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THURSDAY
January 22, 2009

WESTLAND Observer

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Poor economy delays proposed fitness center

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A delay in plans to demolish the old Quo Vadis theater and build a \$5 million fitness center has prompted two local teens to renew their efforts to save the once-plush movie house.

Developers had hoped to tear down the Quo Vadis as early as last summer to make way

for a 45,000-square-foot L.A. Fitness Center on Wayne Road, across from Westland Shopping Center.

But the project has stalled amid a persistent economic downturn, and developers on Tuesday received a one-year extension on their site plan from a supportive Westland City Council.

The way Livonia Churchill

High School students Don Gurka and Zachery Gizicki see it, that gives them another chance to try to save the dilapidated Quo Vadis and its unique exterior, designed by the same architect whose projects included the former World Trade Center.

"It does bring color to a busy part of Westland," Gurka told city leaders during a meet-

ing Tuesday, referring to the building's gold frame accented by blue tile.

Gurka, 17, of Livonia and Gizicki, 16, of Westland last year formed the Quo Vadis Preservation Foundation and collected more than 200 signatures from people who want to save the six-screen movie house, open from 1966 to 2002. The teens have suggested that any

new development could incorporate the building's design.

Despite their persistence, Gurka and Gizicki were told Tuesday by city leaders that the theater is too rundown to save. Councilman Michael Kehrer also warned that Westland could be slapped with a lawsuit for any attempts to block developers from an appropriate use of the site.

Even so, it appears the L.A. Fitness project has stalled for now, and Councilman Charles Pickering voiced doubt that the project will get started anytime soon.

"I don't expect it to be breaking ground in the next year," he said Tuesday, although he added, "I might be surprised."

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

Honoring Martin Luther King

City's 11th annual program honors dream and looks to the future

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lori Wilson remembers a lot about the 1960s. She remembers desegregation and being bused from her black elementary school south of Michigan Avenue to an all-white school north of the thoroughfare.

She remembers her mother taking her to several civil rights marches, including one in 1963 where the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. It wasn't in Washington, D.C., it was in Detroit where the slain civil rights leader rehearsed his now famous speech.

Sitting in Annapolis Park Church of Christ Monday morning with her two granddaughters and mother, she listened as civic leaders and school children spoke about King's dream and its coming to fruition with tomorrow's swearing-in of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

But for the Westland resident the celebration Monday was distinctly different than what happened Tuesday.

"Today is for Martin Luther King, he started it all for me," she said. "He was the pioneer, he had foresight. He saw what was coming. He had faith."

Wilson was among a crowd of residents and state, county, local and international officials

Please see **MLK, A3**



Benjamin Yilma and his daughter Oriana, 8, of Canton listen to the keynote address given by Westland City Councilman Dewey Reeves at the 11th Annual City of Westland Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Monday morning.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Phony photographer faces sentencing for threatening victim

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who was placed on probation for posing as a photographer, luring a teenage girl to Hines Park and sexually assaulting her has found himself facing new legal troubles.



Milam

Steven Wayne Milam, 29, is facing a new sentencing on Feb. 3 after he pleaded no contest Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court to charges he tried to intimidate, bribe or interfere with the 18-year-old victim while the assault case was pending, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

Milam has remained jailed even though he was sentenced in October to three years probation for fourth-degree criminal sexual assault. He was accused in June of approaching the girl on a Norwayne subdivision street, offering to pay her to pose as a model and taking her a few days later to Hines Park, where she said he tried to undress her until her screams scared him off.

Milam is facing his new sentencing following allegations he tried to send a letter from jail in September to an ex-girlfriend in Garden City who, according to police, is the mother of one of his children. Milam was charged with asking the woman to write an anonymous letter to the 18-year-old victim, warning that she was being watched and threatening that "bad things" could happen to her and her family unless she dropped the charges, Harhold said.

Milam also wanted the ex-girlfriend to warn the teenager that her picture and personal information

could be posted on the Internet unless she heeded the warning, Harhold said.

"The letter never made it to the ex-girlfriend because a (Wayne County) sheriff deputy intercepted it," Harhold said, a development that sparked the latest charges of trying to intimidate the witness.

Milam even cautioned in the letter that the ex-girlfriend should not get her fingerprints on it and that she shouldn't lick the envelope, Harhold said.

Milam could face penalties ranging from probation up to four years in prison when he is sentenced anew on Feb. 3 in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Diane Hathaway.

Under his earlier sentence in October, Milam was supposed to receive three years probation and be forced to wear a tether for six months after pleading to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. He also was warned not to contact the victim.

Milam could have received up to 15 years in prison, if had he been convicted as originally charged with unlawful imprisonment, criminal sexual conduct with intent to penetrate, second-degree criminal sexual conduct, and impersonating a police officer.

The impersonation charge surfaced amid allegations he had told the teenager at one point while she was with him that he was a police officer and that she was in trouble for a crime he merely made up, authorities have said.

Moreover, Milam still is wanted for a warrant out of Florida involving accusations he briefly kidnapped a young woman there, Harhold said. That case from early last year is pending while Milam's troubles continue in Michigan.

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Students' essays, posters reflect on MLK's dream

As part of Westland's 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, students who attend the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and/or live in Westland were invited to submit a poster or essay reflecting on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of unity.

Three posters received honors in the contest. Placing first was Stephanie Rainey, an eighth-grader at Franklin Middle School. Second was Rylee Huffman, also an eighth-grader at Franklin Middle School, while third was Ni'ja Amanda Maye, a fourth-grader at Elliott Elementary School.

The winner of the essay

contest was Hannah Pummil, a fifth-grader at St. Damian School in Westland, who titled her winning essay *A Letter To Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* She wrote:

Dear Dr. King,
I am writing this letter to you in heaven to thank you for all you did to make your dreams of what America could and should be come true.

First, I would like to tell you that I have been reading about everything you did. You were an amazing speaker who encouraged all people to peacefully fight for what is right. You let people see that is was wrong

to treat people differently based on the color of their skin.

You traveled over 6 million miles and spoke over 25 hundred times and appeared wherever there was injustice. You directed the march on Washington, D.C., where you gave your I Have A Dream speech to over 250,000 people. I listened to your I Have A Dream speech in school and it was amazing. I can't imagine living in a time where I couldn't be friends with someone because of their skin color.

The peaceful way you used to get your point across is something people should try to do today. I thought you would

want to know that our country has elected our first African-American president. Barack Obama will be sworn in tomorrow as our 44th President. Our country chose the president based not on the color of his skin but by his character. I know this will make you as happy as our whole country seems to be.

We still have to fight for equality and justice when it does not happen, but I think most of your DREAMS have become a reality in America. Dr. King, we will never forget you.

Sincerely,
Hannah Pummil

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Coming Sunday:
Stars we love

Gebhardt holds office hours in 12th Commission District

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, has scheduled four monthly office hours in her 12th Commission District to give her constituents an opportunity to meet with her one-on-one and discuss issues of importance and concern. Gebhardt represents the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia.

"Elected officials need to be accessible to the people who put them in office," Gebhardt said. "These monthly office hours are a chance for me to talk and meet with the citizens in my commission district. We have included one evening session for citizens who work during the day."

Her office hours are:

■ 10 a.m. the first Monday of each month at Starbucks, 36545 Warren Road, Westland.

■ Noon the first Monday of each month at McDonald's Restaurant, 27125 Cherry Hill, Inkster.

■ 6-8 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

■ 10 a.m. the fourth Monday of each month at the Biggby Coffee Shop, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Citizens can attend any of the office hours, even if they do not reside in the community where the meeting is being held. They can also contact Gebhardt's office at (313) 224-0902 with any questions or concerns.

MLK

FROM PAGE A1

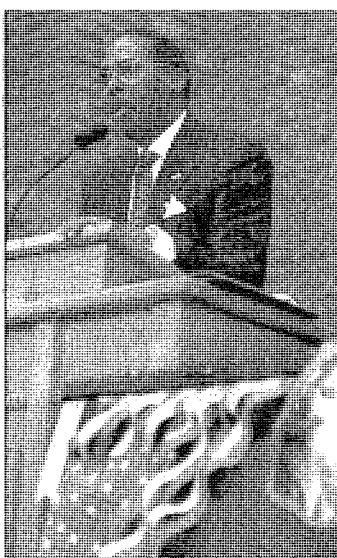
who gathered at the church for the city's 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

"There is no white America, no black America, no Hispanic America, but there is an United States of America," said the Rev. Terrance McClain, a former minister at the church. "We have to take seriously our responsibility to the life and spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. to make this world a better place than when we came."

The message throughout the midmorning program was that of a dream fulfilled, harkening to Obama's inauguration at the country's first African American president, and the work still needed to be done to form the perfect union the founding fathers talked about.

"It's been a long time coming, but change is coming to America," said Dewey Reeves, the keynote speaker. "We need to pitch in and work harder. We not only need to look after ourselves, but each other. We are our brothers' keepers."

Reeves spoke about content



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland City Councilman Dewey Reeves intoned the words of the John Lennon song, 'Imagine,' during his keynote address at City of Westland's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration program held at the Annapolis Park Church of Christ.

of character, how "anyone who is first must have a high content of character" and that whenever someone is first at anything it is their content of character that is "challenged." Obama, he said, has charisma,



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Cherub Choir, made up of third-sixth-graders, perform Lee Greenwood's 'God Bless the U.S.A.' at the program.

is highly educated and has relentless hope, and with his wife and two daughters, the next four years are "going to be better than the Cosbys" television show.

He also spoke to Dr. King's dream, saying that he had lived long enough to see the eradication of discrimination.

"We have no place on this earth for that, and racism is a thing of the past," Reeves said.

Joining him in praising king was Westland City Council

President James Godbout who told the audience they must continue to remember King.

"Tomorrow will be the unutterable fulfillment of his dream," he said. "Today we celebrate a man who without him, tomorrow would not happen."

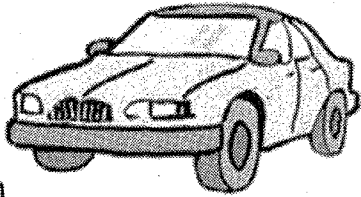
That's how Connie Hierta saw the morning's festivities.

"It's a celebration, it's all about the dream and it coming to fruition," she said. "We're here to celebrate the man and honor the dream."

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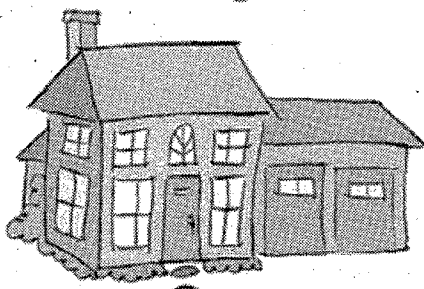
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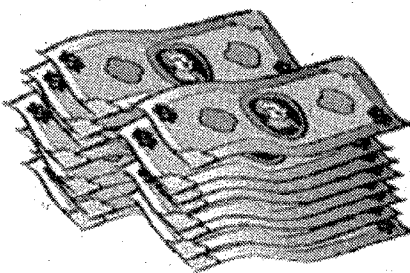
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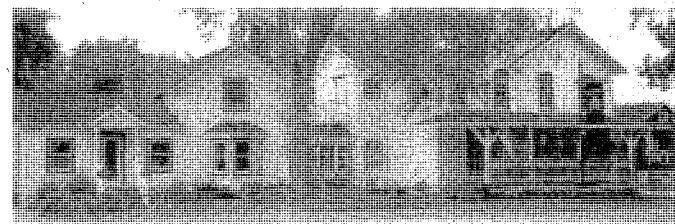
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Today's Health

The road to a new you

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

Westland Specialty Center offers sophisticated care

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

When it comes to making New Year's resolutions, health-related pledges are the most common choices, with many vowing to shed unwanted pounds, eat healthier, stop smoking or learn to manage stress at work.

But maintaining good health is important year-round, making the need for reliable treatment facilities, physicians and services a necessity within Metro Detroit's communities.

Garden City Hospital's newly renovated 30,000-square-foot Westland Specialty Center has a fresh look this year with customized programs for various needs — all conveniently located in a modernized facility.

"We've added capacity, capabilities and new programs," said Art Greenlee, Vice President of Operations. "Here, in one location, is some of the most sophisticated care of its type available anywhere."

The Westland facility celebrated its grand opening March 15, 2008, and provides a number of services, including the hospital's Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center, which houses an eight-person hyperbaric chamber that delivers oxygen therapy to patients with hard-to-heal wounds.

The chamber space is similar to what you would experience in a first class cabin of an airplane with room to stand and walk around. As the second largest chamber in the state, it measures 8 feet in diameter by 24 feet in length



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The center is home to a Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center, which houses an eight-person hyperbaric chamber (shown above) that delivers oxygen therapy to patients with hard-to-heal wounds.

and includes a bathroom. Patients may enjoy a personal TV monitor, nap or read during their treatment.

The multi-person chamber — one of the largest in Michigan — commonly treats diabetic foot wounds, chronic bone infections, compromised skin grafts and flaps, radiation damage, surgical wounds and crush injuries. In addition, Westland Specialty Center offers a monoplace, single person chamber, which extends the treatment options available to patients.

