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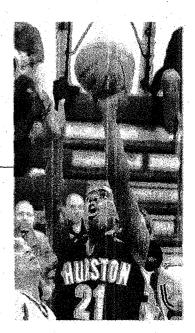


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Sports, B1



SUNDAY January 4, 2009 Observer

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Failed anti-bullying bill not dead yet

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A push by Michigan lawmakers to curb school violence by adopting antibullying legislation will be revived after a state Senate vote on a pair of bills was blocked in December, a Lansing official confirmed Friday.

Longtime anti-bullying law proponent state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, said there "certainly will" be efforts to approve legislation similar to laws already in place in a . majority of states.

Anderson's remarks came after state Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-Dewitt, the majority floor leader, refused to allow a Senate vote on two House-approved bills that would have required Michigan school districts to establish policies regarding school bullying, based on a definition outlined in a state Board of Education policy.

"He wouldn't allow it to come up for a vote even though it was on the (Senate) calendar," Anderson said.

Cropsey couldn't be reached for comment last week. One of his staffers said he was on

The latest legislation would have forced school districts to provide copies of their antibullying policies to the Michigan Department of Education which, in turn, would report on them to the Michigan Department of



Education. Some lawmakers believe that school districts already have adequate measures to protect students from violence and bullying. But Bernadette Brown, director of policy for the Triangle Foundation, said efforts to block the latest bills "ended an effort to protect young people in Michigan from harassment and assault."

While some opponents view antibullying legislation as geared toward gay and lesbian students, Anderson said the bills actually would protect all students. According to the Triangle Foundation, which is a statewide civil rights, advocacy and anti-violence organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, the latest legislative package was titled Matt's Safe Schools Law in honor of Matt Epling, an East Lansing eighth-grader who committed suicide in 2002 after a hazing

Anti-bullying law supporters said it had appeared the Republican-controlled Senate was ready to move on the legislation until it was blocked from a vote.

"This is certainly as close as we've ever come to getting this passed," Anderson said. Now, he said, the process will have to begin anew at the committee level.

dclem@hometownlife.com ((313) 222-2238



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shelia Taormina, a Livonia native and Olympic athlete, talks about one of her new ventures, EST Events, a multi-sport events management company.

Setting new goals

After four Olympics, Taormina starts two businesses

BY REBECCA JONES OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four months after participating in her fourth Olympic games, Sheila Taormina has traded in training for 12-hour

workdays. She's building two businesses that "connect the dots" between her life as a professional athlete and her future, helping people be healthy.

"I have unique opportunities in front of me," Taormina said. "I would be a fool not to connect these dots."

And she's starting to see the fun in sports. It's a realization

for the Livonia native who has taken performance standards seriously for many years.

Taormina, the first female athlete to qualify for the Olympics in three different sports, is a swimming gold medalist (1996), two-time triathlete (2000 and 2004) and modern pentathlete (2008).

Upon retiring from competition, Taormina, who now lives in Whitmore Lake, and business partner Eva Solomon of Ann Arbor, started EST Events, planning multi-sport and endurance

Please see TAORMINA, A5



Livonia native Shelia Taormina describes her Speedo LZR racing swimsuit, which is more technologically advanced to reduce drag.

Leading by example

Canton official hopes other Asian Americans assume leadership roles

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He didn't do it out of boredom or a desire to make a name for himself or to nab one of the comfortable seats at the dais.

Syed Taj says his successful campaign for a spot on the Canton Township board was designed to set an example to the region's Asian population.

"Look at the governor of Louisiana," Taj said, referring to the 2007 election of Piyush "Bobby" Jindal, the first Indian American elected to statewide office in U.S. history. "Many of our children enter professional careers, but we must have a part in the affairs of the country, too. America is a place where anyone can do anything if they follow the rules."

And while the 63-year-old chief of medicine for Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn isn't shy about professing his love for America, he is still connected to his native India and expresses frustration at the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai that have been attributed to a banned group in Pakistan. Nearly 200 people died in the three-day attacks

"This (hit) very close to home, but it should be close to every

human being no matter where it happens," he said, adding that his wife, Sofia, visited Pakistan in August. "Terrorism has to stop. It's a worldwide phenomenon that has not happened overnight. This goes back many vears and all of humanity has to condemn these acts."

Immediately following the outbreak in India's financial capital, Taj said there was "a lot of talk going in and out" among Indian families in the area.

"Not all Pakistanis (are to blame) because this group also causes problems in Pakistan," he says, while relaxing inside the home he built in the Aziz Estates subdivision, which he developed with his brother-in-

Before touching down in Canton, Taj practiced medicine in Great Britain.

"All of my wife's siblings were here and they wanted to be together," he said, adding that he, Sofia and their son, Asad, were the last of their family to move into the 52-home development near Palmer and Lotz

Having grown fond of Canton, Taj said he decided to run for local office to inspire others, as well as aid in Canton's growth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Syed Taj, who was born in India, was recently elected to the Canton Township Board of

"In the beginning, some people didn't take my campaign seriously. They thought it was a joke," he said, adding that President-elect Barack Obama's popularity served as an advantage to his own Democratic bid. "I was the underdog, but I knew I could win and I just want to help my community. This is a dream come true and I'm excited about Canton."

Taj, who ran his campaign under the belief that the township board should reflect the area's diverse population, said he hopes he succeeds in his goal of inspiring others to enter

"From its beginning, America has been a country of immigrants," he said. "And I want to encourage others to come and be a part of the political system, because none of the young kids growing up here are going back to India. They are as American as anyone else and they should be a part of the government's administration.

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Two pedestrians struck and killed on same evening

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two pedestrians were struck and killed in separate traffic incidents on Saturday, Dec. 27, a grim first for Redford Township.

Ecorse native Nichelle Alexander, 37, died after she was struck by a vehicle as she crossed Five Mile Road to attend a family wedding reception. Later that night, Tyra Goins-Townsend, 46, of Redford was killed as she tried to cross Telegraph Road near the I-96 interchange.

Alexander was attending the wedding reception of her cousin, the groom, Robert Coleman of South Carolina. Coleman said his cousin and her 16-yearold daughter had to park across the street from the Jaycees hall, 15585 Beech Daly.

"A man in a truck in the lefthand lane had slowed to stop for her and her daughter to get across," Coleman said. "A car in the right-hand lane didn't stop and hit her."

Coleman said Alexander was thrown by the impact. According to Redford Sgt. Duane Gregg, Alexander was transported to Botsford Hospital and pronounced dead at 6:37 p.m. Gregg said Alexander had been hit by a 24-year-old Redford man heading southbound on Beech Daly. While the investigation is ongoing, Gregg said alcohol and drugs have been ruled out as contributing factors in the fatality.

Later that day, Goins-Townsend and a friend, a 46year-old Van Buren Township woman, had parked their car in the lot of Mr. Alan's

Sportswear, 14157 Telegraph, and were crossing the road on foot just after 11 p.m. to get to a nightclub on the other side. A 45-year-old Detroit man was driving in the southbound lanes and reported veering to the right when he saw a woman standing on the shoulder on the left side of the road. It was then, Gregg said, the man struck Goins-Townsend.

Goins-Townsend was transported to Botsford Hospital where she was pronounced dead at 11:52 p.m. Gregg said police believe alcohol may be a factor in the woman's death and the investigation is still in progress.

'Never before has the township had two fatal accidents in one day," Gregg said.

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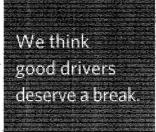




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Coming Thursday



A jazz double-bill at the Max M. Fisher Music Center

Economic crash has consumers paying cash

O&E STAFF WRITER

If there's a silver lining to the dark economic clouds hanging overhead, it's that people are going back to paying for their purchases with cash instead of credit.

"I think there is a movement; I think part of it has been forced on people (by the tightening credit market)," said financial planner Rick Bloom, author of the column Money Matters in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

But that's not a bad thing, Bloom said.

"I think Americans got addicted to easy credit," he said. "If you can only pay the minimum payment, you can't afford the item."

Living within your means

- spending less than you earn - is an old-fashioned lifestyle that provides peace of mind, said bankruptcy attorney Michael D. Lieberman of Southfield.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2009

"The ability to sleep at night is the way I look at it," Lieberman said, adding that overspending adds a lot of needless stress to households and marriages.

But, if you're used to pulling out the plastic, how do you make the transition to paying for everything with cash? Start by tracking every dol-

lar you bring home and every dollar you spend for three to six months, Bloom said. That way you can identify where you can cut back your spend-

"Families need to create a budget, and the numbers have to be realistic," Lieberman said, adding that it comes down to discipline. "It's knowing what you have and not spending more than you have; if you don't have it, then you shouldn't spend it.'

Bloom said it's OK to watch expenses closely, even if it means appearing "cheap" to family members and friends.

"I'm tight with a buck, and I don't have a problem admitting that to people," Bloom said. "To me, that's one of the things people have to get

Candy Wright, manager of the immediate counseling group for GreenPath, a nonprofit credit counseling service with offices in Troy, Southfield and Farmington Hills, said it's more important during a bad economy

for people to have a budget and stick with it. With overtime and bonuses no longer a given, people must adjust their lifestyles to match their regular take-home pay.

She said budgets aren't set in stone and can be adjusted as necessary. "It is something that's a work in progress," she said.

If you have credit card debt, your budget will need to include monthly payments to get out of debt. "Make sure you know who you owe and start working on a plan to get out of debt," Wright said.

Once you've tracked your expenses and cut them back to where they're less than your take-home pay, it's time to build an emergency fund of three to six months' worth of living expenses.

"Too many people don't have an emergency fund," Bloom said, adding that people have been using their home equity lines of credit when they unexpectedly have to buy a new furnace or make repairs to a car.

The next step is to do a personal and family balance sheet listing all assets and liabilities, including upcoming debts, to help you reach your long-term financial goals.

"I don't think you can make sure where you're going if you don't know where you're starting from," Bloom said.

Lieberman said following such principles will keep people out of bankruptcy court. "It's very simple, very basic.

But it's good advice," he said.

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LIVING WITHIN YOUR MEANS

Follow these steps to move from living off credit cards to

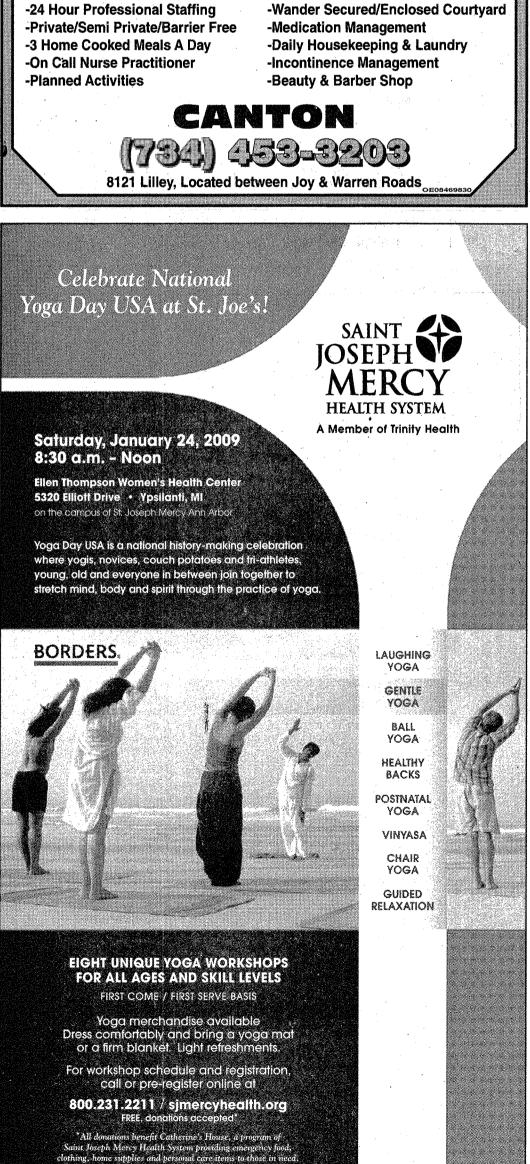
paying with cash for everything: 1) Track every dollar you bring home and every dollar you spend for three to six months.

2) Develop a realistic budget, cutting out unnecessary expenses so that you spend less than you bring home. Stick with your budget, remembering that the trade-off is trouble-free sleep and a stress-less household.

3) Build up an emergency fund of three to six months' worth of living expenses.

4) Develop a personal and family balance sheet listing all assets and liabilities, including upcoming debts, to help you reach your long-term financial goals.





REMARKABLE MEDICINE

REMARKABLE CARE

Fugitive wanted in 2004 Westland arson captured

A former Westland man who had eluded authorities for four years was arraigned on arson charges Friday after he was captured in Minnesota, police Sgt. Todd Adams said.

The 25-year-old man is wanted on charges he and another defendant, who already did jail time, started two laundry room fires in April 2004 at Willow Creek Apartments, a Westland complex that was evicting them, Adams said. Nobody was hurt during the

The latest defendant was captured a few weeks ago after he was arrested for driving drunk in Minnesota, where authorities learned he had a warrant out for his arrest. He had been living in North Dakota, Adams said.

The defendant was arraigned Friday by new 18th District Judge Mark McConnell, who set a \$25,000 cash bond, entered a not-guilty plea and scheduled a Jan. 15 preliminary hearing, which will determine whether the man should stand trial.

The defendant was charged with arson of an occupied dwelling and arson of real property. The first charge is punishable by 20 years in prison; the second charge by 10 years.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST

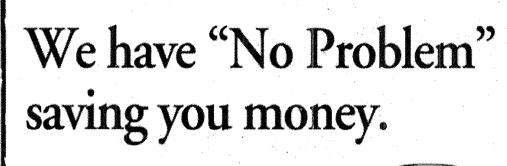
What does Dr. King's vision of unity look like? The City of Westland is encouraging local youth to participate in the city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poster and essay contest.

Students who attend the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and /or live in Westland can submit a poster which honors Dr. King. Students should use a standard-sized poster board and include their name, address, phone number, as well as the name of their school and grade. Essays cannot exceed 500 words and must also include the contact information.

Posters and essays must be dropped off at Westland's government access channel, WLND, at 33455 W. Warren Road, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or the Bailey Recreation Center at 36651

Ford behind Westland City Hall.

All essays and posters must be received by Jan. 9. The three poster finalists and the essay winner must be available to attend Westland's Martin Luther King Day Ceremony slated for 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Annapolis Park Church of Christ, at 30355 Annapolis. For more information, call (734) 467-3200.

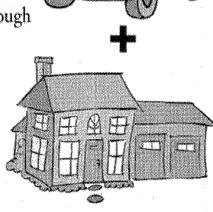




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From Sri Lan ka, with love

Volunteers - and Mitch Ryder – help orphans

BY JAMES MITCHELL STAFF WRITER

They went to help an orphanage in a Third World war zone, but one of the first questions people asked Tara Rondy and her fiancé, Keith Kohler, was whether they got married while overseas.

"It was an unofficial celebration," said Rondy, a 34year-old physical therapist from Plymouth. "My Sri Lankan family wanted to be part of it."

It was Rondy's second visit to the Grace Care Center, a home for children and elders in Trincomalee, a port town in the Sri Lanka's troubled northeast. In August 2005 she went to Grace for the first time with volunteers from VeAhavta, the nonprofit organization that established and maintains the seven-acre

complex. Rondy and others from southeast Michigan have been involved since shortly before the December 2004 tsunami, which further devastated a region traumatized by poverty and a 20-plus-year civil war.

She'd learned about the efforts to help the children and elders through friends at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and continued her involvement to include her recent trip and helping to plan a fund-raising concert in January.

"I was inspired by the people who had been there," Rondy said. "I wanted to do some type of mission work. and something was just right about this place."

