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THURSDAY  
January 29, 2009

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Library brings storytime to preschoolers

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most youngsters go to the library for storytime, but for 4-year-olds at the Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, the library came to them for a morning filled with monsters and a blowhard wolf.

"We asked and they came out and have been coming ever since, and I've been here eight years," said preschool teacher Darlene Taig. "It kicks off our We Love Books Week."

Bernadette Dewyer, children's associate at the William P. Faust Public Library, had plenty of volunteers to provide the "action" for the *Three Little Pigs*, and an enthusiastic crowd of snowflake catchers as she dropped thin scarves on their heads.

"Don't they feel like a snowflake?" she asked before having them turn the "flakes" into snowballs for throwing.

Wearing a bathrobe and covered with a blanket, she pondered what the bumps were at the "foot of her bed," a query that had the youngsters telling her they were her feet.

"They're very curious at this age," said Taig. "Four-year-olds like to help, they don't miss a thing."

The youngsters scooted in close to see what Dewyer had to show them and even tried on monster puppets that she kept in a basket. They huffed and puffed like the Big Bad Wolf and got good and sticky creating their own monsters for the foot of their beds with eyes and



Willow Creek preschoolers Delaney Vesperman and Nikolas Tuttle of Westland take their turn building a monster with Bernadette Dewyer, a children's associate at the William P. Faust Public Library.

hair and feather legs. "Don't I have a well-behaved class?" said Taig. "They're so excited."

Dewyer actually visited the school three times, doing story hours for the preschool's young

3s in December and 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs this week.

"We try to introduce them to early literacy concepts," Dewyer said. "I bring activities that will interest them,

something they might not have chance to do otherwise."

In addition to Dewyer's visits, youngsters also crafted hearts that will be on display

Please see **LIBRARY, A7**

## W-W union, district eye settlement

A Muskegon-based school group is claiming victory in obtaining copies of e-mails sent by the president of the Westland Education Association to members. See story on **Page A3**.

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The contract dispute involving the Wayne-Westland school board and the Wayne-Westland Education Association could come to a close by next week, if both sides ratify an agreement hammered during fact-finding.

In an e-mail sent late last week, the Michigan Employment Relations Commission announced that "as the result of intense negotiations, the parties have arrived at a proposal that will be voted on shortly by the Wayne-Westland Board of Education and members of the Wayne-Westland Education Association. If ratified, it will settle the current contract dispute."

Because of a gag order imposed by an administrative law judge in October at the start of expedited fact-finding, the two sides declined to comment on the proposed settlement agreement. According to the MERC statement, "more information will be available once the proposal has been ratified by the parties."

"We are still covered under the interim agreement and no information will be available until after the (school) board ratifies," noted Evelyn Baran, Michigan Education Association UniServe director for the WWEA.

Likewise, Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy would only say that

the proposed settlement agreement "must be ratified by both sides."

"Once it's ratified by both sides, the contract will come into effect," he said.

The *Observer* has learned that union members were told about the proposed settlement agreement at a meeting Monday evening and that a ratification vote will take place later this week.

Baracy said a special school board meeting will be called for early next week for the school board to vote, if union members approve the agreement.

Approval of the proposed agreement would bring to an end a contentious negotiating process that saw schools closed for four days in October while teachers walked the picket line. The strike was the first one outside of the city of Detroit since 1994.

The illegal strike prompted the school board to vote to draw up procedures for disciplining the striking teachers, a move that angered parents sympathetic to the union's call for smaller class sizes. As a result, a recall effort, led by Wayne resident Shawn Maxwell, was launched against two board members, Martha Pitsenbarger and Skip Monit.

The district also has had to adjust the school calendar to make up the four days lost because of the strike. The mid-winter recess in February, normally one-week long, has been shortened to two days, Feb. 16-17, and two half days at the end of the school year have been changed to full days of school.

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## Trial start delayed in Laci Green case

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A murder trial has been delayed for the former boyfriend of Westland nursing student Laci Green, who was found strangled to death last May 7 in a grassy field near her parents' home on the city's southwest side.

Robert James-the-First Howard, 25, of Dearborn Heights was supposed to stand trial Monday in Wayne County Circuit Court for first-degree murder, but defense attorney Bertram Johnson indicated he plans to file new motions that are expected to be argued on

March 13.

During a telephone interview Monday, Johnson hinted that he may file motions asking that a charge of premeditated first-degree murder be dismissed and that attempts by prosecutors to introduce any new evidence be declared irrelevant and prejudicial.

Moreover, Johnson didn't indicate that the delay in Howard's trial could be a move to buy more time to arrange a potential plea agreement with prosecutors.

"At this point, right now I would think that it will go to trial because of the nature of the (circumstantial) evi-

dence," he said.

The latest developments mean that Edward and Barbara Green will have to wait even longer to find out whether their 22-year-old daughter's accused killer will be convicted or acquitted.

Late last year, Edward Green said he and his wife have had difficulty accepting the death of a daughter who "was the joy of our life," and he said they were glad that a trial date then had been set for January.

"It's still hard to talk about it," Edward Green said. "It's the most devastating thing for a parent."

Laci Green's parents earlier

testified during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court that they encountered Howard outside their Dunn Court home just a few hours before their daughter was found dead around 6 a.m. last May 7.

Westland police have testified that they believe Howard took a late-night taxicab to meet and talk with Laci Green outside her home. Police Sgt. Steve Borisch said in court last summer that he believed Howard was angry that Laci Green had broken up with him and was seeing another man.

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## Man receives 2 to 15 years in prison for beating pregnant girlfriend

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne man will spend two to 15 years in prison for beating and kicking his pregnant girlfriend in a Westland apartment and causing her to lose their baby.

Daniel Reed Jarrett II, upset after learning that 19-year-old Tara Murphy hadn't

ended her pregnancy, was accused of throwing her to the floor inside a Woodland Villa apartment, punching her, choking her and kicking her as she yelled for him to stop.

Murphy was six months pregnant at the time.

Jarrett, 24, was sentenced to prison last Friday in Wayne County Circuit

Court after he admitted his involvement in an incident that happened Jan. 3, 2008, at the apartment of Jarrett's longtime friend, Raymond Mongo.

Jarrett's sentence by Judge Amy Hathaway came after he pleaded guilty to assaulting a pregnant woman and causing a miscarriage/stillbirth, Assistant Wayne County

Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

Jarrett could have faced penalties ranging up to life in prison. He and Murphy met while attending the same Christian university in Texas.

Erica Hunt, a friend of Murphy's, testified during a preliminary hearing early last year that Murphy had phoned Jarrett from Mongo's

apartment, near Warren and Central City Parkway, to tell him that she hadn't aborted the baby.

Jarrett came to the apartment, where a heated dispute erupted in violence when he attacked her, Hunt said.

"He had his hand on her neck holding her down to the floor," Hunt testified, adding that Mongo pulled Jarrett off

Murphy.

Hunt also testified that Jarrett "was kicking at Tara on her side."

Mongo, however, had testified that he didn't see Jarrett hit or threaten Murphy. He said he pulled Jarrett away from Murphy to keep the situation from escalating.

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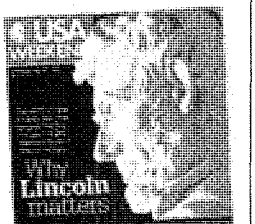
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Coming Sunday:  
Why Lincoln still matters



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# MEA: 'No story' in release of union e-mails by EAG

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Muskegon-based education watchdog group is claiming a victory in defense of the state's Freedom of Information Act after securing copies of e-mails sent and received by the president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association, using a taxpayer-funded e-mail account.

The Michigan Education Association, the WWEA's parent group, however, contends that the Education Action Group Vice President Kyle Olson is just "trying to insert himself into a situation that, as a Muskegon resident, doesn't affect him."

It took two attempts under the Freedom of Information Act for Olson to obtain the e-mails from the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. The first attempt was blocked when the MEA obtained a temporary injunction until the merits of the request could be heard in court. Lacking funds, EAG dropped the request, but submitted a second one, addressing the objections the union attorneys had stated in court.

"Throughout contract negotiations with the school board, and during its illegal four-day strike last October, the teachers union maintained that it was battling over several fundamental issues, including staff health insurance coverage and class sizes," Olson said. "The e-mails strongly suggest that maintaining health coverage through MESSA, an expensive insurance carrier owned and operated by the MEA itself, was far-and-away the union's highest priority, just like it is in many other districts throughout the state currently dealing with labor unrest."

### 'TALKING POINT'

He added that the e-mails also suggested that class size may have been little more than a "talking point, or wedge issue," to gain the sympathy of parents and get the school board to budge on health insurance.

"Throughout the e-mails to and from union President Nancy Strachan, the continuation of MESSA insurance coverage is a frequent theme," he said. "That should be of particular interest to taxpayers, because cash-strapped school boards throughout Michigan, including the Wayne-Westland board, have been looking for ways to dump MESSA and replace it with less expensive insurance coverage."

The MEA spokeswoman, Rosemary Carey, said "the e-mails simply reflect the president's daily e-mails to members regarding bargaining, insurance and class size."

"Kyle Olson insists that the issue of class size was not a real issue for the WWEA, but simply a ploy to get public support, yet, the bargaining note proves that class size was a major issue of discussion at every session," Carey said. "Olson keeps asking for information to prove his biased claims. However, all of the documentation is proving his claims to be nothing more than Olson's one-man show with a biased political agenda against

MEA and MESSA."

According to Olson, one e-mail, urging Wayne-Westland teachers to contribute to the MEA's political action committee, says potential donors should consider everything the union does for them, specifically noting salary, medical coverage, worker's compensation, length of the school year, and fighting privatization efforts.

"There was no mention of battling for smaller class sizes or improved student achievement," he said, adding that class size is mentioned a few times in the e-mails, "but with less vigor or determination."

### 'LITTLE USE FOR TRUTH'

Carey countered that Olson isn't interested in the information that compares the cost of the district's health insurance plan with the savings MESSA would bring. He also has little interest in the amount of money the district has spent on items that do not improve education like new buildings and Astroturf.

"But then that data would prove his claims to be false," she said. "He has little use for the truth."

EAG has posted most of the documents, minus duplications

and insignificant material, on its Web site at www.educationactiongroup.org "for the residents of the Wayne-Westland district, and other interested parties, to read."

The EAG's release of the e-mails comes at a time when the school district and the WWEA have reached a proposed settlement agreement. Union members are expected to vote on it this week, with the school board to meet in special session next week. The two sides have not commented on the agreement because of a gag order issued by an administrative law judge at the start of expedited fact-finding.