A range of offerings

Located at 35600 Central City Parkway just north of

Westland Mall, the center also offers the community:

- **Garden City's Sleep Disorders Center** — sleep studies are performed within six hotel-like bedrooms with state-of-the-art sleep monitoring equipment.
- **Garden City Home Medical Equipment** — for home care needs including walkers; respiratory and oxygen therapy supplies; breast pumps; and bathroom safety aids.
- **Laboratory Services Draw Station** — a private setting for patients to have blood drawn quickly and comfortably.
- **Sports Rehabilitation Center** — houses an aquatic therapy pool, team of physical therapists, a workout

area and Nautilus machines. Garden City Hospital's Sports Medicine program is sure to help patients return back to their game.

"We are extremely proud of how this center has grown and changed," Greenlee said. "We have excellent people and great technology to meet our patients' complex needs."

To schedule an appointment with a physician or at the Westland Specialty Center, call 877-717-WELL or visit www.gchosp.org.

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Sleep Disorder

Stanley Szczeciński, D.O.
Sports Medicine

Ihab Deebajah, M.D.
Critical Care
Pulmonary Medicine
Sleep Medicine

Get fit

The latest in fitness and weight training accessories



BY JOHN R. HALL
SPECIAL WRITER

Some of the most popular fitness and weight training accessories are also some of the most traditional ones too.

Some are steeped in tradition, only to be enhanced and improved for fitness and weight training routines and workouts.

For example, the hula hoop, made popular in the '50s and '60s, has made a comeback as a fitness accessory, albeit more weighted to enhance workouts.

The items in the list below represent some of the more popular products used by people who choose to set up their own "in-home gymnasium" in order to achieve the goals they set forth to become fit and healthy in 2009. If you need more information on any of these products and name brand manufacturers, do a word search in your Internet browser. For example, keying in "hula hoop" brings back over five million results!

• **Weighted fitness ball** — Sometimes known as an exercise ball, it is constructed of elastic soft PVC with a diameter of approximately 14-34 inches. It is most often used in physical therapy and exercise.

• **Medicine ball** — Weighted ball usually sold in 2-25 lb. sizes and used in plyometric weight training to increase explosive power in athletes in all sports. Helps develop core strength and improve coordination, balance and endurance.

• **Kettlebell** — A traditional Russian cast iron weight resembling a cannonball with a handle. The kettlebell has become a popular exercise tool in the United States. Some modern kettlebells feature adjustable weights. Kettlebell workouts are intended to increase strength, endurance, agility and balance.

• **Indian clubs** — Juggling equipment that was popular in the late 19th- and early-20th century in Europe, the British Commonwealth and the United States. These are bowling-pin shaped wooden clubs of varying sizes and weights that are swung in certain patterns as part of an exercise program.

• **Dumbbells** — Possibly the most recognizable of any weight training accessory. Two types make up this category: Adjustable dumbbells, which are weight disks slid onto the outer portions of the dumbbell and secured with clips or collars; and fixed-

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weight dumbbells, available in a variety of weights and created in a dumbbell shape.

• **Lifting straps** — Designed to alleviate pain associated with heavy lifts but a key ingredient in weight training, i.e. lateral pulldowns, shrugs, deadlifts and low rows; any movement, set or exercise requiring a sure grip.

• **Resistance band** — A portable alternative to weights for strength training. A variety of exercises have been devised to target specific muscle groups.

• **Aerobic step** — A common piece of equipment for use in many exercise/fitness programs. It can come with adjustable sizing or stacking platforms and is part of low-impact, high-intensity aerobic exercise.

• **Jump rope** — Its use can avoid knee damage that may occur during running, since the impact of each jump or step is absorbed by both legs. Jumping rope also helps strengthen the arms and shoulders. This combination of an aerobic workout and coordination-building footwork has made jumping rope a popular form of exercise for athletes, especially boxers and wrestlers.

• **Exercise mat** — Portable mat that comes in various sizes and materials, designed to give a person the option of working out in a variety of indoor locations.

• **Weightlifting gloves** — Used for all-purpose training and weightlifting. Many of these gloves are made of stretch material, including mesh, to let fingers and hands bend naturally.

• **Slimmer belt** — Can be worn for long periods of time and adjust to any waist size. It "slims and trims" physical appearance immediately and helps support lower back and abdomen.

• **Pedometer** — Used originally by sports and physical fitness enthusiasts and are now popular as an everyday exercise measurer and motivator. Often worn on the belt and kept on all day, it can record how many steps the wearer has walked that day.

• **Stopwatch** — A handy product to time and record various exercise routines.

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Having been a consulting physician for the 1996 Olympic Games and numerous professional, college and high school athletic teams, Stanley Szczeciński, D.O., or "Dr. Stan" as he is called by his patients, has demonstrated his excellence in the area of Sports Medicine. He is currently an Associate Professor at Michigan State University and Des Moines University, and a member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. He is board certified in Sports Medicine, Family Practice and Pain Management.

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NEW PATIENTS

Have documents you need for the IRS, but shred old documents

Over the next few weeks, individuals will receive a variety of information for tax purposes including W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, K1s and other documents. When it comes to preparing your tax return, these documents are essential.

If you fail to properly report certain items to the IRS, be assured the IRS will eventually contact you.

How long does someone need to save tax documentation? At a minimum, at least three years after you file your tax return. The reason is the IRS can audit you up to three years after you



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

file your return. In most cases, documentation such as 1099s and W-2s need to be retained for at least three years. The hiccup comes in the fact that if the IRS suspects fraud, it can audit for a longer period of time. If you want to be extra cautious, keep tax documentation for seven years.

As to your tax return, I rec-

ommend always saving a copy. It is good business to keep a copy of your return.

Always shred old documents. I cannot stress enough how important it is to shred any sensitive financial information, whether it is bank statements, charge card receipts or old W-2s.

I am frequently asked about an IRS audit and whether it makes a difference if someone files early or requests an extension. My experience is that being audited has nothing to do with when you file your return. It has everything to do with the

return itself. You increase your risk of being audited if your return contains mathematical errors, is sloppy or is missing information.

There's nothing wrong with filing an extension. Tax returns are due April 15, however, you can get an automatic extension to Oct. 15. An extension is simply more time to file your tax return; taxes due must be paid April 15. Therefore, many people find that when they do file an extension, they must make an estimated payment for their tax liability.

In addition to tax statements

that will begin arriving, many are also receiving year-end investment information. These are year-end cumulative statements which give a history of your investments throughout the year. It makes sense to save these statements. If you receive these via e-mail, you may not have to save the statements as they are being saved by the custodian.

Saving too much documentation is just as bad as not saving enough. Too many people save too much stuff and if they need something important, they cannot locate it. I know people

that save cancelled checks for electric bills from 10 years ago. There is no reason to save back-up documentation for reoccurring bills for any length of time.

Get organized. Spend some time with the shredder and prune files by getting rid of documents you don't need

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teachers workshop

The Blueprint for Exceptional Writing teachers workshop will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 17111 Haggerty, Northville. The workshop is facilitated by Garden City Public Schools consultant Jennifer Fontenot and professional storyteller Dr. Debra Christian, and is geared towards elementary and middle school educators who want to help their students improve their writing skills. For more information about the Blueprints system, visit the Web site at www.bn.com and type "Blueprint for Exceptional Writing" in the search box. The attend the workshop, call (248) 348-1274 and leave your name, school and phone number.

Court of St. Brigid

The 42nd annual Court of St. Brigid Scholarship program, sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians/Rose Kennedy Division, will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at the AOH Hall, 24742 Grand River, Detroit. Educational scholarships will be awarded to the winner and her court. Eligible for the program are girls, ages 17-23, who are Irish and Catholic. For applications and more information, call Maureen Kelly at (734) 632-0334 or go online to www.detroitirish.org or www.loahmich.com, www.gaelicleague-ofdetroit.org or www.detroitpatrick-parade.com. The deadline for applying is Feb. 14.

Railroadiana

Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, in the church hall at 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

Men's retreat

Men are invited to participate in a spiritual retreat weekend at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center March 6-8. For details and reservations, call (734) 261-5321 or (734) 425-5144.

Dinner Auction

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool will hold its annual Dinner Auction 6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Mama Mia's Restaurant, 27770 Plymouth Road, in Livonia. There will be a family-style dinner, dessert buffet, silent auction, raffles, live entertainment and cash bar. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$150 for a group of eight people. Go to www.academicpathwayspreschool.com for more information and to download a ticket order form. Payment options include check or Paypal.

Open houses

St. Dunstan Catholic School is having an open house 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, to kick off Catholic Schools Week, "Celebrate Service." St. Dunstan Catholic School is a fully accredited prekindergarten-grade 8 school that offers a challenging curriculum, smaller class sizes and competitive tuition rates. Students participate in many academic and extra curricular activities and consistently score well on standardized tests and the high school placement test. St. Dunstan is at 1615 Belton in Garden City. For more information, call the school office at (734) 425-4380 or visit it on the Web at www.school.saintdunstan.org.

St. Sebastian Catholic School will have an open house 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Tour the school, meet the teachers and see the F.A.S.T. reading program demonstrations throughout the day. The school, located at 20700 Colgate St., Dearborn Heights, offers a preschool

through grade 8 program, childcare before and after school, all-day and half-day kindergarten, affordable tuition and financing options, sports, scouting and chess club and Spanish language instruction. For more information, call (313) 563-4460 or visit the Web site at saintsebastiancatholicschool.org.

Friends of Rouge

The Friends of the Rouge are looking for people interested in helping with two programs taking place in 2009. The first is the Rouge Winter Stonely Search 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Join a team to search Rouge tributaries for the sensi-

tive winter stonely. The program takes place at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Preregistration required. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mail at monitoring@therouge.org.

For more information and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic_Monitoring%20events.html. Petrella also is accepting sign-ups for the Rouge Frog and Toad Survey training workshops. Volunteer to survey wetlands for frogs and toads by listening for their calls. Surveys are done independently on warm damp evenings March through

July. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at Southfield Parks and Recreation, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield; 7-9 p.m. March 4 at Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton; 10 a.m. to noon March 14 in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, and 10 a.m. to noon March 21 at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth. Sign up to attend one workshop; preregistration required. For more information or to obtain a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog_and_toad_Workshops.htm

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OUR VIEWS

MLK program is start of new day

American history was made Tuesday with the swearing-in of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. It has been a long time since a nation was so excited about a new president, and that excitement spilled over into the observance of the Martin Luther King Day.

For years, communities like Westland have organized events to focus on the message the slain civil rights leader fostered in the 1960s. He had a dream and we spent each holiday remembering he wanted people of all colors to live together in peace. His dream still played an important role in Monday's observance, however, instead of looking to the past, participants were looking to the future.

Tuesday provided the excitement that has been missing from this country for years. The declining economy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have combined to drag us down. Loss of jobs, loss of homes ... there hasn't been much to celebrate of late. That was true until Monday.

We're sure Martin Luther King pleased that communities pause each year to rekindle his dream. And we're sure he was smiling Monday when the Rev. Terrance McClain observed that "there is no white America, no black America, no Hispanic America, but a United States of America."

We're sure he smiled when guest speaker Dewey Reeves told participants that Americans "need to pitch in and work harder. We not only need to look after ourselves, but each other. We are our brothers' keepers."

We're sure the excitement generated Monday and Tuesday will continue for awhile. But when the high we're experiencing with the start of the Obama administrations wears off, we must recommit to what we believe is best for our country.

We all have high expectations of our new president, and if he is to meet them, we as residents of Westland, of the State of Michigan and of the United States of America must pitch in and do our fair share. Our problems are many, but if we work together, they can be resolved.

We encourage Westland residents to get involved in their community. By working together, we can ensure Martin Luther King's dream will continue to evolve. The election of an African American president is just the start. Where we go from there is in all of our hands today.

State must fight the urge to raid trust fund

Since the advent of the conservation movement, the state of Michigan has had few successes like the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The fund, which derives its revenue from royalties earned on oil, gas and mineral extraction from state lands, was initiated in 1976. Since then, it has provided more than \$600 million for the acquisition of important recreational lands and to develop state and local recreation assets.

During a time of strained budgets, especially in Lansing, the trust fund has been a constant and dependable source of revenue for the Department of Natural Resources to fund important projects and conserve vital natural lands from the onslaught of commercial development. This year alone, it will dole out more than \$48 million to fund 81 projects across the state.

Some of those projects include \$450,000 for Redford Township to build a non-motorized trail along Bell Creek; \$500,000 to develop and renovate the Bald Mountain Shooting Range in Oakland County; \$1,452,500 to acquire 2.5 miles of railway corridor in West Bloomfield for a recreational trail; and \$1,405,000 to acquire 67 acres for a nature preserve along an important tributary of the Huron River in Scio Township. This year, Canton Township will also receive a \$350,000 grant to construct six pedestrian bridges along the Lower Rouge Recreation Trail.

Unfortunately, its dependability is now endangering the trust fund. A transportation funding task force created by the state Legislature in 2007 to find ways to fix the state's aging road infrastructure recently released a report recommending the state "redirect all or a portion" of the trust fund to address transportation needs.

While we recognize the state needs to address its crumbling roadways, raiding the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is not the way to do it. That's not what the voters of this state intended when they overwhelmingly supported the trust fund several times, most recently in 2002. Besides, to divert funding from the trust fund would require a change in the state's constitution, which makes it unlikely.

Still, environmental groups have raised the red flag, because they know how important the trust fund has been in conserving some of the state's most important natural landscapes for current and future generations. State lawmakers should resist the temptation to raid the trust fund. It is one of the true environmental success stories in this state — one that has benefited all Michigan residents. Hopefully, it will continue to do so for many years to come.