GIVING SHELTER

Grace Care Center shelters 74 orphan children and 51 destitute senior citizens, and offers vocational training, a day care for village preschoolers, and other programs. Since the tsunami, reconstruction and the renewed



Tara Rondy and Keith Kohler's "wedding" in Sri Lanka this year included fellow VeAhavta volunteer Ben Roxberry and the orphan children of Grace Care Center.

conflict resulted in soaring costs, and VeAhavta volunteers hope to locate sponsors for the children and elders, and to fund projects designed to minimize the reliance on donations.

"They want to find ways to be more self-sufficient," said Rondy. "But there aren't a lot of options.'

In spite of the harsh environment, Grace Care Center's appeal to visitors lies in the charm of the children and spirit of hope found at the orphanage. When it was learned during their visit that a 2009 wedding was planned for Rondy and Kohler, it was quickly determined that a 'ceremony" of sorts was in order.

"In less than a week they threw together a wedding," Rondy said. "They decorated chairs with hand-written poems and flowers."

The "wedding" may have been more ceremony than matrimony, but the familial spirit at Grace, Rondy said, is what kept her involved with VeAhavta since first visiting the orphanage.

"They just take you in," Rondy said. "They feel so fortunate and thankful, they just truly appreciate people.'

Kohler, a 36-year-old architect, heard more than a few Grace stories since meeting Rondy after her initial trip. Everything she tried to describe lived up to his expec-

"There's definitely a pres-

ence there, I got that right away," Koehler said. After a bumpy ride north from capitol Colombo, losing count of the military checkpoints stopped at along a desolate road, Koehler understood the potential of the peaceful seven acres against the threats of war and poverty.

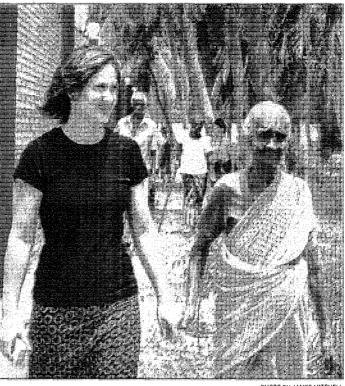
"It was just amazing," Koehler said. "When we arrived, we were given these flowers. I was just overwhelmed by the happiness of the people."

MUSIC FOR A CAUSE

Rondy and Koehler spent more than week at the orphanage, meeting new friends and confirming the commitment that keeps them working, connecting, or even planning concerts to help VeAhavta maintain its promise. Next month, Motor City music legend Mitch Ryder (Devil With a Blue Dress On) will join local band Blues Infusion for "Give Love," a concert to benefit VeAhavta.

Fittingly, the concert will gather old friends to help fund new dreams for the orphanage. Blues Infusion — a group including doctors from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital - previously opened for Ryder during a 2007 fund-raising show. Ryder also performed during a post-tsunami fund-raising campaign in South Lyon.

"I'm amazed at the dedication these people have, and the relationship they've formed with these brave chil-



Physical therapist Tara Rondy enjoyed a walk around the grounds with one of the elders of Mercy Home, a residence for destitute senior citizens at the Grace Care Center orphanage in Sri Lanka. Rondy and other Michigan volunteers are hosting a fund-raising concert in January to benefit the orphanage, featuring Blues Infusion with special guest Mitch Ryder.

dren and senior citizens in Sri Lanka," said Ryder. "It's an honor to perform for an organization that works so hard on their behalf. Their bond with children on the other side of the planet gives a lot of hope for a troubled world."

'GIVE LOVE' CONCERT INFO

- What: "Give Me Love," a benefit concert for the Grace Care Center orphanage
- When: 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18 (program, concert begins at 5:30), tickets \$25 (\$15 for students)
- VIP reception: 4 p.m., tickets \$100
- Where: Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, Ypsilanti.
- Tickets: Available at www. you-shall-love.org

Along with an on-stage guest performance, Ryder will appear at a pre-show reception for VIP ticket holders. Ryder and author James A. Mitchell will autograph copies of It Was All Right: Mitch Ryder's Life in Music, a biography of the Detroit Wheels singer published this year by Wayne State University Press, with proceeds going to the Grace Care Center.

For information about VeAhavta, visit www.youshall-love.org.

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IRS Web site a good place to learn latest tax laws

Q: Dear Rick: I read that you can make Roth IRA contributions up until April 15, **2009** and apply it to the **2008** tax year. At the same time, I heard you say that if you are



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

converting into a Roth IRA your deadline is the end of the year. Which is right?

A: Both are correct. There is a difference between converting a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA and making new

contributions. The law looks at them totally different.

Unfortunately, our tax laws are not easy and they do have a wide variety of due dates. There are certain transactions like the Roth IRA conversion that must be completed by the end of the year while other transactions such as new contributions into a Roth that do not have to be completed until next vear.

One of the things that make tax laws so confusing is that they are constantly changing. The tax law at the beginning of the year may not be the same tax law at the end of the year. Therefore, for specific advice, it pays to sit down with a tax professional to get the latest information. Another good resource for general issues with regard to taxes is the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, which is very user friendly. It contains information on tax laws and all the IRS forms and instructions.

One last note regarding Roth IRAs and even traditional IRAs, the maximum contribution for 2008 is \$5,000. However, those age 50 or older can make an additional \$1,000 contribution by the end of the year, making the total contribution \$6,000.

Q: Dear Rick: I remember reading your column that dealt with trusts for pets. I am a

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widow with no beneficiaries and I want to make sure my dog is taken care of when I die. My friend says that since dogs are property, you can't set up a trust for them.

A: A little over a year ago I did write an article with regards to pet statutory trusts. Michigan (as well as most states around the country) has enacted laws that make it much easier to leave money for the care and custody

of a pet. There are a couple of different issues that are important. The first is who is going to be in charge of the pet trust upon your death. This should be an individual whom you trust to handle the duties of taking care of your pet. You don't have to name just one person, you can name co-trustees if you choose so there's a natural checks and balance system. In addition, you should decide how much you plan to leave the pet. In your situation, it may be your entire estate or it may be a portion. Of course, it should be enough to take care of the pet in the manner in which you choose.

One last issue to consider is what happens if you over-fund the trust and upon the pet's death, there's money left in the trust. Obviously, you need to name an individual or a charity as to who would receive that money.

Pets are an important part of American society and the laws have changed to reflect that. In today's world, establishing trusts for pets is no longer considered unusual. More and more and more people are doing it. Yes, you can establish a

statutory pet trust on your own. However, I recommend consulting with an estate planning attorney to make sure that you dot your I's and cross your T's. 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.

events for beginner to elite athletes. It's a way to help people be healthy, Taormina said.

LOCAL NEWS

"It's a fun business to be in," said Taormina, 39.

Three triathlons for men and women are planned for this summer. More may be added.

The first — an all-women's triathlon called She Rocks on June 28 — will feature a "celebrity wave" of Olympic athletes whom Taormina has come to know. Some of them are still learning to

"If you've always wanted to do a triathlon, She Rocks will be perfect," said Solomon, a recreation triathlete and second-grade teacher who met Taormina in a

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running group. More information about EST Events is at estevents.com.

ROLE MODELS

Taormina's other endeavor, FriendSport (friendsport.com, still under construction), is a nonprofit that promotes female Olympic role models and gives exposure to lesser known sports to encourage fitness for children and adults.

For example, in November Taormina brought the gold and silver medalists in women's sabre fencing to Livonia to teach a fencing clinic.

In 2007, she organized the first Sharing the Dream tour, where five educated Olympic women talked about setting goals. That tour will continue.

Taormina's life is much different from the one she thought she would lead. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and planned on working in the automotive industry. Instead she trained in nine different Olympic events.

"I'm the only person on the planet that can stand on the fencing strip and tell you it's just as difficult as winning the Olympic marathon," she said. "None of them are easy."

She knew that when she set out to make history in 2005.

BREAKING THE PARADIGM

People told her it would be impossible to learn how to jump a horse in three years. She had one year to learn, in order to qualify for the World Cup team.

"I wanted to break the paradigm," she said. "Why do we tell people you're limited - don't even try?'

She also had to learn shooting and fencing. "It was a really rough

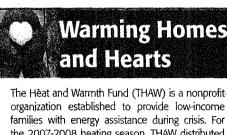
three years," she said. Taormina, who also runs Sheila T. Inc., gives motivational talks about the spirit of the human being. She's working on

a book. In Beijing, the pentathlon was turning into a disaster early on. Fencing, the second event, was going so poorly, Taormina summoned her sister, Sudee, in the audience and said, "I wish I could leave right now."

Her older sister replied, "You will do what you've always done as an athlete. You're not going to give up."

Taormina won the next two events, and the lesson stuck.

You have to endure the miserable parts," she said. "Know that the blessing will be there if you honestly stay in the fight."



The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 household in Michigan.

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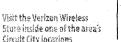
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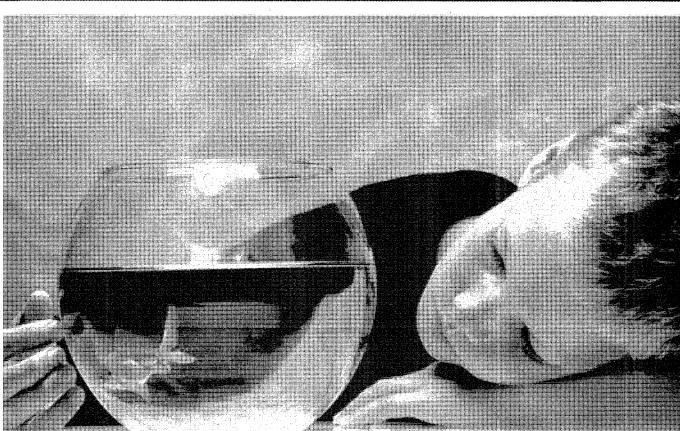
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Shoplifter hit with gun

A Garden City police officer was assisting the Department of Public Services at Merriman and Cherry Hill just after 6 p.m. Dec. 28 when he heard a radio call about a shoplifter at ACO, 132 S. Merriman in Westland. The call also reportedly noted that the suspected shoplifter was being struck in the head with a gun wielded by a second man.

As the officer responded, he spotted a man standing in a driveway on the north side of Cherry Hill while a second man on the south of the street reportedly yelled "he's got a gun" and "that's him."

The man on the north side of the street complied with the officer's orders to lie on the ground and a holstered handgun was found, police said. The officer took the handgun and a knife from the man, a Plymouth Township resident, who had a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The man told the officer he saw the suspect steal batteries from the store and pursued him. Since he couldn't shoot the suspect, the man reportedly said he struck the suspect with his

Garden City officers located the suspect hiding in the a garage in the 31000 block of Leona, police said. The suspect, a Ypsilanti resident, and the Plymouth Township man were turned over to Westland police.

Fire damages Canton

A home on the 8300 block of Holly Drive was damaged in a house fire on the morning of Dec. 30.

Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher said the fire, which was reported by neighbors at about 7 a.m., is believed to have been accidental. The homeowner, who was not at the residence at the time of the blaze, might have left the stove on

"We feel confident that it was an accident," Rorabacher said, adding that between 50 to 60 percent of the home was damaged. "(Firefighters) were able to enter the home and extinguish the fire rather fast but there is significant damage. The home is not liv-

There were no reported injuries and specific damage estimates are unavailable.

Home break-ins

Break-ins were reported at three Garden City homes Dec. 28.

■ A woman who had been

checking on a house in the 31000 block of Rosslyn for family members told police that someone had entered the home through an unlocked window. She said she had last been at the house Dec. 24.

Reported missing were five pocket knives, 10 boxes of rifle ammunition, two gun cleaning kits, a cable box, a vacuum cleaner, 10 Elvis records, two cans of food, 20 bottles of water and five ladies coats.

Based on a can of ravioli, a bag of candy and water found in the living room, police surmised that someone had been sleeping and eating at the house. There had been an unsuccessful attempt to pry the garage overhead door, police said.

A resident in the 28000 block of Leona told police that she arrived home Dec. 28 to find the side door had been forced open. Reported missing was a laptop computer and the power cord valued at \$750. The laptop was later retrieved from Inkster police after it was found in the rear yard of a home in the 400 block of Central.

The third break-in was reported at a home in the 200 block of Lathers. The homeowner told police she arrived home the evening of Dec. 28 to find the side door forced open. She said the linen closet had been searched but nothing was taken. Missing from her bedroom, she said, was a television, a DVD player and a mother's ring with eight stones, valued at \$1,000.

The television and DVD player, valued at \$320, had apparently been recovered Dec. 27 in Inkster where police were investigating an attempted break-in in that

Larceny

The owner of Aerospace Innovations, 28919 Seven Mile Road in Livonia, left the office at noon on Dec. 30. When he came back at 10 p.m. that evening, he noticed that his desktop computer and three Playstation 3 game platforms were missing from the office. The police report on the incident noted that there were no signs of forced entry at the business.

Shoppers caught

Security officers at the Livonia Wal-Mart were watching when two women came into the store and started picking up makeup, clothing and jewelry as they went through the store. While they paid for some of the items, they left others in their pockets when they went through the cashier aisle.

The two were caught with more than \$120 in items they didn't pay for.

Snow plows stolen

Westland police are investigating a rash of thefts of trucks equipped with snowplowing equipment.

The most recent incident happened between 10:30 p.m. and midnight Saturday in the Fountain Park apartment complex on Newburgh south of Joy, where a 2003 Ford F-350 was stolen, police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

Similar incidents were reported earlier in December at Forest Lane Apartments on Wayne Road between Ford and Hunter, at Waynewood Apartments on Wayne south of Warren, and in the area of Inkster and Joy roads, Miller said.

In the Inkster-Joy incident, the truck was found in Detroit, the sergeant said, but the snow plow was miss-

X-mas diamond ring stolen

A 31-year-old Canton Township woman filed a report Dec. 26 to document the theft and return of a diamond ring she got as a Christmas gift from her hus-

The woman said that she left the ring in a box near her front door before she left the residence and returned to find it missing. When she asked her roommate, a 47vear-old woman, about the item, the roommate then contacted her daughter, a 22year-old Ypsilanti woman.

The roommate told officers that her daughter had brought a friend to the residence Christmas day but that she hadn't noticed the theft. The woman said she called her daughter and told her to return the ring by the next morning or she was calling the police.

The daughter then returned the piece of jewelry. The owner of the ring, which is valued at \$300, did not want to press charges.

Home break-in

A resident living in the 17000 block of Deering in Livonia came home Monday to find his front door was

hanging open. Checking the house, he saw the back door was left open and found the door had been pried away from its dead bolt. The house had been empty overnight, but at the time of the report to Livonia police, nothing had been reported stolen.

Man kicks door, flees

A woman living in the 33000 block of Roycroft heard a knock at her front door Monday night, but no one was there. She then heard a knock at her side door. When she went to check, she saw a black man in his late 20s standing there looking in. As he started to kick at the door, she screamed and scared the man away. Livonia police responded later that night and used a K-9 unit to track the area without results.

Playstation, rings stolen

Police were called to a home in the 6900 block of Arcola in Garden City on Dec. 30 about a two suspicious men possibly breaking into a home. The side door to the home had been forced open. The owner was contacted and reported the missing items included a Sony Playstation hand held video game and assorted rings valued at over \$1,000.

A neighbor told police that two men had knocked on his door. When he answered, one man had told him they were looking for a lost dog. The resident was suspicious of the men and attempted to follow

Another witness told police he saw the two suspects knock on the front door of the home and then move to the side door.

MP3 players taken

Sears loss prevention officers were watching on closed-circuit TV the day after Christmas as a 22year-old Southfield man picked up two MP3 players in the electronics department and carried them into the men's room. Later, the players were recovered when he tried to leave the store without paying. The two players together were worth about \$160.



