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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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A new look debuts today

Dear Readers:
Your hometown *Westland Observer* has a new look. The changes are a result of your feedback in e-mail surveys and local interviews over the past four months. The design has been updated and inside you'll find new features on "Local Education" and "Neighbors," pages about the special events in your life. It's all local and packaged in shorter stories, with more photos and more local names. On Thursday, look for new features on public safety, business, food and wine and entertainment. In addition, you will see a new emphasis on local opinions - from *The Observer* and you.

I welcome your comments. You can reach me at (313) 222-5397 or srosiek@hometownlife.com.

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

AROUND TOWN WW board calls for special meeting

The Wayne-Westland school board will hold special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at the district's administrative offices, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road in Westland.

On the agenda will be the approval of a new four-year contract with the Wayne-Westland Education Association. Members of the union voted on the agreement last week. The proposed settlement agreement was reached while the two sides were working with a fact-finder from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

The board also will vote on the appointment of Stacy McClure as the new assistant principal at Stevenson Middle School. McClure replaces Scott Burek, who moved up to the principal's position in December following the retirement of Ginny O'Brien.

Gebhardt gets new assignments

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt has a few new duties after being appointed to several committees and boards.

Wayne County Commission Chairman Edward A. Boike nominated Gebhardt to the Wayne County Head Start Governing Board and to Westland's Local Development Financing Authority. He also appointed her to four of the commission's standing committees - the Committee of the Whole, Committee on Government Operations, Committee on Public Services and Committee on Ways and Means.

Wayne County's Head Start provides a series of programs for children that help address education, health, nutrition and literacy concerns. The Westland LDFA helps promote economic growth and job creation along the Newburgh Road corridor.

"As a former teacher, principal and early childhood director, Commissioner Gebhardt offers significant experience and passion to the Head Start board," Boike said. "She will also bring valuable insights on economic development to the Westland LDFA."

The Livonia Democrat represents Wayne County's 12th District which includes the cities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia.

Shuttered market gets 'Fresh' makeover

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bucking a gloomy economic trend, a businessman has embarked on an ambitious plan to remodel the former Bob's of Canton-Westland store and open his own market by spring - a move that already has stirred interest in the Warren-Merriman neighborhood.

"We're thrilled to see someone

filling that vacant storefront," Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale said.

New business owner Art Danou confirmed that he plans to open his new store, Family Fresh Market, in late March or early April. He hopes the 15,000-square-foot store will find its neighborhood niche by offering quality meats, a deli, fresh seafood, six aisles of groceries and a produce section that "is out of this world."

Danou has worked with relatives in the grocery business, but Family Fresh Market will become his first venture with wife Monica. The couple has three school-age children.

Danou shrugs off any reputation the former Bob's of Canton site might have following a shootout that occurred outside the store last August between Romulus police and a group of now-imprisoned men who

tried to rob a drug informant of cocaine.

"I love the location," Danou said. "The people in Westland have been great. I think we can bring a lot of positives to the city. We want to make people feel good again about coming back to the store."

"I love challenges, and this business is a challenge for me," he

Please see **MARKET, A2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Knit one, purl one

Westland residents Laurie DeHetre (left) knits a scarf while Angela Lowery crochets a blanket at Drop-In Knitting @ the Library, a group that meets on Wednesday evenings at the William P. Faust Public Library. For the story and more photos, see Page A9.

Council takes up water service pact

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents could see their water rates jump nearly 10 percent under an increase proposed by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department officials.

An average household that uses 22,000 gallons of water each two-month billing cycle would pay an additional \$18.48 a year, or \$3.08 every two months, Mayor William Wild said.

The latest 9.9 percent rate hike, starting July 1, would come amid an economic recession that



Wild

increase is needed to offset declining revenues and rising expenses.

However, Wild indicated that the rate hike potentially could shrink to 4.2 percent - if Westland city leaders agree to a

30-year water-service contract that Detroit is seeking to secure with communities that receive water from Michigan's largest city.

Some communities, such as Garden City, already have locked in the 30-year service agreement.