Carey finds it ironic that Olson FOIA'd the Wayne-Westland president's e-mails in the spirit of full disclosure, but refuses to disclose where his funding comes from.

"EAG has no credibility," she said. "It is a Republican front group. There is no story here, he is just looking to have his name in the news. He didn't find what he was looking for so now he's trying to fabricate news about bargaining. He's on a one-man campaign against MESSA and MEA."

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# Man charged with assault after domestic dispute turns violent

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man could face trial for attempted murder following accusations he stabbed another man while intervening in a domestic dispute Saturday night on a residential street near Wayne and Cowan.

Leon Anthony Anderson, 26, was among four people who went to a house on Sandwood after a woman in her early 20s called for help when her boyfriend refused to leave during an argument, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

Anderson, two other men and the woman's sister had gone to Sandwood to intervene, but Harhold said the dispute only escalated and

ended with the boyfriend being stabbed multiple times. The incident happened around 8:15 p.m.

According to initial reports, the woman's boyfriend eventually decided to leave the house and was followed outside by Anderson while everyone else stayed inside, Harhold said.

"They heard the victim yell from outside" as he shouted the words "you stabbed me," Harhold said.

The boyfriend apparently had to undergo surgery and was listed in stable condition in a local hospital, the detective said Monday.

The incident resulted in Anderson being arraigned Monday by 18th District Judge Mark McConnell on charges of assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do

great bodily harm and felonious assault.

According to a court clerk, Anderson was jailed with a \$250,000 cash bond, and a not-guilty plea was entered for him. McConnell ordered him back in court for a Feb. 5 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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

Prior to Saturday's incident, the victim and the defendant had no known encounters, according to a preliminary investigation.

"To my knowledge, there's no history between them," Harhold said.

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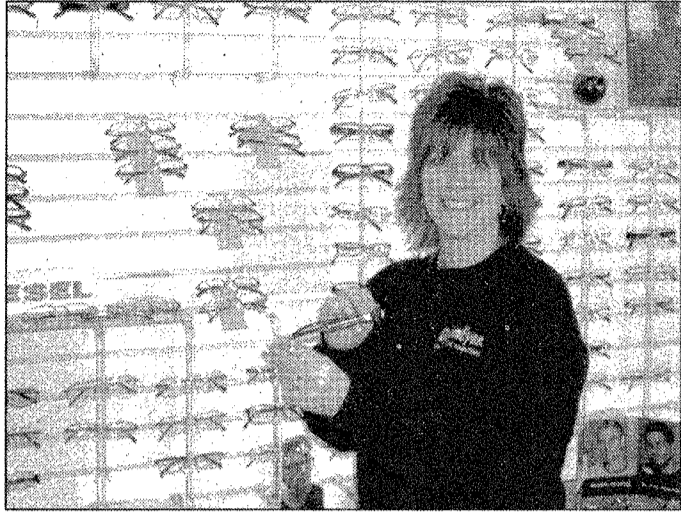
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# Today's Health

The road to a new you



## The latest trends in eyewear fashion

BY AMY SKIMIN  
SPECIAL WRITER

If you're ready to try a new look for the new year, don't forget about your eyes. A new pair of glasses can offer you a quick style upgrade while improving your vision.

This year, rectangular frames are big, with designs around the temples for women and a heavier, European look for men, according to Lisa Dubuis of Henry Ford OptimEyes in South Lyon (pictured above).

A popular new line of frames for men is the Randy Jackson collection, designed by the "American Idol" judge for which it was named.

"That's the latest one that we just got in," Dubuis said.

The list of popular women's brands reads like an inventory of designer handbags, with names like Juicy Couture, Valentino, Bebe, BCBG and Kate Spade.

Dubuis expects the big styles now will stay popular for a while — "at least a couple of years," she said.

Of course, it's also important to take into account what will look good with your

facial shape. Dubuis said a good rule of thumb is to look at frames opposite the shape of your face. A person with a round face, for example, would best be able to pull off rectangular frames.

Also remember to take skin tone and facial size into account when selecting new glasses. You don't want to pick a frame in a color that will wash you out or in a size that will look too big or too small.

If you can't figure out what looks best on you, just ask. Dubuis and other employees are there to help.

While you're thinking about new glasses, don't forget to protect your eyes from the sun with a new pair of sunglasses. As well as looking stylish, sunglasses also shield eyes from harmful UV rays.

Exposure to UV rays from sunlight has been associated with the development of cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

This year, bigger is definitely better when it comes to stylish frames, especially for women. Expect to see a lot of over-sized, plastic frames both in stores and out on the street.

## Revolutionary heart care

### New equipment treats heart attacks below patient reaches hospital doors

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER  
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, are the nation's No. 1 killer, according to the American Heart Association.

Annually, more than 500,000 patients are admitted to emergency rooms suffering from heart attacks nationwide.

When the time comes for immediate treatment, Garden City Hospital's Emergency Services staff is standing by, trained in effective treatment methods that can save your life.

Current procedures involves opening up a blocked coronary artery with a balloon-tipped catheter and should be performed in 90 minutes. Today, only 32 percent of patients are treated effectively within that timeframe, the American Heart Association reports.

Garden City Hospital's emergency department acknowledged this reality and purchased a new telehealth system, CAREpoint EMS Workstation with Rosetta™ Lt 12-Lead ECG capability — high-end equipment to expedite the diagnosis and treatment of heart attacks before a patient even reaches the hospital doors. The hospital will introduce this equipment to its patients Feb. 2.

"This technology will allow us to bridge the gap from when

a patient is in the ambulance to when they enter the emergency department," said Barb Coldren, Emergency Services Director. "The pre-hospital 12-Lead ECG data sent from EMS will help the physicians within the emergency department determine the best treatment path for the patient while en route to the hospital, therefore decreasing door-to-balloon time, and ultimately mortality."

When EMS responds to an individual experiencing chest pain, they will now have the Rosetta 12-Lead ECG to transmit patient information instantly to the CAREpoint EMS workstation housed in Garden City Hospital's emergency department. While in the ambulance, patients will be hooked up with ECG leads and live, streaming ECG transmissions will be sent directly to the hospital. This

will allow physicians to confirm a heart attack diagnosis and ready the cath lab prior to the patient arriving.

"We believe that this system will change the way patients view emergency care," Coldren said. "Patients are used to receiving care when they enter the emergency room. This technology will allow emergency physicians to begin caring for them, before they even meet."

Make it a point to maintain a healthy heart, with smart nutrition choices, good fitness habits and regular medical check-ups this year and the next.

If you're in need of treatment and don't know where to begin, Garden City Hospital offers a range of non-invasive and invasive procedures, where expert staff is on-hand to assess your needs and provide you the utmost in special-

ized care.

The hospital features a state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization Lab for invasive procedures, including placement of pacemakers, implantable loop recorders (ILR) and implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICD) and cardioversion.

Non-invasive tests — including electrocardiogram (ECG), a variety of stress testing options, echocardiogram, transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) and tilt table test — are performed every day on patients from across Metro Detroit.

Health education is just as important as seeking treatment for those with heart needs. The American Heart Association recently reported that heart failure patients who participated in exercise training quickly improved their quality of life.

## Community Assistance Pricing 'caps' emergency medical costs during hard times

Today, healthcare is more expensive than ever, making it more difficult to stay healthy.

But don't sacrifice your well-being because you're worried about the bills — check out the Community Assistance Pricing program at Garden City Hospital's emergency department, so you don't have to choose between your family's health and your budget.

If you pay the same day you're treated, Garden City Hospital will "cap" your

emergency department charge at \$300 — no matter what emergency services you receive or tests and procedures you have.

The result is hundreds of dollars in savings on each emergency visit.

During tough economic times, many people decide to put off procedures because they can't afford them, hurting the health of our economy.

Delaying a medical exam or screening could be dangerous — it could even cost you

your life.

Garden City Hospital invented the CAP program so you don't have to choose between your health and other necessities.

You may qualify to save 40-80 percent on many medical services and procedures.

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- Pay in advance of your appointment, or
- Pay at the time services are provided

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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.

## Update your smile

BY MIKE HOGAN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Most New Years resolutions have something to do with looking or feeling better, but it can be hard to know where to start.

Local dentists think good health starts with the mouth.

Visiting your dentist can have a great impact on both your health and your appearance.

Looking to improve your smile? Teeth whitening is now so commonplace that whitening kits of all prices and varieties can be found local supermarkets.

But for a more professional look, cosmetic dentists offer more effective ways to brighten smiles.

Dr. John Halmaghi in Southfield is fully certified in whitening techniques, like BriteSmile.

"It can last up to two years, assuming (the patient) takes care of their teeth," Halmaghi said.

Halmaghi applies a painless, light-sensitive gel to the teeth. He then uses a special BriteSmile light to activate the gel. The whole process takes just over an hour. A patient can even have the process completed on the same day as a consult. After a few follow-up processes at home, a patient can see results within a few weeks.

But how white is too white? "If your teeth are transparent, you've gone too far," said Dr. Richard S. Bernstein, Farmington Hills.

Bernstein is an expert in the business of designing smiles. Bernstein believes each smile should be as unique as the person using it.

"One size does not fit all," Bernstein said. "I follow certain principles that will bring a more pleasing nature. It's an art when you're doing this."