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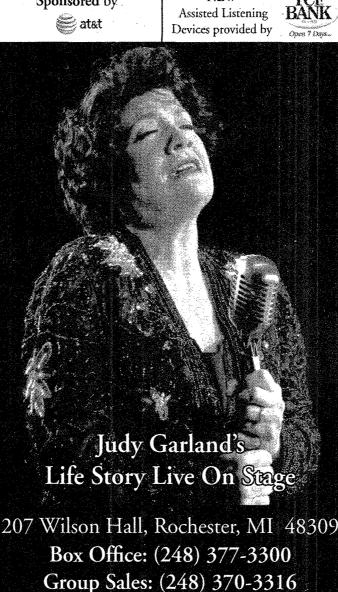
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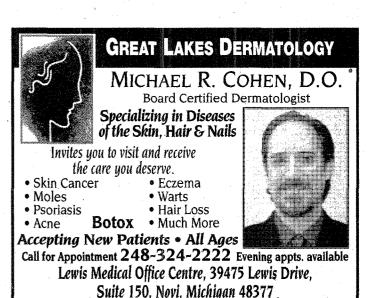
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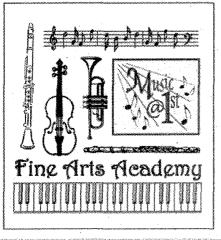
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City clears streets

Livonia residents are reminded that snow clearance of neighborhood streets is the responsibility of the city's public works department, while Wayne County road crews take care of most of the main roads.

Livonia is in charge of snow on neighborhood streets, the halfmile connector roads and four of the main roads - Schoolcraft. Newburgh, Ann Arbor Trail and Levan. In all, that takes in about 360 miles of roadway.

Snow removal or salting the rest of the major roads in the city is the responsibility of the county. Joy, Plymouth, each of the Mile roads (Five Mile, Six Mile, Seven Mile and Eight Mile), Inkster, Middlebelt, Merriman, Farmington, Haggerty and Eckles are handled by Wayne County road crews.

For questions or concerns regarding Livonia-maintained roads, call Livonia Public Service at (734) 466-2655. For issues regarding Wayne County Roads, call (888) ROAD-CREW.

City policy is to plow all streets when any snowfall across the city is four inches or more. To learn more about the city's snow plowing priorities and routes, visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us and go to the DPW Public Service page, then click on snow removal. An outline of the program was recently mailed to residents as part of the Winter Newsletter.

Information regarding snow emergency announcements can be obtained by watching City Channel 8, tuning into Livonia's **Emergency Radio Station 1670** AM, local radio and television newscasts, by visiting the City's Web site or by signing up on the Web site for e-mail alerts.

Veterans wanted

The Polish Legion of American Veterans Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein Road, Livonia (at the southeastern corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking new veteran members (the first year is offered free). The Post meeting day is the second Monday of every month (except July and August) and begins at 7:30 p.m. with a light lunch that follows the meeting. Those interested are welcome or contact Roger L. Kehrier at (734) 453-2031.

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its first networking luncheon of the new year at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14 at Summit on the Park. Learn how you can become more involved in the Chamber and how you can make the Chamber work for

you. District Court Judge Mike Gerou will also be swearing in the Chamber's 2009 Board of Directors.

The cost is \$20. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation call the Chamber office at (734) 453-

Bipolar disorder meeting

Bipolar disorder can be a devastating illness, both for individuals and for families. It is a chronic disease causing unstable and unpredictable moods. The positive news is that bipolar disorder is treatable, and new research advances are under way.

The University of Michigan Depression Center and the Plymouth District Library will present a Bright Nights forum, "Understanding Bipolar Disorder," from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

Dr. Melvin McInnis, M.D., will present a brief overview of the illness from a clinical and genetic perspective.

McInnis is the Thomas B. and Nancy Upjohn Woodworth Professor of Bipolar Disorder and Depression at the U-M Depression Center. His overview will be followed by a specialist panel discussion based on audience questions.

Pre-registration for the free event can be made by calling the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

Family members, friends and individuals with bipolar disorder are especially welcome. For more information, visit the Depression Center Web site at www. depressioncenter,org or contact Trish Meyer at meyerpa@umich.

Student artwork honored



Habitat honor roll award

Anne Naszradi (right), an employee in Canton's engineering department, accepts Canton's habitat honor roll award from Bill Craig and George Rinke of the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council (RRAC). Canton is one of three recipients of the award, which annually recognizes efforts to restore or maintain wildlife habitat and/or water quality in the Rouge River watershed. Canton was recognized for improving many of the detention basins in the township, making them more friendly to creatures, while making them aesthetically pleasing and improving functionality. The other recipients this year are the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills for naturalizing their grounds by adding native plants to their landscape, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) for its very successful rain garden, which demonstrates ways to use stormwater and native plants on site to benefit wildlife and the watershed.

The Livonia PTSA Council will host two art award programs this week. Both take place at Stevenson High School.

The Reflections program for lower elementary participants is Wednesday, Jan. 7. The event begins at 6:45 p.m. with all of the entries on display. At 7 p.m., the program features high school students who have won awards in the Reflections program in past years. The students, who come from each of Livonia's three high schools, will each present various

art divisions in Reflections. Each of the lower elementary students will be called on stage to receive a certificate.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, participants in grades five to 12 will be honored.

The program, starts at with a walk-though gallery at 6:45 p.m. The award presentations will take place at 7 p.m. Entries were judged by the Livonia Arts Commission.

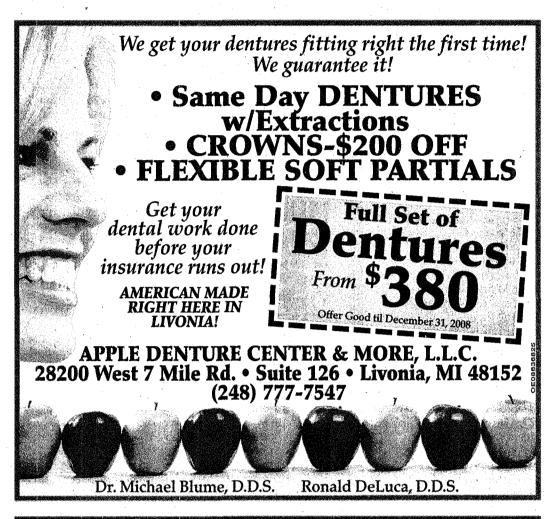
The theme for the 2008-09 Reflections program is "WOW!"

Dentures

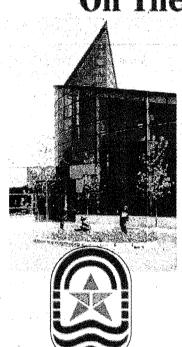
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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21, 2009

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for January 21, 2009, has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on February 18, 2009 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 7:00 p.m. Publish: January 4, 2009







HOLDING PENALTY

A recent finding showing that excessive use of denture cream has been linked with nerve damage gives patients with denturés even more reason to visit the dentist for readjustments. The study involved denture wearers who developed neurological problems. All were found to have abnormally high levels of zinc in their blood (accompanied by abnormally low levels of copper). A balance of zinc and copper in the body is essential for neurological health. Absorbing too much of either of these trace metals can lead to depletion of the other. As it turned out, denture cream contains zinc, and the patients had used excessive amounts of it - two tubes per week instead of the recommended one tube every three to ten weeks.

We stay on the leading-edge of dentistry, keeping up to date on the latest health studies and dental techniques, materials, and therapies to ensure all our patients receive the very best in dental health care. If you are looking for a family dentist who understands the needs of everyone in your family as individuals and patients, we welcome to you to stop by 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth, and get acquainted. We're sure vou'll leave with a good feeling about our practice. For an appointment, please call 734-453-9413.

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Collect, sort, deliver, repeat

Suburban friends help homeless, their own way

> BY STACY JENKINS **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Louise, Janie, Charles, Patsy, Glenda, Cynthia, Richard and Nena — a group of regular folks from the suburbs, on an unlikely mission.

No formal agencies, no real rules or guidelines, no paperwork or government assistance — it's renegade relief, coming straight from the burbs to the streets of Detroit.

Climbing onto a rickety school bus painted beige with the words, "God's Favor" on the side, these longtime friends pile coats, scarves, mittens, sweaters, socks, hygiene products, Bibles and food into the seats. They pack the rows so full, there's barely room to sit as Louise takes the wheel and fires up the noisy engine.

Away they go - onto the freeway, heading downtown Detroit to give all of the goods away.

It's that simple. They collect, they sort and hand it out to Detroit's most needy people, the homeless.

These gonzo givers are old friends, many of whom grew up in the area of Martin Luther King and Third Street — which just so happens to be the first stop on their route.

The bus pulls up to the curb outside of the Neighborhood Services Organization, where dozens of homeless people are hunkered down, staying warm while seated in rows of metal chairs. Word quickly spreads that the bus is outside.

Slowly, they approach the bus with weary eyes and open hands. From inside the bus, Patsy, Glenda, Nena, Janie, Charles and Richard hand them submarine sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bags of chips and bottles of water.

They're quick to offer a sweater or a warmer coat, too.

Meanwhile, Cynthia and Louise are inside the shelter, delivering food, Bibles, water and hygiene kits to homeless people who are wheelchair bound or otherwise

Louise Fincher, of New Boston, started this monthly mission 18



Glenda Fletcher of Farmington hands out food, coats, gloves, boots and other items to the crowd of homeless people on the streets of Detroit.

years ago. Her father, who was an alcoholic, lived on the streets until

"I see these people out there and I think of my dad," Louise said. "I couldn't help him because I was a child, but I can help now. What I couldn't do as a child, I can do now — and, it's all done through having faith in God."

Louise began her quest in 1990, when she and a friend gathered blankets and drove downtown to hand them out, in the middle of the streets, from her minivan. Since then, she's assembled several volunteers and even had an old school bus donated.

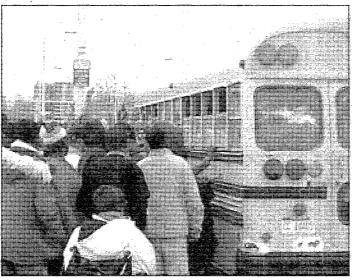
When the bus breaks down, she barters to get it fixed.

"I cut hair, all for free," said Louise, who owns a hair salon.

Patsy Durbin, of Livonia, is a longtime friend of Louise who has been helping with the God's Favor ministry for years. Even through her own hard times, Patsy feels compelled to keep helping others.

"Almost four years ago, my husband lost his job and I decided, no matter what, I will continue. This is something you get a heart for. It really is an honor and a privilege to do this," she said.

They've built relationships with the homeless people they've met through the years, includ-



Plenty of homeless people look forward to the bus pulling up to the curb at Martin Luther King and Third Street every third Monday of the month.

ing Gordy and Sandra, who lived under the Springwells bridge over

"We would stop by there and bring them food and then they got to know that on the third Monday of the month, we would bring them things," Patsy said.

Gordy was later killed while trying to walk across the freeway, but Patsy said they heard Sandra has a room at a shelter.

BACK TO THE BUS

OVER 10,000 LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE. curves.com

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27312 Plymouth Rd.

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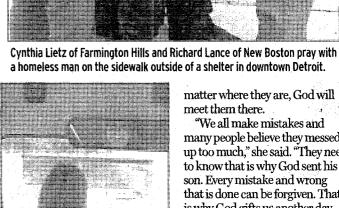
(734) 414-0515

44717 Five Mile Rd.

The group rolls away from

Martin Luther King and Third Street and heads toward Woodward, to another shelter, where homeless gather. They repeat the routine there and Cynthia Lietz, of Farmington Hills and Richard Lance, of New Boston, who is an ordained minister, hop out of the bus to talk to a man who is standing on the sidewalk.

Tall, well-groomed and wearing a nice, warm coat and sturdy shoes and carrying a backpack, the man is an ex-convict who has



Louise Fincher drives the God's Favor bus into downtown Detroit to feed and clothe the homeless. She learned how to drive a bus from her sister, who was a school bus driver.

had a hard time getting adjusted after his release from jail. His wife is addicted to drugs and they live on the streets.

Cynthia and Richard listen to his story and pray with him as he cries and shakes in the bitter cold morning air.

Inside the bus, Glenda Fletcher, of Farmington, watches. Tears well up in her eyes.

"When you see a grown man cry like that, you know he's in a lot of pain," she said softly, gripping her hands together.

Cynthia, who has her own Another Day program, among others she participates in, said it's all about reminding people that no matter where they are, God will meet them there.

"We all make mistakes and many people believe they messed up too much," she said. "They need to know that is why God sent his son. Every mistake and wrong that is done can be forgiven. That is why God gifts us another day - it's our gift back to God what we do with that day."

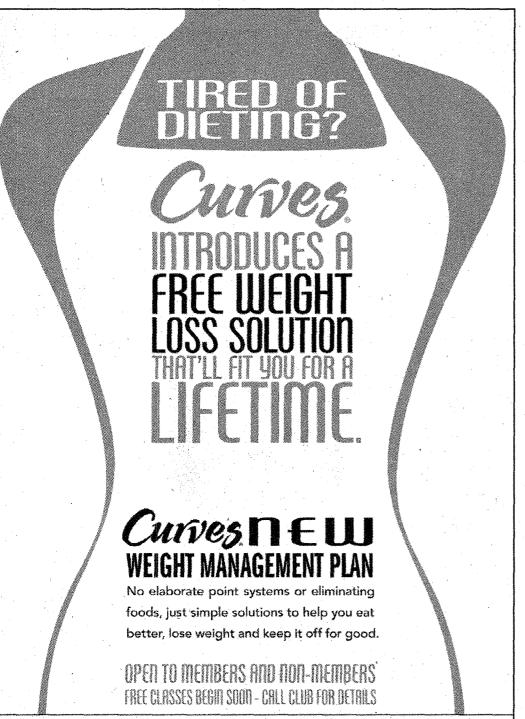
The bus rolls on to another shelter at the Pilgrim Church at Trumbull and Brainard, where the "I Am My Brother's Keeper" ministry is housed. The group drops off some bread for the church's food program.

Pastor Henry Covington and wife Annette said they need help with food donations, volunteers and financial donations so the heat can be restored in the church and shelter. Anyone interested in helping may call (313) 974-9227.

The bus then rolls over to the old train station, where a couple of homeless men are standing. The bus stops and Louise hands them some food and asks what else they

"This shows what individuals can do, when they want to," Patsy said. "You can make a difference."

To help, call Cynthia Lietz at (734) 377-2169 or e-mail her at anotherday_08@yahoo.



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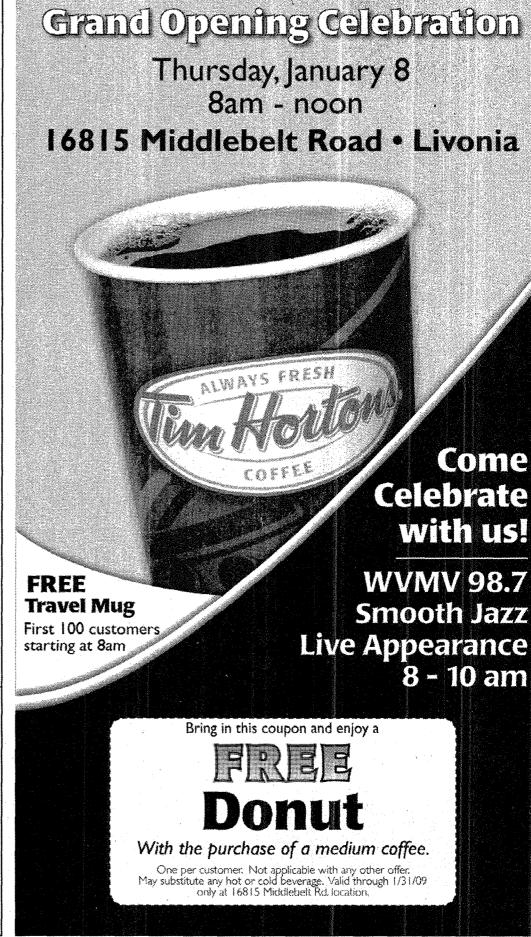
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Sandie Dental Assistant 23 years with Dr. Feucht.



