northwestern campus. It puts its academic lineup at arm's length for suburban students, especially those living in Redford.

The college also has positioned itself to meet the increasing need for retraining the unemployed and underemployed adults as well as high school graduates through such endeavors as the recent 43,000-square-foot addition with state of the art labs and additional career programming space at its Western Wayne campus.

WCCCD has faced an uphill battle with community college powerhouse like Schoolcraft and Henry Ford. It has gone from being a college with no buildings to one with five campuses and an enrollment that rivals that of any major university in this state.

Wayne County Community College District is distinguishing itself as a gem in higher education in Wayne County. Voters in the district should allow it to continue to shine. That is why we are urging residents of the district to vote YES on the community college's 1.25-mill renewal request.

Elect McConnell judge

The quietest race in the November general election is happening in Westland where voters will select a new judge for the city's 18th District Court.

Mark McConnell is the lone candidate to replace Judge C. Charles Bokos who cannot seek re-election because he will reach the age of 70 before the election.

McConnell already is well-schooled with the court and knows the people who work there. He is an assistant Westland city attorney with broad experience in handling cases in district court. He has worked for City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office since 1995, drafting ordinances and legal opinions, prosecuting cases and negotiating plea agreements.

McConnell earned his degree from the University of Detroit School of Law and worked for nearly two years for the Michigan Court of Appeals as a prehearing research attorney, before taking a job with Plakas' office.

He has been described as "a smart young man," and we have to agree. We believe he will dispense justice in a fair and equitable manner and is a fine choice to replace Bokos.

We believe that even though it is a lengthy ballot, voters should not skip the opportunity to vote for Mark McConnell for 18th District Court in the Tuesday, Nov. 4, election. He deserves the support of the entire community as he prepares to take on a new and challenging job.

McCotter is the better choice

Democrats have reason to be optimistic about retaining their majority in the U.S. House and picking up seats in the House and Senate. But Michigan's 11th Congressional District has been a safe seat for Republican incumbent Thaddeus McCotter. He hasn't been challenged by an experienced political figure since his first campaign in 2002.

This year his Democratic opponent, Joseph Larkin, is a Livonia attorney who offers basic Democratic talking points and seems honestly concerned about the war in Iraq and the foreclosure problems. But he has a superficial understanding of some issues and no record of government service that would suggest that he could play a meaningful role in Congress.

McCotter is a bright, articulate man, who sees himself as a true conservative and, as chair of the Republican House Policy Committee, he helps the party set its conservative agenda. In that role, he was one of the leaders of a House Republican revolt against the Bush bank rescue plan. His voting record though has generally been supportive of Bush and Republican positions. But as a member from southeast Michigan, he also votes the district on issues involving trade, the auto industry and minimum wage.

Given his intelligence, his flexibility on issues of local importance, his broad legislative experience, his regular presence in the district and his constituent service, we support the re-election of Thaddeus McCotter for a fourth term.



Six-year-old Emma O'Beirne of Westland looks at her voting sticker, as her mother, Amy O'Beirne, casts her vote in the primary election. This will be an historic election and everyone is encouraged to exercise their right to vote.

LETTERS

Class size is problem

In the article about the teachers strike from Oct. 9, Mr. (William) Gabriel states that he has looked into complaints about class sizes and has found that in the elementary only four classrooms are over 32 students. He also stated that this is not a crisis.

Well, I disagree and here is why: In my son's school, Kettering Elementary, there are TWO classrooms with 35 students in them. BOTH of these classrooms are the fourth-grade classrooms. (There are also some children in these rooms with special needs.) This is a crisis for Kettering Elementary, the fourth-grade children, their teachers and parents.

The school district knew that these two fourth-grade classrooms were this crowded before school started. This is completely unacceptable. There is no reason why an additional teacher wasn't hired. Talk about no child left behind, I think every fourth-grade child at Kettering is being left behind.

Lisa Said
Westland

Diversions tactic

Education Action Group, a nonprofit organization promoting school spending reform in Michigan, recently analyzed the "class size" issue in the Wayne-Westland district to determine its relevance and to weigh the validity of the claim that it is a major sticking point in contract negotiations between the school board and the teachers union.

The first thing that stood out to us was the fact that in the expired contract, the union agreed to increasing class size by one student from 2006-07 to 2007-08. According to a statement on the school district's Web site (since removed by judge's order), the school board recently proposed cutting the maximum number of students allowed per class by one student — effectively returning to the '06-07 level.

If that particular number of students is unacceptable to union negotiators, why would they have agreed to increase from that number in the expired contract?

Through the Freedom of Information Act, we obtained the list of every single class in the district and the number of students in each class. No class size violates the expired contract and it is unlikely any class size would violate the proposed contract.

Furthermore, the expired contract clearly stipulates how many students may be in each classroom. Any amount over the agreement would equal a violation of the agreement by the school board. At that point, a grievance could be filed by the union. Our research has not uncovered any such grievance, which leads us to believe this issue is simply a diversionary tactic to sway the public away from supporting the board and hide the true issue: health insurance.

Let us be clear: The issue is not whether employees will receive insur-

ance, but rather, what brand. The Wayne-Westland Education Association is fighting tooth and nail to keep its current plan, MESSA. MESSA is controlled by the Michigan Education Association. Last year alone, MESSA paid the MEA more than \$4.7 million in "marketing fees." The MESSA board is made up entirely of MEA leaders, directors and members. The conflict of interest could not be more evident.

A loss of MESSA business would likely lead to a decreased amount of funds received by the MEA. This is an example of the MEA's putting its financial interest ahead of its members' interest of the financial interest of school districts across Michigan.

Taxpayers of the Wayne-Westland district — the people who will be asked to sign a petition to recall four of the board members soon — need a full understanding of what is at stake and who stands to gain or lose in a financial settlement. While it is important to scrutinize class size, the other contract issues deserve a full airing, as well.

Kyle Olson
vice president of strategy
Education Action Group Inc.

'I am afraid'

I am an afraid 15-year-old. I cannot vote, so does that mean I have no voice? NO, that means YOU need to speak for me!

*I am afraid
My mouth is closed.
What will happen,
Nobody knows ...*

*I am left silent,
Yet I can take a stand!
I am NOT going to let him win,
He will NOT ruin this land!*

*If Obama wins the election,
Our country will no longer be free.
How could we support a man,
Whose past is clouded by mystery?*

*I might be too young to vote,
But that doesn't mean I don't care.
Our country NEEDS McCain and
Palin,
With Obama we will go nowhere!*

*What is it going to take,
For Americans to see?
That Obama will simply ruin,
Our honor and dignity!*

*I am in fear,
What will we do?
McCain has to win,
It is all up to YOU ...*

Janell Evans
Westland

Someone making a difference

We live in a world that at times can seem very self-centered and cold, but I want to take time to share with you about a very special person in my life who is an encouragement and an uplift

in my life and the life of many other people.

This special person is never too busy to listen and take time to encourage you no matter what you are facing in your life. He is never judgmental or never looks down on you, but always shares the love of God with his words or a prayer to lift you up in your life. He is never too busy to minister to your needs, even if it is in the middle of the night at the hospital. He always has a smile and a warm handshake to everyone he comes in contact with. He is a wonderful example of a loving father to all of his children. He is also a wonderful husband who shows love to his wife by all the things he does for her.

You will never hear a negative word come out of his mouth about any person. In his life he is a living example of what a real Christian should be. He walks and talks and shares the love of Jesus in the life of all those he ministers to. His messages on Sunday are uplifting and help me with the struggles I face each week.

He is very much involved in the community of Garden City by serving on the chamber and helping in the community of Garden City wherever he can be involved. He is a man of integrity and honesty. His word is true and you can trust him to keep his word and promises. He is a very giving man who always looks for the best in other people. He is always available to listen and pray with anyone who is hurting and needs encouragement.

He is the pastor of my wonderful church, Merriman Road Baptist Church, and has a heart for the people living in and around our church. His goal is to see our church reach into the community and help meet people's needs.

Last but not the least important is he is more than my pastor, he is also my good friend.

When I look at his life and the things he does for others I can know that no matter how tough things are or how hopeless they may seem he brings a bright light in a sometimes dark world. This very caring and wonderful person is my very special Pastor Wayne Parker.

Thank you for all you do in my life and the life of the community of Garden City.

Bill Riddle
Garden City

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

QUOTABLE

"We have a fiduciary responsibility to spend the money the way it was voted on by the voters of Wayne County. You can't go back and change it."