LETTERS

Leading America back

Even as the epic failure of the Bush administration recedes into the past, there is a concerted and widespread attempt by Republicans and conservative political operatives to rewrite the disastrous history of the past eight years in America. Conservative attempts to rewrite history are nothing new; in fact, the practice of first framing and then incessantly repeating myths and outright falsehoods is central to the modern practice of their failed ideology.

Examples of this abound, such as the often-repeated myth that America was founded as a "Christian" nation. Unfortunately, the corporate media has often willingly enabled and continues to enable such nonsense; journalistic fact-checking of right-wing disinformation is often lost or drowned out by the Republican noise machine.

Defenders of the Bush disaster frequently try to paint the administration in a more favorable light with the specious claim that "he kept us safe for the past seven years," while conveniently ignoring the multiple failures of the Bush administration that led to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to begin with. Moreover, the "kept us safe" claim is factually erroneous — remember the anthrax attacks a few months later — and is easily debunked by the application of the most rudimentary logic. It is akin to carelessly leaving a young child unattended by a swimming pool and then after the inevitable tragedy occurs, keeping all the other children locked in the house for seven years, and then bragging you kept them safe.

In fact, the Bush administration has left America much less safe than when he took office, thanks to a belligerent foreign policy highlighted by the foolish invasion of Iraq under false pretenses, ultimately the worst foreign policy debacle in United States history. Bush policies have alienated allies, destroyed the goodwill of the world community and served as a recruiting tool for even more foreign terrorists.

In spite of the desperate historical revisionism being undertaken by defenders of America's worst president ever, the destruction that the Bush administration leaves behind is deep and wide. We have a shredded Constitution, a wrecked economy, a worsened environment, a shattered multilateralism, a strengthened plutocracy, a partisan legal system, an undermined scientific community, crippled national security, trashed diplomacy, battered checks and balances. These cannot be fixed in a few months or even a few years.

Godspeed to Barack Obama and his administration, as he leads America back from the train wreck of Republican political malfeasance.

Joe Golonka
Westland

We need to regain confidence

This economic crisis that we are in needs to be put to an end! If we don't straighten all of this out soon, we may just enter another depression. All of this is happening because our stock market is down. Until our confidence rises in the stock market, we could stay this way for quite a while.

Consumer confidence is what everyone needs right now. As soon as everyone is confident in the stock market, they will invest in it once again. This would help people keep their jobs and stop from going bankrupt. Right now, everyone is scared, they fear that if they invest their money, that they will lose it.

In a recent study, students were asked the question of whether they would have \$3,000 in their pocket today, or have an 80 percent chance of getting \$4,000. Most of the students took the \$3,000. This is because the fear of losing money is bigger than gaining money. This is true about what is going on now.

Remember, if we don't put money in the stock market now, it will only take longer for it to improve!

Tommy Parrelly
Canton

Keep tax credit

As a film student at Michigan State University, when I heard about the Michigan Filming Incentive, I was intrigued. Let me first start by saying that I've lived in Michigan for 19 years, my whole life. However, throughout the years I've watched Michigan's industrial age economy decline rapidly as my neighbors and friends' parents lost their jobs. When I think of what the future holds for the state of Michigan, the first thing that comes to my mind is students. This is because we're the ones that will be taking over the business world as the baby boomers retire.

I'm sure I'm not the first to tell you that no one is going to want to live in a state where there aren't any jobs for them. Why do you think so many students go to out-of-state universities, or after attending a Michigan university, they find ample jobs in states like California, Chicago, or New York? There wasn't a reason for us to stay in Michigan.

The Michigan Filming Incentive would give students like me, and any other film, telecommunications, media, marketing, advertising, or theater student a reason to stay in Michigan, buy one of the many foreclosed houses, and start a career here.

Not only does this incentive open up a world of opportunity to students, but think of all the small businesses that benefit from it as well. When a producer is putting together a film, not only does a percentage of

the crew come from Michigan, but another percentage is brought in from other film cities. These people need places to stay, restaurants to eat at, and many other necessities and amenities that small Michigan businesses can provide.

In my mind and the mind of many others, including the top Hollywood producers, directors, filmmakers, and agencies, the Michigan Filming Incentive is just a start to a great industry. It's the foundation for something bigger, the opportunity to show the country what Michigan has to offer the most creative minds in the business.

Danielle Schwartz
sophomore
Michigan State University

Progress is difficult

2009 began a new era. The younger generation is elated by political success. Retiring critics believe inexperienced children will now manage education, budgets, research and world affairs from a feel-good viewpoint.

Peace and prosperity rarely last long before decadence is overwhelming. Guarantees of income, food and shelter destroy incentives for traditional initiative. Insecurity enhances the struggle to survive.

Science and progress always expand during periods of stress like World War II. Leaders emerge from necessity, not from the promise of beautiful environments.

A new struggle has already begun. Our economy and employment are disastrous. FDR said of the Depression, "I will either be a great president or the last president."

Obama faces the same challenge, and politics will not always feel good. According to history, progress will be difficult.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Letters to the editor
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Detroit, MI 48226

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E-mail:
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QUOTABLE

"It's very unfortunate, and it's totally out of our control. Obviously, we're saddened by a corporation failing, but we're going to work very hard to find a new tenant for that location."

— Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale about the announced closing of the Westland Circuit City

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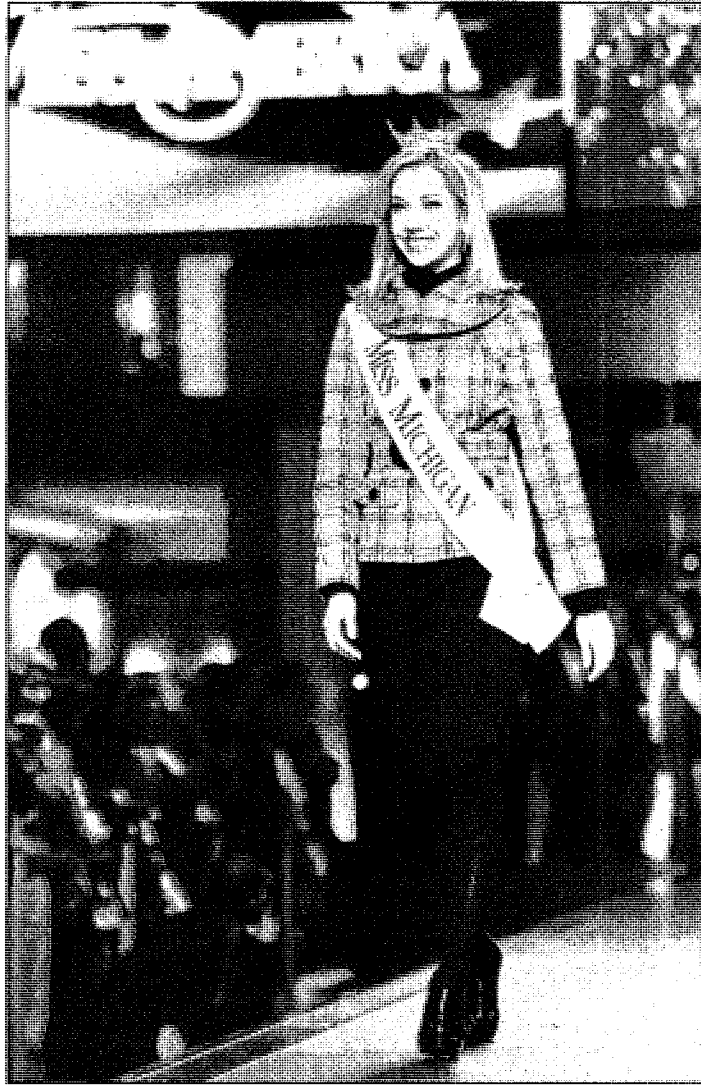
Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.



Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy shows her style flipping flapjacks at IHOP.

Countdown: Pageant week keeps Miss Michigan busy

The countdown is on to Saturday evening when the 2009 Miss America will be crowned, and the days leading up to the pageant have been a busy one for the 52 contestants, including Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy. The pageant is being held at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Mayor Oscar Goodman was on hand to welcome them. Baracy and the other Miss America contestants have been busy. They've flipped flapjacks at the International House of Pancakes, treated to dinner at Buca di Beppo after walking down the runway at the Las Vegas Fashion Mall.



Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy walks the runway at Las Vegas Fashion Mall as part of the events leading up to Saturday's Miss America pageant.

Baracy along with Miss Florida Sierra Minott, Miss New Mexico Christina Olmi and Miss Indiana Katie R. Stam showed their cooking skills at the restaurant, coming up with a new sauce that they promptly named "Miss America Sauce." Baracy also is among the eight finalists for this year's Quality of Life project. Her platform is breast cancer awareness and education. Her

mother, Janet, was diagnosed with breast cancer more than five years ago and is a survivor. In preliminary competition leading up to the Miss America Pageant finale, Stam won the swimsuit competition, while Miss Delaware Galen Giaccone, a pianist, won the talent competition. The pageant finale will air at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, on TLC.

W-W offers schools of choice for 2009-10

Parents or guardians interested in moving their elementary middle schoolers to a different Wayne-Westland school will be able to sign up for Schools of Choice beginning Friday, Jan. 30. The district will again offer district residents the program kindergarten through eighth-grade students for the 2009-2010 school year. The program provides parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district provided there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choices must be provided by the parents or legal guardian. School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2009-2010 Schools of Choice application which will be available in every Wayne-Westland school

by Friday, Jan. 30. Schools of Choice applications for elementary school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette, Westland, between Jan. 30 and March 2. Schools of Choice applications for middle school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office between March 9 and April 20. No new Schools of Choice applications will be accepted for high school students. Applications received according to these timelines will permit, if space is available, selected students to begin the 2009-2010 school year in their school of choice. If more students apply for a grade and/or building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students. The names of students not selected will be placed on a waiting list for the 2009-2010 school year. Current Schools of Choice

students must reapply to remain eligible for the program. After the deadlines, Schools of Choice applications will be accepted until Sept. 7, at the elementary or middle school the parent and/or guardian would like the child to attend. These names will be added to the 2009-2010 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis. Building principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an opening. Building principals will be allowed to place Schools of Choice students only through Sept. 18. A Schools of Choice student will be moved back to his or her home school, if an overcrowding situation occurs within the first 10 weeks of the school year. After 10 weeks, the student will be permitted to remain in the school of choice for the remainder of the school year, provided all other conditions continue to be satisfied.

Free seminar helps consumers make financial decisions

Today's consumers need access to accurate and reliable financial information to make informed investment decisions for themselves and their families. And they'll find it at free non-commercial seminar on investment education being offered 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the William D. Faust Public Library in Westland. The seminar will include optional one-on-one counseling sessions with seminar participants. The seminar is sponsored by the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation and will be led by Mark Robinson

and the securities staff from OFIR and the Insurance Regulation. Materials will be provided by the Securities Section of the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation and the Investor Protection Trust. Participants also will each receive a copy of "5 Keys to Investing Success" from IPT and Kiplinger. The seminar is part of the national Investor Education in Your Community program sponsored by the Investor Protection Trust and the Investor Protection Institute. According to the Investor Protection Trust/Securities

Investor Protection Corporation Investor Survival Skills Survey (December 2005), the vast majority of American investors do not possess important "investor survival skills" needed to build their savings into a retirement nest egg. Only 17 percent of respondents correctly answered a sufficient number of questions on knowledge and behavior to pass the test. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call the library of Westland at (734) 326-6123 or visit the library's Web site at westland.lib.mi.us.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

Alley up: Senior center hosts Wii tourney

You won't find an alley, a 7-pound ball with finger holes, or those signature white pins. But at 9 a.m. Friday, the game of bowling will be alive and rolling when the Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hosts a seniors-only Wii tournament. "From morning till evening, the pins will be flying," said Barbara Schimmel Marcum, senior director. "When people

enter the building, they would be mistaken, if they didn't feel they were in a bowling alley." The competition will include matches that last approximately 20 minutes, and teams will be chosen randomly. The tournament is open to all senior citizens who either reside in Westland or who are members of the Friendship Center. Participants must register in

advance, and the cost is \$3. In the future, the Friendship Center will designate "Wii time" for bowling and golf practice on Fridays whenever travel meetings and afternoon movies are not already scheduled. The center is located at 1119 N. Newburgh Road, between Ford and Marquette. The Wii system was donated to the center last fall.