Kara

It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the start of 2008 and here it is already time to begin yet another new year. How time flies.

It is my hope that you were able to join family and friends over the recent holiday season and were able to enjoy a few days off.

As I look back over 2008 I have fond memories of all who came out to celebrate my 30th Anniversary practicing dentistry. It was a great night indeed.

Of course I thank all of my wonderful patients who came by to see us this year. I wish you a wonderful 2009. May the new year bring you each all the happiness you deserve.

If you are looking for a dentist or have dental needs please do give me a call. My staff and I look forward to the opportunity to meet you and stand ready to help you in any way we can.

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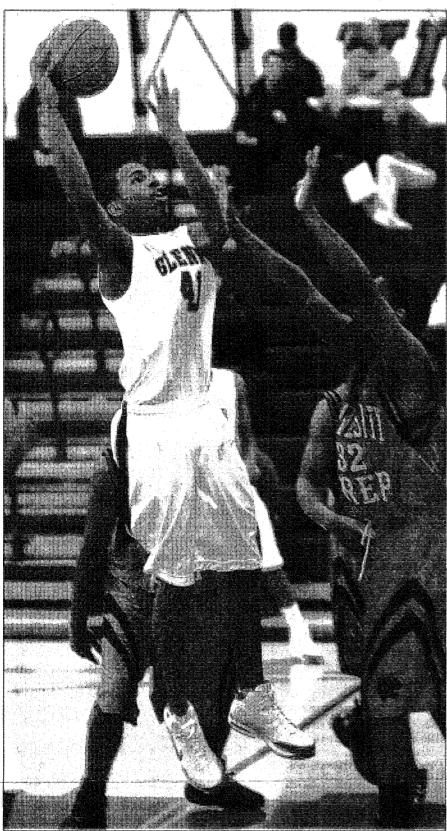
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HOOP-Y NEW YEAR



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

TOM HAMLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHEN

John Glenn's Derrick Crosby goes over the top of Detroit University Prep's Delano Jenkins in the first half Monday night. John Glenn hosted the first annual John Glenn Basketball Classic.

Rockets pull off amazing comeback against Ferndale

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talk about coming back from the dead. Host Westland John Glenn trailed by as many as 19 points late in the third quarter Tuesday afternoon before pulling off a miraculous comeback to stun visiting Ferndale in the Glenn Basketball Classic, 66-62.

The Rockets, now 2-1 overall, outscored the Eagles 28-10 in the decisive final period to keep Ferndale winless at 0-6 overall.

"I'm speechless," Ferndale third-year coach Randy Boldin said. "We found a way to lose and we've got to find a way to win. It's a mental thing right now."

Ferndale, dressing just eight players, had control at the half leading 36-22 after outscoring Glenn 24-9 in the second period.

"We did not have any energy, they (Ferndale) were working harder than we were and we were not into it," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "We just said we've got to cut it to 10 (points), then we cut it to six. And all the sudden we were into it."

Thanks to their relentless work on the boards, junior Jeremy Lankford (17 points) and senior Derrick Crosby (12 points) sparked the fourth-quarter comeback.

Langford's free throw with 4:28 left in the final quarter cut the deficit to 55-49 and Crosby's rebound basket and subsequent free throw for a three-point play with only 2:03 remaining evened the count at 61-all.

Senior guard Austin Anderson (19 points) also came alive after shooting just 5-of-24 from the floor through three quarters. Anderson's basket with 1:13 remaining gave Glenn the lead for keeps, 63-62, and freshman Marquise Graves sealed the

Please see **related story** and photo, **Page B2.**

victory by nailing 3-of-4 free throws in the final 18 seconds to preserve the win.

Ferndale, meanwhile, went scoreless in the final 1:55 and missed four attempts during one sequence with just under a minute to go. The Eagles went 2-for-12 from the field in the fourth quarter.

"They (Glenn) killed us on the boards," said Boldin, who employed a 3-2 zone defense down the stretch. "We were not aggressive enough – too many offensive rebounds. We gave the game away."

Shaun Amiker led a balanced Ferndale scoring attack with 16 points, while Cecil Clark added 12. Robert Rheaume had nine, while Kevin Sampson and Rex Jenkins each tallied eight.

"Ferndale was ready to play and had good energy," Young said. "They did what they wanted to do for three-and-a-half quarters."

The Glenn coach was pleased with the play of both Crosby and Langford.

"Derrick's only 6 feet tall, but plays so hard," Young said. "He's an unbelievable worker and rebounder.

"Langford just starting attacking more. He has to take advantage of his ability to run harder and get to the basket. He's our top perimeter defender."

Glenn won despite shooting only 23-of-68 from the floor and 14-of-23 from the foul line.

The Rockets had 16 first-quarter turnovers, but only four in the second half.

"We have to play defense if we're going to have a chance to win games," Young said. "We're not going to do it offensively with this group. And they realize that."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Thurston breaks out of funk vs. Kettering

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It took more than seven halves, but Redford Thurston's varsity boys basketball team finally broke away from mounting early season frustration during Tuesday's third quarter against Waterford Kettering during the Westland John Glenn Basketball Classic.

The Eagles, losers of the first three games this season and trailing 39-38 to the Captains at halftime, suddenly turned on the fun and the offense and poured in 28 points during the third stanza to take a commanding 66-58 advantage into the fourth.

It was all window dressing from that point, as the Eagles breezed to an 85-70 nonconference victory to improve to 1-3. Kettering also now is 1-3 on the season.

"It's great to get the first win," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "We kind of got the monkey off our backs and we can just kind of breathe again and just start playing the way we play.

"That's what we did today, we played Thurston basketball."

The tables might have turned Thurston's way late in the third. Kettering clanked foul shots that would have cut the game to a two-point game and soon thereafter, senior guard Greg Morgan stole the ball and went in for a layup.

Senior guard Josh Miller followed the same script a few moments later and Thurston enjoyed an eight-point edge with one frame remaining.

"We get things off our defense," Bates said. "Defensively, we got after it a little bit better and got into their passing lanes.

"We score on layups, we get the steals and we score. Then, the kids minds are into it and they get right back into it again."

The first half featured Kettering senior center Kevin Truitt, who had too much free rein near the Thurston bucket.

Although Truitt wound up with 20 points, the Eagles doubled up on him in the second half and forced a number of errant long-range shots with half-court man-to-man defense.

The Captains tried to close the gap in the fourth, particularly because of a number of missed layups by Thurston. But Morgan (13 points) sank a trey from the left corner with 4:10 to go and Miller (11 points, four steals) followed with a layup to give the Eagles a 73-62 edge.

A little more than a minute later, the Eagles were ahead 77-64 after a pretty give-and-go down the court between senior guards Marcus Jones (a gameleading 24 points, six steals) and Ron Brown, who also had a strong game with 16 points.

Jones finished the play, sparking cheers from the Thurston sideline and indicating to Bates that the team was finally having fun. That wasn't apparent Monday, in a lackluster 10-point loss to North Farmington, also at the John Glenn tourney.

"The kids were focused a lot better today," the veteran coach noted. "They were more uptempo, ... that's the way the kids like to play.

"And they have fun playing that way. For whatever reason, yesterday they had no enthusiasm for four quarters."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Thurston's Josh Miller drives past Waterford Kettering's Kiril Valtchev during a game in the Westland John Glenn Basketball Classic tournament earlier this week.

Chipping in with 15 points and seven rebounds was senior forward Brandon Rivera, with senior forward Cameron Mitchell's seven boards and handful of blocks keeping the Captains at bay.

Also in double figures for Kettering was sophomore guard Mike Mosakoski, with 12 points.
Thurston is idle until hosting Melvindale at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 7, in a Mega crossover tilt. The Eagles then welcome Waterford Kettering, at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Power outage Ignition stymied by Storm, 8-6

The Detroit Ignition dropped a hard-fought 8-6 decision to the Chicago Storm on Dec. 27 at Sears Centre Arena in Chicago.

The loss dropped Detroit to 1-2 in the Xtreme Soccer League while the Storm improved to 2-1.

Ignition midfielder
Drew Ducker scored with
just three minutes to play
in the first quarter to
give Detroit an early 2-0
lead, but the Storm's Andy
Rosenband and Fabinho
each scored a two-pointer
in the second to give the
home team a 4-2 lead
going into halftime.

Rosenband netted his second two-point score just under three minutes into the third quarter, but Livonia's Tino Scicluna stopped Chicago's run with a two-pointer at 11:24.

Defender Josh Rife added two more points for Detroit at 3:56 of the fourth to tie the game up at six-all, but Awadalla Morad put another two on the board for Chicago with less than five minutes to play to bring the final score to 8-6.

The Ignition will return to action on Saturday, January 10 when it faces the Wave in Milwaukee.

Salem girls tennis

There will be a meeting on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. for all girls interested in playing on the 2009 Salem girls tennis team. The meeting will be held in the Salem library, which is located on the second floor.

All incoming freshman and returning players and their parents should attend. Players are encouraged to bring a copy of their physical form and current health insurance information to the meeting. Uniforms will also be ordered at this time. For more information, visit salemrockstennis.com.

Football combine

There will be a Nike combine training designed for high school football players to prepare for the 2009 season and preparation for SPARQ and NATS testing protocols beginning later this month. Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine.

This training session will be on Saturdays beginning Jan. 31 at the Oakland University Sports Dome. To register, visit www. coachjacksonspeed. com. For more information, contact coach Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

Ignition deal The Detroit

Ignition has agreed to terms with Plymouth Therapeutic Massage (PTM) in the club's first player sponsorship deal. PTM will sponsor Ignition captain Kyt Selaidopoulos during the 2008-09 season. Player sponsors receive various marketing opportunities with their sponsored player, including logo placement on the player's jersey, television exposure and more. "The player spon-

sorship package is a new opportunity we are excited to offer to local businesses," Ignition Vice President of Business **Operations Lindsey** Gamrod said. "I think the opportunity will be especially attractive to smaller companies that want to be involved with the team, and we're happy to have this option for them."

For more information on player sponsorship opportunities, contact the Ignition at (888) 436-GOAL (4625).

Detroit Central drops C'ville to 1-4

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Livonia Clarenceville boys basketball coach Corey McKendry was banking on a tough December non-conference schedule would pay off dividends down the road.

The Trojans, however, haven't quite turned the corner just yet, dropping to 1-4 on the season with a 69-55 setback Tuesday to Detroit Central in the Westland John Glenn Basketball Classic.

"They're very good, wellcoached," McKendry said of the 3-3 Trail Blazers. "We talked about not playing from behind because they can dictate the tempo. They're very efficient. I don't remember them taking more than three or four bad shots.

Three senior guards did the most damage for the Trail Blazers as DeAngelo Hailey led the way with 28 points, including 10 in the second quarter to spark a 20-13 run after the Trojans led 12-9 after one

The Plymouth Whalers

finished 2008 with a battle

against a familiar Ontario

new setting.

16-17-4-0.

Hockey League opponent in a

Greg Nemisz's power-play

goal at 7:57 of the first perio

was the only lamp-lighter

of the game as the Windsor

1-0, in Plymouth's first-ever

Family Credit Union Centre

Windsor — the top team

31-5-0-1. Plymouth slipped to

in the OHL — improved to

"We played well," said

Plymouth president, general

Vellucci after the game. "But

you don't get two points for

The 6,449 spectators at

goaltenders' battle between

Windsor's Andrew Engleage

Location: Simply Self Storage

Publish: December 28, 2008

yard setback.

Publish: January 4, 2009

Notice: Jan 12, 2009, at or after 9:30 AM

11960 Farmington Rd

Unit # 123 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods Unit # 133 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods

Unit # 759 A and B Michael Strauss, House hold goods

Unit # 531a Lauri Denis, House hold goods Unit # 702 Guy Humeniuk, House hold goods

Unit # 215 Carrie Hall, House hold goods

Livonia, MI 48150

734-425-9610

the WFCU Centre saw a

moral victories."

manager and head coach Mike

game at the new Windsor

Wednesday afternoon.

Spitfires defeated the Whalers,

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2009

Darious Ware and DeMarco Johnson chipped in with 15 and 10, respectively, while Jalen Smith added nine.

The Trail Blazers opened up a 42-31 third-quarter lead with 2:21 left on Hailey's alley-oop dunk and were never threatened the rest of the way.

"The first quarter we slowed them down, but then we started to take more quick shots and that leads to quick baskets by them," McKendry said. "It was the first time we been in this situation. They took us out of our rhythm. We struggled with that the second half."

Clarenceville's 6-foot-4 standout senior swingman Jamie Stewart finished with a teamhigh 16 points along with teammate Nathan Clark. But the high-scoring Stewart was limited to just three points through three quarters.

Central head coach Ben Kelso was out of town and absent on the bench, but the Trail Blazers stayed true to their patented

Whalers fall in goalie-dominated contest

Engleage stopped 37 shots

for his league-leading fifth

campaign.

shutout of the season and his

league-leading 27th win of the

Hackett, who was drafted

2007, continued his history of

good play against his former

shots, which earned him the

Nemisz scored his 19th goal

of the season with Plymouth's

Jamie Devane in the penalty

the first period. Passes in the

and Ron Kwiet found Nemisz

in the high slot and he fired

a low shot that seemed to be

deflected at the hash marks by

Taylor Hall, but the goal was

credited to Nemisz, who was

selected by the Calgary Flames

in the first round (25th overall)

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CITY OF LIVONIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA

Zoning Board of Appeals

January 20, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)

33000 Civic Center Drive

Livonia, MI

(734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2009-01-02: Gasso Holdings, 20320 West

Eight Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075, on behalf of Lessee

Sterling Collision Centers, Inc., Nine Tech Circle, Natick, MA

01760, seeking to erect a canopy/carport to the front of an existing

building located on the west side of Merriman (13345)

between Industrial and Glendale, resulting in deficient front

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all

comments must include name, address and signature.

Whalers' zone by Dale Mitchell

box for roughing at 7:04 of

game's first star accolades.

by Windsor but traded to

Plymouth in November of

team by stopping 34 of 35

and Plymouth's Matt Hackett.

motion offense.

"Coach Kelso mentioned that they had a good player (in Stewart) and the key was our continuity offensively, which worked for us," interim coach Roosevelt Green said. "I think our guys are beginning to grasp the way things are supposed to run. We made a concentrated effort to get back on defense to keep them from getting out on the break.'

Clarenceville shot just 9-of-17. from the foul line and 21-of-47from the floor.

The Trojans - who count losses to Detroit Northwest, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard and Taylor Kennedy, along with Central - are off until Tuesday, Jan. 13 when they host Taylor Truman.

"To beat teams like that (Central) we've got to fix some things," McKendry said. "But playing these kind of teams are good because our practices are better."

Plymouth

Whalers

Christian

pictured

during a game earlier

this week.

teammates

were stymied

Wednesday's

1-0 loss to Windsor.

and his

during

in the 2008 National Hockey

Hackett, Engleage and the

penalty killers took over from

Plymouth had its best sus-

tained offensive action on a

power play late in the second

period after Lane MacDermid

was whistled for interference,

but Engleage made saves on

With 40 seconds left in

Hackett for an extra attacker

regulation, Vellucci pulled

two on Ryan Hayes.