Wild also held out hope that water rate hikes could be eased by other measures, such as Detroit bringing its workforce in line with revenues and by a federal stimulus package that could provide financial aid for water-sewer system infrastructure improvements.

Westland city leaders will discuss the 30-year contract during public talks scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday on the second floor of City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh. A vote could come the same night during a business meeting that starts at 7 p.m.

Wild indicated that local officials have few options other than to approve a long-term agreement, saying that Detroit is trying to lock up its customer base.

"I don't think we have much of a choice," he said. "We don't have another source for water."

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Youth Assistance referrals increase

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland program dedicated to helping troubled youngsters overcome behaviors like missing school, fighting, stealing, vandalism and not minding their parents has seen an uptick in referrals as an economic recession has placed added strains on family life, officials said.

Westland's Youth Assistance Program received 312 referrals for help in 2008, the second-highest 12-month total since it was started 15 years earlier, Director Paul Motz said.

Even more revealing of a trend, the program has handled about 900 referrals from local police, courts, schools and parents during the last three years, he said.

Motz attributed part of the

increase to community awareness of a program that pairs troubled youths, primarily ages 10-16, with adult mentors while providing positive life-choice classes, parenting sessions, prison tours and other activities that can spur good behavior.

"Our program is well-established," Motz said, "and we have good connections in the community."

However, Motz also cited an economic downturn, job losses and money problems as leading to a higher number of referrals to the Youth Assistance Program, housed next door to the Westland police station.

"Due to the stress and strain of family finances, the parents and guardians are on edge a little bit, and that impacts the kids as well," Motz said.

Not every youngster who

gets referred to the program is admitted, including those involved in law-breaking activities that are more appropriately handled by the police and courts. Of 312 youths referred last year, nearly 200 were accepted. Motz estimated that 55 percent of them were boys and 45 percent girls.

"A good number of kids who entered the program don't have a long history of misdeeds," he said.

Those are the youngsters who can most likely be steered away from trouble and toward more productive lives, he said. Every year, the Youth Assistance Program celebrates its successes with a recognition dinner for youngsters, volunteer mentors and others who help. This year's event was attended by

Please see **YOUTH, A2**

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Bailey Center helps you shape up with \$2 workout

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wendy Fisher and Laree Smith were getting a good workout on a recent Monday afternoon at the Bailey Center in Westland.

"We have our daughters in cheerleading down here," said Livonia resident Fisher. "While we're watching them, we're

working out."

She and Smith, also of Livonia, were walking on treadmills at the Bailey Recreational Center and watching their daughters in the gym below through the window.

"I love it, it's very convenient," said Smith about the 40-45-minute workout they get once a week. "I think it's great

they have this. It gets you motivated."

Margaret Martin, Westland Parks and Recreation program supervisor, notes with pride it's just \$2 per session for the cardio workout equipment for Westland residents. You pay by day.

"There's a TV right in front of them," Martin said of the treadmill and bicycle users.

"It's getting more and more popular."

Martin said New Year's resolutions to get in shape bring some in.

"We're also offering personal training," Martin said. Cody Watkins, also the cardio kickboxing instructor, offers the training.

You can reach Watkins at (734) 686-9882 or by e-mail at

xcfitness@yahoo.com.

"It's a pretty screaming good deal," Martin said of the drop-in workouts. "You don't have to get a membership."

There's an offer coming soon online from Parks and Rec for a \$5 one-week trial coupon for the cardio and weight room. That's one time only to see if you like the facility.

Bob Kosowski, parks and

recreation director, noted that "2009 is the year to get into shape."

You can find more under Parks and Recreation on the city's Web site, www.cityof-westland.com. The Bailey Center is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Call the parks and recreation department at (734) 722-7620 for more information.

MARKET

FROM PAGE A1

said. "I'm up for it. I'm ready for it."

Workers already have started remodeling the store — painting it, installing new lighting, putting in new produce cases and adding more freezer space for products like ice cream.

Danou also has asked for a license to sell beer and wine, and the store will sell lottery tickets.

Westland Mayor William Wild said the new market will be a welcome addition to a shopping center that has been struggling on the northeast corner of Warren and Merriman.