— Vanessa Denha-Garmo, spokeswoman for Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, about a proposed ordinance to return 25 percent of the annual county parks millage back to communities to use on local parks projects

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at sma-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Railroadians
Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer Road, one mile west of Merriman Road. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family.

Free Movie

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, in cooperation with AMC Theaters of Livonia, will host a free movie screening of Clint Eastwood's film, "Flags of Our Fathers" at 3 p.m. Veteran's Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Livonia AMC 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile.

Travel show

Party Animal Travel is holding a free travel show for residents in Wayne and Oakland counties 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, in Garden City.

Free workshops

Dr. William H. Karl, a certified Brimhall wellness doctor and a nutritional expert, will talk about lifestyle choices that will help you lose toxic fat and your excess weight 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 25000 Civic Center Dr., east of Farmington.



Hail to the winners

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous may have had to eat some crow, but Westland Mayor William Wild was left with a case of White Castle burgers. The two made a bet on their hometown teams before the recent city championship football game between the John Glenn High School Rockets and the Wayne Memorial High Zebras.

Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a non-profit organization serving the community since 1985 promoting natural and preventative healthcare. Seating is limited. Call (734) 425-8588 for more information and to reserve a seat or register online at www.KarlWellnessCenter.com.

Class reunions
Cherry Hill High School Classes of 1983 and 1984 will hold a reunion 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club on Merriman north of Warren Road, Westland. The cost is \$50 per person and includes dinner and open bar (casual attire). Advanced tickets only must be purchased by Sept. 30.

Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform

beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4i.com or call (734) 722-3660.

CRAFT SHOWS

Garden City Knights of Columbus
Crafters are needed for the Garden City Knights of Columbus second annual craft show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday Nov. 22, at the hall, 30759 Ford, Garden City. For more information, call Linda at (734) 422-0373 or Vicki at (313) 538-0204.

St. Sebastian
Crafters are needed for St. Anne Altar Society's Fall Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 15, at St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 20710 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Charmaine at (313) 278-1266.

EDUCATION

St. Raphael
St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade.

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

Academic Pathways
Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training

is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

YWCA preschool
The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2 1/2 to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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

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

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Advertisement for Dr. Allen Berman, D.D.S., featuring a photo of a woman and text describing his services in cosmetic and family dentistry. Includes a 'New Patient Special' of \$100 off any dental work and contact information: 734-453-2200 and www.drallenberman.com.



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Kids' museum marks doll anniversary

Kids 4 and older are invited to bring your favorite Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and join in the fun as the Detroit Children's Museum celebrates the 90th anniversary of the classic "Raggedy Ann Stories" 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8.

Illustrator and writer Johnny Gruelle created the "Raggedy Ann doll" in 1915 for his ailing daughter Marcella. Raggedy Ann was introduced to the public in 1918 in the book written by Gruelle. Her brother, Raggedy Andy,

debuted in a sequel in 1920. The celebration includes tours of a special exhibit featuring vintage Raggedy Ann memorabilia from the Museum's collection, group games, sing-a-long songs; a Raggedy Ann story and puppet making activity led by Museum art teacher Lana Hardin, a Show and Tell Parade, prize drawings and more.

Admission for the full program is \$5 per child for non-members; and \$3 per child for

members. Pre-registration is required for all programs and activities. Call (313) 873-8100 for reservations information.

Also scheduled is the monthly Planetarium Show with Carrie Zaitz. Kids age 4 and older, and their adult chaperones, will enjoy the "Starry Night Sky" at 12:30 p.m. Passes are distributed before show time, on a first come basis, beginning at noon to 12:20 p.m. Seating is limited. The museum is just south of the New Center area at 6134 Second Avenue, between Amsterdam and Burroughs. Look for "Silverbolt," the auto bumper horse, on the front lawn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and noon to 4 p.m., the second Saturday of each month, October - May.

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John Glenn serves up division triumph against Franklin girls

Senior Stacey Truskowski had 20 digs and junior Brittani Robinson was 21-for-21 serving with four aces Tuesday as visiting Westland John Glenn made quick work of Livonia Franklin in a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-South Division girls volleyball match, 25-14, 25-9, 25-14.

Glenn, bouncing back from a lackluster performance in Saturday's Walled Lake Central Invitational, is 17-11-7 overall and 5-4 in the KLAA-South.

Franklin falls to 9-17-2 and 2-7 in the division.

Halie Baker was Glenn's top attack with seven kills to go along with three blocks. Truskowski added five kills, while Brittany Holbrook finished with four kills, three blocks and five ace serves.

"Our serving woes disappeared," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "We had only four errors out of 72 attempts. Our most consistent server was Brittani (Robinson) and Brittany Holbrook used an aggressive, jump-serve to keep Franklin on its heels.

"Efforts like these kept us in the game and allowed us to

KLAA VOLLEYBALL

build a big lead. Our attackers combined for only 18 kills, a credit to Franklin's defense. Fortunately, our defense came together in time to turn back Franklin's offense."

Holbrook also chipped in with 15 digs, while teammate Brooke Zywick added eight.

Novi bests Stevenson

In a KLAA-Central Division match Tuesday, Novi downed host Livonia Stevenson in three straight games, 25-23, 25-21, 25-20.

Brooke Knochel (nine kills) and Meg Iafrate (six kills) were the top attackers for the Spartans, who slipped to 13-19 overall and 3-6 in the division.

Setters Katie Vellucci and Claire LeBlanc had 10 and nine assist-to-kills, respectively, while Christine Armstrong paced the defense with 11 digs.

Novi is 29-8 overall and 6-3 in the KLAA-Central.

Churchill stops Wildcats

Kristen Nalez recorded 16 kills and Sarah Suppelsa added 11 Tuesday as KLAA-South Division champion

Livonia Churchill downed visiting Plymouth in three games, 25-16, 25-22, 25-20.

Other standouts for the state-ranked Chargers, now 33-3 overall and 9-0 in the KLAA-South, included Katie Matz (seven kills, four assists, two aces); Lindsey Graciak (12 digs) and Jessica Stroud (five kills, four blocks).

Churchill will travel Tuesday to play KLAA-Central Division champion South Lyon for the Kensington Conference title. (Game time is at 7 p.m.)

The loss drops Plymouth to 15-11-4 overall and 5-4 in the division.

Canton whacks Wayne

Canton's successful season continued Tuesday night with a 25-10, 25-13 and 25-6 sweep of visiting Wayne Memorial.

The victory improved the Chiefs' record to 27-5 overall and 7-2 in the KLAA-South Division.

"The team played aggressive all three games," Canton coach Jen Barnes said. "We are looking a little more comfortable in some new line-ups."

The Chiefs were led by Jordan Kietly, who racked up 16 kills and five aces, Shelby

Anthony (12 digs and 11 aces), Kristen Muir (17 digs) and Gina Waite, who compiled 21 assists and nine digs.

Wayne is 6-28-2 overall and 0-9.