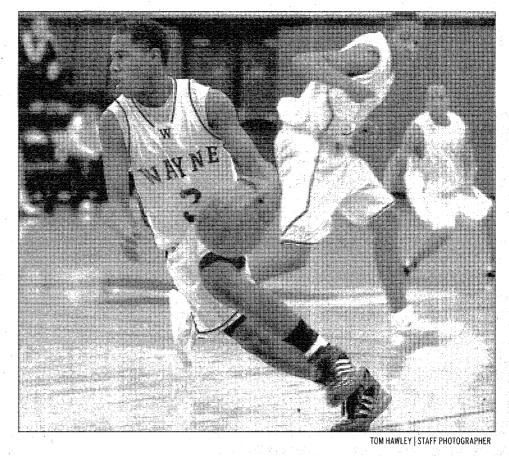
League Entry Draft.

that point on.

defenseman

Steingraber,

bemons@hometownlife.com



Wavne Memorial quard Robert Woodson looks to penetrate against North Farmington during a game earlier this week in the the Westland John Glenn Basketball Classic.

Looking out for No. 1

Vinales lives up to his number in Raiders' victory

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kyle Vinales apparently wears the number one on his jersey for a reason.

The 6-foot-1 junior guard from North Farmington continued to prove Tuesday afternoon that he's the No. 1 scoring option for the Raiders following his career-high 36-point effort in a 66-61 win over Wayne Memorial in the Westland John Glenn Basketball Classic.

Vinales, averaging over 30 points per game, took just 15 shots from the floor to do it. He was 9-of-15, including five 3-pointers. He also hit 11-of-14 free throws as the Raiders rallied from a 31-25 halftime deficit to improve to 4-1 overall.

Vinales scored 26 of his 36 in the second half. He tallied 10 in the third period as North outscored the

Vinales, who counts his favorite basketball player as Davidson's Stephen Curry, had a simple explanation for North's first-half woes and second-half improvement.

We just weren't playing hard, not executing," he said. "When we started playing defense, we get more energy and everybody plays better."

North held off a late Wayne rally by making 15-of-

18 free throws in the final quarter. Senior forward Drew Blazaitis also had a strong

second half for the Raiders, scoring 10 of his 17

"We felt coming off in the third quarter that in order to compete, we had play harder in our trapping defense - which we call our 32 minutes of hell," North veteran coach 10m Negoshian said. The first half we were a step slow and a step off in our traps. We just played with more intensity (in the second Beau Schmitz, Patrick Lee and half)."

Wavne committed 18 turnovers, but was playing only its second game of the season in 22 days.

"I was proud of our kids, they competed hard and we just came up short at the end," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "Because of their style of play (North's), it kind of looks helter-skelter. That's why we practiced six on defense versus five on offense. The first half we were able to skip passes from one side to the other. The second half we did not do it as well, but overall I think we did a decent job against their pressure."

Senior guard Robert Woodson led the Zebras (O-2) in scoring with 21 points. Junior forward Daniel Hill also played a strong game inside and finished with 15, while senior forward Delorean Holland added 11.

The Zebras just missed an opportunity to pull within one with only 13 seconds left when Michael Safford's triple try rimmed in-and-out.

Woodson, who scored nine straight points in the final 1:25, pulled Wayne to within two, 63-61, with 10.9 seconds left, but North iced the game on a free throw by Blazaitis and two more from Vinales.

"He was tough today," Woodard said of the North junior guard. "And he's done it to other people, too. When you give up 26 in one half to one kid, you're going to be in trouble."

North also thrived at the free throw line, hitting 25-of-29.

"We run if we miss them in practice," Negoshian

The Raiders, who beat Redford Thurston on Monday, went two-for-two in the Glenn Classic.

"I'm tickled pink," Negoshian said. we had two great wins with two starters out. We had two off the JV (squad) and three with no varsity experience. We don't have a lot of great athletes and we beat a good team today."

Ladywood cagers' winning streak snapped, 49-47

Livonia Ladywood's fourgame winning streak came to a halt in Tuesday's championship game of the Kalamazoo Loy Norrix girls basketball tournament.

Freshman guard Cara Miller's 6-foot jumper at the buzzer sent the game into overtime, but the Blazers were outscored 4-2 in the four-minute extra session, falling to McBain, 49-47.

Elizabeth Hamlet, bound for Oakland University, led the victorious Ramblers (5-1) with 19 points. Sister Anne

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of Monday, December 8, 2008, the City Council of the City of Garden City did adopt the

2009 - SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 12, 2009

January 26, 2009

February 9, 2009

March 9, 2009

March 23, 2009

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

May 18, 2009

June 1, 2009

June 15, 2009

June 29, 2009

July 13, 2009

July 27, 2009

August 10, 2009

August 24, 2009

October 5, 2009

October 19, 2009

November 9, 2009

November 30, 2009

December 21, 2009

September 14, 2009

September 21, 2009

April 20, 2009

February 23, 2009

Marie Hamlet added 11, while Morgan VanderVlucht contributed nine, including the gamewinning hoop.

Molly Gacioch paced the Blazers (4-3) with 13 points, while Miller added 11. Caitlin Szczypka chipped in with nine.

Ladywood trailed by as many as 14 points in the opening half. McBain led at intermission, 28-22, but the Blazers pulled ahead after three quarters, 35-33, after a 13-5 run.

"We got into some early four trouble, but we maintained a good rotation with our guards," said Ladywood coach Pat Cannon, who was missing starter Mary Fitzgerald (ankle injury). "(Elizabeth) Hamlet scored 30 the day before against Loy Norrix and we held her to no field goals in the second half, thanks in part to the efforts of Courtney LaValley and Jenny Kelley."

Kelley scored off the tip in overtime, but McBain came back on baskets by Anne Marie Hamlet and VanderVlucht.

"We had the ball the last minute and did not score," Cannon said.

'We got the shot (from Szczypka) that we wanted, but it did not fall."

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter 1 and 3, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, the County of Wayne, Michigan, has determined that it was in the best interest of the public to absolutely abandoned and discontinued that the following described alley right-of-way, subject to a reservation of an easement for public utilities, county storm water conveyance and county drain purposes, situated in the Township of Redford, Wayne County, Michigan, by Wayne County Commission Resolution Number 2008-780 adopted on December 4, 2008.

The alley, 20 feet wide, dedicated to the use of the public in GRAYTON, being a subdivision of part of the E.1/2 of E.1/2 of S.E.1/4 of Sec. 29, T.1S., R.10E., Redford Township, Wayne County, Michigan, recorded in Liber 48 of Plats on Page 22, Wayne County Records, abutting and to the East of Lots 181 through 197, inclusive, and abutting and to the West of Lots 210 to 243, inclusive; Abutting and to the South of Wadsworth Avenue, (platted as Isabelle Avenue, 50 feet wide), abutting and to the North of Lot 204 and abutting the East line of the portion of the previously vacated 20 foot wide East/

True copies of this notice are served and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES Real Estate, 3rd Floor Attention: Sandra M. Martin 415 Clifford Street Detroit, Michigan 48226

Publish: December 21 & 28 & January 4, 2008

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Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk

and then called a timeout with 14.8 seconds left. But Windsor was able to control the puck enough in the final seconds to salt away the game.

"We improved a lot today, especially after losing 5-2 to Sarnia (on Monday)," said AJ Jenks. "We want to keep getting better every game and today is a big step for us.I thought the power play moved."

check out the numbers in

KNOW THE SCORE

following schedule.

Monday

MU women cagers throw snake-eyes in Vegas loss

All five starters scored in double figures Monday as the University of Great Falls (Mont.) handed the Madonna University women's basketball team its second straight loss in the Las Vegas Shootout, 76-66.

Jocelyn Moore and Kassie Holmlund led the balanced Great Falls attack with 12 points apiece in a game played at the Desert Oasis High School's Pit.

Tabatha Wydryck paced MU, which slipped to 4-11, with a game-high 16 points. She also had eight rebounds and four assists.

Vanessa LaMay added 12 points, while Christie Carrico contributed nine points and eight rebounds for the Crusaders, who trailed 38-34 at intermission.

Great Falls improved to 4-

The Crusaders will try and change their luck on the final day of the Shootout Tuesday taking on the California State Maritime Academy

noon (PST).

MU drops opener

The Crusaders did not strike it rich in the opening game of Las Vegas Shootout on Sunday night, falling to No. 2-ranked Vanguard (Calif.), 80-59, in a game played at Desert Oasis H.S.

Coming off of a 10-day layoff for Christmas, the Crusaders (4-10) did not look rusty early on in the game as after trailing by four at 9-5 just under five minutes into the game, MU went on a 15-

6 run - keyed by five points from Katie Mount and a pair of Alyssa Guerin (Salem) triples - over the next eight minutes to hold a 20-15 lead with 7:20 left in the opening

Vanguard the lead and tied the game at 29-all with 2:12 left in the half. The Lions then closed the half on a 7-1 run to take a 37-30 lead into the halftime break.

Both teams were cold from the field in the first half with MU connecting at a 31

percent rate (9-of-29), while Vanguard was one point less at 30 percent (12-of-40).

The Lions came out of the break and pushed their lead to 21 in the first 10 minutes of the half, forcing the Crusaders into 10 turnovers. Vanguard built out its lead to as many as 25 late in the contest, advancing in the tournament with the 80-59

MU improved its shooting in the second half, connecting on 43 percent of its shots, but 29 turnovers by the Crusaders and the resulting 24 points that resulted for the Lions was too much to overcome.

Guerin led MU with

MU's Jager rolls pair of sixes in Lady Crusaders' Vegas victory

Sheryl Jager came off the bench to score 12 points Tuesday as the Madonna University women's basketball team salvaged its trip to the Las Vegas Invitational with a 76-56 win over California Maritime

Academy at Desert Oasis

High School's The Pit. The Crusaders pulled away

from a 35-29 halftime lead by outscoring Cal-Maritime 41-27 in the second half.

Christie Carrico scored a team-high 14 points and Alyssa Guerin (Salem) chipped in with 10 points

and eight rebounds for the Crusaders, who improved to 5-11 overall.

MU ourebounded the Keelhaulers, 56-35.

Cal-Maritime, which sliped to 3-9 overall, got 15 points from Lauren Westbrook and 10 from Ariel Gatton.

Valiant Crusader men's rally falls short

The Madonna University men's basketball team was down 12 late in the second half before a furious comeback got the Crusaders to with in two with under a minute left, but Judson College (Ill.) held on for an 87-83 win as part of the Russ DeVette Holiday Classic at Hope College.

MU (4-10) and Judson (9-7) battled the first half, as the opening 20 minutes featured eight ties and nine lead changes.

After Cedric Sims (Wayne) completed a three-point play to put MU on top 34-32 with 2:01 left in the half, JU went on an 8-0 run to close the half, taking a six point lead at 40-34 into the locker room. The Crusaders connected on just 31 percent (11-for-35) of their shots from charity toss gave the Eagles

the floor compared to a 45 percent (16-for-35) rate for the Eagles.

Coming out of the break, MU cut the lead down to just a single point on a Noah Williams triple to make it 42-41 in favor of Judson, with just over 18 minutes left in the game. After Judson then went back up by six, Sims nailed a pair of free throws and a triple to go along with a three from Bryant Slaughter (Westland) to force the ninth tie of the day at 52-

all with 13:07 to go. Judson then started to pull away, building a 12 point cushion over the next seven minutes to hold a 74-62 lead with just over six minutes to play. MU cut the lead down to four on two separate occasions but a Landon Skinner

an 85-50 lead with 27 seconds left.

MU pulled to with in a single possession after Slaughter canned his third triple of the night, cutting the JU lead to just a bucket at 85-83 with 14 second left. Josh Gay's triple try missed and a pair of made free throws for the Eagles sealed the four point win at

Sims led MU with 23 points off of the bench to go along with Slaughter's 15 while Leroy Allen and Williams had 12 each. Allen led the way on the glass, collecting another double-double with 10 rebounds.

Skinner paced Judson with 27 points.

The Crusaders wrap up play Tuesday at the DeVette Classic against either Davenport or Hope.

orwisit

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HANTZGROUP

Wayne grad leads Madonna men to win over Davenport

Madonna University men's basketball team rallied for a 74-68 win Tuesday over Davenport in the third place game of the Russ DeVette Classic at Hope College.

Wayne Memorial's Cedric Sims led MU with 14 points and was named to the All-Tournament team, while Bryant Slaughter (Westland) and Ryan Waidmann (Canton) each had 12.

contributed 10 each as well for MU. Allen also grabbed eight rebounds.

The game was a tight affair to start with the two sides staying close until Davenport (10-6) took a two-point lead (12-10) with 13:12 left in the half and over the next four plus minutes went on a 15-4 run to hold a 13-point cushion at

MU (5-10) then went on a run of its own, closing the half on a 16-3 run to pull to with in two at 32-30

A Williams triple and a pair of scores from Waidmann keyed the

Coming out of the break MU to make it 33-32 for Madonna early in the half. The two teams traded the lead back and forth Williams hit a jumper to tie the

The Crusaders then went on

Davenport battled MU, cutting the Crusaders' lead to just two with 1:16 left in the game but Slaughter came through with four made free throws in the last 1:11 to

Kale Waaso led Davenport (10-6) with 20 points, while Mitch Vanderkam and James Nelson contributed 12 and 10, respectively. Vanderkam also grabbed 10

12 points, while Christie Carrico grabbed a game-high

ers with 31 points for the Lions (8-1). Rachel Copeland and Lauren Gregory added 14 and 11, respectively. Bridgette Reyes contributed

Down by two at the half, the

Panthers.

Leroy Allen and Noah Williams

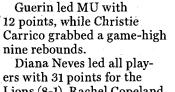
27-14 with 8:40 left in the half.

at the break.

took the lead on a Slaughter triple over the next eight minutes until game at 46-all with 12:15 to go.

seal up the six-point win.

rebounds.



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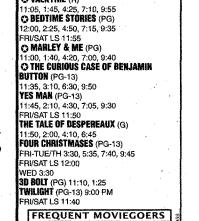
endal

DMC

comeback to close an opening 20

minutes that saw the Crusaders connect at a 33 percent rate compared to a 45 percent clip for the

a 12-0 run behind scores from Williams and a three from Geoff Gaylor to hold a 58-46 lead with





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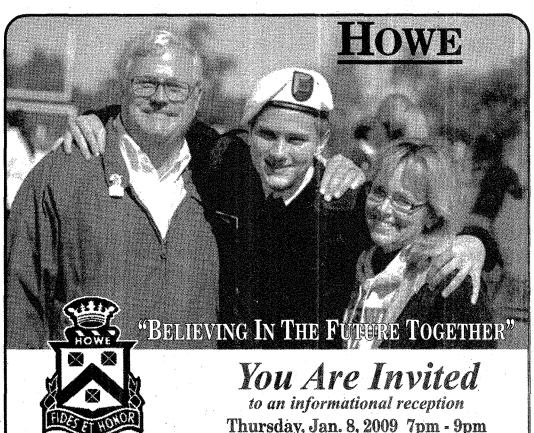
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STAYING PUT?

A Message From Mike & Mark



Falling home values, rising gas prices, record foreclosures, increasing food prices...

The headlines of late are enough to make anyone want to close the door, stay inside and go to sleep until the bad news is over.

At Planned Home Improvement, we'd rather focus on the positives. In 40 years as a family business, we've seen good times and bad and weathered a lot of storms. Even in the toughest of times, American ingenuity has enabled people to not only survive, but to realize and enjoy the benefits of living in a nation as great as ours.

Instead of grousing about high gas prices, we want to take advantage of local entertainment and tourist attractions. Southeast Michigan has much to offer in terms of parks, nature trails, music and sports venues and museums. It's time to explore small towns such as Northville and Plymouth, shop Livonia and Westland, explore the parks in Canton or visit the history museum in Garden City.

Maybe the Summer of 2009 is the year to reopen that swimming pool that's been closed up because you were always traveling on your vacations.

We read recently where down economies are actually better for our physical well being because we tend to do more walking, bike riding, etc. Why not start walking the neighborhood and introduce yourself to new neighbors? Maybe organize residents to beautify the subdivision.

Of course, we are hoping that some of you will opt to do some remodeling for your existing homes, instead of moving to a bigger, newer one. PHI is always ready to help with that dormer, kitchen or bath remodel or finally finishing that basement.