"I think it's going to be good news for the residents that live on that side of Westland and that shop in that area," he said. "It's going to be a big shot in the arm to that whole shopping complex there."

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YOUTH

FROM PAGE A1

about 85 people Monday at Angelo Brothers restaurant on Ford Road.

"It's always so touching to recognize the volunteers, and it's a strong reminder of why we work so hard," Youth Assistance Deputy Director Michele Bracy said. "We're just so proud that the kids have come so far from where they were."

Two teens, Artesia McKeever and Jalen Manning, earned honors, respectively, as Female Youth of 2008. Motz praised McKeever for improving her family relations and school performance, and he lauded Manning for becoming involved in an array of community projects, including planting flowers at the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMILY COOMBS

Artesia McKeever accepts her Youth Assistance Program Award from Director Paul Motz.

Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

Youth Assistance leaders also honored a one-time

referral, Nicole Shire, for completing the program and then returning to facilitate one of the youth life-choices classes.

Debra Fowlkes, former Wayne-Westland school board president, earned an award as Mentor of the Year. "She's a natural at it," Motz said.

A local business, North Brothers Ford, was honored as Agency of the Year, having donated more than \$70,000 to Youth Assistance since 1997, Motz said.

Special recognition was given to Ronalee Bowman, former Youth Assistance director, for helping to spearhead a program that has aided numerous youngsters over the years.

"Ronalee really planted the seed for our program," Motz said, commending her for "her long, hard work in the early years" forging relations with police, courts, schools, the city of Westland and others who have supported the program.

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **February 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

NEW ROOF- Dorsey Community Center

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Department at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: February 1, 2009

OE0642242-2x2

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation.

If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls, located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2665-R. Ruark, 2686 S. John Hix
Request for a non-conforming structure variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 20' x 20.08' addition to the rear of the home whereas Section 5:2.3 states that a non-conforming home cannot be enlarged and a 0.8 foot side yard setback variance to construct the proposed addition 4.2 feet from the west side lot line whereas Section 7:4.2 requires a minimum side yard setback of 5 feet.

Publish February 1, 2009

OE0642178_2x3.5'

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **February 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Five (5) Roof-top Heating/Air Conditioning Units at Dorsey Community Center

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Department at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: February 1, 2009

OE0642246-2x3



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY Notice of Filing Deadline

All Local School Board candidates who wish to seek office at the May 5, 2009 School Election, must file nominating petitions no later than:

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009
before 4:00 p.m.**

Petitions must be filed with the Garden City Clerk's Office located at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. Clerk's Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
City of Garden City, Michigan

Publish: January 29 & February 1, 2009

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AROUND WESTLAND

A sweetheart of a date

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and the Westland Parks and Recreation Department is once again offering its annual Daddy/Daughter and Mommy/Son Western Hoedown 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The evening will feature traditional square dances, mixers and special dances. Refreshments will be served, and each couple will receive a souvenir photo. The cost is \$10 per couple, plus \$5 for each additional daughter or son. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Feb. 5. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Dads can also escort their little princesses to one of two Fairy Princess Balls Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Bailey Center. The first ball will be 3-4:30 p.m. and the second installment will be 5:30-7 p.m. There will be a DJ, refreshments, and a souvenir photo of each couple.

The cost is \$15 per couple plus \$7 for each additional daughter. Tickets also must be purchased by Feb. 5. Corsages, costing \$8 each, also are available and must be ordered and paid for at registration.

Tickets are available at the Bailey Center, 36651 Ford, Westland. For information, call (734) 722-7620.

Vegas Nights

St. Theodore Parish will hold its Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be 50/50 drawings every hour, Black Jack, Let It Ride, roulette, money wheel and hourly Texas Hold 'em. Food, beer, wine and soft drinks also will be available. The Maximum win per person will be \$500. For more information, call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voicemail number 10).

Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Parent Advisory Council - Z-PAC - will hold a Scrapbooking Event 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, just east of Venoy, Westland.

The cost is \$25 per person. A light lunch, snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. Seating is limited, and the registration deadline is Jan. 31. Send a check, payable to Wayne Memorial High School, to Z-PAC Scrapbooking Event, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI 48184. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Proceeds will benefit the Z-PAC Scholarship Fund and 2009 Senior Farewell Dinner.