Bernstein is a member of the American Society for Dental Aesthetics, an organization built around the idea

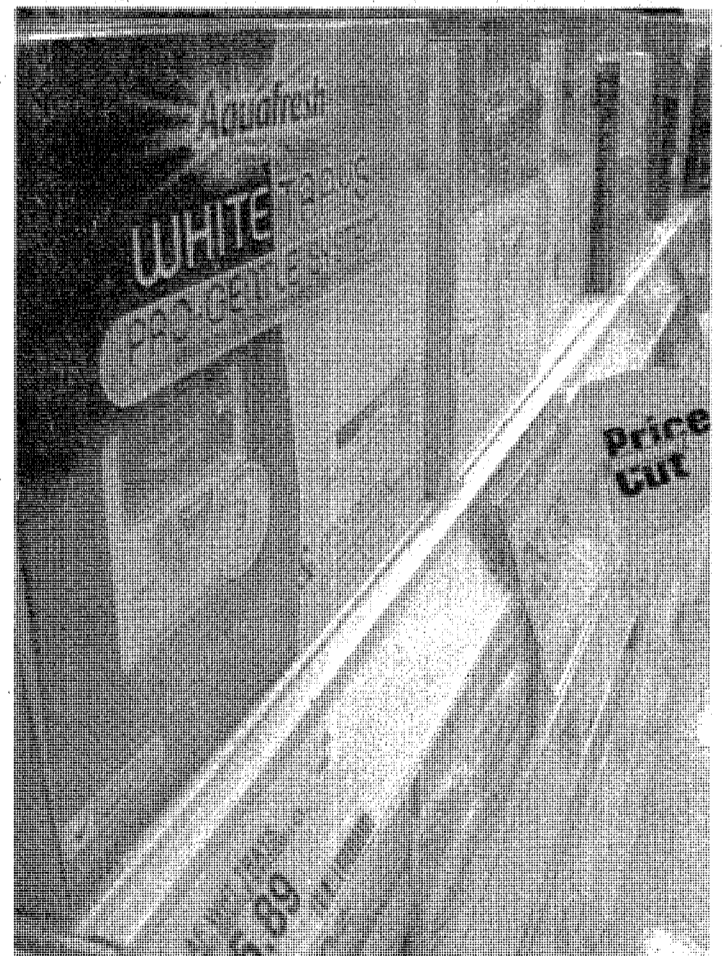


PHOTO BY MIKE HOGAN

At-home whitening kits are available at most supermarkets, but cosmetic dentistry processes are more effective.

that teeth should not only be healthy, but they should also be pleasing to the eye. He is the only member who operates in Michigan.

Designing a smile usually involves shaping the teeth to help them have a proportional nature. In addition to shaping and using veneers, Bernstein also provides Invisalign, the popular, nearly invisible alternative to braces.

Invisalign uses a series of molds that are replaced every two weeks. The molds are expertly made of acrylic and use pressure points to quickly and painlessly set teeth straight. Best of all, Invisalign molds are virtually unnoticeable.

Visiting the dentist isn't just

about how you look, as many dentists like Bernstein will say. A regular checkup can keep the whole body healthy, just by preventing the growth of gum disease. Bacteria from gum disease can easily travel into the rest of your body.

"Once you have gum disease, you never get rid of it," Bernstein warned.

"You can only maintain it." Children as early as age seven should be seen by an orthodontist to evaluate if changes in the child's skeletal (jaw) pattern are needed, the American Association of Orthodontics recommends.

Between improving your appearance and your health, a new you is just one dentist appointment away.

# Reverse mortgage may help some seniors meet expenses

No one segment of society is immune to the current economic turmoil. However, one population more affected than others is senior citizens.

Seniors are always one of the most vulnerable because they typically do not have many options. For example, for seniors who are retired, it is very difficult to get back into the workforce.

One option they do have is a reverse mortgage which are generally for people 62 years and older. A reverse mortgage allows one to use the equity in his/her home during their lifetime. Reverse mortgages are not for everyone, however, they do



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

mortgage on the existing property or to cover living expenses.

The bottom line is the customer (senior citizen) decides how to use the

provide opportunities for seniors in certain situations.

It is important to understand the terms of a reverse mortgage. In a typical case, the homeowner receives a set amount of money from the mortgage company. The money can be used to pay off a

money.

The reverse mortgage has an interest factor but unlike a traditional mortgage there is no monthly payment. The reverse mortgage is due either upon death of husband and wife or upon sale. What's nice about a reverse mortgage is there is no liability for your loved one. If, upon your death the reverse mortgage balance is greater than the value of your home, the mortgage company can take the home. It cannot seek payments from your loved ones. If the reverse mortgage is worth less than the property, the house could be sold, the reverse mortgage paid off, and the balance

paid to the beneficiaries.

The key to remember about a reverse mortgage is that during your lifetime you can stay in your house for as long as you want and you do not have to make any payments.

During the boom in the real estate market, many people were using reverse mortgages to buy second homes, take vacations, or even pay for a grandchild's college. In today's economy, reverse mortgages are most often used to provide a cash flow for seniors so they can continue to maintain their lifestyle.

In today's market of falling real estate prices, the value of a reverse

mortgage is not as great as it used to be. However, it still can be an effective vehicle to help seniors cover living expenses.

Reverse mortgages have fees so it's important to shop around. Take the time to understand the terms and how it works. An informed decision will guarantee you do the right thing.

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

# Even maligned squirrels have their place in nature

Every now and then someone writes a request for a master plan on how to banish squirrels from their suburban yard. Others are more extreme, "I wish I could kill them," behaving as if squirrels that express their acrobatic antics at bird feeders have morphed into saber-toothed beasts.

Something puzzles me. The squirrels that are the subject of that disproportionate anguish and anger are not red squirrels, those energized hyperactive rodents that chew holes in roof eaves and host wild-winter, pitter-pattering, nut-gnawing chit-chattering all night attic



Nature's Way  
Jonathan Schechter

parties. The offenders are almost always black squirrels, which are actually gray squirrels.

Confused? Take a breath, grab that coffee and settle back down for a winter's morning ramble on squirrels in our county: OAKLAND. And I hope you noticed the emphasis on OAK in Oakland. Oaks mean acorns. Acorns means squirrels. And

the survival instincts and learned behavior of squirrels have made them masters of their art:

Raiding easy pickings at bird feeders. Darwin would look back and smile. And I could end this ramble here and simply say, "Accept squirrels!" I won't.

Gray squirrels are generally a silvery gray color, and are the squirrels that the Red Coats noted in the lofty tree tops as they marched on the rebellious colonists. All sides in the Revolutionary War feasted on squirrel stew. My neighbor still does. Gray squirrels have a strong preference for oak forest and dense woods. The

"black squirrel" is simply a melanistic phase of the gray.

Red squirrels are small, but larger than a chipmunk. These vocal squirrels chatter warnings of danger and have a preference for pine cones and other conifer cones. With a reddish back and a white belly and their mastery at tunneling through snow and lightning fast grab and stash feeder hits they are a pleasure to watch.

Time for me to scatter sunflower seeds, nuts and apple cores. And, if birds want to visit my feeder that welcomes all, that's just fine with me. Birds have to accept the social interspecies hierarchy of

manipulated ways in our not so wild kingdom of squirrels. And fresh coyote tracks near the feeder remind me coyotes love all gluttonous feeder-addicted squirrel species as a

winter day's entree. Perhaps they taste like furry chicken.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Contact him at [Oaknature@aol.com](mailto:Oaknature@aol.com).

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OUR VIEWS

## Consider running for school board

If you're considering running for the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, you don't have as long as you might think to make the decision.

And if you're not thinking about it, maybe you should. The filing deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 10. That gives prospective board members just 12 days to answer this basic question: Do I want to have a role in determining the course of our schools?

Historically, there isn't a whole lot of interest in running for the board. Traditionally, there aren't a lot of candidates. Interest in what happens on the board seems to increase when bad things happen, like last year's teachers strike.

And, judging by the annual vote totals, where the last few years' turnout has been less than 5 percent, there isn't a lot of interest in the school board ... period.

This always baffles us, because perhaps nowhere in elective government can an elected official affect more lives than on the school board. It's the one body that has control over the future of our most important asset, our children.

And in these tight economic times, the Wayne-Westland school board — along with school boards across the state — really faces huge challenges, particularly with its budget.

There's three seats up for grabs this year — those of incumbents Ed Turner and Steve Becher and the remainder of former board member Frederick Weaver's term. Shawna Walker is currently filling the position as a board appointee.

There are a lot of reasons not to run for the school board: I don't have the time; it's a big responsibility; I don't know anything about running a school district; the dog ate my filing application.

There is some truth in those reasons. Yes, it is a fact that serving on the school board is more than one meeting a month. There are committee meetings, school functions and the like that school board members attend. And, yes, there will be a learning curve for a newcomer; there is with any new job. As for the dog, let's leave Fido out it.

The truth is, not running is much easier than running. However, the one true reason for getting involved trumps all excuses for not: You can help determine the future of our children.

## Look beyond holidays to help those in need

It sounds simple enough. You need to go to the grocery store to pick up a few things. Nothing special, just some coffee, cereal for the kids, tea, maybe some canned fruit and — oh, yeah — some toilet paper.

Not a big deal, right?

Well, unfortunately, it is a very big deal for a growing number of people, many of whom live right in our hometowns. The list of people needing such basic things grows with each announcement of yet another company planning layoffs.

That list of items amounts to what is most needed in January by the Rochester Area Neighborhood House, which operates a food pantry that is housed in First Congregational Church in Rochester.

January. The holiday hoopla is over, and so are the pleas for donations of money, food and clothing to help our neighbors. But the need is as great — no, greater — than ever before.

There are plenty of ways in which you can help. Here are a few of the organizations which provide food pantries and would welcome your contributions.

Troy People Concerned acts as a referral agency, while St. Anastasia Catholic Church, also in Troy, has a food pantry.

Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City has a food bank that distributes food that serves 500 people — 200 families — each month. It relies on donations and is a partner with Gleaners.

Gleaners is one of two major agencies which battle hunger, the other being Forgotten Harvest. Forgotten Harvest, based in Oak Park, picks up food from restaurants and grocery stores for distribution to shelters and soup kitchens. It doesn't take food from the public, but it does take contributions.

The John Bolde Memorial Food Depot at the St. Mary Outreach in Wayne also relies on food and monetary donations that help purchase food from Gleaners.

The Plymouth Salvation Army has a food pantry, and it's always taking donations.

That is just a brief sampling of organizations that could use your help. Check with your town hall, service organizations or local churches for other ways to offer help.

Remember, as tight as your own budget is, there are a lot of folks out there who are really hurting.



LETTERS

### Doing the flip-flop

And the winner of the "no class" award goes to ... His Majesty ... the messiah ... President Obama.

Despite the comparisons that are being made between former President Bush and President Obama in the media where Bush is hated and Obama is the beloved, the fact is that at the outset of the Bush administration, the former president attended a Democrat retreat as a show of goodwill and to try to set the tone for bipartisanship in Washington. President Obama, on the other hand, is showing his "bipartisanship" with his own version of "it's my way or the highway" attitude.

The liberal Democrats have been Bush-bashing since his inauguration, complaining he spent too much money on his inauguration celebration while Obama has spent three times that amount and not a peep from the mainstream media about it.

In a recent Fox News story, Obama told Republican leaders at a meeting "you can't just listen to Rush Limbaugh and get things done." So what he was saying was; Republicans need to see things Obama's way. So much for tolerance of ideas!