Hopefully it won't be long before we wake up one morning to find that the housing nightmare has corrected itself and gas prices are more reasonable. In the meantime, we hope you have a great New Year!

Westland's Hawthorne Valley Golf Club was the scene last spring for Planned Home Improvement's 40th Anniversary Party. Family, friends, suppliers and customers gathered to help celebrate three generations of business in home improvement since Mark and Mike Kwolek's father and grandfather started PHI in 1968.

Thank You for Helping Us Celebrate 40 Years in Business!



Now is the time to get more enjoyment out of the house you're in!

At Planned Home Improvement, we know something about sticking around. For the past 40 years and 3 generations, we've been helping metro Detroit homeowners transform their existing homes with affordable, hassle-free remodels and renovations. Call us today!

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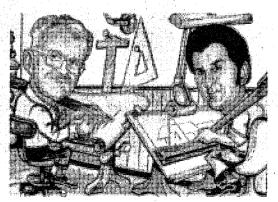
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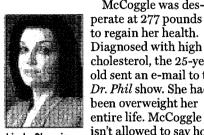
www.hometownlife.com

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Westland women take the Dr. Phil challenge

oria McCoggle isn't shy about her weight problem. She comes right out to say, "I was fat." Her outgoing, tell all personality is probably one of the reasons the jovial Westland woman and her sister-in-law, Meleneise Williams, are finalists on a series of reality shows at 7 p.m. Wednesdays this month on Channel 62 (WWJ-TV) and Comcast 13.

McCoggle was des-



Linda Chomin

cholesterol, the 25-yearold sent an e-mail to the Dr. Phil show. She had been overweight her entire life. McCoggle isn't allowed to say how much she's lost but the challenge has definitely

affected the entire family. McCoggle's husband Steve lost 20 pounds and started working out again. He was taking medication for high blood pressure but no longer needs it. Daughter Peyton is eating fresh broccoli. That's quite an accomplishment since most 2-year-olds are picky eaters.

"I watch the Dr. Phil show every single day," said McCoggle. "I wrote, please help us say no to the Oreo. I was just playing around and never thought anvone would call us back. The very next morning we heard from Emily at the Dr.



Toria McCoggle makes light of her weight problem. She's seeking help from Dr. Phil to overcome her battle of the bulge.

Phil show."

After a long interview process by phone and Internet and a psychological evaluation over the Internet, the two young women were flown out to California in August. After a physical and endurance test, they went on the show where Dr. Phil personally picked six teams of two persons including McCoggle and Williams.

"We started traveling the country doing physical challenges in different cities," said McCoggle. "The first challenge was in California on Hollywood Boulevard. We ran on a scavenger hunt. We have to go back to California for the show in January."

In the meantime McCoggle and Williams, 27, work out five days a week thanks to a free membership at Anytime Fitness in Westland.

"I go green for 14 days out of each month, no meat, no dairy, the rest of the month do chicken breasts or lean beef, veggies, yogurt, nuts like walnuts and almonds," said McCoggle. "I follow a lot of recipes in Dr. Phil's cookbook and like to come up with my own. Being creative makes it a lot more exciting to eat it."

Williams is finding the weight loss challenge not only fun, but a learning experience as well. She gained weight during three pregnancies and was never able to return to her ideal 135. At the start of the program she weighed in at 185 at 5 foot 2 1/2 inches.

"I tried tons of diets without success," said Williams. "Because I never saw results right away, I started back eating again. Dr. Phil has a food guide that teaches us to eat nonfat sour cream and it tastes the same to me, a lot of skim milk and I like that.

"I'm a student at Kaplan University online, for paralegal studies, and I'm going to go to law school. I love to do research so I'm finding out a lot about

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at Ichomin@ hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

Roxie the reading dog

Program helps children over ruff spots

Roxie doesn't seem to notice when 8-year-old Dylan Klann stumbles over the word, stretching. The therapy dog is trained to listen patiently as children work on read-

An Israeli herding dog, Roxie is wise beyond her 12 years. She knows if she sits quietly on the floor during the 15-minute period, her owner, Debbie McDermott, has brought treats as a reward.

One by one, the second- and third-grade students enter the room at Buchanan Elementary with a book of their choice. The privacy allows them to concentrate on the words instead of being selfconscious in front of classmates.

Principal Marjorie Moore decided to give Tail Waggin' Tutors a try after receiving a phone call from McDermott three years ago. Roxie is a member of Therapy Dogs International which runs the program in schools and libraries.

"Children love animals so I thought it would be a good fit," said Moore. "We do it on a selective basis. Teachers select a student each month, children we know would relate well to Roxie. I've seen big smiles. Everyone loves a listener like Roxie. They grow in confidence and reading ability."

McDermott believes children like reading to Roxie because she's nonjudgmental. McDermott enjoys watching the interaction. When needed, the Livonia woman coaxes the child along by helping sound out the word.

Roxie has taught McDermott never to give up so she's able to pass that persevering attitude on to students. In December 2007, Roxie was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disease that prevents her from swallowing normally because of an enlarged esophagus. Roxie must sit upright in a specially designed doggie high chair just to be able to eat liquefied food. Nonetheless she continues to compete and win awards in agility. In addition to working with children at Buchanan Elementary, Roxie brightens the days of patients at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit and Camelot nursing home

in Livonia. "Roxanne's happy to listen and they like her. They nicknamed her Roxie the Reading Dog, not me," said McDermott. "They generally



Roxie the Reading Dog helps children over the ruff spots as part of the Tail Waggin' Tutor program at Buchanan Elementary. Here she and owner Debbie McDermot listen to Dylan Klann, 8.



Veronica Lowry, 9, takes a minute to pet Roxie the Reading Dog as owner Debbie McDermott looks on.

pick an animal story, something Roxie would like. One child brought a dog catalog and said maybe Roxie would like to go shopping. One little girl would read the page and show her the pictures.

It's not unusual for a student to choose a book above his or her reading ability. Klann is only in second grade but picked the fourthgrade level book, Î Can Read About Weather. Even though he knows it will be a challenge, Klann looks

forward to Roxie's visits. He read to her four times last year.

"I have a dog at home and she's nice," said Klann.

Veronica Lowry couldn't believe she was reading to a dog. The 9year-old girl is new to the school and the state. Her family moved here this summer from Ohio. Lowry's teacher thought the experience would help ease the transition for the only child.

"There's no reading dog in Ohio,"



Marjorie Moore is principal of Buchanan Elementary in Livonia, where Roxie, an Israeli herding dog, has listened to her students read.

said Lowry, who tripped on the · word discouraged as she turned the pages. "I like Roxie."

For more information about Tail Waggin' Tutors, visit www.tdi-dog.

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Prosecutor pursues the world of publishing

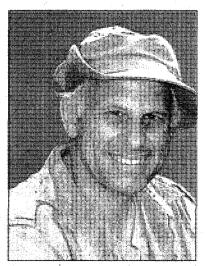
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Jeffrey Caminsky is the first to admit he probably took on more than he should have by publishing three new books in one year. He can't imagine writing two scifi novels and an introduction to Shakespeare in that time period as

Caminsky actually began outlining the nonfiction stories in 1981 not long after taking a position in the Wayne County prosecutor's office. The steady paycheck as a lawyer allowed him to pursue his passion for putting words on paper. More than 20 years later, the Livonia author has released The Sirens of Space and The Star Dancers, part of a series set in the 26th century, and The Sonnets of William Shakespeare. Caminsky limits his words to about 40 pages in the nonfiction book. The rest is editing of the Elizabethan writer's work.

SCI-FI FAN

"I was interested in science fiction since college and had lots of ideas popping into my head," said Caminsky, an assistant prosecutor for Wayne County. "I was overwrit-



Livonia author Jeffrey Caminsky published three new books in 2008.

ing everything and then I pitched virtually everything, but kept the basic story line for Sirens that introduces everything. I cut out about 40 percent of the original story then cut again and again, reworked some scenes, concluded it in 1984 and started the second book."

The Guardians of Peace series chronicles the adventures of Roscoe Cook and the Cosmic Guard, the Interstellar Navy, as they encounter 'I hope they're entertained and it makes them think about the common ground we share. Twenty-sixth century people will be essentially the same as we are. In order to understand other people you have to get out of your own skin."

JEFFREY CAMINSKY, attorney/author

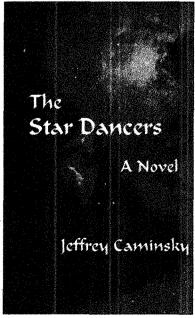
aliens. The third volume, Clouds of Darkness, is scheduled for release in fall, and the concluding book, The Guardians of Peace, in 2010.

Caminsky is taking his time writing and publishing the remainder of the series.

"I hope they're entertained and it makes them think about the common ground we share," said Caminsky. "Twenty-sixth century people will be essentially the same as we are. In order to understand other people you have to get out of your own skin."

PUBLISHING HIS DAD

Caminsky credits an understanding family with his success so far. Nonie, his wife of 28 years, son



'The Star Dancers' is the second book in a series of sci-fi novels by Jeffrey Caminsky.

Jason, 26, and daughter Julie, 22, have been very supportive of his

Caminsky grew up daydreaming. It was in one of these creative

Please see PUBLISHING, C3

Slow down, you're moving too fast: Coping with stress a breath away

have been doing a lot of breathing lately. The deep, hearty, from-the-diaphragm, yogastyle breathing. I take a deep breath in through my nose and I s-l-o-w-l-y exhale out. This relaxation technique is one I practiced a lot last month.

December, typically a stressful, hectic and busy month with holidays, social gatherings, family obligations, gift buying, oh, excuse me for a moment ... while I take a deep breath in ... I have laundry in the dryer ready to be folded, I have to run to the market because the cupboards are bare and I have to make dinner. And slowly exhale out. As I was saying, December, typically is a stressful month and now with the economy on a downward spiral, rising



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2009

Marci Berlin

arctic weather chilling my bones, my stress level has been increasing the past few weeks just as fast as the Dow has been

gas prices and

decreasing. While I drive in rush hour traffic, wait in the check-out line, pay bills, and venture out to the mall ... I ... breathe ... in ... through ... my ... nose ... and ... s-l-o-w-l-y ... exhale ... out ...

My oldest son will be on a study abroad program for his second semester and while he did all the legwork, the final paperwork needs to be completed and I have to write the check. I take a deep

breath in. He needs to move out of his fraternity so I will have to take a day off work, rent a U-Haul truck and move him out. And I exhale s-l-o-w-l-y...

Even though my 14-year-old daughter is taking an economics class in school, I do not think she realizes how the economy affects her own private little world. When she showed me her lengthy holiday list last month my response of "give me a few ideas

and your dad and I will decide"

just didn't seem to sit well with

her ... breathe in ..

I balance my checkbook, plan the following week of my teaching schedule and make a shopping list. I throw another load of laundry into the washing machine, get a call from my daughter to pick

her up. I finish cleaning out my refrigerator, throw out leftovers that do not even look familiar. I make the beds, vacuum my house and I still have to organize the basement to make room for my son's full size bed, refrigerator, futon, chair, table, microwave and all his other stuff. My husband and I are invited out to dinner at our friends' home and I volunteered to bring an appetizer and dessert. I look through my recipes, sheets and scraps of paper, which are in such disarray I start to organize them. I separate them into appetizers, sides, s alads, entrée and desserts. I feel better about getting organized, but I still have to pick out a recipe ... I exhale

... s-l-o-w-l-y.... My son and his friends are ner-

vous and anxious about job prospects upon graduation. Many have decided to apply to graduate programs. Some are venturing into other states and some are moving home to save money. This generation is termed Generation Stress. My generation, as I see it, is generation extreme stress. We catch our kids when they fall and help our parents when they call. We are sandwiched between two generations while we try to keep our own lives balanced. I take a deep breath ..

I take a deep breath when I watch the news. I take a deep breath when I read the paper. I take a deep breath when I talk to friends and family while we share our stories of the struggling economy. I take a deep breath and

wait to hear about the future of the economy. I take a deep breath and wonder what happened to when "December was the most wonderful time of the year."

I take a deep breath ... and I am thankful to have spent the holidays with the people I love the most, my family. I am thankful for a supportive group of friends who are always there when I need them. I take a deep breath and pray that this New Year we've begun brings hope, stability and opportunity for us all.

Then I exhale s-l-o-w-l-y.

Marci Berlin of Farmington Hills is a freelance writer and mother of three kids. Eric, 20, Zac, 18, and Rachel, 14. She can be reached about her writing at Marciberlin@

Shop thriftily in January

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland is holding a sale at 6613 Wayne Road in Westland for January.

For those who made a new year's resolution to lose weight, donate your old clothes and purchase smaller sizes at a discount. Many items such as women's shirts are as low as \$2, jeans are \$5, men's pants are \$4, and children's clothing is \$2.

If you're downsizing, combining households or have adult children moving out, donate your excess furniture and items. St. Vincent de Paul is currently in need of upholstered furniture and used mattresses.

For more information, call (734) 729-3088.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



ANKLE SWELLING

Ankle swelling is a common problem for the elderly. In most instances the elderly individual's greatest concern is that the swelling represents heart failure. But that medical problem is rarely the cause.

The far more common reason is dependency. By that term, medical people mean that the legs are in the sitting position for a prolonged period. In short, the individual does not walk frequently enough. With the legs in the down position, the blood flow pools in the feet and ankles; the result is swollen feet and ankles. Anyone who sits in an airline seat for a long flight without periodically walking up and down the aisle will experience the same

In elderly individuals the best response is not to increase their diuretic medication or ask the doctor for a "water pill." The ideal response to swollen ankles and feet is to walk more.

A way to assist walking is to wear compression hose during the day. This type of hose ties a firm and thorough pressure around the leg to the knee and facilitates the blood flow back to the body. When using support hose, the person should take care to put on the hose in the morning before rising from bed. Once dangling the legs over the side of the bed, the has lost the firmness to blood vessels the stockings can give.

Other causes of swollen ankles besides the heart and dependency are liver and kidney

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The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows. and online in its entirety at www. hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Mich., 48150, or e-mail Ichomin@ hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School Class of 1989

Planning a July 25, 2009, reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner. Di, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7,



Nancy Mikesch and Joiling attend services at Paint Creek United Methodist Church.

2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or email: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att. net with any information about classmates.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-reunion funcheons held the

second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

REUNION CALENDAR

20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight. Ticket \$65 before March 1, \$75 from March 2 to June 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, di, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchs1989reunion@ hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www. taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@ taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park

High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion, Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcgloblal.net.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com.

Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail

milford78@gmail.com. Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School

Class of 1970

Planning a May 23, 2009 reunion at

OLF Bradley Hall. Still looking for classmates that graduated with us or joined us any time during those years. E-mail Joan Barrett-Stec at stecland@aol.com.

Church-going dog behaves like a saint

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Joiling Mikesch doesn't miss a Sunday service at Paint Creek United Methodist Church in Oakland Township

if she can help it. She's a regular in the pews although not exactly a member of the congregation — and a fixture at coffee hour after

the service. "I can mention the word church, and sometimes have to spell it in front of her, and she goes crazy," said Nancy Mikesch, who brings the 9 pound, 7-year-old Shih Tzu

with her to worship services. "She likes to greet certain people. She jumps into her pew and that's that," said Mikesch, who has owned the fluffy white pup since "she was no

bigger than my hand." If the Rev. Steve Fraser-Soots offers Joiling a treat, she usually saves it until after ser-

vice, Mikesch said. "If we have coffee hour, we go to the annex. She has a chair she sits in and she loves to watch what's going on. But don't introduce her to other animals."

Joiling is a bit shy around other dogs that occasionally accompany their people to church. She'll do everything she can to hide and avoid contact. When Mikesch and another congregant decorated

the church Christmas tree this year, both of their dogs were on hand, but Joiling kept away from the other pup.