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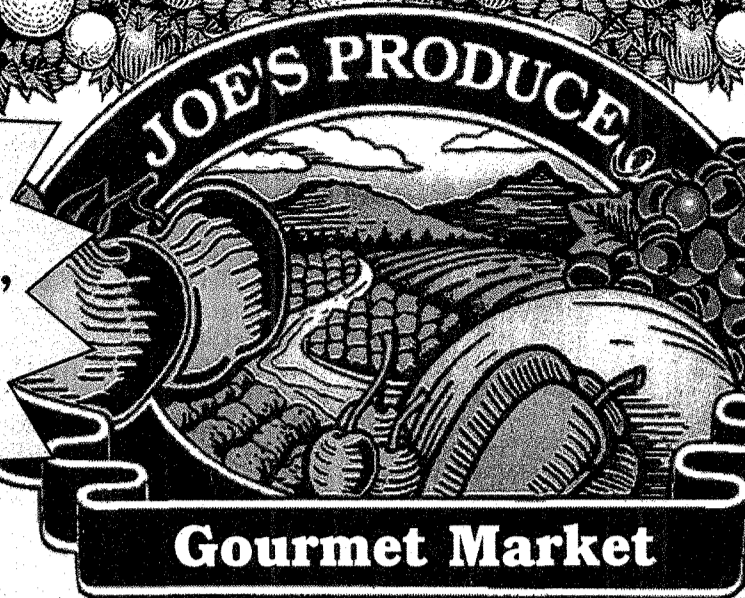
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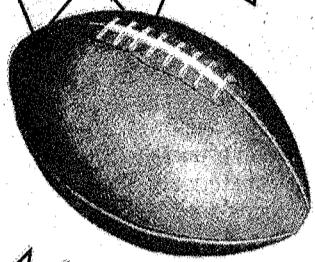
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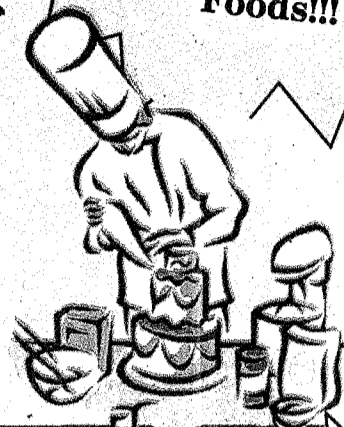
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SPORTS

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Body blows

Patriot girls outlast Canton

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The unofficial theme song for Tuesday night's girls basketball clash between Canton and Livonia Franklin was *Let's Get Physical*.

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, bodies collided like demolition derby cars in an ongoing struggle for rebounds, loose balls and all-important positioning.

At game's end, no one would have blamed the Patriots if they were humming *I Will Survive* after they held off a furious Chiefs rally to pull out a 37-34 road victory.

Franklin, which improved to 8-1 overall and 1-0 in the KLAA South Division, won despite scoring just two fourth-quarter points.

Canton's second straight setback dropped it to 7-2 overall and 0-1 in the division.

"Considering Canton is one of the best teams in the division and we were playing at their place without one of our starters (Senneca Scott), this was a big win," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "With Senneca out and another girl sick, we had to play with some different combinations tonight, but the girls pulled it out."

The Chiefs trailed 35-24 with eight minutes to play before mounting a defense-led rally that all but suffocated the Patriots' offense following Amanda Borio's fast-break layup two minutes into the

quarter.

Trailing 37-26 with just under six minutes to play, Alyssa Cottrell ignited the Canton rally with a 15-foot jumper.

With 3:15 left, freshman guard Robyn Mack drained a 17-footer to close the gap to 37-30.

The play that epitomized the rough-and-tumble action unfolded with 49 seconds to play when three players — Canton's Kari Schmitt and Franklin's Brittany Taylor and Chelsea Williams — all hit the deck simultaneously for a loose ball.

All three players got up slowly, but it was Schmitt who was awarded two free throws, which she calmly sank to bring Canton to within 37-32.

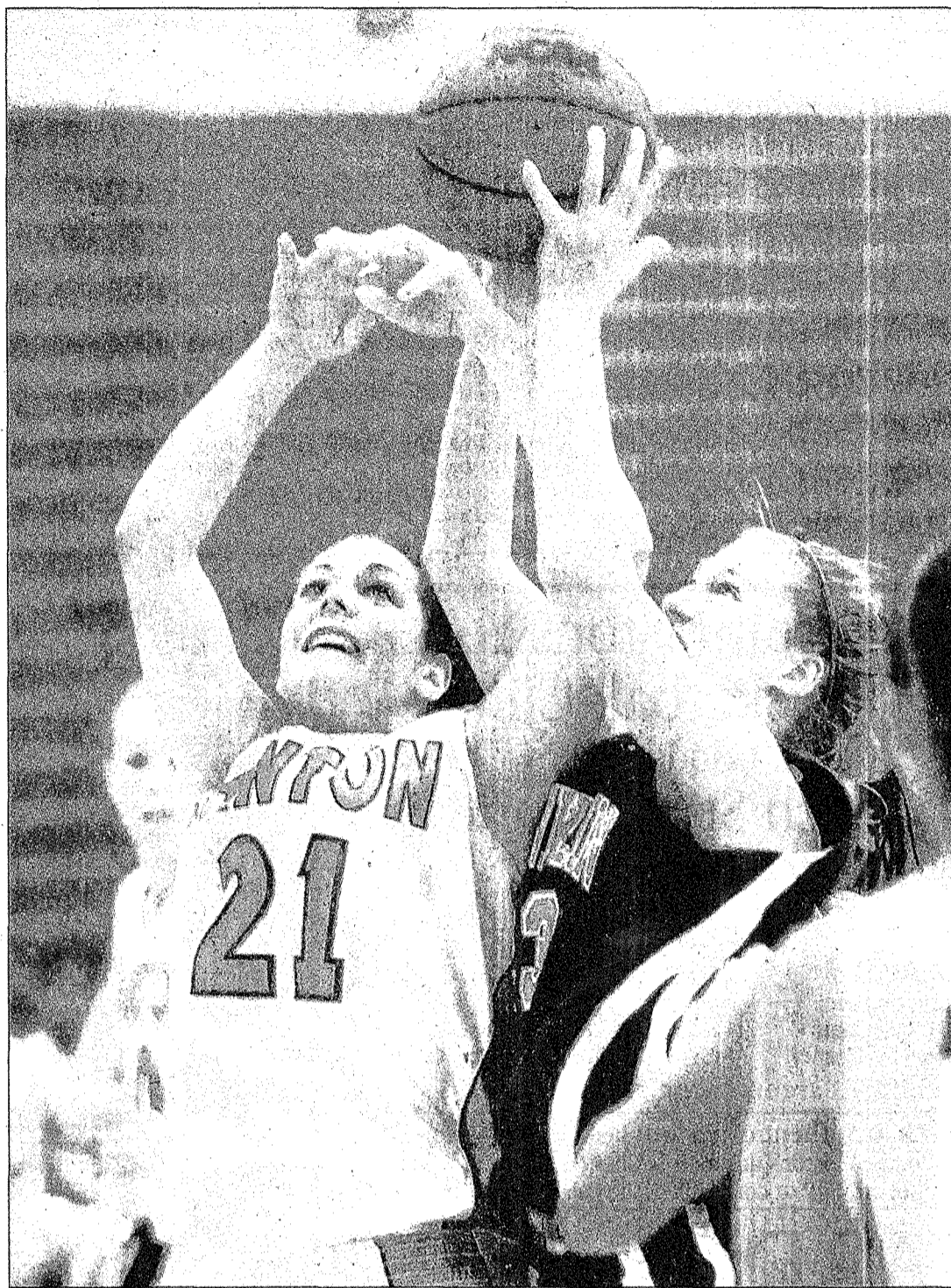
Ten seconds later, following a Canton steal, Schmitt was fouled and swished two more freebies to make it 37-34.

Three turnovers (two by Franklin, one by Canton) and 30 seconds later, Schmitt ended up at the line again.

After missing the first free throw, she purposely tossed the second one off the rim; however, Franklin controlled the rebound to seal the victory.

"It boils down to handling the ball under pressure, taking care of the ball, making our shots and defending at the other end," Canton coach Brian Samulski said. "I thought we attacked their defense well, but

Please see **PATRIOTS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's CarolAnn Sexauer (left) and Franklin's Amanda Borio contest for the rebound during Tuesday's KLAA South Division clash.

Sidelines

NFHS hails Phill

Greg Phill, who just completed his 24th year as the Livonia Stevenson girls swim coach, was recently named 2008 National Federation of State High School Associations Coach of the Year.

In a letter to Phill from Robert Kanaby, Executive Director of the NFHS, it said:

"Thank you so much for your dedicated to our fine athletes. Recently, there was a tremendous article and team photo in the Livonia Observer featuring the financial contribute you and your team made to the Goodfellows organization via your swimathon. This is a wonder gesture on the part of your swimmers, parents and coaching staff to help children in need. You should be very proud of this generous donation.

"Not only are you recognized for your superior ability to coach athletes, but also in teaching them the importance of helping those that are less fortunate and giving back to the community. Thank you and congratulations."

Olech nets honor

Madonna University forward Kim Olech (Plymouth) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week in women's basketball after recording a pair double-doubles as the Crusaders went 1-1.

Olech cored a career-high 20 points and grabbed a career best 21 rebounds in MU's win over Siena Heights on Wednesday and then came back to drop 13 points and grab a like number of rebounds against No. 24 Aquinas on Saturday.

Olech extended her double-double streak to four straight and her total for the season to eight. For the week she scored 33 points, grabbed 34 rebounds, had seven blocks and two steals while shooting 11-for-12 from the free throw line.

One for the road: Wayne triumphs

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Getting wins on the road and protecting home court are two essential ingredients of seizing control of what appears to be a wide-open South Division boys basketball race in the KLAA's Kensington Conference.

Wayne Memorial ventured Tuesday night into Livonia Churchill's gym and came away with a hard-fought 59-54 triumph as the trio of Robert Woodson, Delorean Holland and Daniel Hill each scored 16 points.

Wayne is now 3-3 overall, while the Chargers drop to 2-3.

The Zebras, despite going only 3-for-12 in the final period and not scoring for the first 3 minutes, 47 seconds of the quarter, pulled out the victory.

It was 47-all after three quarters, with Churchill's 6-foot-6 junior forward Adam Bedell scoring the first basket of the period to give his team a two-point cushion.

But the Chargers went scoreless for the next 5:18 as Wayne got a pair of key back-to-back triples from Jimmel Bennett and Jamiel Strickland to go ahead 53-49.

Strickland then scored on a drive to the basket with 1:04 remaining after Bedell's bucket, while Woodson connected on 4-of-5 free throws in the final 30 seconds to seal the victory.

"It was our first division game. I don't know if was beautiful basketball, but when

you win on the road, it's big," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "Even though we've probably won more than we've lost with Churchill, we've always struggled and had a tough time with Churchill, especially here."

Hill, a 6-3 junior, grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds, while Woodson, a 6-1 senior point guard, made all the right plays down the stretch.

"I thought Daniel (Hill) did a great job on the boards," Woodard said. "He was battling down there."

"Woodson's strong with the ball and we told him, 'They'll come after you four times' because they had four fouls to give. I told the whole group that."

Bedell finished with a team-high 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds, while 6-0 senior guard Scott Senczyszyn added 16, including 4-of-8 from 3-point range before cooling off in the final period.

"We made the first two (shots) against their zone (defense), and then all the sudden we couldn't make a shot," said Churchill coach Jim Solak, whose team made just 2-of-17 field goal tries in the final quarter. "We started to panic a bit. I thought we played hard the second half, the effort was there. But when they switched to the 2-3 (zone), we couldn't make a shot and they got every big rebound down the stretch." Although they hadn't played



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Churchill's Scott Senczyszyn (with ball) looks for an opening against Wayne defender Jimmel Bennett during Tuesday's KLAA South Division clash.

in 14 days, the Chargers were productive offensively during the first half and trailed by only two, 34-32.

"Hopefully, we'll get in the flow. There's some games where

we have a tough stretch, but we'll come back because I like this group," Solak said.

Wayne made 20-of-53 field goal tries on the night, while Churchill hit just 23-of-63.

Blue girls vault into limelight

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's still early in the girls gymnastics season, but teams are already beginning to show their true colors.

Livonia Blue put on an impressive display Saturday at the 11-school Farmington Invitational by edging the

GYMNASTICS host team for the title,

146.625-145.775. Meanwhile, Livonia Red took fifth overall with a 138.45. See complete team and individual results.

In the Division 1 individual events, Blue's Meghan Powers captured first in the balance beam (9.75), while teammate Emily Quint won the vault with a 9.45.

Livonia Red's Paula Guzik, meanwhile, took the uneven bars (9.55).

In Division 2, Livonia Blue's Laura Nomura won the all-around (37.375) and three individual events including the vault (9.5),

Please see **GYMNASTICS, B5**

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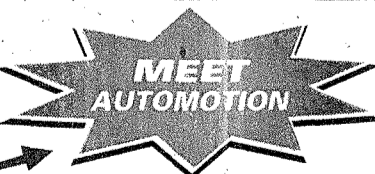
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Narber Day: Saints get past MU women

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Carl Graves and his Madonna women's basketball team knew what to expect Saturday from Aquinas head coach Linda Nash and the visiting Saints.

But there simply was too much Joslyn Narber for the Crusaders' liking, as she nailed four second-half treys to prime the pump for Aquinas' 65-58 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory.

Narber scored 28 points, including 22 after the intermission, to spark Aquinas (10-6 overall, 2-1 in the WHAC). She nailed back-to-back threes early in the second half to give the Saints a 43-35 edge and the lead withstood a tenacious rally by Madonna.

"She (Narber) is the best

player in the league and she put up 22 points in the half," said Graves, following a marathon chat with his team following the contest at the Madonna Activities Center. "You can't give her open looks like that and let her run their offense."

"We give a team 28 in the first half and then give her 22 by herself in the second half. ... That'll beat you."

The tough defense of Aquinas - which stifled the Crusaders down low - also contributed to the loss, which dropped Madonna to 7-13 overall and 2-2 in the WHAC. The Saints' game plan is something Graves and his team saw during last season's conference title game.

"I love Linda's defense, I

think they do a great job," Graves said. "But I think that comes back to my staff and myself not equipping our girls with the ability to get to the basket in critical spots."