Patriots' best outing

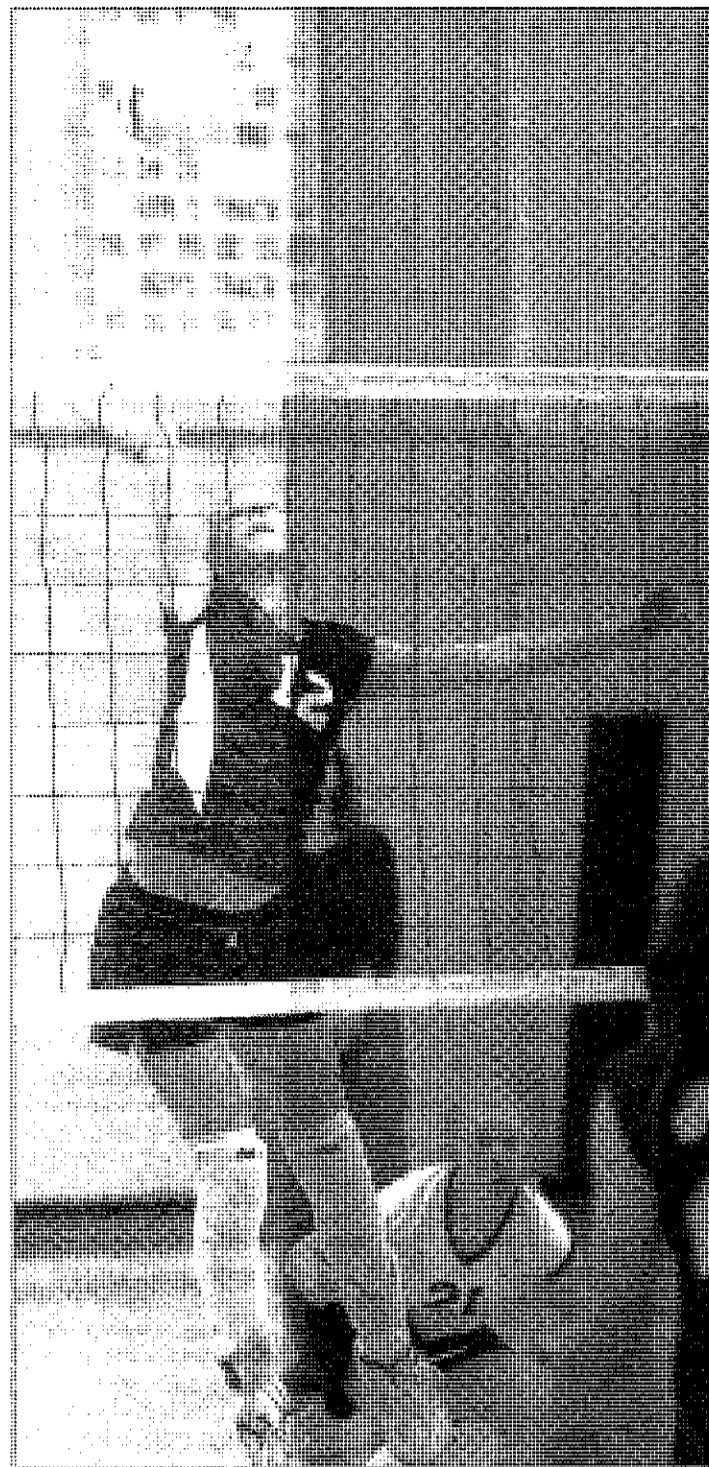
On Saturday, Livonia Franklin turned in its best showing of the season at the Walled Lake Central Tournament.

The Patriots went 1-0-2 in pool play - splitting with the host Vikings (20-25, 25-13) and Westland John Glenn (8-25, 25-22), while defeating Wayne Memorial (25-22, 25-19).

Redford Union ousted Franklin in the first round of the Silver Division playoffs, 25-16, 20-25, 16-14.

Sophomore Chelsea Williams stood out offensively for the Patriots with 24 total kills, 12 digs and four service aces.

Other standouts for Franklin included senior Ashly Butkowski (15 kills, seven aces, 12 digs); sophomore Amanda Borico (13 kills, 12 digs); sophomore Cassie Pietron (10 kills, nine aces); junior setter Liz Hollaway (10 aces, five kills); and freshman libero Nicole Williamson (18 digs).



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It was Senior night as Lutheran High Westland senior Katey Ramthun goes up for a spike backed up by senior libero Abi Gieschen.

Blazers gearing up for playoffs

Livonia Ladywood enters Thursday's Catholic League A-B Division volleyball playoffs with a 25-13-5 record after falling last week to visiting Farmington Hills Mercy in four games.

Bridget Hickey had 17 kills and 12 blocks as the Marlins wrapped up the second seed for the upcoming playoffs, while improving to 47-13-1 overall and 4-2 in the Central Division.

Other standouts in the 27-25, 25-16, 20-25, 25-18

PREP VOLLEYBALL

win for the Marlins included Maddy Doyle (13 kills), Andrea Conover (13 blocks), Katherine Gary (24 digs) and Mackenzie Bickes (20 assists).

Claire Dezelski paced the Blazers, who fell to 2-4 in the Central, with 13 kills.

Senior setter Julie Rhodes finished with 31 assist-to-kills, while sister Jenny Rhodes, a freshman outside hitter, had a team-best 17 digs.

Ladywood takes on Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the quarterfinal round beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday at Birmingham Marian. The top-seeded Mustangs will take on the winner immediately following with the semifinal victor advancing to the championship match 7 p.m. Monday at Madonna University.

Huron Valley victorious

In a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference volleyball match Tuesday, Westland

Huron Valley Lutheran swept host Canton Agape Christian in three straight, 25-11, 25-16, 25-20, to improve to 11-10-2 overall and 8-1 in the MIAC.

Senior setter Kayla Stockdale tallied eight assists for the victors while sophomore middle hitter Leah Miller collected four kills.

Huron Valley co-coach Chris Ruth said all 15 players saw action and 10 of them chipped in with at least one kill.

"It was a total team effort," she said.

WARRIORS

FROM PAGE B1

creeping in because he remembers what happened at the 2007 Metro tourney. Lutheran Westland won the regular season last year, too, but lost in the tournament semifinals and "we didn't get anything. I think we've got the right mindset to not let that happen again."

The Class D state-ranked

Warriors will most likely face No. 8 seed Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett in the first round.

The regular season and tournament each count 50 percent toward the final overall standings.

"So essentially, if you're the No. 1 seed (from the regular season) and you make the finals, you share the title," Wade said. "That's the very least you can do."

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Whalers back to .500 with shootout victory

Ryan Hayes and A.J. Jenks scored shootout goals and goaltender Matt Hackett stopped the two shootout attempts he faced as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Oshawa Generals, 4-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

With the win, Plymouth gets to the .500 mark at 5-5-1-0, while Oshawa is 6-7-0-1.

The game featured no more than a one-goal differential the entire way.

Monroe-native R.J. Mahalak (5th), Jordan O'Neill (2) and Kaine Geldart (2) scored for Plymouth, while Jenks (Wolverine Lake), Leo Jenner and Patrick Lee contributed two assists apiece.

League leading scorer John Tavares (14), Michael Del Zotto (2) and Brett Parnham (7) replied for Oshawa, with Del Zotto adding two assists.

After Mahalak (2:30) and Parnham (shorthanded at 17:05)

traded first period goals, the Whalers took their first lead at 2-1 at 2:57 of the second period on O'Neill's point shot at 2:57.

Del Zotto tied the game at 2-2 at 10:26 with a snap shot from the slot and Geldart gave the Whalers a 3-2 lead when he tipped Leo Jenner's point shot at 15:28. But Tavares scored at 16:55 to tie the game at 3-3 when he scored from the right wing with an accurate snap shot inside the far post.

After a scoreless third period and overtime, the Whalers won the game in the shootout when Hayes scored on a back hand stuff, top shelf under the cross bar and Jenks scored with a snap shot from the left hashmark that Oshawa goaltender Daryl Borden got a piece of, but the puck trickled over the line. Hackett stopped Del Zotto and Tavares on their shots.

"I saw his five-hole open up for a second and I went for it," Jenks said

of his shootout goal. "I saw the puck trickling around in there. I didn't know if it was going to stop or keep going. I just kept watching it (the puck) and it slid over (the line)."

Plymouth outshot Oshawa, 35-31. The Whalers are off until next Saturday night when they host the top-ranked Windsor Spitfires.

Game time is at 7:05 p.m. and tickets are available by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

CCHA NOTEBOOK

Channel Flipper

Comcast will feature the match-up between Northern Michigan and Michigan State on Saturday, Oct. 25, from Munn Ice Arena. Twenty-one players in this week's game hail from the state of Michigan, including Spartans seniors Jeff Lerg (Livonia), Brandon Gentile (Clarkston) and Steve Minch (Northville), junior Corey Tropp (Northville), sophomores Jeff Petry (Farmington Hills), Dustin Gazley (Southfield) and Ryan Turek (Northville) and freshmen Tim Buttery (Northville), Trevor Nill (Novi) and Ben Warda (Lake Orion).

Need to know items

■ Notre Dame's Erik Condra (Livonia) was a key contributor in the Fighting Irish weekend sweep of Sacred Heart. Condra had two goals and three assists to go with a plus-2 rating in the weekend series. Notre Dame swept Sacred Heart with back-to-back shutouts, 3-0 and 7-0.

■ Condra, moved from 33rd on Notre Dame's all-time

scoring list to a tie for 27th with Pat Conroy '75. Condra has amassed 125 points in his career with 37 goals and 88 assists. Condra surpassed his uncle, All-American Kirt Bjork '83, on the all-time career assist list with his assist in Friday night's 3-0 shutout victory over Sacred Heart.

■ Michigan's 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior defenseman and captain Mark Mitera (Livonia) was lost for the season after suffering a major knee injury during the first period in the season-opener Oct. 10 against St. Lawrence. The first-round draft pick of the Anaheim Ducks in 2006 (19th overall) had two goals and 21 assists with a plus-30 rating as a junior with the Wolverines.