A scrapbooking workshop will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. The cost is \$35 per person for a full day and \$20 per person for a half day. For more information, call Karen Kopcak at (734) 634-3934 or Sandy Kopcak at (734) 721-4867.

Blood drive

Roll up your sleeve and give a unit at a blood drive being held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 34530 Michigan Ave, two blocks east of Wayne Road, in Wayne. For more information, call Shelly Monday through Friday at (734) 326-2234.

Open House

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Westland 869 will hold an open house at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Adams Senior Village Community Center, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland. For more information, call Sandy at (734) 729-5648.

Constituent hours

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

Office hours for Tuesday, Feb. 3, are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Thursday, Feb. 5, office hours

ON THE WEB

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

are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van

Buren September Days Senior Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Valentine Party

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish will have a Valentine Card Party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. There

will be door and table prizes, 50/50 raffle, light meal and snacks. Tickets are \$8. Bring your friends and play cards and games of your choice. Proceeds will benefit the church's debt reduction.

Blues buster

The Westland Friendship Center has just the remedy for the winter blues - a party! Tickets are on sale now for the Friendship Center's Winter Blues Bash Friday, Feb. 20. Kerry Price from

the Windsor-Detroit Jazz Club will entertain with her signature blend of blues.

The buffet meal will include slow roasted beef in brown sauce, boneless breaded pork chops, wedged red skin potatoes with parsley, and there also will be raffle prizes. And one more thing - attendees MUST wear blue to enter, and any shade will do.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh,

south of Ford, Westland.

Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.



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EDUCATION

WW board honors Holbrook for scholarship achievement

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Brittany Holbrook knows where she'll spend her college years and it's not all that far from her high school.

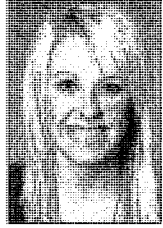
A senior at Westland John Glenn High School, Holbrook has signed a national athletic letter of intent to attend Oakland University in Rochester.

"In the seven years I've been at John Glenn, by far she's the best female athlete," Glenn Athletic Director Brian Swinehart said. "She's one of the best I've been around. She's a committed athlete and represents all the students out there at John Glenn High School."

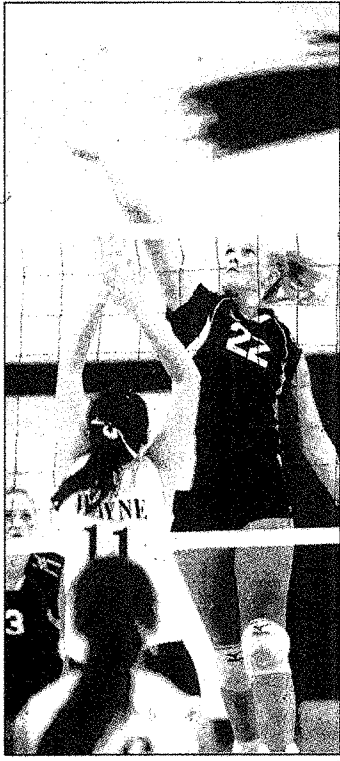
Swinehart made those comments in introducing Holbrook to the Wayne-Westland school board. She was at the meeting to be recognized for her athletic and academic accomplishments.

Holbrook has accepted a four-year scholarship, worth more than \$100,000, to OU where she will play on the women's volleyball team. She was one of three high school seniors that Golden Grizzlies Coach Rob Beam recruited to "add some physicality" to his team's offense.

Holbrook is a three-time all-conference and all-area



Holbrook



FILE PHOTO

John Glenn's Brittany Holbrook has parlayed her talent on the volleyball court into an athletic scholarship at Oakland University.

selection, as well as a two-time all-region selection. Holbrook was the MVP of her team as a junior and senior, averaging 3.8 kills per game after finishing the season with 313 kills.

"In Brittany we saw tremendous physical potential," Beam said. "While she is new to high level volleyball, she has the right tools to be a major contributor at the Division I level. She is a pow-

erful jumper and hits a heavy ball. She has strength of character, loves to play, and a strong work ethic."