"... They kind of sink down and aggressively attack the post players. We knew it was coming and sat back and watched them do the same things that hurt us."

One player seemingly not rattled by the Aquinas style of play was junior forward and Canton native Kim Olech (Plymouth), who tallied 13 points and 13 rebounds.

During the second half, which began 28-28, Olech scored nine points as she tried to be the Madonna catalyst. With about 14 minutes to play, she muscled in for back-to-back layups to bring the Crusaders to

within 37-34.

It was 37-36 soon thereafter on a bucket by sophomore guard Tabatha Wydryck (9 points), but that was as close as Madonna would get.

"That's typical for her (Olech)," Graves said. "She's a fighter, she's aggressive. She's a big strong kid, but she's carrying a lot."

"(But) we've got to have production from other people."

Aquinas' attack wasn't just Narber. Freshmen guards Logan Marsh and Katie Carbee scored 12 and 10 points, respectively.

"We did a nice job of rebounding," said Graves, whose team outrebounded the Saints, 38-33. "We're one of the best rebounding teams in the league if not the country (but) I think we can't let Kim (Olech) try to do this by herself."

Lady Ocelots rip OCC

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team, ranked No. 5 in the latest NJCAA Division II national poll, shot a school-record 65 percent from the field en route to a 93-54 triumph Saturday over host Oakland Community College on the Orchard Ridge campus.

Salem High's Taylor Langham scored a game-high 23 points to go along with seven assists as the Lady Ocelots improved to 15-2 overall and 8-0 in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan CC Athletic Association.

Schoolcraft, blistered the nets while shooting 36-of-55 from the floor, has won 17 straight Eastern Conference games and 49 of its last 51 league games.

April Goins chipped in with 20 points and 13 rebounds, while Antania Shepherd and Amber Avery contributed 15 and 13 points, respectively. The Lady Ocelots, who led

54-26 at intermission, also got nine points and eight assists from Brittany Collins.

Megan Charlebois and Tabytha Harvey scored 14 and 10 points, respectively, for the Lady Raiders (11-5, 6-2).

S'craft men routed

On Saturday, host OCC-Orchard Ridge bolted out to a 69-31 halftime lead in a lopsided 115-67 MCCA-Eastern Conference win over the Schoolcraft College men's basketball.

Wayne Memorial's Martez Abney, who was 6-of-9 from three-point range, had 24 points and three assists for the Ocelots.

Bruce Watson and Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison) each added 16 points as the Ocelots fall to 5-14 overall and 2-6 in the conference.

OCC, coached by former Michigan player Antoine Joubert, improved to 15-5 overall and 7-1 in the conference.



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Conducted by
Coach Steve Moreland

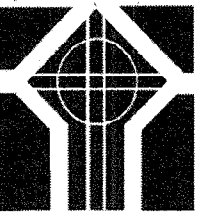
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11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Coach's Corner
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12:30 to 1:45 p.m. - Basketball Clinic
1:45 to 2:30 p.m. - Coach's Corner

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PATRIOTS

FROM PAGE B1

we have to shoot with more confidence.

"I didn't like the way we defended in the first half, giving up 25 points, but we did a lot better job in the second when they only scored 12."

On a night solid statis-

tics were hard to come by, Franklin's Brianna Taylor registered a double-double (11 points and 10 rebounds). Brittany Taylor and Amanda Borioe both added eight points for the winners, who won despite 23 turnovers.

Schmitt led the Chiefs with 10 points - eight of which came from her 8-of-10 marksmanship from the foul line. CarolAnn Sexauer added eight

points (all in the first half) and had a team-high eight boards.

Canton struggled from the field, hitting just 12-of-47 shots (27 percent). The Chiefs were particularly frigid in the third quarter, when they connected on just 2-of-18.

Franklin made 17-of-36 field goals.

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STOP THE OUTRAGOUS HEATING BILLS

Despite loss to Lutheran Northwest, help on way for Trojans

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite Tuesday night's 61-29 defeat at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, there is new hope for Livonia Clarenceville's varsity girls basketball team, said head coach Julie Patterson.

The Trojans started transfer student Paige Davis at center and the 6-foot-1 former Livonia Ladywood player stepped in and played reasonably well, with seven points and eight rebounds.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

"She played pretty well for the first time out," said Clarenceville coach Julie Patterson, whose team dropped to 1-8 overall and 0-2 in the Metro. "We have to work on getting her the ball inside, however. But I thought she did a good job defensively."

Kristen Jolly had 11 points and three steals in the loss, while Marlene Azar grabbed nine rebounds.

The Metro Conference matchup

saw the Crusaders roll out to a 20-4 lead after the first quarter and that set the tone for the rest of the night.

According to Patterson, getting Davis in the lineup could signal the start of a turnaround that might pay dividends at tournament time.

She said a combination of injuries, illness, academic ineligibilities and Davis' transferee status have limited her from putting her top players out on the floor.

"Absolutely she (Davis) can make an impact," Patterson said. "We

haven't played with our full team all year. The week of Feb. 2, we hope to get everybody playing."

LUTH. WESTLAND 46, S'FIELD CHRISTIAN 22: Senior Allyson Yankee poured 25 points and added six steals Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland (2-4) knocked off Southfield Christian in a non-leaguer.

Rachel Storck added eight points and 10 rebounds for the victorious Warriors.

"I'm pleased with the victory," Lutheran Westland coach Bill Strang said. "The girls played a solid game. Our offense is looking better and the defense was really good tonight."

HURON VALLEY 42, YPSI CALVARY 32: In a

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference game Tuesday, sophomore guard Katie Nell scored a game-high 22 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, to lift visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-6, 1-2) to its first win of the season against Ypsilanti Calvary Christian Academy.

Nell played a strong all-around game, contributing seven rebounds and five steals in addition to her 22 points.

The Hawks got off to a 10-5 lead after one quarter and held on despite making just 9-of-21 free-throw attempts.

Verity Thurmond scored 10 points for the Cougars.

These Lions (8-0) clip Spartans, 57-51

Livonia Stevenson's upset bid came up six points short Tuesday as host South Lyon held on for a 57-51 girls basketball win in the KLAAs Central Division opener for both teams.

Danielle Gotham, a 6-foot-3 senior center, led the victorious Lions, now 8-0 overall and 1-0 in the Central, with 18 points. Amanda Thomas and Courtney Harrison added 13 and 11, respectively.

South Lyon bolted out to a 17-5 first-quarter lead before the Spartans evened the count at halftime, 24-all, with a 19-7 second-period run.

"They (South Lyon) pressed us from the get-go," Stevenson first-year coach Paul Tripp said. "We got off to a bad start, but once we figured it out and settled down, we turned the tide."

South Lyon won it with a 19-13 third period surge. The two teams played event (14-14) in the final eight minutes.

"We couldn't create enough opportunities in the fourth quarter, but I'm proud of the way we played," said Tripp, whose Spartans fall to 3-5 and 0-1.

Senior center Kaylee McGrath led Stevenson with 15 points and 17 rebounds.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sarah Smith collected 14 points, hitting four 3-pointers, to go along with three steals. Tasi Newton contributed nine of her 11 points in the second quarter. She also had three steals.

Stevenson was only 7-of-16 from the foul line, while the Lions made 14-of-20.

CHURCHILL 52, WAYNE 17: Alysa Boldizar scored 14 and Darcy DeRoo added 12 Tuesday to lead Livonia Churchill (5-3, 1-0) to a KLAAs South Division win at Wayne Memorial (2-6, 0-1).

Freshman Holland Boertje led the Zebras, who trailed 35-4 at halftime, with 13 points.

PLYMOUTH 46, JOHN GLENN 30: Kelsi Robinson led the way with 15 points Tuesday as the host Wildcats (3-6, 1-0) downed Westland John Glenn (4-4, 0-1) in the KLAAs South Division opener for both teams.

Shaakira Haywood added 10 points for Plymouth, which led 11-1 after one quarter and 31-9 at halftime.

"The first quarter we missed a lot of easy shots and dug ourselves a big hole," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said. "We played hard the second half, but didn't have enough firepower."

Nyah McReynolds tallied 10 and Brittany Holbrook added seven for the Rockets, who made just 9-of-22 free throws.

Plymouth was only 11-of-32 from the foul line.

N'ville grapplers rule Spartan Classic Duals

Northville emerged the winner on Saturday at the 10-team Spartan Dual Invitational wrestling tournament hosted by Livonia Stevenson.

The Mustangs led the way with a 5-0 record in the team format followed by Milford and Ypsilanti Lincoln, 4-1 each; Ann Arbor Pioneer and Stevenson, 3-2 each; Monroe and Flat Rock-Woodhaven, 2-3 each; Novi-Detroit Catholic Central 'B' squad and Garden City, 1-4 each; and Romulus Summit Academy North, 0-5.

Stevenson posted wins over Woodhaven (44-30), Summit Academy (70-12) and Monroe (39-37), while losing to Ypsilanti Lincoln (32-43) and Milford (13-61).

Stevenson's 135-pounder Mitchell Gonzales went 5-0 on the day, followed by Raz Markosian (140), Dan McCarthy (152-160) and Andrew Schramm (189-215), all finishing 4-1. Jake Burns (171) added three wins in four matches.

Stevenson is now 10-11 overall.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 22
Edsel Ford at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 23
Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Hamtramck, 7 p.m.
Univ. Liggett at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 8:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 23
Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Hamtramck at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at G.P. Liggett, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Jan. 23
Churchill vs. Franklin at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24
Stevenson vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 7 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Jan. 22
John Glenn at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24
Sterling Hts. Titan Invitational, 8 a.m.
Hartland Invitational, 9 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Jan. 22
John Glenn at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.

Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
S. Lyon Unified at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING
Thursday, Jan. 22
(at South Lyon's 700 Bowl)
John Glenn vs. South Lyon, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne vs. S. Lyon East, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24
Wayne County Tournament at Cherry Hill Lanes, 9:30 a.m.
Oakland County Tournament, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 24
Madonna at Davenport, 3 p.m.
Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 24
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.



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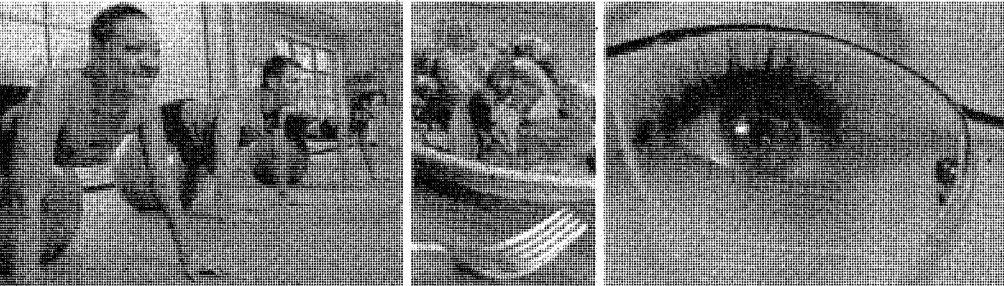
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Resolve to take better care of yourself in the new year with a little help from our upcoming Health & Fitness pages. You'll find a variety of features written to help you achieve a sense of balance and well-being.



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What are the hot new dental techniques?
- **Health Benefits Of Massage**
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- **Fitness Accessories**
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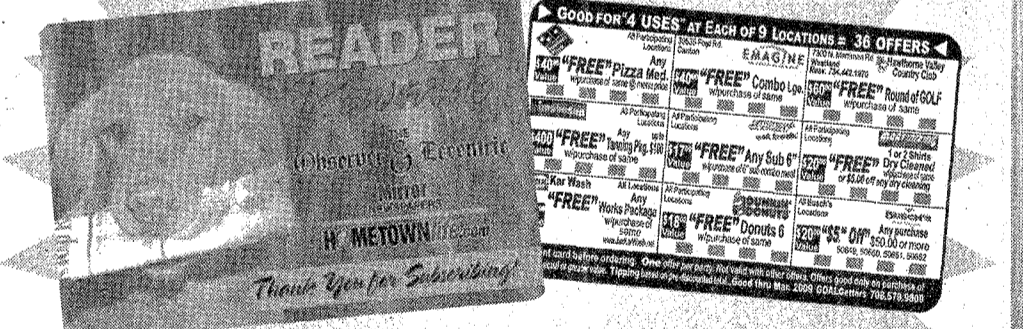


January 29th, 2009:

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Small ways to make a difference in your health.
- **Lo-cal Recipes**
- **Update Your Eyes**
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

Day of service

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

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for

Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

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

New worship schedule

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

Sunday worship

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

Worship services

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

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the

first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

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

HeartCry

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

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Bible study

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

Fellowship Dinners

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

Thrift Shop

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

Registration

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

Morning prayers

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

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older

Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in.

There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

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

Worship service

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

Sunday worship

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

Sunday services

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

Farmington Women Aglow

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

Worship services

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

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. Call (313) 255-6330.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church, Seventh-Day Adventist, Cherry Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Newburg United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Timothy Lutheran Church, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Bell Creek Community Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, Christian Science, Risen Christ Lutheran, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School.

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

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Going
The banner is now hanging on the front of the building, making it official. Liquidators are selling off the contents of the Circuit City store on Warren east of Central City Parkway and the electronics giant announced earlier this month that it is closing all of its stores nationwide. According to the company's liquidator, sales start at up to 30 percent off, and will be adjusted as liquidation continue most likely through March.