■ Lake Superior won their first CCHA season opener since 1999, and their first on the road since 1995, with a 7-3 victory at Ohio State on Friday. Laker junior forward Nathan Perkovich (Canton) keyed the attack with two goals and two assists.

■ Lake Superior freshman forward Dan Barczuk (Livonia) tallied his first col-

legiate goal on Friday against Ohio State.

■ Laker junior forward Zac MacVoy (Livonia) contributed an assist on Friday and scored a goal on Saturday to extend his point streak to four games (2-2-4).

■ Bowling Green sophomore netminder Nick Eno (Howell), a CCHA All-Rookie Team member last season, practiced last week in hopes of making the trip to Alaska this weekend. Eno will be evaluated mid-week; he has been sidelined since the start of the season with a sprained left ankle, missing all four games this season.

■ Ferris State junior forward Aaron Lewicki (Livonia) scored with 42 seconds in regulation on Saturday as he helped the Bulldogs avoid the sweep. Ferris State was less than a minute away from being swept in the weekend series with Robert Morris. Ferris State skated to a 4-4 tie Saturday evening after recording all four shots on goal in overtime.

■ Ohio State dressed one of the youngest lineups in the

nation Saturday as just two upperclassmen dressed for the game. Buckeye senior Corey Elkins (West Bloomfield) was one of them. The rest of the active lineup included 11 sophomores and six freshmen.

■ Michigan State received two third-period, power-play goals just 16 seconds apart Saturday evening with one being scored by rookie Ben Warda (Lake Orion), who recorded his first collegiate goal. The two goals gave the Spartans a 2-1 victory and a split in the series with the visiting River Hawks of UMass-Lowell.

■ Michigan's all-sophomore line consisting of Carl Hagelin, Matt Rust (Bloomfield Hills) and Aaron Palushaj (Northville) combined for 10 points in Saturday's 5-3 victory over host Northern Michigan. Palushaj netted the game-winning goal while assisting on three others. Palushaj now has two game winning tallies this season.

■ Rust had his first three-point game with two goals and an assist in Saturday night's victory.

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The DIA shows off modern masters in 'Monet to Dali'

PAGE D2



Arab women create visions of utopia

PAGE D4



Thursday, October 23, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Huntington Woods filmmaker to show 3 'Detroit Docs'

DETROIT DOCS

What: More than 50 documentaries shown over five days in Detroit.
Details: Screenings will run Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, at 1515 Broadway and at the Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave., respectively, in Detroit.
Admission: Festival passes \$25, or purchase individual tickets to programs for \$6-\$14.
More information: For a full film schedule, tickets or passes, visit www.detroitdocs.com.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
OSE STAFF WRITER

Last year, filmmaker Alex Grossfeld attended the Detroit Docs documentary film festival for the first time. Flash forward one year, and three of his films have been accepted for screening at the event. The international documentary celebration is set for Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 in Detroit. The Huntington Woods resident traces his interest in film back to his days at Berkley High School. During his freshman year, he was involved in creating video announcements. He took his first class in video produc-

tion the following year and has been making movies and working in the medium ever since. Currently a student at Detroit's College for Creative Studies, he's become entrenched in documentary filmmaking and regularly works as a freelancer for Troy-based Media Arts. His assignments there have run the gamut from Webisodes featuring an organic Michigan farm to shooting overseas in Switzerland. It was the latter trip that led to his documentary *When I Went to Europe*, an experimental doc that flashes back and forth in time and evokes a dream-like feeling.

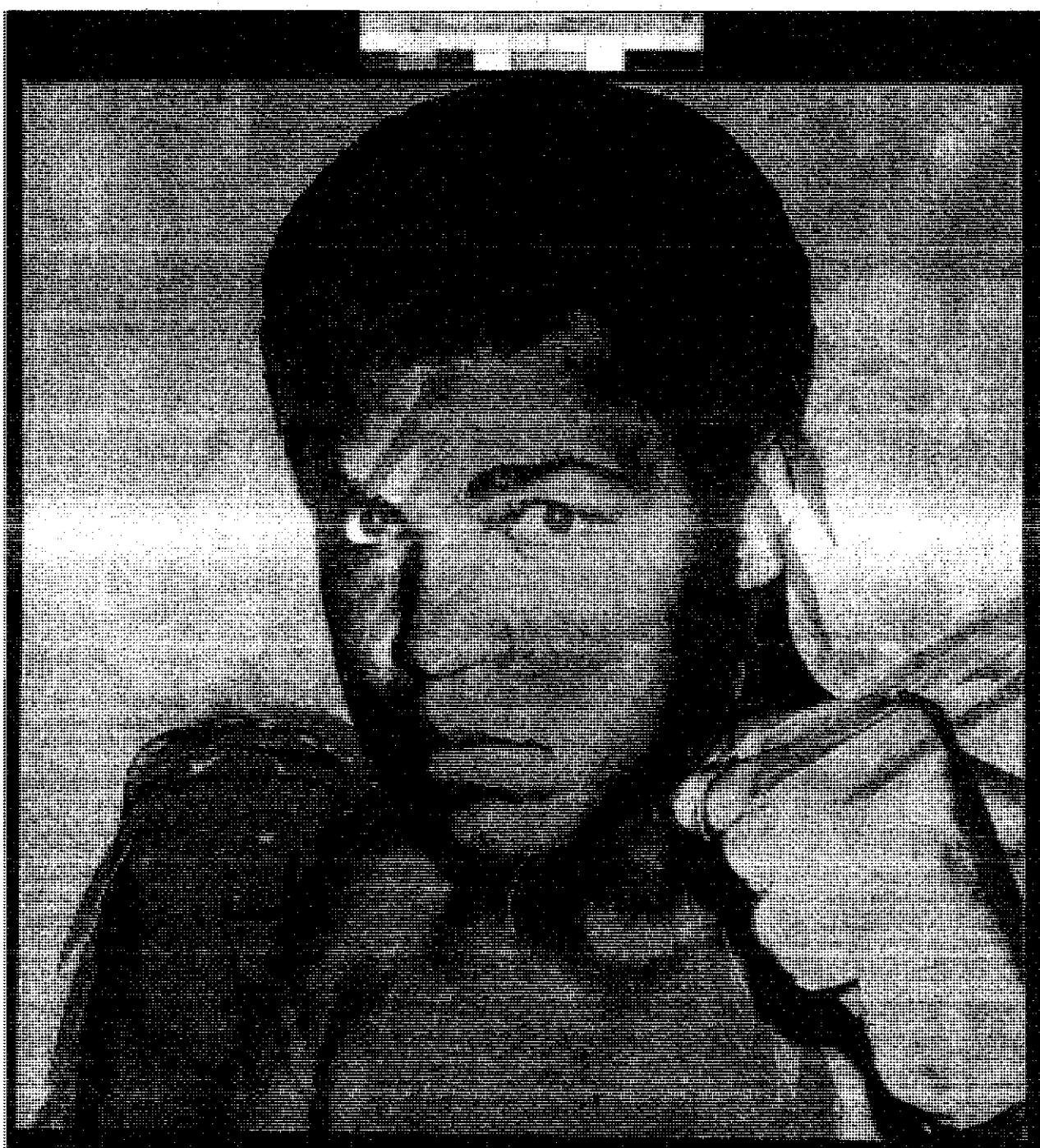
With footage shot on Super 8 — using cameras he uncovered in his late uncle's basement — Grossfeld labored over the editing. "I had no idea how I was going to piece it together," he said. Festival Director David Gazdowicz said it paid off. "He made something really exciting to watch." Grossfeld also will present his works *Highland Park Police Headquarters* and *Michigan Central Station*, both of which explore abandoned properties. In the latter, he follows photog-

Please see **DOCS, D3**



French Filmmaker Yan Giroux helmed *Cubanos - Life and Death of a Revolution* sharing a portrait of the Cuban community. It is featured in Detroit Docs next week.