"But people, now she loves them," Mikesch said. "There is always a big ruckus when anyone leaves the house.'

EMOTIONAL ANCHOR

Mikesch, who lives on four acres in Oakland Township in what was once a log cabin, said Joiling's rowdy reaction started when her husband,

William, died five years ago. "I think it was him walking out and never coming back. She was very close to him,"

Mikesch explained. But Joiling also became Mikesch's "emotional anchor" throughout the grieving process. She told the church's previous pastor that she wanted to continue attending services,

but wanted Joiling with her. She also had planned a trip to California and wanted to make Joiling more comfortable around people as they traveled.

The pastor gave Mikesch her blessing and the church's first four-pawed congregant took

her place in a pew one Sunday. Although the trip out west together never happened, the twosome continued to attend services as a pair.

"She was so well behaved. At first when the songs would start, she got nervous and

wanted me to pick her up. I had to pick her up and sing." Mikesch recalled.

"One day she sat with a friend behind me. If she is ever ill, which isn't often, I don't bring her to church and every one asks, 'Where is she?' They have prayed for her," Mikesch added. "After a while, people started bringing their own animals."

ANIMAL-LOVING ARTISTS

Mikesch and her husband always had animals throughout their marriage, bringing mixed breed dogs and then Shih Tzus in to their home, which also served as their workplace. Both freelanced as artists. Mikesch started her career as a fashion illustrator and then quickly began illustrating for all kinds of publications. Her husband was a

graphic artist. To supplement their income, Mikesch also worked code enforcement for 16 years at Oakland Township Hall and then as part time help during vacations. She took Joiling to

work with her, too. Both church and work never seemed out-of-place for

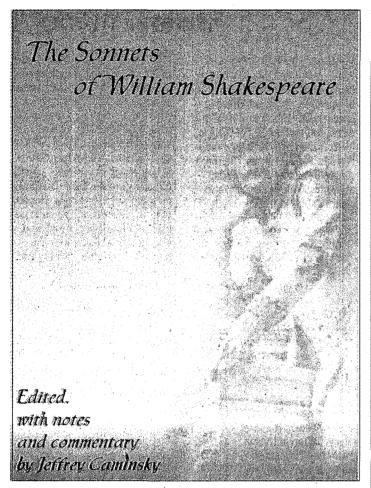
Joiling. "They love her. No one would say a word about not having her," she said.

"And I always say, dog is God spelled backwards.



As seen in the Yellow Pages





Caminsky enjoyed learning about Elizabethan times while editing this book.

FROM PAGE C1

moments he formed New Alexandria Press and published The Referee's Survival Guide: Practical Suggestions for Soccer Officials. His next project was triggered by his father's 85th birthday. Wallace Caminsky's short stories might have remained hidden in a filing cabinet if not for his son who preserved them in All Fathers are Giants. The collection was inspired by the elder Caminsky's childhood as the son of immigrants and later as a young father raising a family

Caminsky took on the Shakespeare project to encourage an appreciation for the Bard's work.

"Shakespeare wrote for the common people of his day," said Caminsky. "He was probably not any more or less understandable than Andrew Lloyd Weber or Stephen Sondheim. He's funny. He's bawdy. He's not this dry sterile writer. He tends to be mischievous, rather risque.'

Jeffrey's Caminsky's books are available at www.newal-



Great pet, no joshing

Josh is a 6 1/2-year-old male greyhound in need of a permanent home. He is well behaved, extremely friendly and loves to be with people. Josh would make a wonderful pet for a family. He is neutered and up to date on all of his shots. For more information, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www. greyheart.org. Greyheart is holding an adoption meet and greet noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at Petco, 43435 Ford Road, Canton.



Gable movie-star handsome

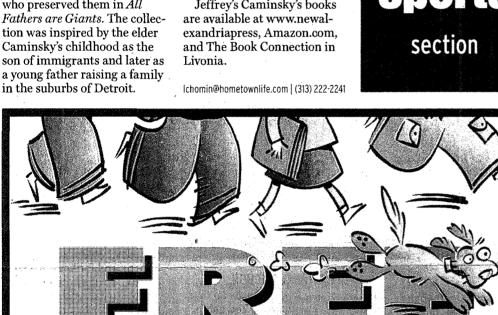
Gable is a 4-year-old brindle colored greyhound looking for a good home. He is a very friendly and happy boy who loves to play tug-ofwar with children. Gable is neutered and up to date on all of his shots. For information, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

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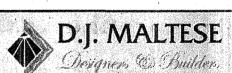
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Sign up for landscaping, garden classes now

If you're pinching pennies in the New Year, but want to spruce up your yard and garden, consider a do-it-yourself approach to improvement.

Local school districts, community centers and environmental agencies offer a variety of garden planning classes. Registration has started in some districts; others are just making class schedules available to the public. Here's a sampling of courses in Oakland and Wayne coun-

Rain Gardens

This day-long how-to-do-it seminar is designed for ecological gardeners who are working with clay soil. Register beginning at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen, south of I-696. The program will run from 7-8:30 p.m., and cover topics such as compost benefits and water quality, native wildflowers and shrubs for rain gardens, and sizing and locating a rain garden. Speakers will include Rick Lazzell, landscape designer and consultant; Suzan Campbell, Michigan Natural Features Inventory; Lilian Dean, Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) Healthy Lawns and Gardens program.

There is no admission charge, but advance registration is required. Call Karen Bever at (248) 288-5150 or e-mail LFDean@aol.com.

■ Postage Stamp Gardens Michael Saint, a certified master gardener and owner of Good Earth landscape Institute, will show you how to

turn a neglected entrance, courtyard or side yard into a peaceful oasis, from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, in downtown Birmingham. \$19 fee. (248) 644-5832

■ Creating a Focal Point — Three Easy

Michael Saint demonstrates the use of lighting, sculpture, various plants and hard structures to draw attention to the heart of the garden, 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. \$19. (248) 644-

■ Growing Roses Made Easy This session is designed to take the mystery out of growing roses. It runs 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 9, at Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland. \$20 fee. No phone registrations accepted. Register by mail or in person starting Jan. 5, at Tinkham Adult Center, Leisure Office, 450 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186.

Roses, Perennials and Hydrangeas: The Makings of a Traditional Flower

Learn about vintage gardens in this class, 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, at Farmington Community School, Students will look at old fashioned perennials, timeless classic roses and hydrangeas and learn how to combine traditional plants to make their own vintage-style border garden. Farmington Community School, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington. The fee is \$20. (248) 489-3333

■ Getting Your Garden Ready for

The class will guide students to a successful garden season with a variety of tips. It is offered 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center Road, in Canton and 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington. The fee is \$20. (248) 489-3333 for Farmington. (734) 416-2937 for Plymouth-Canton.

■ Grow it Green-er

The class will look at ways to integrate organic garden solutions into modern gardening practices, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 30, at Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center Road, in Canton. \$20. (734) 416-2937

■ Vegetable Gardening Made Easy Whether you want to grow a few heirloom tomatoes or a whole garden, this class will offer pointers for achieving a successful harvest, 7-9 p.m., May 7, at Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center Road, in Canton. (734) 416-2937

■ Growing Perennials Made Easy The class will offer tips on successfully growing perennials, including use of fertilizer and other maintenance practices, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, May 14, at Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland. \$20 fee. No phone registrations accepted. Register by mail or in person starting Jan. 5, at Tinkham Adult Center, Leisure Office, 450 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186.

Compiled by Sharon Dargay

ENGAGEMENT

Labrecque-Boulton

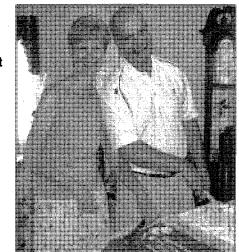
Daniel and Barbara Labrecque of Kankakee, III., announce the engagement of their daughter, Alissa, to David Boulton of Chicago, III. He is the son of Lawrence and Linda Boulton of Livonia. The couple plans a December 2009 wedding at the Jacob Henry Mansion, also known as Old Central Church, in Joliet, III.



ANNIVERSARY

Silver Anniversary

Anthony and Dr. Margaret (Macy) Sartori of Livonia celebrated 25 years of marriage this year. They have lived in Livonia for 10 years and have four children: Maria of Grand Rapids; Katerina of Saginaw; and Michaelene and Liliana, both of Livonia. Anthony works as a data base administrator and Margaret is a clinical psychologist and professor. To celebrate the occasion, the family hosted a catered barbecue at the Sartori home and their daughters surprised the couple with a stay at the **Chateau Chantal Winery** in Traverse City.



CALLING ALL ACTORS

The show is just about ready to be staged. Actors are prepared, sets painted, scenes rehearsed, but then crisis strikes. The owners, a traveling troupe, wants to use the stage. How will the group perform their Valentine's day show, "In Love on Broadway"? "It ain't Broadway" is a musical review of some of the biggest Broadway tunes. Inspire Theatre is looking for men and women of all

ages for solo and group numbers for production dates Feb. 13-14. Auditions are being held 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 5-6, at 33445 Warren Road, Westland. Come prepared to do cold reading and to learn a group number.

Any questions or for more information, call (734) 751-7057 or visit www.inspiretheatre.com.

RELIGION CALENDAR

\$10, students free. Reservations

not required. His lecture topic is "Religion in the Public Square: An

JANUARY

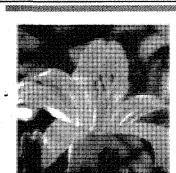
Thursday forum

Sponsoring a program presented by Harry T. Cook (Episcopal minister, journalist, author, and frequent lecturer in metropolitan Detroit) 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, northwest corner of Woodward and Lone

Benefit dinner Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission

Swiss steak dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, in Guthrie Hall at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, Eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for mac n'cheese for children. Proceeds ao to support homeless ministry. Call (734) 422-0149 for reservation or purchase tickets at the door.

American Conundrum: What's A Secular Democracy To Do?" (From Sarah Palin's promise to run for President in 2012 "if it is God's will" to the Church of Summun and It's Aphorisms).



Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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ELSON DOLLIVER, JR.

Age 73, December 31, 2008 of Bloomfield Hills and Ft. Myers, FL. He is survived by his wife Barbara G.; three children, Amy and her husband, David Louwers of Birmingham, Elson "Chip" P. Dolliver III and his wife Karen of Perrysburg, OH and Thomas "T.J." J. Dolliver and his wife, Melissa of Leesburg, VA.; five grandchildren, Davey, Lauren and Lindsay Louwers, and Elson IV and Charlotte Dolliver; and two sisters Debbie Sullivan of Medford, NJ and Judie Taylor of Hingham, MA. Nick graduated from Tufts University in Medford, MA. He was a manufacturers representative and retired in 2005. Golf Club and Legends Golf and Country Club in Ft. Myers, FL. Family will receive friends Sunday 5-Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, where Nick was a member and usher for 35 years. Memorial service Monday 11am at the Kirk in the Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes to The Village Women's Club Foundation, P.O. Box 186, Bloom-field Hills, MI 48303-0186.

View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com





JESSE JOHN **MUILENBURG**

December 29, 2008. Age 6. Beloved son of Sharlene Muilenburg and Rick Shivers. Dear grandson of Dennis (Jeanne) Taylor and Dennis (Karen) Loving nephew of Steve Shayne Miller, Shannon Rutkey, Shayne Miller, Shannon (Gary) Ehlert, Kathy (Jerry) Priebe, Joey (Bettina) Gouaiana, Sharon (Jim) Šimko, Marsha (Ken) Staggs, Theresa Mayo, Wayne Miller, Mike Miller, Tony Miller and many loving cousins. Embraced by a loving, warm neighborhood. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com. Care and services were entrusted to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, (734) 981-7998.

KATHRYN JANE REID

Daughter of Marilyn Bura (Bob) and Frank Reid (Susan) was born in Detroit on June 18, 1957. She died peacefully surrounded by family in Traverse City, Michigan on December 28, 2008 after a long struggle with cancer. She was a graduate of with cancer. She was a graduate of Lahser High School, Albion College and the University of Michigan Law School. Kathryn lived and worked in the Boston area for 20 years. She will be remembered by close friends and family, her parents, her sister, Karen Reid Zielinski (Tom), nieces Katie and Abby, brother Bob Reid (Cheryl) and niece Kristen and nephew Erik sister Janet Reid Boltz (Matt), brother Steve Reid, sister Carol Bura Al-Nsour (Mahmoud) nephews Faris and Adam and niece Iman, and sister Liz Bura Drumm (Mel), and niece Amy Kathryn's special friend Neal Cutler. Memorial services were held on December 29 at 11 a.m. at The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City. Memorial contributions may be directed to Munson Hospice, 1105 Sixth Street Traverse City, MI 49684 or to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (Boston), 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445-7226 Attention: Contribution Services. The family was served by The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, Traverse City where friends may access

Kathryn's on line guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.



PRISCILLA H. SOMMERS

December 31, 2008 Age 86. Music teacher, soloist, grief consultant and spiritual director. Priscilla was the founder and Executive Director of Cranbrook Hospice Care, now Mercy Hospice in Bloomfield Hills. As a spiritual director she cared for the terminally ill through the Michigan Cancer Foundation and the Aids Interdenominational Network. Beloved wife of the late Rev. Charles A. Dear mother of Charles E. "Chip" (Dorothy), Priscilla S. Edwards (Danny), Rev. Charlotte H. Sommers and the late John H. Grandmother of Joshua and David and step-grandsons Richard and John. Memorial service Sunday 1p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. In lieu of flowers fami-ly suggests memorial tributes to Mercy Hospice or Alzheimer's Association or First Church of Birmingham. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday dnesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

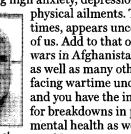
oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318 Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082

or toll free 800-579-7355

Now is good time to take stock in yourself, see all of the good

urrently, we are being bombarded with news of the bad economy, rising unemployment, and huge losses in the stock market. Thus, it behooves us to look at our attitudes and style of "taking stock in ourselves.

These global changes seem for the worse, and are causing high anxiety, depression, stress, and



Len McCulloch

physical ailments. The future, at times, appears uncertain for all of us. Add to that our persisting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as many other countries facing wartime uncertainties and you have the ingredients for breakdowns in physical and mental health as well as a rise in addiction rates. Drinking, drugging and gambling are all on the rise due to many peoples'

needs to self medicate their stress and hope for "the big win" at the casinos or lottery ticket outlets thinking this is a quick fix. Actually, one has a greater chance of being struck by lightening twice, than winning to Lotto.

While taking stock in ourselves, we need to call upon our old friends: resiliency, hope, and adaptive self care. This starts with attitudes. An attitude of gratitude for what one has, rather than bitterness over what one has lost is the foundation for embellishment of other helpful ways of thinking about ourselves, and our world. There are countless things in our society which we have no control over. Thus, it is all the more important to examine our personal attitudes. Find room for optimism, perseverance, taking care of your needs for basics like: sleep, diet, exercise and being kinder to each other.

There is a Chinese proverb I learned from a lose friend who is a singer/songwriter in our community. She starts and ends each performance with an a cappella rendition of the fol-

When there's light in the soul, there'll be beauty in the person. When there's beauty in the person, there'll be harmony in the house. When there's harmony in the house, there'll be order in the nation. When there's order in the nation, there'll be peace in the world."

Len McCulloch of Farmington Hills is a diplomate of The American Psychotherapy Association and board certified in traumatic stress. He holds credentials in mental health. brain injury, addictions, and social work. He is a psychotherapist of 30 years and author of "Our Mental Health" a monthly column with 90 publications over the past six years. He is the founder of "The Therapy Choir" headquartered at Broe Rehabilitation Services in Farmington Hills. He can reach him at (248) 474-2763, Ext. 22. Also, see Web site at www.broechoir.com.