Included in the Fox news article, in a meeting on the "stimulus" (read that as welfare programs; bailouts and more spending), Obama told Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., "I won. I will trump you on that." Cantor was objecting to Obama's "proposal to increase benefits for low-income workers who don't owe federal income taxes." In other words, Cantor was objecting to a government welfare program.

Obama's plan is sending us into a socialist-type government that we may not be able to come out of without a total collapse of the economy. Bush was no prize with his spending, but he at least made an effort to be bipartisan and stuck to his guns as to what he believed was right while Obama flip-flops on a daily basis

Phil Solarz  
Westland

### Era of change for youth

Paradoxically, in this time of almost crushing concern over the state of our nation, the inauguration of a new president ushers in, at least briefly, a period of palpable hope. Hope for a better economy, for demonstrable progress in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East and for improvements in everything from climate change to education to Social Security to health care. Indeed, optimism abounds even as things seem to be falling down all around us. It's the American way.

But those aren't the only things we have to feel hopeful about. Or, for that matter, to worry about. In some very important ways, the state of our nation's youth mirrors that of our country. For example, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is rising rapidly, incidences of death and injury due to violence are staggering, and sexually transmitted

diseases and infections are epidemic. The CDC reports that:

- The suicide rate for young people under the age of 20 increased by 20 percent between 2003 and 2004 and, in 2007, 14.5 percent of U.S. high school students reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey;

- In 2005, 5,686 young people ages 10-24 were murdered, and in 2006 more than 720,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained due to violence; and

- In 2008, one in four (26 percent) young women between the ages of 14 and 19 in the United States was infected with at least one sexually transmitted disease.

No less alarming is the drug and alcohol use that often accompanies decision-making about self-injury, violence, and sexual behavior among teens.

The federal Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis says that by the time they reach eighth grade, nearly 50 percent of adolescents have had at least one alcoholic drink and more than 20 percent report having been "drunk."

In addition, SADD's Teens Today research reveals that more than one-third of young people (35 percent) report using other drugs, such as marijuana, Ecstasy, and methamphetamines.

So, where does the hope part come in? With a continued federal commitment to address those issues that most threaten the health, safety, and development of youth. It is a priority that carries with it, in President Obama's oft-repeated words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "the fierce urgency of now."

Good thing that we have a running start.

Over the past decade, our government, with the support of key partners, has mobilized to reduce "demand" for drugs and alcohol among adolescents and children. Here is a sampling of those efforts:

1988 — The U.S. Congress proclaims the first National Red Ribbon Week, drawing attention to the dangers of drug use in our society, especially among young people.

1998 — The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy launches the Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign to prevent and reduce youth drug use, delivering anti-drug messages to America's youth, their parents and other influential adults.

2003 — The National Academies publish Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility, exploring ways individuals and groups contribute to the problem and how they can be enlisted to boost prevention.

2005 — Congress passes the STOP (Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking) legislation, recognizing that a coordinated approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, and research of underage drinking is key to making progress.

2006 — The federal government's Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking supports Town Hall Meetings across the country, addressing the problem of

youth alcohol use.

2007 — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking, pointing to new research indicating that the developing adolescent brain may be particularly susceptible to long-term consequences of alcohol use.

What are the results of these collaborative efforts?

A 2007 Monitoring the Future report noted that, since 2001, the overall use of drugs by young people had dropped by 24 percent (alcohol by 15 percent, marijuana by 25 percent, Ecstasy by 54 percent, and methamphetamines by 64 percent). Come 2008, the decline was 25 percent ... 900,000 fewer young people using illegal drugs than there were in 2001.

Now that's change we can believe in.

Given the enormity of the risk that remains, can our country continue to make progress in its climb up that great big hill of hope? With a fierce urgency of now and the enduring commitment of critical federal resources for youth drug and alcohol education and prevention, the answer is a resounding "Yes, We Can!"

And we must.

Stephen Wallace  
national chairman of SADD

### Unfair treatment

The following is in response to the Murphy letter of Jan. 8 concerning a "special election" being expensive. Financial burden or not, maybe the persons being recalled should have at least shown the appearance of being interested in the citizens of the Nankin Mills Village area before voting as they did. At some point, it might be any of us finding ourselves standing before council, facts in hand (as the Nankin group did), hoping actually to be heard.

There is no need for a tight economy to add guilt to unfair treatment. Waiting for a special election would be too late and would be "no recall" at all, further insulating the council from the citizens.

LaFern Deeter  
Westland

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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### QUOTABLE

"Our ending fund balance will be \$7.9 million, that's what we thought it would be. It's 6.6 percent of expenditures which isn't where we'd like that to be."

Gary Martin, Wayne-Westland deputy superintendent for administrative and business services, about the school district's fund equity.

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# Michigan's 'Black Eden' focus of library exhibit

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Westland library will host a Michigan State University traveling exhibit, "Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan," focusing on the northwestern Michigan resort, during February. The unveiling will be 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at the library, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road.

"We are going to have a speaker, Dr. Ben C. Wilson," said Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. "He's a professor emeritus from Western

Michigan University and an Idlewild historian."

The monthlong program, part of Black History Month, is presented with support of the Michigan Humanities Council and the Friends of the William P. Faust Library. Idlewild was a resort prominent from 1912 to the 1960s. Blacks could buy property there, and the resort hosted well-known entertainers like Louis Armstrong.

The library exhibit will feature panels with photos and displays on Idlewild, along with a reproduction quilt of an original on Idlewild done by Michigan's Deonna Todd Green.

MSU has other traveling exhibits on Michigan state

history for school and library use, Kwik said. She agreed it's good to highlight the diverse nature of Westland. The library's Information Central column in the *Observer* mentioned Idlewild about a year ago, which generated reader response.

"I think it's good to expose people who may not be of that particular group," Kwik said. "There's a lot of people who never heard about this. People will become more familiar with the history of Michigan."

There will be related library programs, including 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, with Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard on "When the Church Becomes Your Party." She will discuss her

recently published book on contemporary gospel music.

"There will be two gospel singers for her," said Kwik of singers Mary Wyan and Kim Williams (known professionally as KiWi).

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, Dr. Melvin Peters will discuss "Black Literature and Music of the 1960s." He's a professor of African-American literature and music at Eastern Michigan University.

The library will show two related movies. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, *The Pact* tells of three friends who make a pact in high school to go on to college and medical school.

The film *A Lesson Before Dying* is based on the Ernest J.

Gaines novel, and is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18. It's set in a small Cajun town in the late 1940s and tells of a young man implicated through no fault of his own in a shoot-out in which three people are killed. He's sentenced to death.

The films will be moderated with discussion led by Victor Walker, a poet, playwright and actor.

At the unveiling on Sunday, Feb. 1, Wilson will sign copies of his 2002 book (co-author Lewis Walker), *Black Eden: The Idlewild Community*.

Not a part of Black History Month, the library will also host concert pianist Roy Coloma 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. "That's going to be nice, too,"

Kwik said.

The library had a good response to a classical guitarist who performed, and according to Kwik, "We just want to build on that."

Walk-ins are welcome at the programs, although you're encouraged to let staffers know of your attendance at (734) 326-6123. The library Web site, www.westland.lib.mi.us, has a data base of information on black history, good for those researching school/college assignments.

"I think they appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds," said Kwik, who anticipates good attendance. "There's a lot of different information that's going to be shared."

## WOW seeks nominees for 2009 ATHENA Award

A bronze statue topped with a crystal and tables filled chocolate ... The latter has become synonymous with the former when it comes to the Women of Westland's ATHENA Award program.

In its fifth year, the ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball is "an opportunity for the whole community to come together to recognize our unsung heroes," according to Mary Denning, president of Women of Westland.

"This glamorous event supports an effort to empower women who might not have the financial means to gain higher education," she said.

The formal event will be held on Saturday, March 7, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland when the 2009 ATHENA Award winner will be publicly honored by state and local dignitaries and will receive the coveted ATHENA sculpture.

Westland Mayor William R. Wild, *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and the Women of Westland

have teamed up to host the Chocolate Fantasy Ball. The event supports the Barbara Douglas Scholarship Program, giving financial awards to qualified women of the Westland community who want to attend college for undergraduate credit or trade school.

Helping women to achieve their goals in life continues to be the focus of the Women of Westland organization. "In these uncertain times, some women are finding themselves jobless and lacking the education skills to remain competitive in their career field," said Denning. "This void requires the building of long term community partnerships to empower the women of our community."

Nominations are being sought for the ATHENA Award which celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community and recognizes those who support them. An international award, the ATHENA Award is given to

an individual, female or male, who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession. They also must contribute time and talent to help improve the quality of life for others in the community. The final qualification is helping women to realize their full leadership potential.

People interested in making a nomination can find a form on the Women of Westland Web site at www.womenofwestland.com. For more information, call Meghan Giersdorf at (248) 255-8241.

The Chocolate Fantasy Ball will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the ATHENA Award presentation at 7:30 p.m. There will be an open bar and silent auction. Topping things off will be the famed dessert extravaganza.

Tickets are \$20 each and only 300 will be sold. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. For more information or to order tickets, call the Women of Westland at (734) 467-9113.

## LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A1

for a month at the library.

"One child wrote one her heart that she loved Clifford because she wants to be a dog," said Taig.

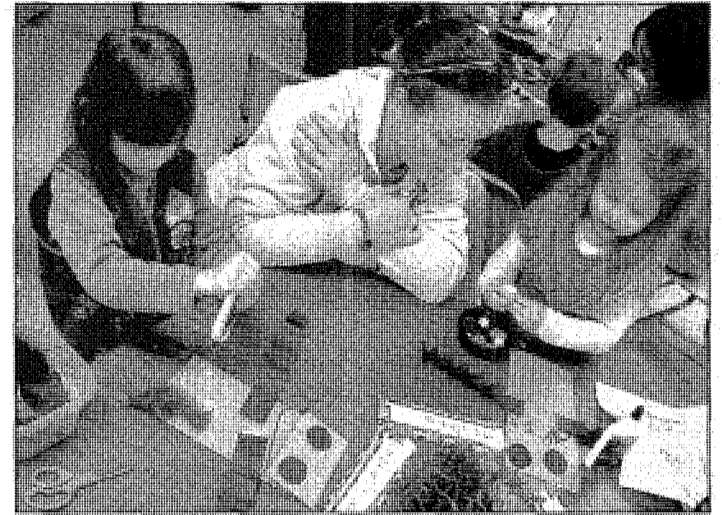
According to Dewyer, Lisa Hausman, head of Children's Services at the library "is very big on outreach. In addition to visits, like the ones at Willow Creek, the library also has started programming at the Dorsey Community Center.