Warhol's sporting life



Andy Warhol's portrait of Muhammad Ali, 1977, is part of The Athletes Series, paintings included in "Grand Slam: Andy Warhol" at Cranbrook Art Museum. The series is provided courtesy of the Collection of Richard Weisman and this image holds a copyright from the Muhammad Ali Foundation.

comes out to play at Cranbrook



Andy Warhol's portrait of soccer star Edson Pelé, 1977, was gifted to the Collection of Cranbrook Art Museum by Rose M. Shuey and is part of "Grand Slam: Andy Warhol," now at the museum.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
OSE STAFF WRITER

Grand Slam, a brand new Andy Warhol exhibition at Bloomfield Hills' Cranbrook Art Museum, came together thanks to a single portrait depicting Brazilian Soccer great Pelé. That portrait, one of 10 in Warhol's *Athletes Series*, was gifted to the museum in 2001 by collectors John and Rose M. Shuey. Gregory Wittkopp, director of Cranbrook Art Museum and a Pleasant Ridge resident, sought to reunite Pelé with his nine counterparts, all created by Warhol between 1977 and 1979. In doing so he contacted Seattle art collector Richard Weisman, a longtime friend of Warhol's who initially commissioned the project. Weisman agreed to show the series at Cranbrook shortly after its return from a Beijing gallery where it was presented to coincide with Summer Olympic Games in China. At Cranbrook, it serves as the centerpiece to an original show. "We have put this together ourselves," said Emily Zilber, co-curator and Bloomfield Hills resident. "It's not part of a tour."

GRAND SLAM: ANDY WARHOL

What: More than 200 works spanning the celebrated pop art founder's career from 1960 to his death in 1987, highlighting "The Athletes Series," which will only be part of the exhibition through Jan. 4, 2009.
When: The show runs through Jan. 11, 2009.
Museum hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month.
Where: Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills.
Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 teens, students; children 12 and under are admitted free with adult admission; members admitted free.
More information: Call (877) GO-CRANBrook or visit www.cranbrook.edu.

Grand Slam showcases Warhol's work in four forms. In addition to his paintings and photography, films will be shown continuously, including *Mrs. Warhol*, *Sunset*, and *Paul Swan*, as well as screen tests of Salvador Dali and of Lou Reed, shot at Warhol's infamous Factory

Please see **WARHOL, D5**

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

ART

Scary Monsters: Tom Carey's *Scary Monsters* exhibit is open just in time for the spooky season, running through Nov. 8, at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, at 407 Pine, Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110 or visit www.pccart.org.

Harvest Pumpkin Painting: D&M Art Studio gets in on the act of this artistic fall activity, Oct. 23-29, at 28691 N. Lilley, in Canton. Call (734) 453-3710 or visit www.dmartstudio.com.

Spooky Science Day: Enjoy Ford Free Fundays with presentations by the Organization for Bat Conservation, based in Bloomfield Hills, a wizards and witches astronomy show at the planetarium, make potions and receive a goodie bag as available, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R. Street, Detroit. Call (313) 577-8400.

Tut-o-Ween: Kids pre-school to grade 3 can come in costume, visit the museum and receive treats, noon, Oct. 25, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit.

Museum Mystery Tours: Hear creepy tales and secrets about artists on a tour of the American art galleries, 6-9 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 24-31, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Admission \$4-\$8, call (313) 833-7900.

STAGE

Thrills & Chills 3 — A Halloween Special: The Max M. Fisher Music Theatre revives this classic for kids. On Oct. 25 celebrate Rock O'ween with the Candy Band, at 3700 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111.



"They're Coming to Get You Barbra": The Majestic Theatre presents a night of undead musical theater, with the production *Night of the Living Dead: The Musical*, Oct. 30, at 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-9700 for details.

Halloween Hocus Pocus: Children are welcome at the Marquis Theatre's *Halloween Hocus Pocus*, running Oct. 24-26, at 135 Main, Northville. Call (248) 349-8110 or visit www.northvillamarquistheatre.com.

Blood Bath and Beyond: *Blood Bath and Beyond* is showing through Nov. 1, at Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Call (313) 365-4948.

SCREEN

Penn Theatre: Brace yourselves, movie-lovers, for the Shocktober Classic Movie Series, featuring *House of Wax*, Oct. 23; and *Frankenstein*, Oct. 30 at the Penn Theatre. All movies roll at 7 p.m. Tickets \$3. The theater is at 760 Penniman Ave., in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0870.

Detroit Film Theater: Boston's Alloy Orchestra will return to perform live during the films, *The Last Command*, Oct. 24; *Underworld*, Oct. 25 and *Chang: The Drama of the Wilderness* and *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* on Oct. 26, all at 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900 or visit www.dia.org/dft.

See custom bikes and more at swap meet

Like Bikes? We're talking motorcycles.

Thousands of bikers and wannabes will mingle at the Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet on Sunday, Oct. 26 at Rock Financial Showplace to browse, buy, sell and swap motorcycles, parts and accessories.

"With nearly one out of every four bikers in the U.S. living in Michigan and its four border states, the nine swap meets we sponsor give bikers the chance to be around other bikers and to support the economic interests that are vital to keeping the industry strong," stated event director Chad Dutmers. "A lot of bikers started coming with their dads when they were kids. Now those bikers are bringing their own kids."

The swap meet will feature '08 and '09 bikes as well as used bikes — street, dirt, metric, touring, cruising, trikes, choppers, custom bikes, and trailers.

The Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet for the past 33 years, has offered "everything for rider

or machine." And you will see interesting vehicles such as:

■ Dan & Kelly Dwyer of Michigan Memorial Gardens will showcase the Tombstone Hearse, which will be pulled by a chromed-out Harley Davidson Trike.

Many bikers have hired the 1800s replica hearse for funerals, calling it "the last ride" for loved ones. Visit http://www.michmempark.com/unique_hearse.htm

■ Also on display will be the "U of M" Chopper built by Orange County Choppers. The bike is scheduled to be auctioned at the 18th annual Antique and Special Interest Motorcycle Auction in Las Vegas next year. Proceeds will go to benefit C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and The University of Michigan.

Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-12. Rock Financial Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, (248) 662-0104.

Compiled by Lana Mini

DOCS

FROM PAGE D1

raphers who seek beauty in pure urban decay. "I wanted to document these guys doing what they do," said Grossfeld. He admits a fascination in the rotting environs and said "it's sad no one wants to do anything about it or they can't do it," said Grossfeld. "It was just something I wanted to be a part of."

All three films are part of the Made in Michigan series and will be shown between 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Detroit Film Theatre.

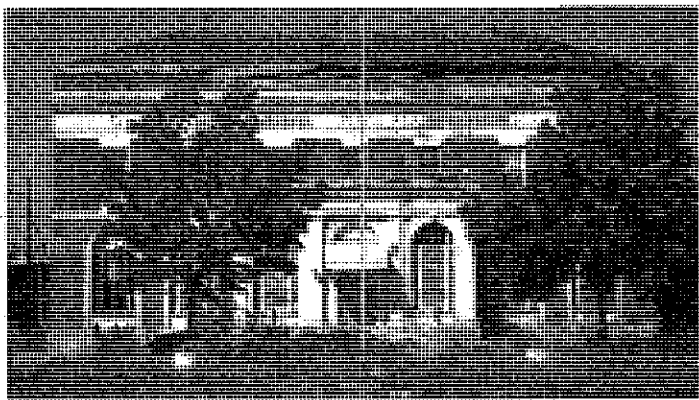
Grossfeld is looking forward to the screening — though he admits when *When I Went to Europe* was recently included in the Ann Arbor Film Festival his attention wasn't on the screen. "You end up watching the audience to see what their reaction will be," he said.

Gazdowicz noted that 87 film submissions came in over the course of a year. He has screened every one. And through a committee process, about 48 were chosen for the festival. This year, the festival will honor filmmaker Les Blank, whose works include *Burden of Dreams*, which chronicles German director Werner Herzog's work filming the epic feature *Fitzcarraldo* in the Amazon. The movie will be shown, along with *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe*, *Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers*, and a Q&A session, all on Oct. 30 at the Detroit Film Theatre.

"His style is just amazing," said Gazdowicz of Blank. "He's been an award-winning filmmaker for years and years. He's one of those filmmakers that, if you're interested in documentary films, you know who he is."

The festival highlight will spotlight local works in the Made in Michigan series Nov. 1-2 at the Detroit Film Theatre. Much of the Detroit Docs programming will be housed at 1515 Broadway — including Patrick Creadon's ode to the country's growing debt in *I.O.U.S.A.*; a 15-hour movie marathon; and, wrapping up the event, six additional shorts by Blank. Nearby restaurants like Small Plates and The Detroit Beer Co. will offer film fest patron discounts.

"This is going to be a great weekend in Detroit," said Gazdowicz.



Explore from a first-person vantage point the abandoned interior of Highland Park Police Headquarters, a documentary by the same name helmed by Huntington Woods Filmmaker Alex Grossfeld.