Free seminar
The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation is sponsoring a free non-commercial seminar on investment education 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the William D. Faust Public Library in Westland. The seminar, part of the national Investor Education in Your Community program sponsored by the Investor Protection Trust (IPT) and the Investor Protection Institute, will include optional one-

on-one counseling sessions with seminar participants. It will be led by Mark Robinson and the securities staff from OFIR and the Insurance Regulation. Materials will be provided by the Securities Section of the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation and the Investor Protection Trust. Participants also will receive a copy of "5 Keys to Investing Success" from IPT and Kiplinger. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland. For more information, call the library of Westland at (734) 326-6123 or visit the library's Web site at westland.lib.mi.us.

After Hours
The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at the FiringLine Indoor Gun Range, 38427 Webb Drive off Hix north of Ford, Westland. Bring plenty of business card and be ready to make a few new leads. For more information or to RSVP, call (734) 326-7222.

Scrapbooking
Start off the new year by creating memories at a 12-hour scrapbooking workshop, hosted by Creative Memories consultant Chrissy Detary Saturday, Jan. 24, at Extended Stay America, 2000 Haggerty, Canton. The workshop is a perfect time to get caught up with your album-making and jump-start your new year with some great new page layouts. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., six-hour options are available. The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch and dinner. To register, contact Chrissy Detary at (734) 454-4321, by e-mail at cldetary@hotmail.com or online at www.mycsite.com/chrissydetary.

Semiannual sales
Stock up on your favorite lotions and potions at Bath & Body Works. The store at Westland Shopping Center, Warren Road at Wayne Road, is offering up to 75 percent off during its semiannual sale on selected items now through Jan. 25.

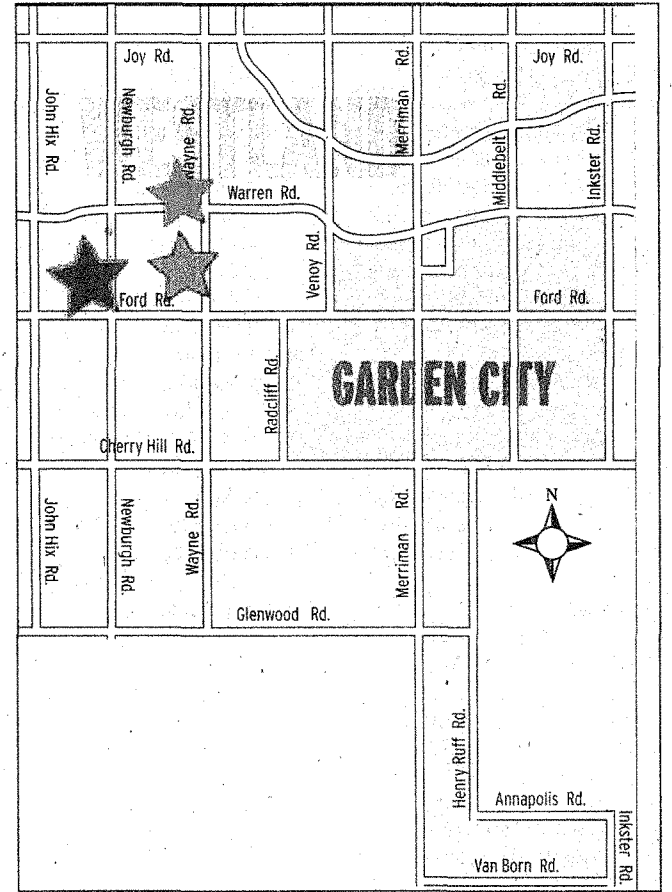
ONGOING

New Year's resolutions
The Vitamin Shoppe in Westland has

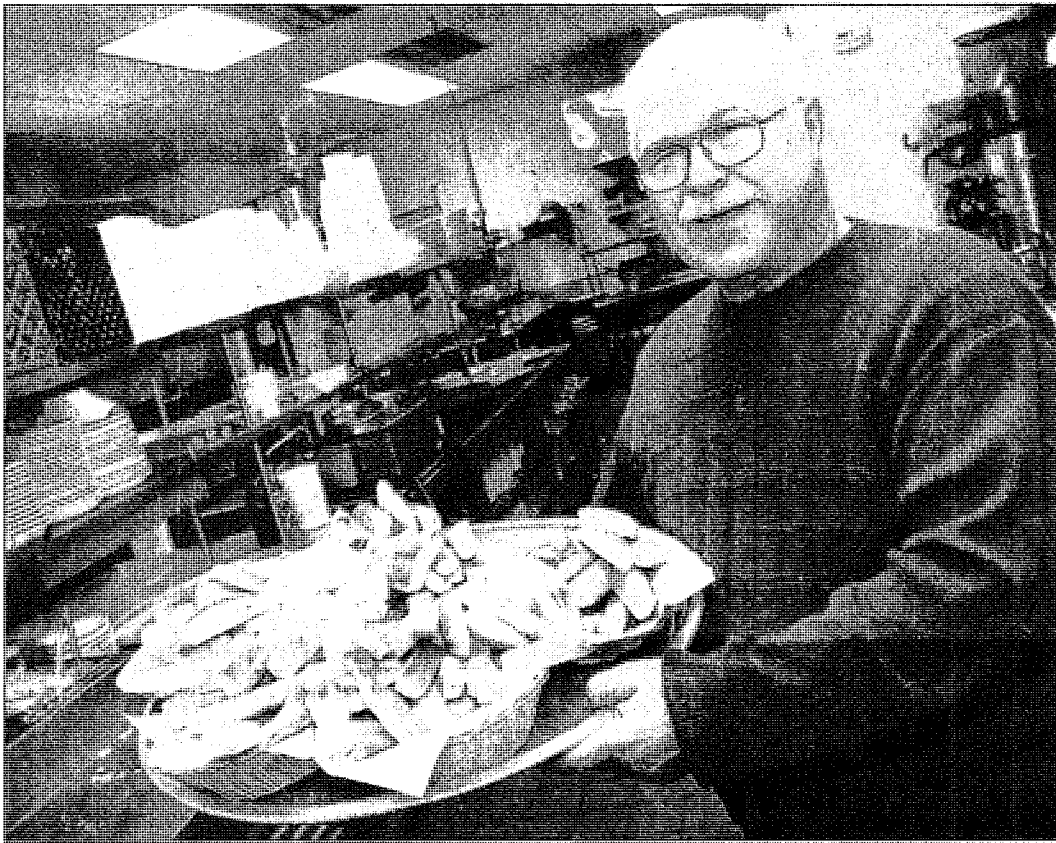
put together the top five resolutions for a healthier 2009: Lose weight by adding fruits and vegetables to your diet, improve your overall health by adding a vitamin D supplement, eat healthier by adding an omega-3 fish oil to your diet, work out and add protein to your diet to build up muscles, and stop cheating and substitute a cup of tea for your snack. Of course, you can get your diet needs at The Vitamin Shoppe at 35599 Warren Road, across from the Westland Shopping Center in Westland or online at www.vitaminshoppe.com or www.BodyTech.com.

Blues buster

Winter blues got you down? Materials Unlimited can help brighten your day. Materials Unlimited is holding a 30 percent off sale on its entire stock of lighting Jan. 17-24 at its store at 2 W. Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti. Materials Unlimited has the Midwest's largest collection of restored antique lighting, from Victorian to modern and everything in between. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call (734) 483-6980 or shop online at www.materialsunlimited.com.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Domenic Porco carries baskets filled with breadsticks meant for a Garden City Chamber of Commerce luncheon. His popular Amantea Restaurant on Warren Road east of Venoy in Garden City specializes in Italian and American food.

Italian to American food, Amantea has it

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of service and/or products you feature.

It's a family restaurant that specializes in Italian and American food. We offer a complete menu.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

We make 80-90 percent of all of our food fresh. House specialties include Antipasto Amantea, Lasagna Amantea, Fettuccine A La Fredo, New York Strip Steak, Filet Mignon, Amantea's Prime Rib of Beef and barbecued ribs. Friday's Fish Night, so join us for a plateful of English-style fish and chips. We also specialize in providing afternoon parties for groups of 25 to 250 people.

Observer: How did you decide to open your first business?

I have always been in some kind of small business since I was five years old. I would accompany my mother to the market. Before building Amantea in 1975, I worked at several restaurants and opened two Micos Pizzerias in Detroit.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Garden City community?

The land was available and the city promised me a liquor license.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?

Don't go into business unless you're willing to work day and night. It's an addiction, not a job.

AMANTEA RESTAURANT

Business name: Villa Amantea Restaurant

Address: 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.

Name and Title: Domenic Porco, owner/manager

Business Opened: May 6, 1975

Number of Employees: 11 full-time employees and part-time employees

Hours: 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and at 12:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday

Business phone and Web site: Call (734) 421-1510 or visit the Web site at www.amanteaa.com

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New appointments

Westland Mayor William R. Wild has appointed Daniel Bourdeau of Westland as the manager of Information Systems and Brian Harnos, also of Westland, as superintendent in the Department of Public Service.

Bourdeau, a former project manager for Comerica Bank, will oversee the City's computer and technology efforts, while Harnos has been appointed to serve as superintendent of construction and maintenance and motorpool.

Bourdeau, whose employment is effective Monday, Jan. 26, began his Internet Technology career 13 years ago at Oakwood Hospital before moving on to support the coordination and execution of projects at Compuware Corporation. Most recently, he served as project manager for Comerica Bank and as a member of its Project Management Institute. A member of the William P. Faust Public Library's Library Board, he resigned the post on Jan. 15.

Harnos, a graduate of Garden City High School and Schoolcraft College, has been an employee of the City

of Westland for more than 10 years where he also served as assistant manager at the Westland Municipal Golf Course. He will be responsible for managing the roads and equipment within the city as well as overseeing maintenance projects throughout the city. Harnos assumed his position in early January.

Scholarship contest

Kroger is celebrating Black History Month in February with three contests, awarding \$38,000 in scholarships, laptop computers and family field trips. Working with a general theme "I Am Making History," Kroger will conduct art, essay and poetry contests, with Jan. 31 the deadline for all submissions. WMMV-FM Smooth Jazz 99.7 is joining Kroger to promote this event.

The contests are open to students in grades 4-12 enrolled in schools located in Michigan. One entry will be accepted per student. Eighteen scholarships - first place \$2,000, second place \$1,000, third place \$500 - will be awarded to 11th- or 12th-grade students. Twenty-one laptop computers presented to students in the fourth 10th graders as well as 21 family trip

packs which will include four passes to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit and a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant.

Entries must address one of two themes: "How are you and/or your community making history?" or "What does Black History Month mean to me?" Art entries should include drawings, paintings, paper collages and/or photographs.

Artwork may be no larger than 24-by-36 inches and must be mounted on foam poster board or another rigid surface. Each entry must be accompanied by a 75-word essay explaining or describing the student's work and theme. Essays should be typed or printed clearly. Essays should be 500 words in length and typed on an 8 1/2-by-11-inch sheet of paper. Poems should be no longer than 30 lines, typed and submitted on an 8 1/2-by-11-inch sheet of paper. To enter the competition, students must fill out an application form and submit a signed permission slip, which are available at local Kroger stores. Entries should be sent to I Am Making History, c/o CBS Radio, 26495 American Dr., Southfield, MI 48034.



Chris Schechter, furniture manager at Macy's at Westland Shopping Center, helped with the Spectrum Human Services Inc. & Affiliated Companies 2008 Holiday Drive. Macy's was one of 19 companies that adopted clients for the drive. A record 750 children, teens and adults received gifts from donors, friends and supporters. Spectrum conducts the annual Holiday Drive to provide clients of the affiliated companies with food and/or gifts to make the holiday season brighter. Also "adopting" individual clients or families, conducting a book or clothing drive, or making cash contributions were Allie Brothers Uniforms of Livonia, American Community Mutual Insurance Company of Livonia), Books Connection of Livonia, Bref's Lawn Care of Redford, Mobility Transportation Services of Canton and QPS Printing of Wayne.



CHAMBER CHAT

GARDEN CITY CHAMBER

With a joint effort from our local representatives, a new member benefit will be available in 2009 for Garden City Chamber businesses. The chamber will sponsor a new program called Downtown for Breakfast.

The breakfast will be held quarterly at Plato's Place,

located in Garden City Square, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The format will be legislative discussions with Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, Sen. Glenn Anderson, State Rep. Bob Constan, Wayne County Commissioner Dianne Webb and Mayor Jim Plakas concerning current topics, the development of legislative

issues and local interests. The breakfasts will be held on Fridays, Feb. 6, May 1, Aug. 7 and Nov. 6, and are opening to the public.

We look forward to sharing the camaraderie between local business and legislative representation.