Take flight at 'The Bat Zone'

The Cranbrook Institute of Science special exhibit, "Bats: Myths and Mysteries," continues through Jan. 4. This highly interactive exhibition featuring live bats immerses the visitor into the nighttime setting in which bats live. Visitors hear like a bat using giant "bat ears," practice echolocation, study bat habitats and learn the many ways these fascinating and misunderstood creatures benefit us everyday.

Visitors finish with a journey to the Bat Zone portion of the exhibit to observe live bats in action.

In December, the Bat Zone

welcomed its newest resident and celebrated the birthday of its oldest. The Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science has introduced another endangered Golden Bat to their colony. Nine-year-old "Coco" was recently transferred from the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois to the Bat Zone at Cranbrook. On Dec. 26, "Tanner," turned 22 making him the oldest golden bat in captivity. The golden bat, also known as the golden flying fox and Rodrigues fruit bat, is one of the most endangered bats in the world. They are found only on the Island of Rodrigues located in the

Indian Ocean.

An optional Creatures of the Night program is offered at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. each day and features owls, flying squirrels and a two-toed sloth.

In order to provide proper care for the animals "Bats: Myths and Mysteries" is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day with an additional three hours from 6-9 p.m. on Friday evenings.

All activities, except planetarium and Creatures of the Night programming, are free with admission.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 39221 Woodward Ave. Call (248) 645-3200 for more information.

BeckRidge Chorale still looking for singers

Looking for something new and fun to do this year? Come sing with the BeckRidge Chorale. The nonprofit, formerly known as the

Plymouth Community Chorus, is holding auditions for its 35th Anniversary Season. Auditions will be by appointment only for all voice parts this month.

The BeckRidge ensemble is composed of adult members from all over southeast Michigan including Canton, Fenton, Rochester, Allen Park, Walled Lake, and Plymouth. They

rehearse 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, at First United Methodist Church on North Territorial, between Beck and Ridge roads, in Plymouth.

The spring concert features love songs Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26, at Northville High School.

To schedule an audition appointment or for more information, contact the chorale at (734) 416-9885 or visit www.beckridgechorale.com.



Sunday, January 4, 2009



Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Finding relief from fibromyalgia

New documentary puts the pieces together

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

Tears rolled down the face of Sharon Ostalecki as she spoke about her journey to find relief from fibromyalgia at the premiere of a documentary at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Ostalecki went to 37 doctors in seven years before receiving a diagnosis of the condition causing pain, fatigue and sleep disturbances. Since then she has worked to educate the public as well as physicians. Her most recent project was Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together, a 90-minute DVD on the often misunderstood collection of symptoms. Like Ostalecki, many patients go from physician to physician in search of answers.

Ostalecki came up with idea for the documentary after lecturing throughout Canada, Michigan and Ohio with Dr. Martin Tamler, residency program director of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Beaumont Hospitals and medical adviser for the project. Mort Crim Productions filmed the 13 chapters about the syndrome at Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak and Troy, and the University of Michigan Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center in Ann Arbor.

"We decided the documentary would be a way to reach out to those who wanted to come to the lectures and couldn't," said Ostalecki of Novi. "People want to know about the basics of what it is, how is it diagnosed, how to treat it. We looked at physical therapy and treatment, nutri-

tion and decided who would be the best to do that chapter. Not enough physicians in Michigan have time to treat fibromyalgia patients because patients present with different symptoms. It would help if we could educate them to go in to properly communicate with their physicians."

Ostalecki ended up approaching nearly a dozen specialists in fibromyalgia for the documentary. Three received awards during the evening — Tamler, Dr. Ananias Diokno, executive vice president and chief medical officer at Beaumont Hospitals, and Dr. Daniel Clauw, director of U-M's Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center.

Tamler's been treating fibromyalgia patients for 17 years. He compares the way the condition is viewed to depression back in the 1980s. Tamler is in the middle of fibromyalgia research project which may have a huge breakthrough in the next couple of months.

"Primary care physicians didn't want to make a diagnosis of depression then Prozac came out," said Tamler of Birmingham. "I think we're going to see now with two new medications primary care physicians can actually treat fibromyalgia and start to accept the condition. Back before the 80s it was considered a psychosomatic condition. The documentary is one step to educating patients and physicians."

Clauw spoke of a multidisciplinary approach to treating the condition which can be complicated by irritable bowel syndrome and TMJ.

"Everyday we're learning more about fibromyalgia," said Clauw: "We can see in the brain that patients have an increased volume control of pain."

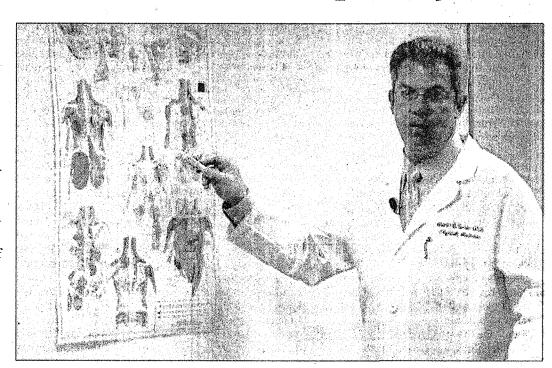
Diokno urged patients not to hide their suffering. It's estimated 10 million people have the condition worldwide.

"It's a common condition," said Diokno. "Seven percent of the population have it."

Dr. Dennis Dobritt, director of the Pain Institute at Providence Hospital in Southfield, spoke about injections into the trigger points of pain and that first degree relatives have an eight times higher risk of developing the condition. Loren DeVinney, a physical therapist in West Bloomfield, said pain leads to tightness and the need for release. Dr. Craig Hartrick, director of anesthesiology research at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, told of new medications like Lyrica and Cymbalta (an anti-depressant) and said patients should have hope.

HOPE (Helping Our Pain and Exhaustion) is the name of the support group Ostalecki founded for fibromyalgia patients. The response has been so overwhelming that meetings are moving from the Farmington Community Library to Beaumont Hospital where Ostalecki presents a series of six classes starting in September. On May 1, Jones & Bartlett Publishers releases her new book, 100 Questions and Answers about Fibromyalgia, with Tamler. Her first book, Fibromyalgia: The Complete Guide from Medical Experts and Patients, came out in June 2007.

Ostalecki is only too happy to share her experiences. Twenty



Dr. Martin Tamler shows the trigger points responsible for pain in fibromyalgia patients.



Sharon Ostalecki interviewed nearly one dozen specialists as well as patients for the documentary 'Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together.'

years later she has found relief by sleeping eight hours a night; eating enough protein, fruits and vegetables; avoiding refined flours and sugar; and practicing yoga or stretching daily. She says there is no cookie cutter recipe to treat fibromyalgia and some patients control symptoms through chiropractic care, meditation and water aerobics. Ostalecki takes a warm water bath at night and sips hot chocolete

Massage relieves the pain for Mark Montagano who appears in the documentary. The former Redford resident says he "walked away from doctors" to find his own solution.

"Be knowledgeable, do your reading and never give up," said Montagano, "Biofeedback helps with stress that has to do with your condition and support of family is important."

For more information or to order the documentary, visit www.hffcf.org or call (248) 344-0896. Ostalecki is currently in the process of scheduling showings at the end of February or beginning of March at the Birmingham Palladium.

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LOOKING FOR REVENUE? DON'T 'SIT BACK!'



companies might tell business owners what not to do over the longterm. The short-term challenge is to develop Mildred L. new revenue to keep sailing through the Culp storm. How are businesses getting that revenue in a tough

business climate? TROUBLED STATE

Michigan is an extremely grim state, according to Bill Wassenaar, president and CEO of CPU Group Inc., of Grand Rapids. "We're a one-state recession," he comments. People are moving, and shutting down networks and board meetings with doom and gloom." CPU Group started offering remote-based services in 2007 and began to market them aggressively three months ago. Those efforts are paying off. They've jumped from 3.2 percent of the business' income to 14.6 percent two months ago to another jump of 15 percent one month ago, contributing 30.3 percent of revenue in a young company of six

The nature of the services -- monitoring, fixing and backing up networks off-site -- might in itself seem to make them winners. But Wassenaar points out that being

the direction your business is going in is essential. CPU Group has marketed through the Internet and keeps at it. To get it to start to pay off," he says, "we just didn't give up. When you choose a direction, you have to give it a chance. It's not just a matter of chasing money, which can lead to loss of identity. A lot is guesswork, but the smartest people in the world have to start with a guess and go from there.'

Are the services a flash in the pan? Wassenaar doesn't think so because of the long history of the software and its malleability. His customers may be anywhere, at work, in a hotel, in a car, "We can leave a Click Rescue icon on a computer," he explains. "The person clicks Click Rescue and goes right into our technical queue. I just couldn't believe no one else is marketing like this. FAST FORWARD

Daniel Harris, founding member of HarrisMoure P.L.L.C., an international business law firm based in Seattle, jokingly refers to himself as "an international repo man," because his firm seizes assets around the world. He attaches money owed by seizing:

-- bank accounts;

-- ships;

-- real property; and -- payments from third parties.

The firm collected debts in such countries as Korea in 1997 until its currency was devalued, and Russia prior to 9/11. A few months ago, the credit crunch came, silencing the phone for about three weeks. It reminded the firm of

"Then, bam!" he recalls. "We started collecting money. Now we're getting work from Korean, Chinese and Russian companies owed money by U.S. companies. U.S. companies are also calling us. People aren't paying. They're cheating other people because of the global financial crisis." Since September, this service has dominated the work in this seven-attorney, boutique firm. "We didn't sit back," he adds. Rick Burgess, business coach at Coffman Group, L.L.C.,

in Overland Park, Kan., sells services to individual salespeople, corporate sales departments and business owners involved in company sales efforts. He noticed that the current "Me Inc.," spirit is driving high achievers to invest in their own training. Meanwhile, Coffman Group, which specializes in training salespeople for a career change, develops "documented differences." This information facilitates Coffman's placing them in new companies. Individuals investing in themselves now represent 30 percent of the company's revenue, up from ten percent, because of their own industry's downturn. Attorney Harris observes, "Like some law firms, we're

buffeted by what goes on outside of us. We swim as fast as we can when the waves start pulling us." For many other owners of small entities, it's a matter of decisively harnessing the buffeting.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Email your questions to culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



Credit: Mike Smith

Rebecca Parrott, who manages the front desk at a western Michigan hotel, greets Bill Wassenaar of Grand Rapids. As president and CEO of CPU Group Inc., he builds relationships to obtain referrals needing remote-based computer network services.

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Ford Expedition Worth The Price At The Pump

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CAReport



By Kevin Koloian **Avanti News Features**



Although large SUVs are a risk to buy right now because gas prices are fluctuating so much -- from \$1.49 to \$4.25 in the metropolitan Detroit area alone -- the Ford Expedition is still deserves a serious look from buyers who have large, active families. The new Expedition has an exterior design that was

inspired by the best-selling Ford F-Series truck. Ford upgraded wherever it could just two years ago to remind customers it's worth it when they have to pay at the pump. The end result is a vehicle that exudes confidence, with

interior refinement, flexibility and quietness -- all aimed

to please even the most discerning full-size SUV owner. The Expedition is available in three trim levels: XLT, Eddie Bauer and Limited. The well-equipped XLT seats five and comes with 17-inch alloy wheels, automatic headlights, running boards, a Class III trailer hitch, airconditioning, a six-speaker CD stereo with an MP3 player input jack, front captain's chairs with six-way power adjustments for the driver, cruise control and full power

For buyers who want a higher level of luxury, there's the Expedition Eddie Bauer. It seats eight, thanks to its power-folding third-row seat, and offers two-tone exterior paint, dual-zone automatic climate control (with separate rear controls), an in-dash CD changer, leather upholstery, a 10-way power driver seat with memory, a six-way power front-passenger seat, a trip computer and an autodimming rearview mirror.

If you really want to spoil yourself get the Expedition Limited, which has 18-inch chrome wheels, a monochromatic paint job, perforated leather seats with heating and cooling elements up front, a 10-way power front-passenger seat and a wood/leather-trimmed steering wheel.

Major options on the Expedition include a manually folding third-row seat for the XLT (increasing seating capacity to eight), second-row captain's chairs, a sunroof, a rear DVD entertainment system, Sirius satellite radio and, on the Eddie Bauer and Limited only, a DVD-based, voice activated navigation system and a power lift gate. A Class IV towing package is available on all Expeditions, and XLT buyers can get an off-road package with skid plates and tubular step bars.

Ford also offers the Expedition EL for those who want even more cargo-carrying capability. With 15 inches of additional overall length, Expedition EL delivers 131 cubic feet of cargo space - including 24 cubic feet more behind the third-row seat than the already spacious Expedition. The Expedition's seating arrangement is versatile. The

driver's seat's accommodates drivers from 4 feet, 11 inches up to 6 feet, 4 inches tall. A Center slide sliding center section can be moved forward up to about a foot to give the front-seat passenger easy access to a young child. The second row is available in this 40/20/40 bench configuration, or with two captain's chairs and a walk-through center passage. The

accommodate passengers as tall as 6 feet, 2 inches The seat folds flat into the load floor, providing easily accessible cargo space without the inconvenience of removing a heavy, cumbersome rear seat. For unprecedented convenience, Expedition buyers can choose an exclusive, optional Powerfold third-row seat that folds flat with the touch of a button.

available 60/40-split third-row seats are designed to

Expedition engineers have, for the most part, solved the problem of road noise that usually is present with large SUVs. It is now easy for the driver to hold a conversation with someone all the way in the third-row seat, thanks to sound-deadening materials in the carpet and headliner. increased insulation behind the dashboard and door panels, thicker side glass and a specially engineered acoustical windshield.

Bigger, softer body mounts and engine and transmission mounts isolate the cabin from unwanted vibration. Wind tunnel-tuned-and-tested outside mirrors further reduce wind and road noise. The Expedition's tires have even been specifically tuned to reduce road noise.

The Expedition's available 4x4 system provides the capability required by today's full-size SUV owners, who may need to take it off-road. The 4x4 models can be shifted on-the-fly by a dash-mounted rotary knob. In low range, the electronic throttle control changes to a special off-road calibration for more precise torque management in the nasty road conditions, such as a sandy hill climb or when pulling a heavy boat out of the water on a mossy

The Expedition is powered by a 5.4-liter Triton V-8. Rated at 300 horsepower, the Expedition can to tow up to 9,200 pounds. The Triton is paired with a new standard

6-speed automatic transmission. This combination, although powerful, makes the Expedition bad on gas, even by large SUV standards. It gets just 14 miles per gallon in the city and 20 mpg in highway driving.

The Expedition Limited that we tested is pretty agile for

its size, thanks to its independent suspension and improved steering. It drives like a smaller vehicle with very responsive handling. Its size and weight combined with its independent front and rear suspension makes for a smooth ride that absorbs potholes.

The 2000 Expedition was the first full-size SUV to earn five-star front safety ratings for the driver and passenger from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a recognition it has maintained every year since then, too. All major safety equipment is standard on the

Expedition, including four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes (with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist), the AdvanceTrac stability control system (with Roll Stability Control to help avoid rollover accidents) and a tire-pressure monitor.

Airbags include seat-mounted side airbags for front occupants and three-row side curtain airbags. Rear parking sensors and power-adjustable pedals are optional across the line.

One unique safety feature is that the steering column compresses as much as 3 to 4 inches to help absorb energy in a frontal crash.

If car buyers can look past its bad fuel economy and see the new Expedition for what it is — a comfortable and capable vehicle — then all of Ford's work to improve it wasn't for naught. Kevin Koloian is an auto critic for Avanti NewsFeatures

and allopinionsallthetime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group @2009, Fracassa Communications.

The Ford Expedition Vehicle class: Full-size SUV. Power: V8 engine. Mileage: 14 city / 20 highway. Where built: Wayne, Mich. Price as tested: \$48,430.

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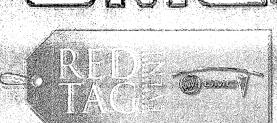
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