Glenn coach Julian Wargo, who has coached Holbrook for three years, described her as "product of her environment."

"I have seen her grow in time and will truly miss her because of her hard work," Wargo said. "You provided her with the tools not only to be competitive, but to be successful in these difficult times."

Holbrook told the board that at age 10 she didn't know she could get a full-ride scholarship at Division I school. She thanked her mother, who raised three children as a single parent, and Wargo who "has been there for me," even coming to her basketball games.

"I thank everyone for their support and their time," she said. "When I go from here, I'll remember John Glenn High School. I have been inspired to be the best I can be and I can't thank you enough."

In presenting Holbrook with a certificate of recognition school board Treasurer Steve Becher asked Holbrook about a possibly dynasty at Glenn, referring to her younger sisters. Holbrook is captain of the varsity team, her sisters as captains of the JV and freshman teams.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maria (Cinamon Cowper) and Tony (Bradley Ryktarsyk) meet at night, illuminated by moonlight, in this scene from West Side Story being presented Feb. 5-7 by the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School.

Churchill thespians present 'West Side Story'

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Student thespians are challenging themselves with the production of *West Side Story* at Churchill High School Feb. 5-7.

"It's definitely not what I'm used to," senior Daniel Greco said about his role as Riff, leader of the Jets in the 1961 musical about two rival street gangs and a Romeo-Juliet romance.

"He's kind of a tough guy, intimidating but not too angry, strong and in charge but cool (calm) at the same time," Greco said of his character.

One of 42 cast members in the Creative and Performing Arts program production, Greco said he is used to playing more timid characters like the scarecrow in CAPA's recent presentation of *The Wizard of Oz*.

"It's going to make me a better actor," he said.

Likewise, junior Amber Lawson, who plays Anita, girlfriend of Sharks gang leader Bernardo, isn't used to playing such a sassy character. "I like that it's different," she said of her role. "It's making me challenge myself."

Lori Porter, CAPA vocal, music teacher, said she and Mary Murphy, CAPA dance director, decided to have their students do *West Side Story*, in part, because it is challenging for high schoolers. The characters have to convey both love and hate, she said. "The love sometimes is a little harder (for young thespians); the awkwardness comes in."

West Side Story, one of the smaller productions by CAPA this year, also allows students to

explore racial tensions through theater, showcases all three disciplines of the CAPA program — theater, voice and dance — and gives more boys a chance to be featured, Porter said.

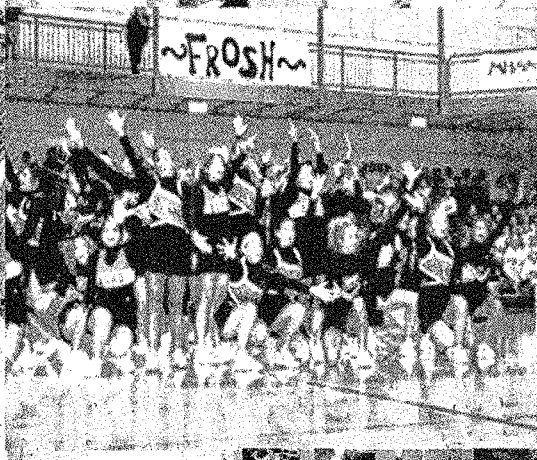
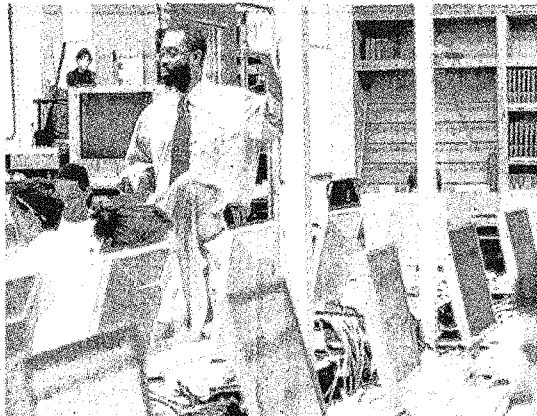
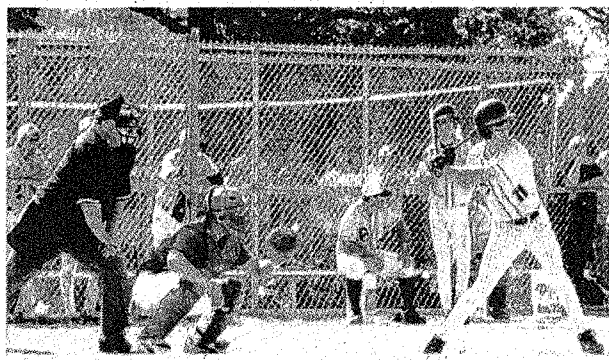
Also performing lead roles are senior Brad Ryktarsyk, who plays Tony, Riff's best friend and co-founder of the Jets; junior Jesus Murillo, who plays Bernardo, leader of the Sharks; and junior Cinamon Cowper, who plays Maria, Bernardo's sister and Tony's girlfriend.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. in the Churchill High Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Order tickets online at www.star-ringcapa.com or call (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46135.