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MOVIE Guide

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Arab women create visions of utopia

Utopian Visions is the name of an interesting exhibit at the Arab American National Museum created by four women artists.

The works created by Rima Al-Awar, Rana Chalabi, Roula Ayoub and Emna Zghal are inspired by poetry, spiritual belief and nature.

"This exhibit is a remarkable medley of color, texture and imagery that evokes our universal yearning for a more perfect world," AANM Curator of Collections Suzy Adra Mazloum said on the museum's Web site. Mazloum led the exhibit's development.

"It also encourages our viewers to reflect on their own personal visions of utopia and share them with their fellow visitors — in a very real way, our viewers will enhance this exhibit as it continues to evolve over the next six months."

The artists hail from Toronto, Cairo, Beirut and

UTOPIAN VISIONS

What: Art work by artists Rima Al-Awar, Rana Chalabi, Roula Ayoub and Emna Zghal

Where: The Arab American National Museum; 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn,

Museum hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission: The exhibit is free with museum admission — \$6 for adults; \$3 for students, seniors and children 6-12; free for ages 5 and under.

Call: (313) 582-2266

NYC.

Dr. Al-Awar, currently from Toronto, 43, was raised first in Lebanon and then relocated to North Carolina during the Lebanese civil war.

Her works in the exhibit are named after Eden — the historical Yemeni city that inspired the Garden of Eden, man's first vision of utopia.

Chalabi studied archaeology, architecture and Islamic.

The 52-year-old artist was born in Syria, raised in Lebanon and has lived and worked in Cairo, Egypt since 1981.

Her work has also been exhibited in London, Paris and Amman, Jordan.

Her painting *Whirling Dervish* (the practice of giving oneself to movement with one hand raised to God and the other to the Earth) is Sufi-inspired yet painted with Chinese influence of red, black and gold colors.

Ayoub's abstract paintings have been exhibited the U.S., Jordan and France.

She's based in Beirut, but frequently visits Houston.

"My art is somewhere beyond our world, a self cre-



Rana Chalabi created this piece titled "Divine Whirling," celebrated by Sufis. She holds degrees from the American University campuses in Beirut and Cairo and works in oils, acrylics, watercolor, pen, inks, stamps, mixed media, sculpture (wood and clay) and graphic design.

ated place, and a mixture of different cultures creatively painted on canvas," Ayoub wrote in her artist statement. "It is a serene place where one would aspire to be, far from the rubbish existing in this world where mankind has disturbed what our greatest God has created ... I felt like creating a new world of my own, a world where there is only love, peace, happiness, faith, forgiveness and understanding."

Last, Zghal, of New York,

was born and raised in Tunisia, with an extensive international arts education.

"Poetry has always been central to my art practice; it is my source of inspiration and method of thinking," Zghal wrote in her artist statement. "Whether in my abstract images or in my work with text, I view all the marks I make on the picture plane as words, as emotionally evocative, if not completely decipherable, symbolic entities ... The spaces I create are

'It is a serene place where one would aspire to be, far from the rubbish existing in this world where mankind has disturbed what our greatest God has created.'

PAINTER RANA CHALABI REGARDING HER ART

intended to allow viewers to meander, to recall the vastness, complexity and mystifying qualities of nature."

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Now on View
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Schoolcraft College 2008 Events at Schoolcraft College

Unless otherwise noted, events are at Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Maps and directions are available at www.schoolcraft.edu/maps/.

Fridays and Saturdays November 7/8 and 14/15
Presented by the Schoolcraft College Theatre Department
This delightful comedy about Harry Baker and the two sons who continually challenge his patience is full of richly comic complications that prove to be unfailingly inventive and delightful.
Dinner Theatre Performances:
November 7/8
6:30 p.m.
Admission: \$24
Theatre Performances Only:
November 14/15
8:00 p.m.
Admission: \$12
Theatre (LA500) Inside Liberal Arts Building
Information: 734-462-4596

**Saturday, November 8
Sunday, November 9
Fall Craft Show**
Presented by the Schoolcraft College Foundation
Featuring crafters from southeast Michigan, this show features holiday gifts, home accessories, toys, custom designed jewelry, floral pieces, birdfeeders and more. Proceeds benefit the college's scholarship fund.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Physical Education Building
Admission: \$2 (parking is free)
Information: 734-462-4518

**Sunday, November 9
Schoolcraft College Choral Union
Fall Concert**
4 p.m.
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church,
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Admission: Freewill donation
Information: 734-462-4403

**Friday, November 14
James Tocco, piano**
Works by Chopin, Handel and Mozart share the program with a composition by native Detroit and University of Michigan faculty member Paul Schoenfield. James Tocco has built a worldwide career as performer, orchestral soloist, chamber musician and teacher.
8:00 p.m.
Admission: \$20 (\$10 students), general seating
Presentation Room inside VisTaTech Center
Information and tickets: 734-462-4403, and www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/events

Albarino shines as versatile white

Albarino (Ahl-bar-EEN-yoh) is the white wine grape variety, indigenous to northwest Spain in the region of Galicia. If you are seeking a change-of-pace white wine, reminiscent of viognier, with notes of peach, apricot, tropical fruit, plus an intriguing minerality that pairs well with fish and seafood, this wine is it.

Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

Since 1988, when the Denominacion de Origen Rias Baixas was created, the region of Galicia has come alive with production of fresh, aromatic, lively, well-balanced white wines, with great flavor intensity. It was once thought that albarino was brought to Galicia by German monks, but Martin Codax winemaker Luciano Amoedo confirmed that the grape is indigenous to Galicia. When young, it has an appealing bright apple aroma, similar to that of riesling.

David Landin, enologist at Condes de Albarei, producer of the first white wine from Spain to be awarded a Gold Medal at VINEXPO in Bordeaux, noted that "acidity is the most important factor determining whether albarino undergoes malolactic fermentation or not." Condes de Albarei makes three styles of albarino, but only the stainless steel fermented wine is exported to the U.S.

The issue of oak aging is purely a matter of personal taste, but in all cases, we prefer the bright, crisp, fruity nature of the stainless steel versions over those aged in oak.

U.S. ALBARINO ON THE RISE

WINE PICKS
Best Halloween wine: Our pick with no trick! The Big Red Monster \$11, a blend of syrah, zinfandel and petite sirah in a premium package harkening back to classic Hollywood horror movies. Fun wine made by talented winemakers Bob Pepi and Jeff Booth. Available at Papa Joe's Gourmet Market in Birmingham and Rochester Hills.

In the late 1990s, albarino began to gain traction in U.S. vineyards, particularly on the west coast in Oregon's Umpqua Valley and several California AVAs, (American Viticultural Areas).

Michael Havens, an independent wine consultant, planted albarino in 1997 in the Los Carneros AVA. He believes floral and tropical fruits are the best aroma descriptors with firm, lively stone fruits, bracing acidity, great length and an almost marine minerality as its finest flavors. He prefers albarino with any seafood, raw, sauced or simply cooked. He also likes it with curries or other spicy dishes, whether of Asian or Latino influence.

At Abacela, Earl Jones planted albarino in 2000 in Oregon's Umpqua Valley.

He likes the bright fruit and sharp acidity that make albarino a refreshing, food-friendly wine. Albarino is best enjoyed young and fresh, within a year of harvest. So check the vintage on the label when purchasing.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

WARHOL

FROM PAGE D1

studio. Warhol's prints also are highlighted and they range from the familiarity of his *Campbell's Soup I*, a collection made in 1968, to later works like *Endangered Species* (1983), which is on loan from the Grand Rapids Art Museum, to his 1980 series titled *Ten Jews of the Twentieth Century*.

GREAT SPORTS

While *The Athletes Series* — depicting sports stars like boxer Muhammad Ali, golfer Jack Nicklaus, and tennis champion Chris Evert — has been showcased across the globe, Weisman said he prefers to present them in smaller towns, rather than major cities.

"I like to take them to places that are smaller, places that don't get a chance to see an original Warhol," he said during an Oct. 10 visit to Cranbrook, just prior to the exhibit's public opening.

Weisman initially suggested Warhol paint this series as a way to link "the two most popular leisure time activities," namely art and sports. "People who are interested in art are not too much into the sports world," he said. "And people who are interested in sports are not too interested in art. Of course, there are exceptions."

By suggesting Warhol paint

the series, Weisman knew it had the potential to draw these groups together. "People will come into this museum who have never been here before," he said, standing in the gallery where his own portrait, a gift from Warhol made in vibrant blues, is placed on a wall opposite the 10 sports figures.