"This is a wonderful school to visit," Dewyer said. "If they invite us, we're more than happy to come."

For Taig, having Dewyer visit with her students means a lot.

"The city of Westland and the library have always been supportive of the school," she said.

Willow Creek has been providing preschool programming for



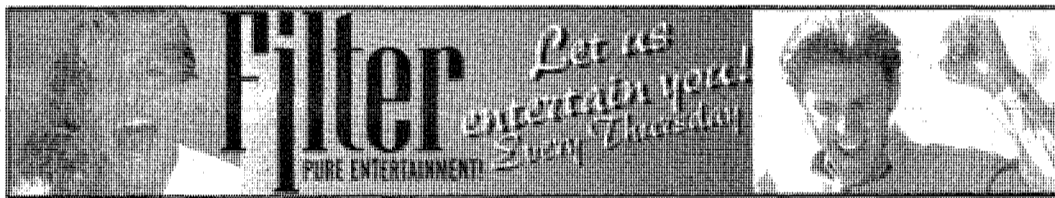
TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlotte Warner of Westland (left) and Tara Whalen of Canton (right) make monster puppets with Tara's mother Mindy Whalen at the Willow Creek Preschool.

children living in Westland, Garden City, Canton and surrounding communities since 1972 and has been based at Kirk of Our Savior Church on Cherry Hill west of Wayne Road for at least 10 years. A cooperative program, parents work in the class-

room once or twice a month. The preschool currently has 35 students and is accepting new enrollment. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

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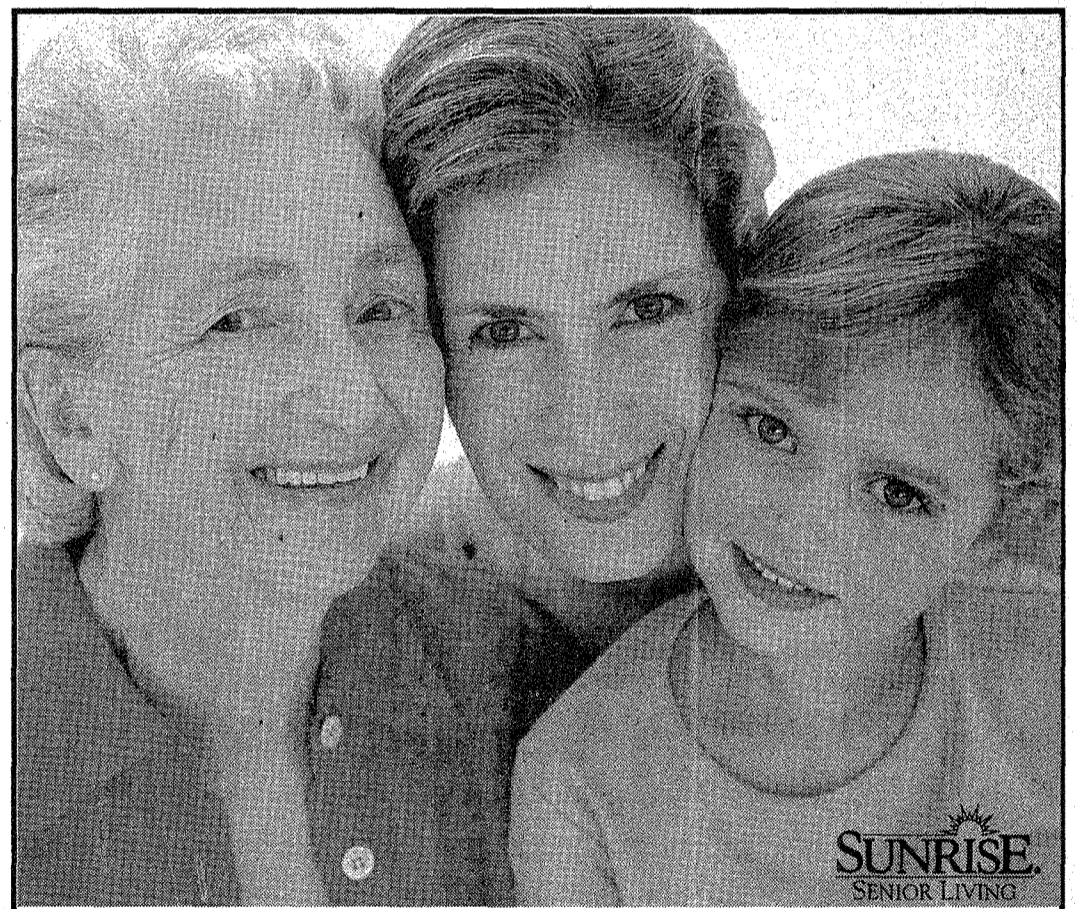
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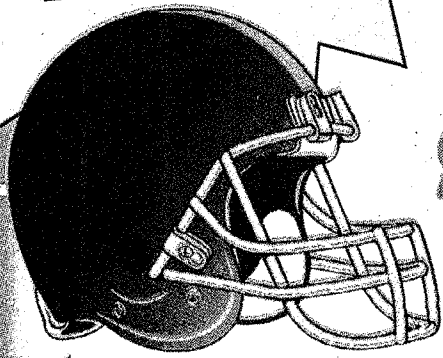
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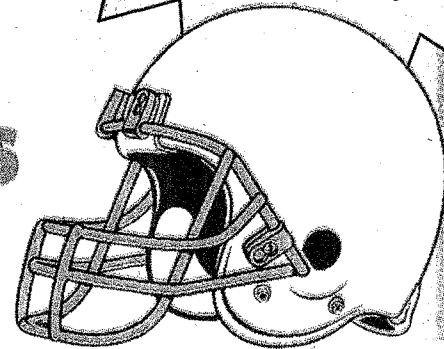
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# SPORTS

**B** (LW)

Thursday, January 29, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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## Coaches tab Invitational favorite: CC

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When asked which team is the one to beat at Saturday's 18th annual Observerland Invitational wrestling tournament, the same two-letter response rolled off the tongues of several area coaches: CC.

That acronym is short for Novi Detroit Catholic Central, which is long on talent this season.

The state-ranked Shamrocks' confidence will be sky-high following a recent dual-meet triumph over perennially powerful Davison.

"They probably have more depth than the other teams,"

### PREP WRESTLING

Salem coach Greg Wochuk said. "If

they lose a No. 1 wrestler at a weight, they can plug in another talented wrestler without losing much, if anything."

The tournament begins at 9 a.m. at Livonia Churchill High School. Admission is \$5, except for Frost Middle School students, who get in free with a student I.D.

"CC is probably the favorite going in," Westland John Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "They've been coming on strong lately. But it all comes down to matchups. There are several teams that are capable of winning."

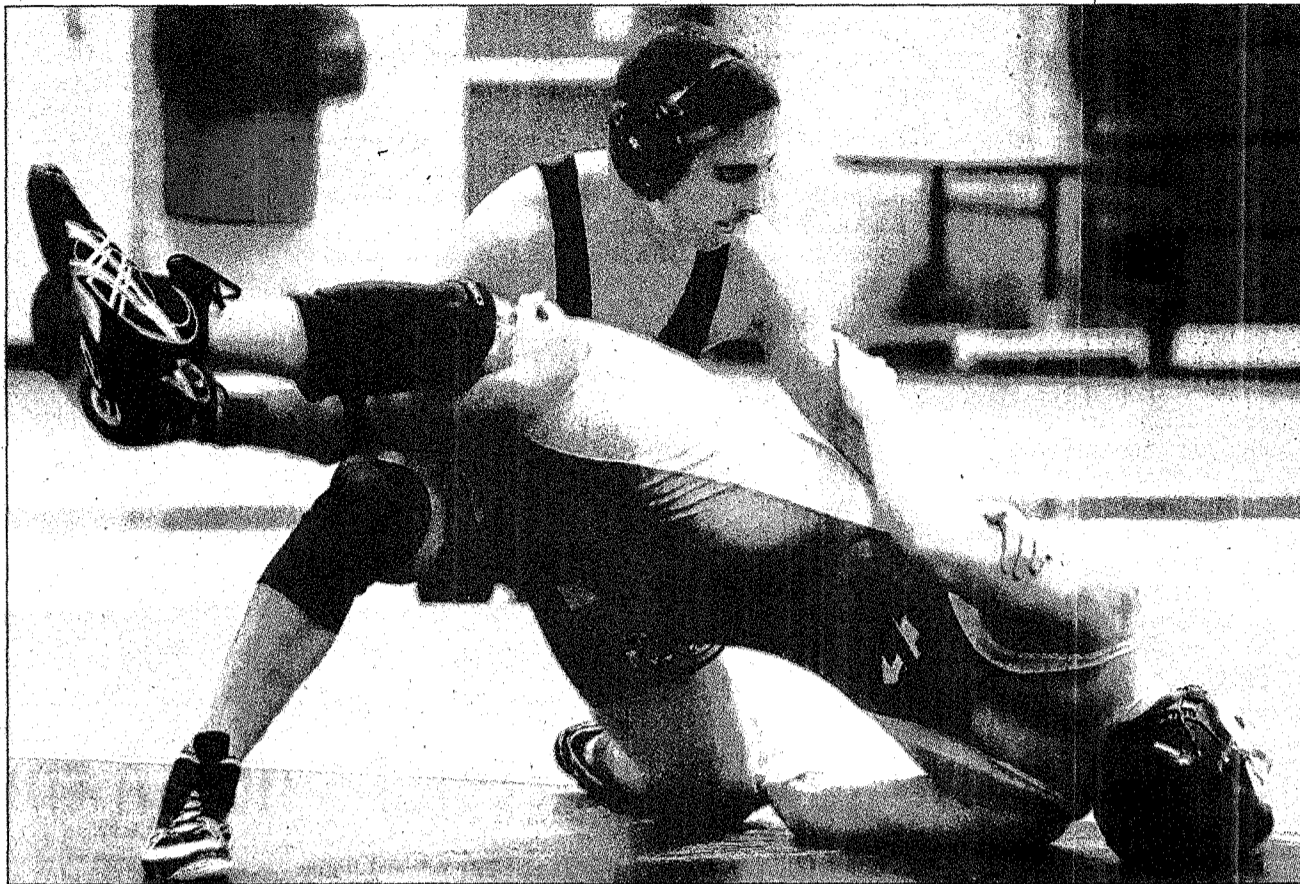
If the Shamrocks prevail, it won't be easy. Several teams — including defending champion Canton, Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn — figure to be in the mix when the event's finals roll around in the late afternoon at Churchill.