Amelia Oliverio
director

Cheer for the hometown, read today's SPORTS section



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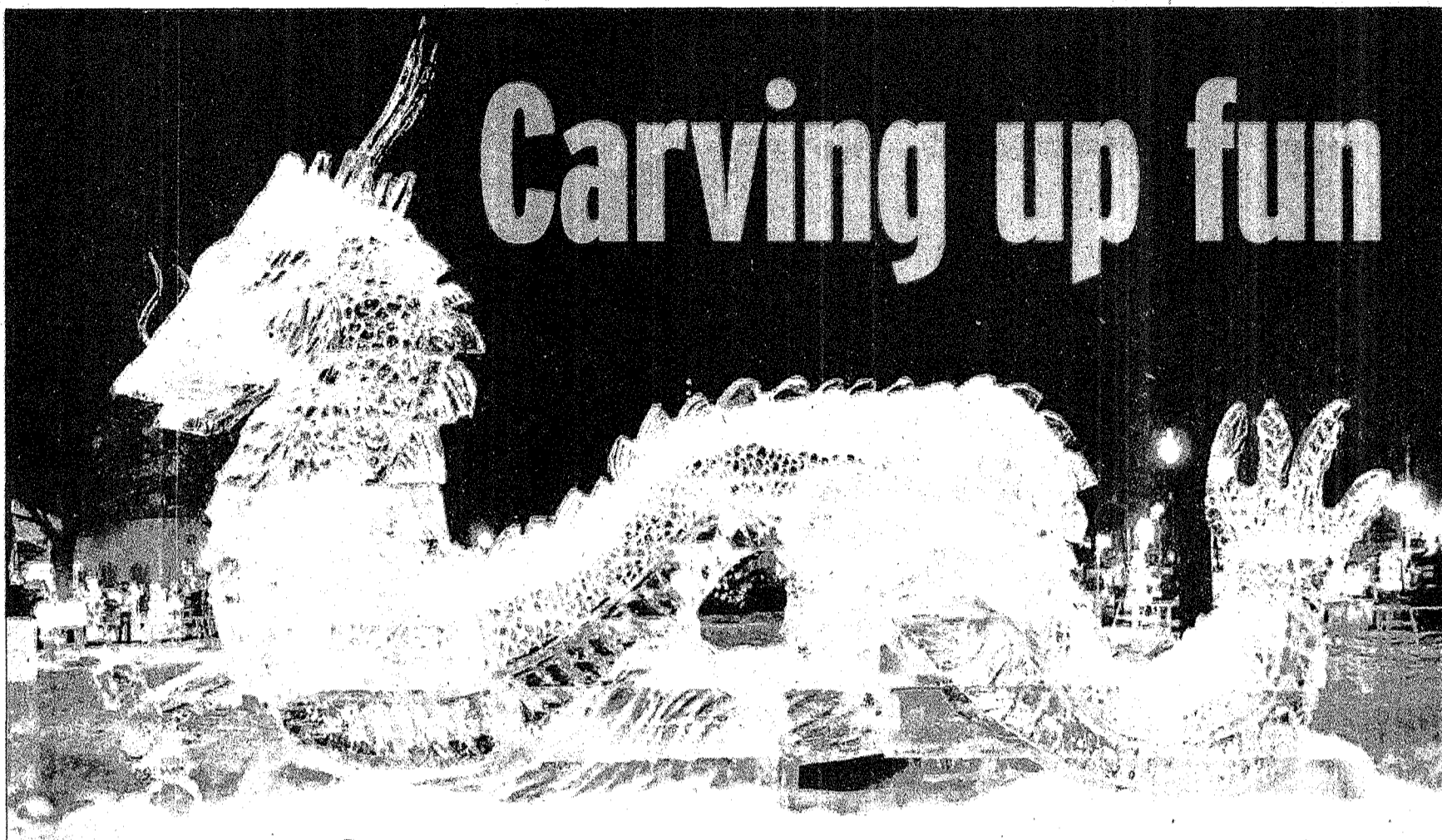
PAGE D6

ICE FESTIVAL

More coverage of the ice festival is inside



PAGE D4



Carving up fun

Sculptures like this award-winning dragon, are lit at night for a romantic effect.

2009 PLYMOUTH ICE SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR

Where: Kellogg Park and downtown Plymouth
When: Jan. 23-25

Friday, Jan. 23 - Official Opening

■ Pedestal sculptures displayed in Kellogg Park and at sponsoring businesses.

■ 3-7 p.m.: High School Individual Competition in Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.

■ Community College Ice Carving Clubs and Professional Carvers complete their displays.

Saturday, Jan. 24

■ 11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Grabber will distribute free samples of hand and foot warmers.

■ 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: AM 901 Radio Disney broadcasts from The Gathering in downtown Plymouth. Get autographs from Plymouth Whalers and photos with Shooter. Autograph

■ noon-4 p.m.: College Individual Competition in Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.

■ 11 a.m. until completion: Cut & Carve Chainsaw Artistry, Master Wood Carvers carve and sell their artwork.

Major Ice Carvings on display, including carvings by Japanese Team.

Sunday, Jan. 25

■ 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: College Team Competition in Kellogg Park, 3 blocks of ice, 4 hours to carve.

■ 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: High School Team Competition in Kellogg Park, 3 blocks of ice, 4 hours.

■ 11 a.m. until completion: Cut & Carve Chainsaw Artistry, Master Wood Carvers

■ noon-5 p.m.: Grabber will distribute free samples of their hand and foot warmers.

■ Major multi-block displays and individual competition works on display

Note: The process of building and carving major ice sculpture displays requires two to three days for each carving. Times are approximate and all events are subject to change.

Information: Call (734) 453 1540 or visit plymouthice.com



Royal Oak resident Tyler Colman, a student at Oakland County Community College, works on a carving during last year's college individual ice carving competition. The Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular runs January 23-25.

Sculptures are icing on cake during Plymouth's annual festival

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

The romance of ice sculpture is that it doesn't last. The art is beautiful and ephemeral, precious because it must be viewed before it melts away.

For the 27th year in a row, ice sculptors and enthusiasts will gather to celebrate this transient art form during the Plymouth International

Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Jan. 23-25. The event is free.

According to organizer Mike Watts, Plymouth was among the first cities to host such a winter celebration.

"We believe we're the oldest and longest continuously running ice sculpture festival in the entire United States. We have an international reputation," Watts said. "More importantly it brings in business to

the community during a slow time of year and an extremely slow time in the economy, so the business it generates will be a big help to the retailers, bars and restaurants."

Ice carvers from across the country and around the world have competed in past years, including teams from Russia, Norway and Sweden. This year, the award-win-

Please see **ICE, D7**

Circus-themed family event a 'hoot'

Well, I've finally returned to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers after taking a 12-week maternity leave.

Being back at work also means practice with the Mydols has resumed. Since we're an all-mom band, it was no problem going on hiatus so that I could bond with my new baby daughter Violet. But now it's time to buckle down, and since we have a new lead singer and drummer, we have quite a bit of work to do.

Our next gig is the Circus Family Hootenanny 2:30-5 p.m. this Sunday at the Magic Stick. Our new lead singer, April Boyle, has been staging Family Hootenannies since 2001. The events bring local musicians together to play kid-friendly music at hip venues throughout metro Detroit. April

told me she was inspired to start the Hootenannies after attending a similar event in Chicago.

She's married to musician Brian Boyle, a founding member of the popular alt-country band Blanche, and has always been deeply involved in the music scene, so she was horrified upon becoming a mom to find that Barney, Disney and Kindermusic were taking over her stereo.

She decided to do something about it. "I wanted my kids to be exposed to real music, something fun and cool that I could enjoy too," she said.

So, twice a year April stages Hootenannies and she has even put out two amazing compilation CDs featuring local bands - the Detroit Family Hootenanny in 2006; and Christmas Hootenanny in 2007.

At the upcoming Circus-themed Hootenanny, the Mydols will be joined by Almond Joy from Candy Band and Mr. Seley. In addition to the music, a major highlight will be Hoopin' for the Hood, a band of local hula hoop enthu-

siasts who make and distribute hoops to at-risk kids, and promote hooping as a form of fun and physical fitness.

We're playing a new song, "Hula Twist," in their honor. I'm looking forward attending the Hootenanny with my 3-year-old Verick, along with Violet in her Baby Bjorn, and I hope lots of other families show up. Popcorn, face painting, balloon animals, circus performers and a DIY craft show will add to the fun.

It will be the first gig for our new drummer Laura Sperr, a Madison Heights mother of six who started playing drums after she got hooked on the Rock Band video game.

Of course, since we're a mom band, we're most concerned with what we're going to wear. So far plans include circus-themed costumes like a trapeze artist, ringmaster, snake charmer and lion tamer.

The Mydols might not be 'the greatest' show on earth, but we sure have a great time.



Wendy Von Buskirk

HAPPENINGS

COMEDIAN HAMILTON COMES TO CANTON

Laughs are coming to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill as comedian Ryan Hamilton takes the stage 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23.

Known for his clean brand of comedy, Hamilton continues to receive national attention

for his quick wit and was recently featured on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*. In 2003, Hamilton was a semi-finalist in the Seattle International

Comedy Competition and a finalist at Las Vegas Comedy Festival's *Laugh Across America Contest*.

In 2005, Hamilton won America's Next Great Comic Search, which included a national tour. Hamilton made his Comedy Central debut on *Live at Gotham* in 2007.

The evening also includes a performance by Comedian Steve Macone (content may contain adult material.) For tickets, \$15, call (734) 394-5460, visit www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater or purchase at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton.



Hamilton



Horlock

LOCAL ROCKERS RELEASE CDS AT MAGIC BAG

Two of metro Detroit's top rock artists — Brandon Calhoon and Robin Horlock — celebrate the release of their new discs with a joint CD release party Friday, Jan. 23 at The Magic Bag in Ferndale. Doors are at 8 p.m., tickets are \$8 and ages 18 and over are welcome. Ann Arbor roots rock quartet Dirt Road Logic open the show.

Brandon Calhoon, of Berkley, has been a contender on CBS' hit reality TV show *Rock Star INXS* with his gritty neo-Motown rock 'n' roll style. His debut CD *Detroit City* was released on Blunk Street Music.

Robin Horlock, of Northville, is hot off an 89x-sponsored New Year's Eve performance with Blind Melon. He is celebrating the release of his second full-length CD *Music* (Risk 2 Try Records), an eleven-song disc is an engaging mix of rock, pop, folk/acoustic and reggae.

The Magic Bag is located at 22920 Woodward Ave. For more information, call (248) 544-3030 or visit www.themagicbag.com.

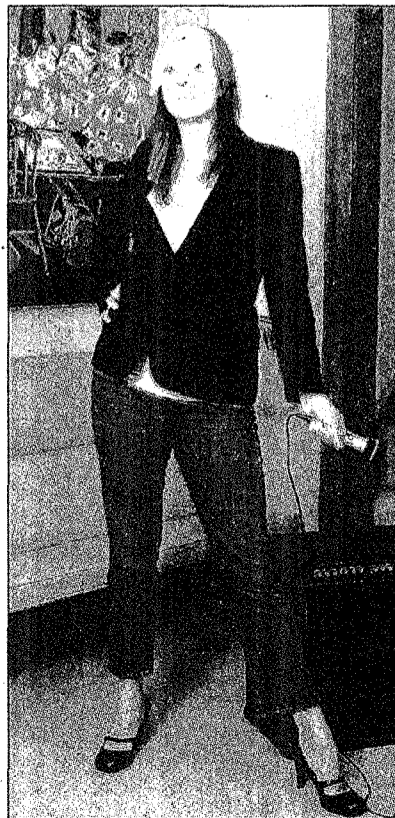
LIVONIA SYMPHONY SPOTLIGHTS DSO BASSOONIST

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents a Viennese Classics Celebration 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

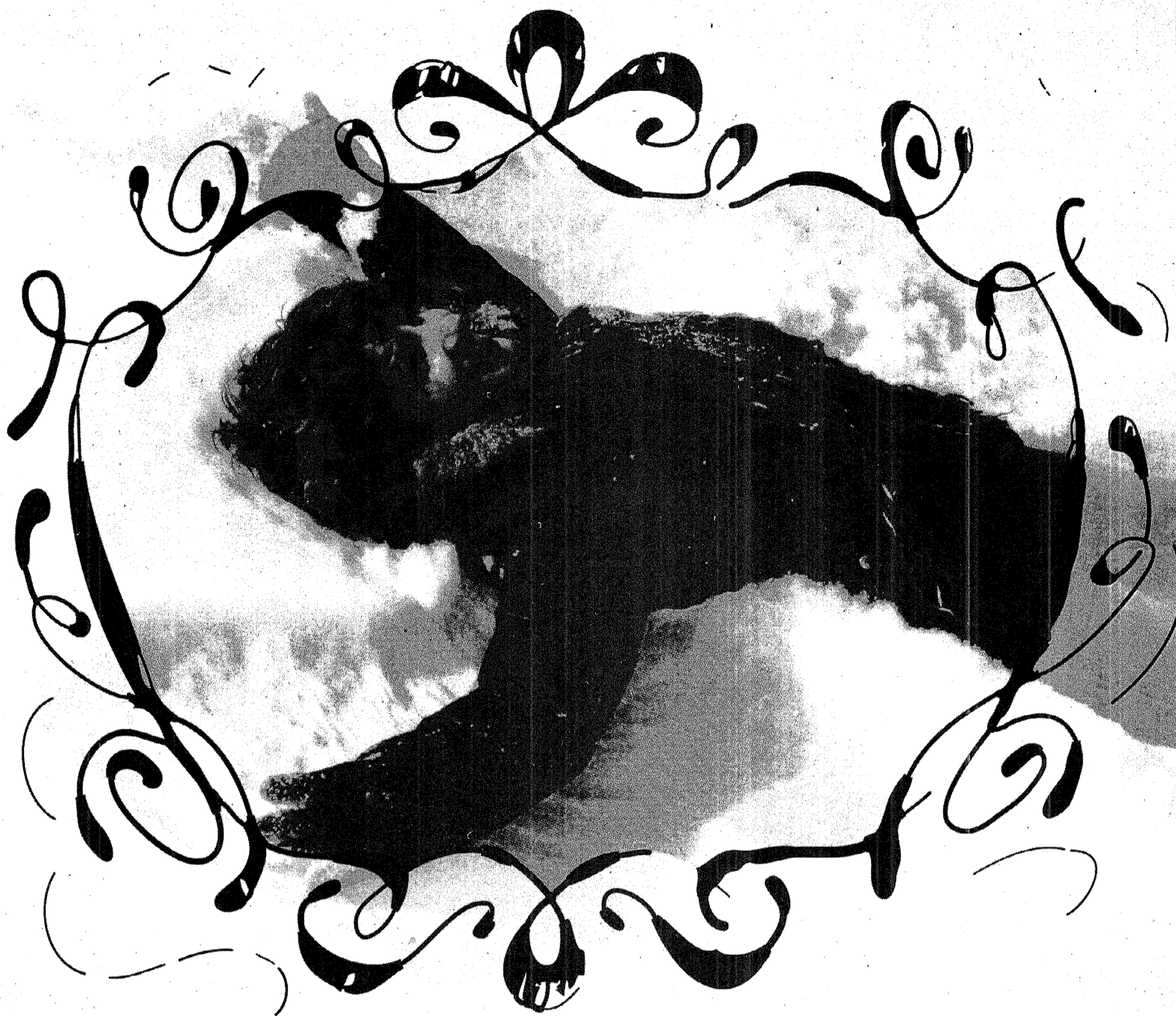
Guest artist is Robert Williams, principal bassoonist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He performs Karl Maria von Weber's Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra.