Weisman chose the subjects for the series because, as he said, "Andy didn't know the difference between a golf ball and a football." He began approaching sports figures for the series by asking those he knew personally, like hockey's Rod Gilbert, pitcher Tom Seaver, and jockey Willie Shoemaker. Then came Ali. After he signed on, Weisman said, it was easy to nail down the rest of the athletes, like football's OJ Simpson and skater Dorothy Hamill. "These people were very sought-after," Weisman said.

He grew up surrounded by art. His mother, the late Marcia Weisman, was a founder of the Contemporary Art Museum of Los Angeles. Ultimately he began collecting art when he purchased a painting titled *Early Urge* by Matta, a Brazilian painter. It cost \$1,000.

"The art that I have is what I like," Weisman told a packed room at Cranbrook. "I'm the one who wakes up with it and goes to bed with it. I think anyone who is interested in collecting should keep that in mind."

WITH WARHOL

Weisman was already quite familiar with Warhol when he met him — in the 1960s — as they ran in similar social circles in New York City. "We would say 'Andy would have gone to the opening of an envelope,'" joked Weisman. "He was nonstop. His energy was incredible."

He called Warhol a "groupie" who loved to be surrounded by celebrities. "He'd be at a party and he'd see someone who was on their own, not mixing. Andy would go up — wherever he went a crowd would collect around him," said Weisman.

After a few introductions by Warhol even the quietest wallflower would become the center of the party, Weisman explained.

Those parties were captured by Warhol's lens. He was constantly snapping pictures with his Big Shot Polaroid camera, said Weisman.

And more than 150 of those images are also part of the *Grand Slam* exhibit. Following the artist's death in 1987, the Andy Warhol Foundation had compiled 60,000 of his photographs, Wittkopp said. The Andy Warhol Photograph Legacy Program deemed the collection much too large to show and so it has been divided and gifted to museums. In order to receive the photographs, museums had to meet two criteria, Wittkopp said. They had to be connected to universities, and they had to, already own a significant

collection of Warhol's work. Cranbrook qualified on both counts, having already held the *Pele* portrait and one screenprint from the *Electric Chair* series.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Birmingham art collector Marc A. Schwartz contributed his collection, a series of 10 screenprints of the *Electric Chair* for this show. And Susu Sosnick, also of Birmingham, contributed two additional works to the show. She had commissioned Warhol to paint her portrait in 1981. The exhibit includes those works as well as a slideshow of photographs, taken by her late husband, Robert, which were shot when Sosnick was asked to visit Warhol's Paris studio. He shot Polaroids of her before narrowing down an image to work from for the portraits. Two of those original photographs are also part of the display. Wittkopp said those elements help put the entire exhibit in context as they "show the whole process" of how Warhol worked.

More than a collector of important works, Weisman chooses to share art he has purchased over the years — both in exhibiting them as he does with *The Athletes Series* — and in his book, *Picasso to Pop: The Richard Weisman Collection*. It is available for sale at the museum.

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Buy a pumpkin and help youth ministry

Students involved in the youth ministry program at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills are selling pumpkins to earn money for mission work in 2009.

Each year they go to a different community in need, such as a Native American town in Minnesota, an Appalachian town in rural Tennessee, or an urban community such as the Binghampton area of Memphis, to help repair or replace roofing, paint, build decks or porches, replace

insulation, and help with yard clean-up and landscaping.

For these students, service is not limited to one week in the summer. In order to qualify for the trip, the students must participate in local service projects all during the year. The approximately 40 students raise money and make lunches for the homeless through the NOAH Project, bake Christmas cookies for elderly shut-ins, and participate in many other activities.

Deb Hobson, a church spokeswoman, said students

won't travel far from home for their mission trip in summer 2009.

"It's all local this year," she said. "There is a mission in Detroit they'll be working with."

The Pumpkin Patch, which has been the group's primary fundraiser for 12 years faced a challenge this year when Farmington Road closed to through-traffic because of construction at 14 Mile Road. In the inter-faith spirit of hospitality, Church of Today West agreed to host the Pumpkin

Patch to allow the youth visibility and access to traffic. Students are selling pumpkins from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., through Oct. 31, at Church of Today West, 32500 W. 13 Mile, just east of North Farmington High School.

"They do a great job," Hobson complimented students.

For more information about youth ministry at Orchard United Methodist Church, call the church at (248) 626-3620. Or visit www.orchardumc.org. Sharon Dargay



Cody Goodwin, (left), of Walled Lake Western High School, Heather Lawrence of North Farmington High School, and Kelsey Gallett of Farmington High School, are selling pumpkins for their youth ministry program at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

LEADERS

FROM PAGE D6

He is speaking on the Islamic perspective of justice from 3:15 to 4:20 p.m. Nov. 10. Walid is executive director of the Michigan branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the advocacy and civil liberties organization for Muslims based in Southfield. Walid deals daily with complaints ranging from hate speech to discrimination in the workplace and school.

"It's the Muslim responsibility to be just even if it's against our individual selves, parents, a close loved one, according to the mandate of the Qur'an. God instructs the Muslim to seek to institute social justice for all people including freedom of religion as well as the right to have dignity through economic stability," said Walid. "Two summers ago I was at an Interfaith Partners event praying for peace. There was some rhetoric and signs being held by a Palestinian Christian the Jewish community took

exception to. I spoke out. It had a Star of David and a Nazi sign on the other side. Not only was the sign an attack on Jewish faith but Islamic, because David is a prominent prophet mentioned in the Qur'an. When we see discrimination against others we speak out against discrimination and hate crimes against Muslims, but in those cases where people discriminate or incite religious tension in America we're mandated to speak out as well. If anyone's religious freedoms are being violated it jeopardizes our ability to practice our

bona fide beliefs."

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Rev. Jeff Nelson also will talk about justice from 3:15-4:20 p.m. Nov. 10. Nelson is associate pastor of mission and outreach programs at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.

He'll share what he has learned as a youth leader.

About four years ago the teens at First United wanted to do something about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa so they set out to collect a single penny for every

person infected in Africa — 23 million. So far they've raised just under \$230,000 which has gone to direct relief to Africa.

"It all led from kids' passion. They just didn't want to be silent on this. I'm going to talk about allowing young people to have a voice," said Nelson.

"The conference is a great opportunity to bring together metro Detroit, such a diverse area religiously with more kids going to school where it's more diverse and worshipping in places where that diversity isn't talked about. Youth leaders

can come together and talk about how they live with their neighbors. We have to learn to listen better, learn from our religious neighbors. We're not the only ball game in town. We're right; they're wrong. We have to reach a point where we can work together."

Imam Achmat Salie speaks on the topic of peace from 10-11:45 a.m. Nov. 10. Salie founded the Islamic studies program at Oakland University where he lectures and directs the program.

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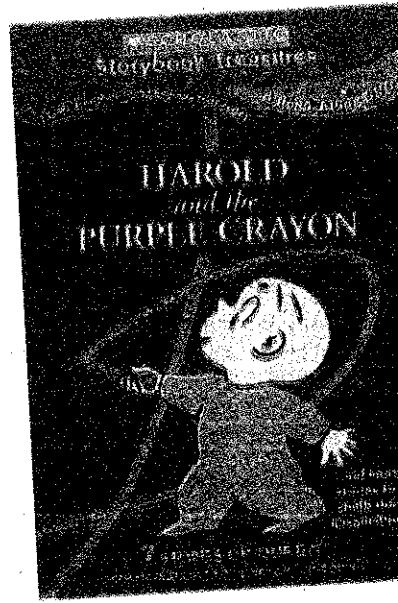
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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.		NON DENOMINATIONAL 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!		PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.) 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 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH	
CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1695 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) 455-3196		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)		EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN 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 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.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 www.fellowship-presbyterian.org		CHRISTIAN SCIENCE 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		IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Milton Schemm 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (Just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m. http://www.immanuelchurch.com The Friendly Church on the Trail	

For information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

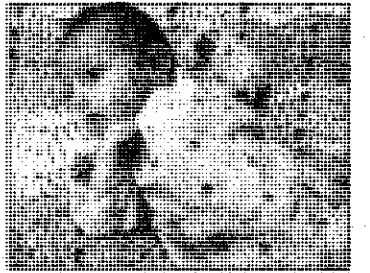
pink

Susan Steinmueller . Special Editor . (248) 901-2576 . ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com



violet picks

The PINK staff congratulates Features Editor Wendy Von Buskirk and her husband Jeff VonBuskirk on the birth of their second child, and first girl, on Friday, Oct. 17. Violet Von Buskirk was 8 pounds 12 ounces and joins big brother Verick, 3.