"This is a big tournament for our kids," first-year Canton coach Cory Mancuso said. "I know they want to win it all and defend their crown. Catholic Central is probably the favorite. Their lineup is stacked from top to bottom."

Franklin coach Dave Chiola knows as well as anyone what it takes to hold up the Observerland trophy at the end of the day. The Patriots won the tournament three consecutive years before placing third in 2008.

"The key is scoring points at a lot of

Please see **FAVORITE, B3**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's Zaid Ammari is in control during his 160-pound match Tuesday night against Canton's Austin Mach. Ammari won on a pin in 3 minutes, 25 seconds.

## Mat gauntlet Canton survives test against Rockets

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's wrestling team didn't have much time to savor Tuesday night's emphatic 45-28 victory over Westland John Glenn.

Approximately 22 hours, to be exact. That's how much time elapsed between the Chiefs' important KLAAs South Division triumph over the Rockets and Wednesday night's equally important match against Livonia Franklin.

"I really liked how we came out and wrestled aggressively against John Glenn," first-year Canton coach Cory Mancuso said. "We won a couple matches that we knew were going to be close."

What, if anything, did Mancuso learn about his young team Tuesday night?

"I learned that we have a pretty darned good team," he said. "You have to be pretty good to beat a team as good as John Glenn at their place. Hopefully, we can keep it going."

Of the eight matches the Chiefs won, Mancuso pointed to Carl Lucke's 3-2 nail-biter over Joshua Austin at 119 pounds as possibly the most pivotal. Five Chiefs registered pins: Jeremy Filippelli at 130 pounds, Donnie Watkins at 140, Brent Winekoff at 145, Keith Zech at 171 and Tyler Bourcier at 215.

The Rockets' most impressive victories came from Steven Wakeford at 103; Mark Thompson at 125; Jeff

Adkins, who defeated Anthony Abro, 6-4, in overtime at 152; and Zaid Ammari, who notched a pin at 160. John Glenn's Dustin Gajowiak pinned Canton's Robert Lincoln in 1:18 in the heavyweight showdown.

For results of Wednesday's Canton-Franklin match, visit [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

### CANTON 45, WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 28

Jan. 27 at John Glenn  
103 pounds: Steven Wakeford (WJG) decisively Daniel Filippelli, 14-5; 112: Waleed Faraj (C) won by void; 119: Carl Lucke (C) dec. Joshua Austin, 3-2; 125: Mark Thompson (WJG) dec. Mitch Wolski, 3-1; 130: Jeremy Filippelli (C) pinned D'vonteone Anderson, 0-48; 135: Jared Stephens (WJG) won by void; 140: Donnie Watkins (C) p. Mikkel Tipton, 3-4; 145: Brent Winekoff (C) p. Mike Johnson, 3-19; 152: Jeff Adkins (WJG) dec. Anthony Abro, 6-4 (OT); 160: Zaid Ammari (WJG) p. Austin Mach, 3-25; 171: Keith Zech (C) p. Zach Redden, 1-12; 189: Pat Durocher (C) won by void; 215: Tyler Bourcier (C) p. Gerald Powell, 1-18; 285: Dustin Gajowiak (WJG) p. Robert Lincoln, 3-30.

## Sidelines

### Ammari honored

Second-year Westland John Glenn wrestling captain Zaid Ammari, who carries a 3.74 grade-point average and is a member of the National Society, was honored as Farmers Insurance Group and Fox Sports Detroit's monthly Student Athlete Citizen Award.

Ammari is a member of the student council, diversity math and clubs, and is on the school's quiz bowl team. He is volunteer at St. Mary's Hospital and serves as a D.A.R.E. role model.

Ammari will be featured in a 30-second video vignette running throughout February during Fox Sports Detroit programming.

### Weekend mat wrap

It was a highly productive Saturday for the Livonia Stevenson wrestling team, which finished runner-up to the host school in the Sterling Heights Stevenson Team Duals.

The Spartans, now 17-15 overall, scored wins over Romulus (65-18), Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (72-4), Grosse Pointe South (51-30) and Almont (48-33) before losing to the host Titans (37-30).

Going undefeated for the Spartans on the day included Mitch Gonzales (135 pounds), Raz Markosian (140), Dan McCarthy (152) and Jake Burns (171).

Cory Zanger (130), Andrew Schramm (189) and Nathan Keedle (285) all finished 4-1, while Ash Alhaj (103) and Omar Mostafa (112) both went 3-2.

Livonia Churchill placed fourth in Saturday's 15-team Lincoln Park Invitational as Bryan Fortney (135), Grant Morgan (152) and Curtis Castleberry (171) earned runner-up finishes.

Adding thirds for Churchill were Jacob Meadows (103), Josh Gustitus (160) and John Shekell (215). Fourths went to John Bannoura (130) and Ben Hesskamp (145).

Carleton Airport scored 170 for the team title followed by Parma Western (157) Ypsilanti (147.5) and Churchill (138).

## Chargers rebound for division victory

Livonia Churchill girls basketball coach Chad Jenkins found plenty of flaws in his team's first-half play Tuesday night against host Westland John Glenn.

"We got off to a slow start. We were kind of lethargic," said Jenkins, whose team was down 20-17 at intermission. "We weren't attacking the basket and kind of standing around."

The second half proved to be a different story, as the Chargers outscored Glenn 30-20 en route to a 47-40 victory.

"Fortunately we played good defense and rebounded the ball, then our offense started to click a bit," said Jenkins, whose team is 6-4 overall and 2-1 in the South Division of the KLAAs Kensington Conference.

Seniors Alys Boldizar and Kia Griffin led the Chargers with 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Brittany Holbrook and Chanel Payne each tallied 11

for Glenn (5-6, 1-2), while Nyah McReynolds added 10.

"We got within two in the fourth quarter, but missed some easy putbacks and we did not make free throws when we needed them," said Glenn coach Mike Schuette, whose team was 7-of-13 from the foul line.

Churchill, meanwhile, was 13-of-19 at the charity stripe.

FRANKLIN 47, WAYNE 26: Brittany Milican, Chelsea Williams and Briauna Taylor each scored 10 points as KLAAs South Division leader Livonia Franklin (9-1, 3-0) rolled to a win at Wayne Memorial (2-8, 0-3).

Franklin, which also got seven points from Brittany Taylor, led 37-8 at halftime.

Freshman Holland Boertje and junior Allie Coleman tallied 11 and nine, respectively, for Wayne.

STEVENSON 44, S. LYON EAST 28: In a KLAAs Central game Tuesday, Kaylee McGrath scored 11 points as visiting Livonia Stevenson (5-6, 1-2) jumped out to a 25-7 halftime lead to best

Please see **CHARGERS, B3**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Kia Griffin eyes the basket with John Glenn's T.J. Carson-Callaway attempting the block in Tuesday's KLAAs South Division game.

## Bedell stars as Churchill halts Glenn

The Livonia Churchill boys basketball team took a page out of the Chef Emeril book of recipes and got rave reviews.

Adam Bedell, a 6-foot-6 junior forward, scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the

Chargers put together all the right ingredients Tuesday night to ambush visiting Westland John Glenn, 67-57.

Churchill evens its overall record at 4-4 and stands 1-2 in the South Division of the KLAAs Kensington Conference.

Tony Frezzell and Alex Bay chipped with 14 and 10 points, respectively, for the Chargers, who led 30-17 at halftime and 45-30 after three quarters.

"It's a big, big win," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "It's been a

Please see **CHURCHILL, B3**

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# It's academic: Wayne grapplers ahead of the curve in classroom

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne Memorial wrestling team's roster size has tripled, but what has fourth-year head coach Steve Vasiloff excited is improvement he has seen on his wrestlers' report cards.

Twenty members of the wrestling team were recently recognized by the National Honor Society and Livonia Congressman Thaddeus G. McCotter (Rep.-Mi-11th) for Outstanding Student Achievement. This recognition is for student-athletes with a 3.5 grade-point or higher.

Among those recognized for their academic efforts: Aman Brar, Jacob Montgomery, Sharif Hegazi, Dimitrus Renfroe, Alex Driessche, Adam Kay, Dylan Shepard, Doug Rutan, Kyle Szalai, Matt Hansen, Dylan Korzetzki, Jimmy Kassis, Max

Hershey, Cody Allen, Avery Barron, Nate Cavanaugh, Nick Wagnitz, Chris Schmidt, Micheil Hood and Chet Hershey.

"I have always been tough on the team academically, and have run study table every day we practice since Day One," Wayne fourth-year coach Steve Vasiloff said. "Yet, we have always struggled with grades, because they would start the year off wrong and have to build them up from there. I will not wrestle my kids that do not meet and exceed the districts academic standards."

Last year only five grapplers were eligible after the first card marking. Vasiloff said this year has been different.

"We have attracted a different kind of student-athlete to the program," he said. "We now have wrestlers that give 100 percent on and off the mat. This is the kind of foundation we need to build a

successful foundation for the future."

The Wolfpack has already seen their fair share of success this season winning the Blissfield Invitational, while placing third at both the Michigan Center Team Tournament and the Romulus Royal Invitational.

Wayne currently stands 11-6 overall and is 2-4 against KLAAs Kensington Conference opponents. The Wolfpack is 1-1 in the KLAAs South Division.

"Things are really turning around for us, and my staff and I couldn't be more excited," Vasiloff said. "I have given it my all and tried my best to be patient these last four years. And it's finally starting to pay off. We are building a program. We will take our lumps, but in a few years I hope to be one of those top teams in our conference."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

# Churchill, Wildcats deadlock, 2-2

## BOYS HOCKEY

Only the Strong were able to survive Tuesday in Livonia Churchill's 2-2 boys hockey draw with host Plymouth at Computware Arena.

Kody Strong tallied both Churchill goals, while Luke Merandi scored both for the Wildcats in a South Division game in the KLAAs Kensington Conference.

Churchill is now 4-5-4 overall and 4-2-4 in the South, while Plymouth is 9-4-2 and 4-3-2.

Merandi opened the scoring at 1:10 of the opening period on assists from Ryan Renault and Patrick Smiatacz.