Tickets are \$17, \$5 students, and available by calling the hotline at (734) 421-1111. For group discounts of 10 or more (\$12

Please see **HAPPENINGS, D3**



Boyle



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This ice sculpture of a Native American is surrounded by horses and is an example of a multiple-block display.

Ice carving is culinary arts specialty

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

The majority of ice carvers come to the unusual craft through the culinary arts.

About 80 percent of carvers participating in the 2009 Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular are chefs or culinary students, according to event organizer Mike Watts.

"Many of the ice carvers are chefs or have been chefs, including our team from Japan, but we also have art students and others," Watt said. "This year the University of Michigan is bringing a team of 12 carvers and they do not have a culinary program. We have been working with the students there, and they just love doing it."

Students who participate, including a team from Romulus High School, get real world experience carving displays throughout the weekend and competing in individual and team carving competitions.

The school to beat this year is Oakland Community College. Their ice carving team has won several competitions, including first place in the U.S. at last year's National Ice Carving Association competition in Frankenmuth.

Doug Gahns, a 15-year chef instructor at OCC-Orchard Ridge, will coach a team of eight students as they use chainsaws, high-speed die grinders and chisels to carve a 35-block display in downtown Plymouth.

"We are doing a springtime theme with butterflies, birds, dragonflies, lots of flowers," said Gahns, of Grosse Pointe. "It's so cold out and everyone's looking forward to spring right now, it just seemed like a good thing to do. Hopefully it will warm some hearts."

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Friday, Jan. 23 - Official Opening

- 3-7 p.m.: High School Individual Competition in Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.
- Community College Ice Carving Clubs and Professional Carvers complete their non-competitive displays.

Saturday, Jan. 24:

- Noon-4 p.m.: College Individual Competition in Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.

Sunday, Jan. 25:

- 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: College Team Competition in Kellogg Park, 3 blocks of ice, 4 hours to carve. Participating Schools: Henry Ford, Macomb, Oakland, Schoolcraft and Washtenaw community colleges; University of Michigan; Eastern Michigan University; Romulus High School and Oakland Tech-Southwest Campus.

According to Gahns, ice carving is an elective at OCC that only a small percentage of culinary students choose to take.

Even fewer continue to pursue the sub-specialty professionally. Those who do go on to create ice sculptures for banquets, weddings and parties that start at around \$250 and go into the thousands.

For a corporate party, Gahns once sculpted a life-size knight on a horse, as well as individual castles as centerpieces for each table. Together they cost more than \$5,000, and didn't last beyond the night.

Gahns said his team is looking forward to the college competitions this weekend.

"We like to win here. We're very competitive — in a nice way," he said.

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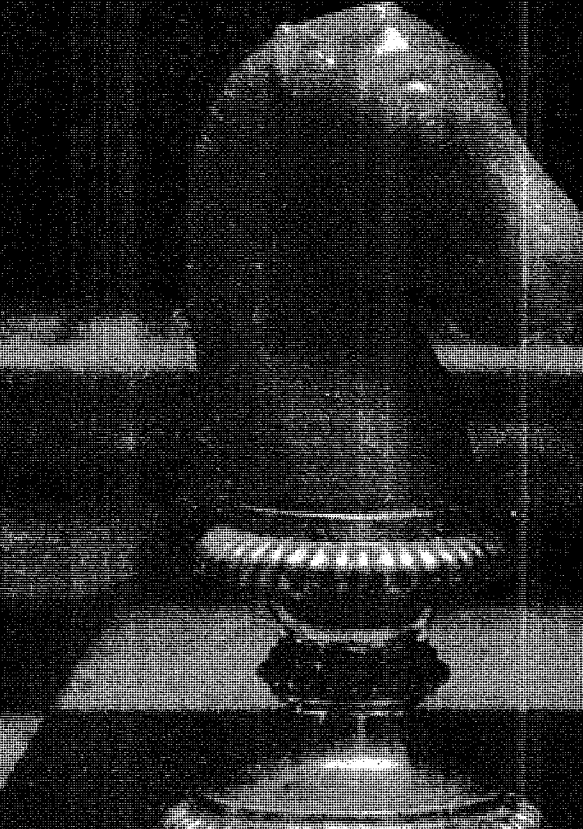
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This exhibition has been generously supported by Dr. George and Vivian Dean. Additional support has been provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.

Karl Gustav Hjalmar Arnfelt; Faberge Manufactory, Faberge Chess Set and Board (detail), ca. 1905; Kalkan paper, aventurin quartz, and silver pieces, board of silver-mounted Siberian jade and serpentine. Collection of Dr. George and Vivian Dean. Photo: Richard Beinen

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Crowds bundled up to see the sculptures last year in downtown Plymouth.

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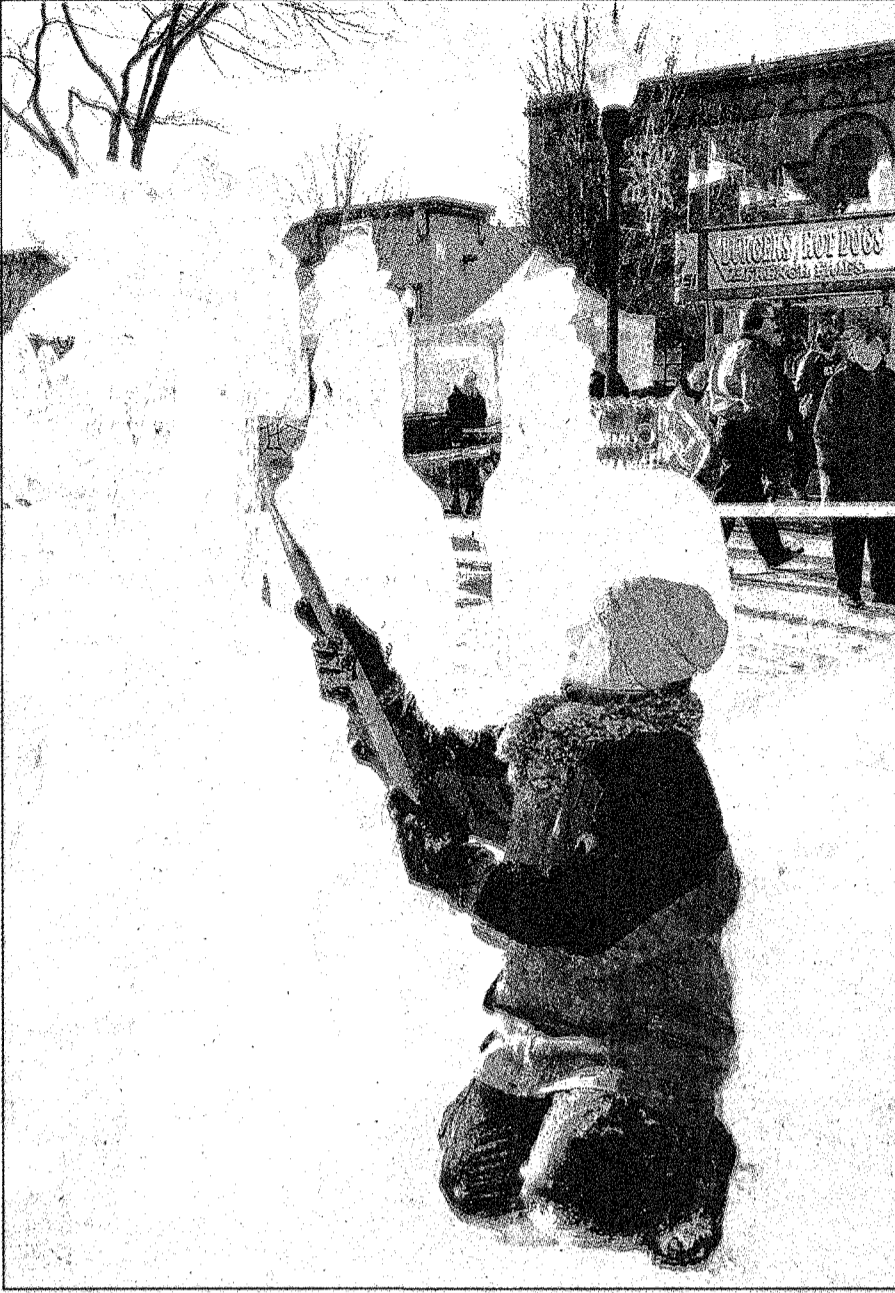
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Tajana Raukar works on a large sculpture of horses at the northwest corner of Kellogg Park during the 2008 festival. Her company, Ice Dreams, is located in Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ICE

FROM PAGE D1

ning Japanese team will return to create masterpieces on site. They have been known to use up to 90 blocks of ice in their sculptures.

"The Japanese carvers tend to be more of the traditional style. They tend to finish their ice carvings with really sharp chisels that create facets in the ice like a diamond," Watts said. "Americans use more power tools. It's faster, easier and quicker and you know Americans are always in a hurry."

Carving teams from local colleges and high schools also will vie for awards.

Competitions and demonstrations take place each day of the festival, allowing visitors to see the works of art take shape.

But the sculptures — numbering more than 100 — will also be on display throughout the night, cast in the warm glow of lights.

Watts said forecasted temperatures are perfect for the festival — cold enough to ensure that the ice sculptures will endure the weekend, yet not too chilling as to discourage crowds.

Spectators can stay warm by stuffing free Grabber hand and feet warmers into their mittens and socks, as well as taking refuge inside local shops and eateries.

And for the first time this year, a Soup Kitchen will be set up on Sunday to raise money for future festivals, with hot soups provided by Plymouth restaurant E.G. Nick's.

"The Ice Spectacular will be serving it, with

proceeds going to the nonprofit to help keep the event alive going into next year," Watts said.

The festival kicks off on Friday, with the placement of carvings in Kellogg Park and around downtown at sponsoring merchants, and the opening of the "Grand Sponsor Displays" on Main Street. Carving competitions commence at 3 p.m. with the High School Individuals competitions. That evening the sculptures will be lighted for the first time.

On Saturday, between 11:30-1:30 Radio Disney will host a Sing-Along and give out prizes, and Plymouth Whalers will sign autographs.

On both Saturday and Sunday, a master woodcarving group will create and sell their wares, and St. Joseph Mercy Health System will offer free health information to visitors.

College and high school team and individual competitions take place all weekend, and include Henry Ford, Macomb, Oakland, Schoolcraft and Washtenaw community colleges; University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Romulus High School and Oakland Tech-Southwest Campus.

And throughout, hundreds of thousands of pounds of ice, delivered in mammoth 330-pound blocks, will take shape under the craftsmanship of professional and amateur carvers:

"We have many people who watch the carving, go shop and get something to eat, then come back and see how it's progressed," Watts said. "It's one of the only art forms where you see something created right in front of you."

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Canton's Ted Wakar carves during the 2008 festival.

Warm up and fill up at local eateries

If your weekend itinerary includes the 27th annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular, you'll likely want to map your route to warmth. Take refuge and refuel at any of these Plymouth eateries:

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 Bennigan's, 40441 E. Ann Arbor Road, (734) 459-8907
 Box Bar, 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 459-5350
 Cellar 849 Winery, 849 Penniman, (734) 254-0275
 Compari's on the Park, 350 S. Main St., (734) 416-0100
 Doyle's Tavern, 860 Fralick Ave., (734) 207-9656
 E.G. Nicks, 500 Forest Ave., (734) 414-6400
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For the first time this year, the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular will serve up hot soup on Sunday, Jan. 25, to raise money to keep the festival alive. The vegetarian vegetable soup will be prepared by the Plymouth restaurant E.G. Nick's, and sold for \$4 a bowl with proceeds benefiting the festival. The Soup Kitchen will open at noon on Main Street in front of the Santa House in Kellogg Park, and soup will be sold while supplies last.

Subway Sandwiches & Salads, 930 W. Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 454-6622
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 The Plymouth Crossing, 340 N. Main St., (734) 455-3700
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List courtesy of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, www.plymouthmich.org.

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