DVD It!
Harold and the Purple Crayon with narration by Pete Seeger

wishes, we've compiled a list of fun, fashionable Violet Picks in her honor:



Wear It!
A "Born to Rock" pink body suit with a vintage Pebbles Flintstone graphic by Baby Gap

Click It!
Violetgumdrop.com where you'll find personalized baby gifts by West Bloomfield's Darcee Matlen

Kick It!
Amarissa satin strap shoes in purple by Ralph Lauren Baby



Tivo It!
It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown, showing 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 on ABC

Tote It!
Kate Spade's Zermatt Stevie Baby Bag in eggplant, with a yellow changing pad included

Drink It!
Earth's Best Infant Organic Formula

Mane It!
Baby Bee Shampoo & Wash, tear-free formula made with coconut and sunflower oils

Eat It!
Yummy Spoonfuls Mushy Yummy Mashed Organic Blueberry and Banana Cereal - when she's on solid food!

Smell It!
Mother Nature's Sweet Violet Baby Lotion

Experience It!
Baby and Me Yoga at Namaste in Royal Oak

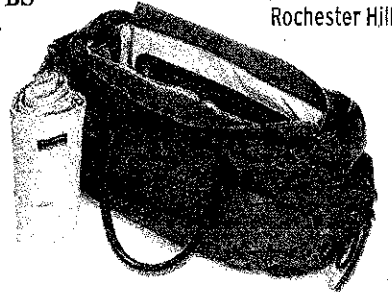
Hear It!
Wendy's band, The Mydols. Hear them at myspace.com/themydols

Read It!
Where is Baby's Pumpkin by Karen Katz

See It!
Barney and Friends on PBS Kids - he's a purple dinosaur

Compiled by PINK staffers Stephanie Angelyn Casola, Lana Mini and Susan Steinmueller. PINK Picks returns in its regular form next Thursday with the winner of our annual PINK PICKS contest, Deborah Keller of Rochester Hills.

Ringtone It!
Violet by Hole on ringtonematcher.com



Wearable Art

Sharon Meyer celebrates 25 Years of distinction

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

Over her 25-year career, Sharon Meyer's jewelry has become collectible art.

The Troy resident said her clients have necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings purchased in 1983 that they are still wearing today.

One had her necklace mounted in a shadowbox so she could hang it on the wall. Another invested in a beautiful bowl so she could display her piece when she didn't have it on.

Their stories inspired Meyer to create the coffee table book 25 Years of Distinctive Jewelry, to document her work past and present.

"The book is actually being delivered today from the publisher," Meyer said during a recent interview with PINK from her private jewelry studio in Troy. "What I wanted to do is create an art book, because my work is so full of color and every piece is so different."

Meyer, also a photographer, shot the book's photos herself, rounding up classic pieces from clients, as well as capturing her newest collections.

For the elegant cover photo, she shipped in a live albino peacock to represent the ornate illustrated bird that has always been her logo.

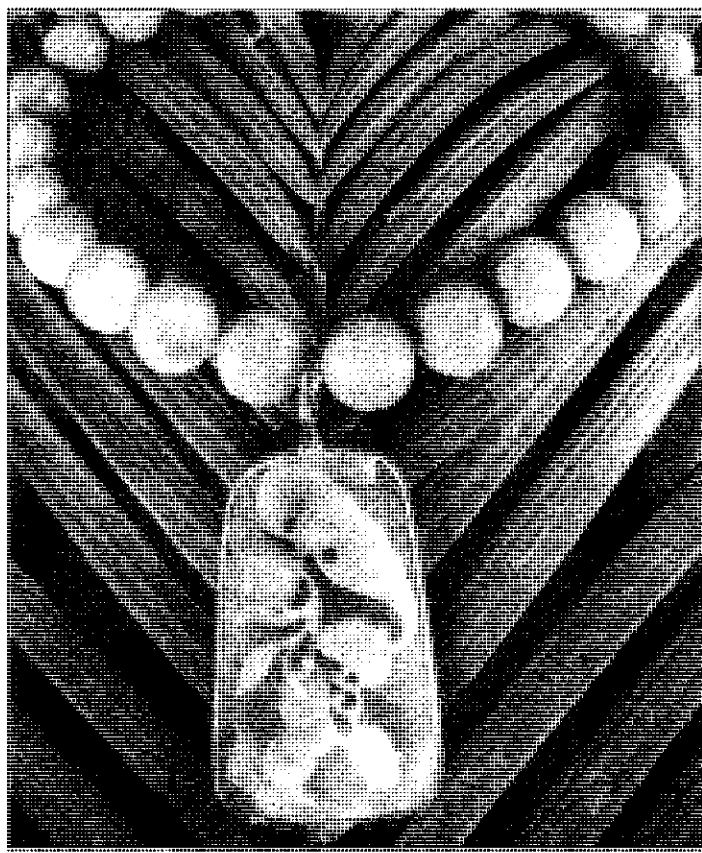
Meyer said she has enjoyed

SHARON MEYER PERSONAL APPEARANCE

What: Jewelry Designer Sharon Meyer celebrates her company's 25th anniversary with a book signing, trunk show and personal appearance

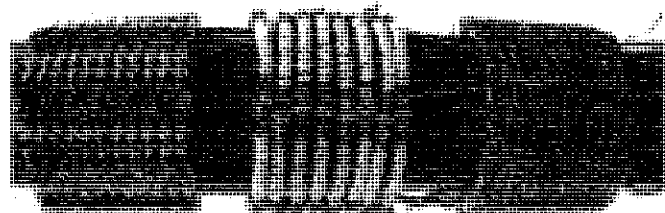
When: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24; noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25

Where: Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 W. Big Beaver, Troy
RSVP: (248) 643-9000



PHOTOS BY SHARON MEYER

This piece by Sharon Meyer Jewelry Amalgamations is made from 18k gold, jade beads strung on knotted silk, and a stunning, detachable carved jade pendant (\$17,750).



These stunning cuffs, made from semi-precious beads and metals (\$1,250-\$2,400), are among the statement pieces created by Troy-based jewelry designer Sharon Meyer.

working with her hands since she was a child. High school metalsmithing classes set her on the path to jewelry-making.

"The passion just grew," she said. "I began working with beads, stones and pearls as well, combining them with the metalwork, which really gives you a much broader fashion base to work with."

In 1983, she began selling Sharon Meyer Distinct Jewelry Amalgamations Ltd. at Jacobson's, the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum Shop, and the Charles Warren fine jewelry store at Somerset.

Her work was an instant hit, picked up nationally that same year by the Charles Warren chain, as well as museum shops across the country. For eight years her sterling silver designer line was sold at Neiman Marcus. Later, Saks Fifth Avenue began carrying her 18k gold couture line.

She also exhibits about 150 pieces each year at the Sculpture Objects & Functional Art expos in New York and Chicago.

Each piece starts with a sketch and no two are exactly alike. They include luxurious lariats capped with beaded tassels, multiple strand bracelets, exquisite carved jade pendants, and semi-precious stones strung on hand-knotted silk.

"When you hold up a strand they cascade. I have 40 different colors and sizes of silk," she said. "My studio is like an artist's palette. Instead of paint I have all different color stones."

Meyer always wears her own jewelry, and makes changes if it

doesn't feel right. "You need to be comfortable in it," she said. "I want you to feel like you just put on a silk blouse."

A long-time member of Fashion Group International, Meyer was named "member of the month" for October.

Saks Fifth Avenue Somerset will honor her with a private luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Also, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24 and noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, Meyer will host a public appearance at Saks — complete with champagne, sweets and informal modeling — to sign books and display her latest collection.

Her son Lewis' band Trio will entertain, while her other son, 19-year-old Nicholas, and husband, Kurt, show their support. Cheryl Hall Lindsay, director of fashion for Saks Somerset, met Meyer through FGI at the start of her career and is excited to help her celebrate her 25th year in business.

"Sharon's jewelry is very special," Lindsay said. "Her pieces are eye-catching and entry-making, and they can turn a great little black dress into an outstanding ensemble."

Sharon Meyer Distinctive Jewelry is available at Saks Fifth Avenue; and at Spizalz Studio of Contemporary Jewelry Design, 230 Merrill, in Birmingham. Visit her website at www.sharonmeyerjewelry.com.

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