Strong answered with an unassisted goal 40 seconds into the second period, but Plymouth's same line - Merandi, Renault and Smiatacz, hooked up again with 2:38 left in the same period.

Strong then scored the game-tying goal at 11:37

from Steven Klisz and Adam Weigand.

Plymouth netminder Mike Justus made 33 saves, while Churchill counterpart Adrian Motta had 15 stops.

**STEVENSON 8, W.L. WESTERN 0:** John Strauch's hat trick propelled Livonia Stevenson (8-5-1, 5-3-1) to a KLAAs Central Division win Saturday over host Walled Lake Western (3-10-1, 1-8) in a game played at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Stevenson outshot the Warriors 22-1 in the opening period, but led only 1-0. The Spartans unloaded for 50 total shots and allowed just three as Danny Sager posted the shutout. Western's Benny Jaquinta made 42 saves in game stopped with 9:53 left due to the eight-goal mercy rule.

Other point producers for the Spartans, who scored six times in the second period and once in the third, included: Justin Shureb, two goals and one assist, Cole Rochowiak and John Vella, one goal and one assist each; Tim Pruchnik, one goal; Evan Malick

and J.J. Petterson, two each.

**CHURCHILL 7, FRANKLIN 4:** Goals were aplenty Friday as Livonia Churchill (4-5-3, 4-2-3) downed Livonia Franklin (0-12, 0-9) in a KLAAs South Division matchup at Edgar Arena.

Churchill led 2-0 after one period and 6-2 after two periods. The Chargers outshot the Patriots, 37-8.

Andrew Carlson led Churchill with a pair of goals, while Robert Louwers contributed a goal and two assists. Other Churchill goal scorers included Jim Lelekatch, Steve Klisz, Scott Hamill and Brent Mishowski.

Ken Masiarczyk, Stefan Kubus and Kody Strong each collected two assists, while Rick Stack, Jacob Otto and Dan Bostick added one helper apiece.

Tyler Barnes led Franklin with two goals and one assist. Jordan Chisholm also had three assists, while Robbie Ringe contributed a goal and assist. Pat O'Halloran also scored goal for the Patriots.

Travis Ferrier made 30 saves in goal for Franklin, while Alex Estes went the first two periods in goal for Churchill followed by Aaron Crouse.

# DC's Falcons swoop by Ladywood Trojans notch third win in a row

Dearborn Divine Child apparently has Livonia Ladywood's number so far this season in girls basketball.

Lauren Malinowski and Shelby Sheehan scored 10 points apiece Monday night as the host Falcons jumped out to a 31-14 halftime advantage on its way to a 47-33 Catholic League Central Division triumph over the Blazers. It was DC's second win this year over the Blazers.

Molly Gacioc led Ladywood with 10 points and 13 rebounds. Caitlin Szczyпка added nine points and 12 boards.

"It was the tale of two halves," said Ladywood coach Pat Cannon, who lost for the second time this season to Divine Child. "We came out flat and did not play defense

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

the first half. The second half we came out with much more intensity and effort and held them to two field goals. We also outrebounded them, but couldn't make baskets."

Ladywood shot only 15 percent from the floor (11-of-73) and was 10-of-19 from the foul line. Meanwhile, the Falcons were 16-of-46 from the field (34 percent) and 13-of-20 from the foul stripe.

**BAPTIST PARK 55, HURON VALLEY 28:** Junior Jamie Janiec scored 15 points Tuesday to lead Michigan Independent Athletic Conference leader Taylor Baptist Park (7-3, 5-0) to a win over visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-8, 1-4).

Sophomore Katie Nell paced the Hawks with 11 points.

**CLARENCEVILLE 42, URBAN 38:** In a non-conference game Monday night, Marlene Azar scored 13 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to power Livonia Clarenceville (3-8) past visiting Detroit Urban Lutheran (3-5).

Brenee Draper scored 15 points for the Vikings.

**LADYWOOD 35, MERCY 25:** Senior forward Caitlin Szczyпка and freshman guard Cara Miller dominated the backboards Saturday as Livonia Ladywood (6-6, 2-2) downed host Farmington Hills Mercy (8-4, 1-3) in a Catholic League Central Division encounter.

Szczyпка led the way with 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Miller added five points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who led 20-15 at halftime and 27-19 after three quarters.

Abby Lovat scored seven for the Marlins, who couldn't overcome a poor afternoon of shooting from the foul line (10-of-20).

Senior forward Jamie Stewart registered 29 points and tacked on seven assists Monday night to pace host Livonia Clarenceville to a convincing 88-54 boys basketball victory over Detroit Urban Lutheran.

The non-conference victory upped the Trojans' overall season record to 4-6. Clarenceville has now won three straight. Urban

**METRO BOYS BASKETBALL**

Lutheran falls to 1-9 overall.

Junior guard Ben Watts and senior guard Nathan Clark each added 12 points, while senior forward Jeremy Gainer finished with eight points along with 10 rebounds.

**LUTH. NORTH 51, LUTH. WESTLAND 48:** A 16-point performance by Sam Ahlersmeyer could not lift Lutheran

High Westland (7-3, 1-2) to a Metro Conference win Tuesday against visiting Macomb Lutheran North (3-7, 2-0).

North's Zechariah Bielecki tallied 24 to lead all scorers.

Eric Shoats added 10 points for the Warriors, who shot just 2-of-16 from three-point range and 14-of-40 in the arc.

"It was one of those nights where it seemed like there was a lid on the basket," Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekius said.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
Wayne at Northville, 7 p.m.  
A.P. Cabrini at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 30**  
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 7 p.m.  
Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
Northville at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 30**  
Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
- Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.  
Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
Birm. Marian at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**  
Friday, Jan. 30  
Stevenson vs. W.L. Western at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
Churchill vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 31**  
Franklin at Woodhaven, 6:30 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. G.P. Univ.-Liggett at Plymouth's Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**  
Saturday, Jan. 31  
Observerland Invitational at Churchill, 9 a.m.
- BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING**  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
Churchill at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.  
Franklin at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.  
Canton at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.  
Stevenson at Novi, 6:30 p.m.
- PREP BOWLING**  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
John Glenn vs. Wayne at 700 Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 31**  
Clarenceville Doubles Tournament at Country Lanes, 8 a.m.  
Tri-County Invitational at Five Star Lanes, 8 a.m.
- GIRLS SKIING**  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
Ladywood vs. Marian at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.

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# CHARGERS

FROM PAGE B1

South Lyon East (1-9, 0-3).  
Kate Grunewald scored eight for the Cougars.  
**STEVENSON 55, JOHN GLENN 47:** Livonia Stevenson (4-6) made a 29-23 half-time advantage hold up in a KLAA crossover win Monday night over host Westland John Glenn (5-5).  
Senior center Kaylee McGrath led the victorious Spartans with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Tasi Newton chipped in with 10 points and six rebounds, while Sarah Smith contributed eight points.  
Chanel Payne led Glenn and all scorers with 16 points. Nyah McReynolds and Samantha Fox added 11 and eight, respectively.  
Glenn was 12-of-24 from the foul line, while Stevenson hit 13-of-20.

# CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

long time since Churchill beat John Glenn in basketball. We were executing our offense, changed up our defenses. The kids played hard, rebounded well and took care of the basketball."  
Churchill overcame a game-high 32 points from senior Austin Anderson, who scored 22 in the final quarter. The 6-0 point guard was coming off a 31-point effort in Friday's 73-67 setback to rival Wayne Memorial.  
Glenn was 15-of-19 from the

foul line, while Glenn was 15-of-19.  
**WAYNE 81, FRANKLIN 64:** Senior guard Robert Woodson poured in a game-high 27 points to propel KLAA South Division co-leader Wayne Memorial (5-3, 3-0) past host Livonia Franklin (2-6, 0-3).  
Wayne jumped out to a 34-24 halftime led before Franklin cut the deficit to six in the third quarter. The Patriots couldn't get any closer.  
Daniel Hill, a junior forward, added 18 points for the victorious Zebras. Reggie Reeves and Delorean Holland added 10 apiece.  
Seniors Jeff Poole and Connor Leidal paced Franklin with 20 and 19, respectively. Junior Mike Gadsby chipped in with 13.  
"I like the way the guys played, but Wayne was better," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said.

"Woodson hit some big threes and did a great job scoring at the rim. Hill was also tough around the rim."  
**STEVENSON 50, S. LYON EAST 49:** In a KLAA Central clash Tuesday, host Livonia Stevenson (6-2, 2-1) needed a 26-16 fourth-quarter run to avert upset-minded South Lyon East (0-8, 0-3).  
Three Spartans scored in double figures: Brian Rowe (14), Bobby Naubert (12) and Ricky Chrzasz (10). Stevenson was 8-of-15 from the foul line.  
Andrew Mapley led the Cougars with 18 points. Colin Wedeskey added 11. East was 10-of-16 at the free throw stripe.  
"Give all the credit to the (South Lyon) East coaching staff," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "They prepared their team very well. Their team came out and played very well."

# FAVORITE

FROM PAGE B1

weights, which is what we did when we won it," Chiola said. "This year, we've been strong in the lower and upper weights, but we've struggled a little in the middle. We seem to be a different team week to week this year. Some weeks we look really strong; the next week we'll look like we've never wrestled."  
Last year, the Chiefs racked up 212.5 points to edge runner-up CC by 18 points. Franklin was third

with 178.5.  
Canton placed first in just two weight classes at the 2008 tournament, but the Chiefs conquered the 18-team field by advancing five grapplers to the finals.  
Among the returning elite wrestlers is Canton's Donnie Watkins, who is thus far unbeaten at 135 pounds.

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<b>16-0 171-101</b>	<b>16-0 164-108</b>	<b>16-0 169-103</b>	<b>16-0 169-103</b>	<b>8-8 166-106</b>	<b>16-0 183-89</b>	<b>16-0 185-87</b>	<b>16-0 172-100</b>	<b>16-0 167-105</b>
Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!	This Game Is Worth 16 Points!

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**WEEK #21 THE BIG GAME!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009**

**ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. PITTSBURGH STEELERS**





# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Sweet Retreat

Treat your Valentine to a day of pampering at Premier Salon & Spa in Macy's at Westland Shopping Center. Let her enjoy a manicure, mini Pedicure, classic facial, 25-minute massage and shampoo and blow-dry, all for just \$114. Purchase a gift certificate at the salon now through Feb. 14. For more information, call the salon at (734) 458-5577.

#### Super Event

Get up close and personal with Sunday's Super Bowl XLIII Sunday, Feb. 1, by watching it on a 10-foot screen at Ashley's Restaurant and Pub in Westland. Ashley's is offering "yards of food and drink specials," including their new Cheddar Ale dip and potato chips free and Happy Hour prices all day long. You'll find it at 7525 Wayne Road in front of the Westland Shopping Center.

#### 5 Star Event

Business can share information and enjoy lunch when five local chambers revive their 5 Star Business Expo and Luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 17. Sponsored by the Garden City, Westland, Redford, Wayne and Dearborn Heights cham-

bers, the event will be held at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born Road, Wayne. Registration and networking starts at 11 a.m. with lunch served at 12:15 p.m. A limited number of tables are available for \$5 for each for the expo cost \$5 and lunch is \$15. To reserve a spot, call the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4464 or the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222.

#### Classic Time

Looking for something different to do with your Saturday Valentine? Why not stop enjoy a reprise of Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw as Harvard Law student/hockey jock Oliver Barrett IV and Radcliffe music student Jennifer Cavalleri in the Oscar winning "Love Story" at the State Wayne Theater Saturday, Feb. 14. The film will be shown at 1, 3:20 and 5:40 p.m., leaving plenty of time for dinner afterwards. And the price - \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children age 11 under - also is easy on the pocketbook. The State Wayne Theater is at 35310 Michigan Ave., west of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 326-4600.

#### 'Friendly Films'

Autism Society of America and AMC Entertainment are hosting "Sensory Friendly Films", to bring families

affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. "Sensory Friendly Films" will begin this month in the Detroit area, with a special showing of the new film "Hotel for Dogs" 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 at the AMC Taylor 10, 22265 Eureka, Taylor. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing. In other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets are only \$4.75 and can be purchased on the day of the event.

### ONGOING

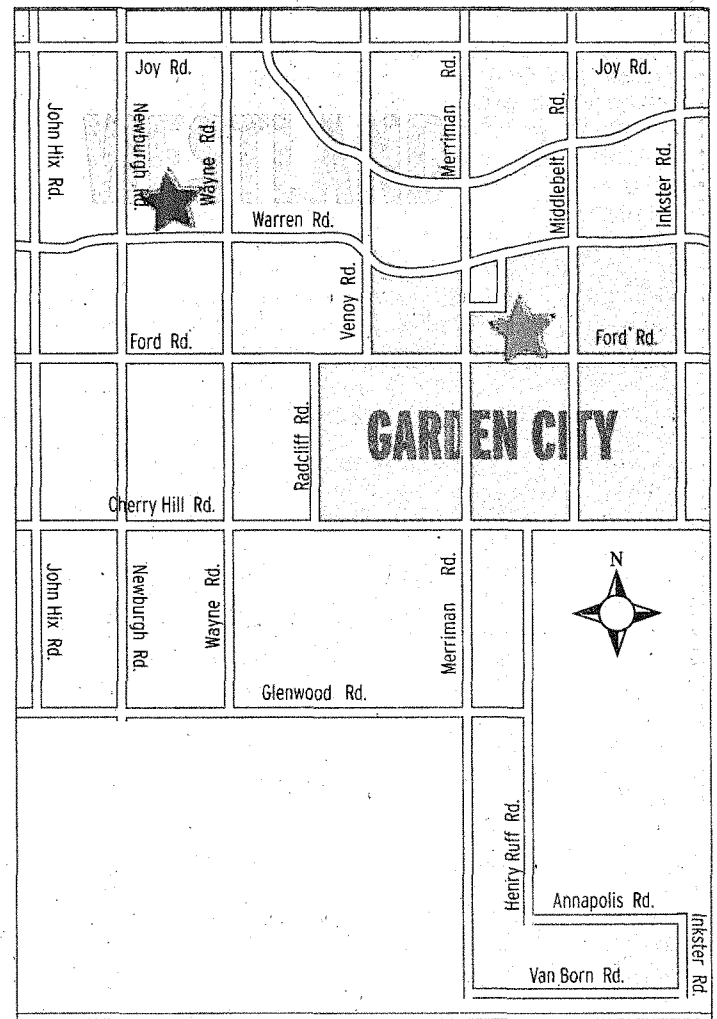
#### Stick 'em up

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce has started a window decal program. The decals will be mailed out to each member and given

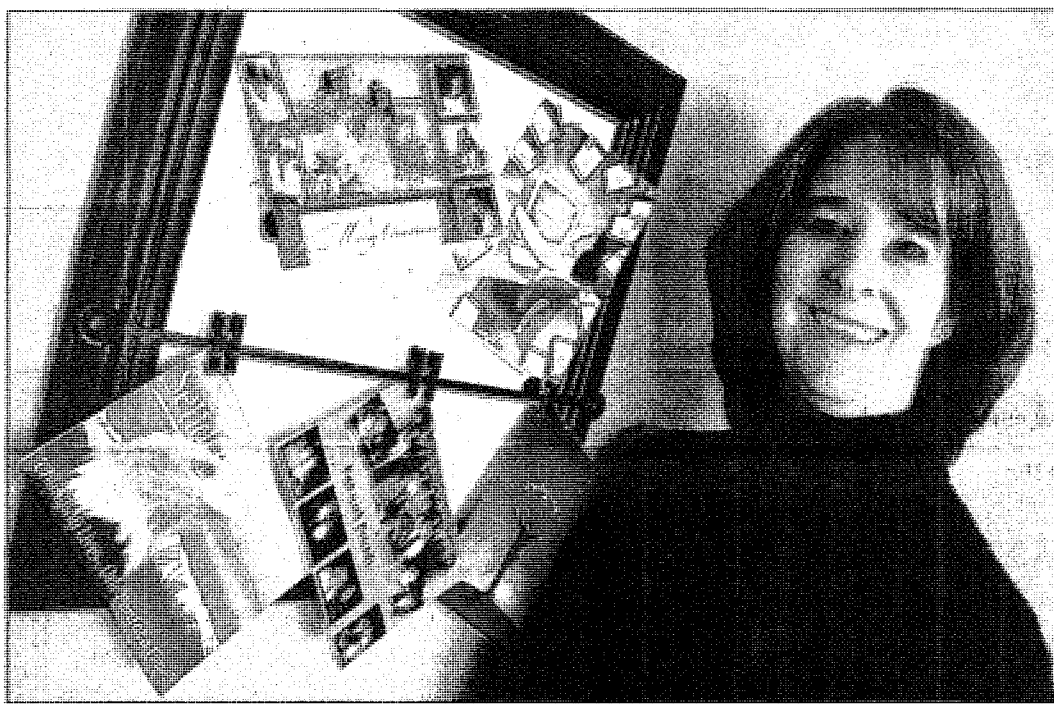
to new members as they renew their memberships. The chamber, a not-for-profit organization, has been the voice of the business community for more than 50 years and is recognizing its membership through the decal program. These static window decal signifies the businesses pride in their chamber membership investment as well as their commitment to continuing the tradition of fair and honest business dealings in Garden City. It is two colors, blue and black, offers the chamber logo along with the annual renewal date. The decal will be distributed yearly when members renew their commitment to the chamber.

### SEND IT

Get in on the Strictly Business Page of the Westland and Garden City Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Sue Mason, editor, at smason@hometownlife.com and she'll take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Westland and Garden City Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We look forward to hearing from you.



## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Beth Dunn of SendOutCards.com shows off some of the cards she's created including her family Christmas card which won first prize in the company's monthly card contest.

# Home business keeps its clients in cards

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

Life is full of moments where we are "prompted" - either by an inner voice or a thought that pops into our head. But who has the time to go buy a card, write a note, and go to the post office to buy a stamp and drop it off. Technology has allowed us to instantly communicate our words via e-mail or text messages, but there is something about receiving a heartfelt card in the mail that says so much. I work with busy business owners and individual consumers using our automated, yet personalized card system to create customer follow-up, thank-you's, birthday, holiday cards, product or event announcements.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

Personalized notes and cards stand out because they are rare in today's age of electronic communications. SendOutCards enables you to send personalized cards through the mail using our unique Web site technology in under 60 seconds while sitting

### SENDOUTCARDS.COM

**Business name:** SendOutCards.com  
**Address:** 34203 Rosslyn St., Westland  
**Name and Title:** Mary Beth Dunn, independent distributor  
**Business Opened:** June 2006  
**Business specialty:** Help busy business owners, keep in touch with their customers and clients. Also offering a simply way to those who just like to send cards.  
**Business phone and Web site:** (734) 748-9048, mdunn10@wow-way.com or log onto <http://www.sendoutcards.com/12051> to send out your free card today.

at your computer. You can send 5 or 500 cards in minutes, choose from more than 13,000 cards, even upload a picture, and create your own card with your own handwriting.

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

I have always been a big "homemade" cards sender. With our growing family it was hard to find the time. SendOutCards allowed me to use my other hobby - scrap-

booking, with our family pictures. I'm able to create cards with a twist. Learning the power of sending a HUG (Heartfelt Unexpected Greeting) card in my personal life. I want to introduce the system to others, teaching the POWER of an unexpected GREETING CARD.

**How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?**

Our family lives in Westland, and I'm able to work out of my home.

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

SendOutCards was created when the founder, ignored a "promoting" to get out of his car and say goodbye to his brother, instead he just honked and waved as he and his family were leaving to relocate. A couple months later, his brother was killed in an industrial accident. After that he never ignored another "promoting" and teaches others this lesson.

Also, I'm especially proud of our family's Christmas card this year, as it won first prize in our company's monthly card contest.

## CHAMBER CHAT

Greetings!

The Westland Chamber of Commerce has been busy planning out an exciting year for all of you from new benefits for being a chamber member to new events open to all in the community.

We have placed all of our events online. You can get a list of them at [www.westlandchamber.com](http://www.westlandchamber.com). There are two events that I am very excited about. The first one being, Winterfest

Bowling on Feb. 21. It's a fun way to spend an afternoon bowling, having fun, and enjoying a buffet dinner at Marvaso's Italian Grille. Not to mention this event helps benefits our Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is given out each year to a Wayne-Westland student furthering their education beyond high school.

Second, is a Dueling Piano event with the Westland

Jaycees on March 13. This new event should be thrilling! It is a great night out with a very pocketbook-friendly price.

For more information on attending these events, please visit our Web site or call us at (734) 326-7222.

**Brookellen Swope** is president and CEO of the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Its offices are at 36900 Ford, between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

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