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Divine Child High School

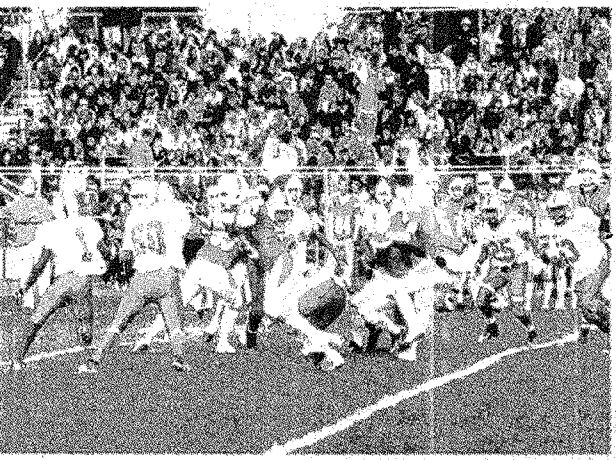
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ACT Standings

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Michigan	18.7	19.5	19.8	19.9	19.6
Divine Child	24.7	22.5	25.3	23.7	24.2

Class of 2008: Attending College 100%
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Scholarships Earned \$5.2 million

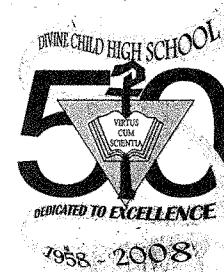
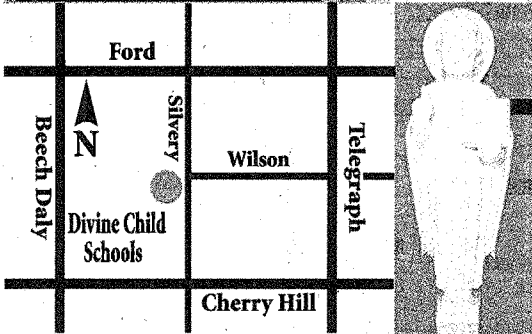
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ACHIEVERS

Named to the honor roll for the second marking period at the Tinkham Alternative High School in Westland were Ashley Holland, Tressie Howell, Sarah Jordan, Zachary Moreno, David O'Reilly, Janell Reeves and Alicia Taylor.

Named to the Dean's List at Madonna University were Garden City residents:

Ashton Carelle Bastianelli, Alicia Marie Berger, Maureen C. Bielski, Carly Alexis Bruner, Jennifer Lynn Carr, Makeia N. Collier, Kristina Nichole Davis, Dana Lynn Domanski-Nielsen, Samantha Elizabeth Domingue, Kristen R. Forster, Alicia Rae Gilbert, John Stephen Gora, Andrew D. Kaetz, Nicholas George Lutz, Ericka Michelle Oprican, Rachael Margaret Sims, Kelli Ann Siwik, Cara Skiver, Maryann Sparkman, Carrie Spears, Shelley L. Stanek, Lisa A. Taylor, Alex N. Terrell, Emilee Carole Thren, Amanda May Williams and Tara Nicole Young.

The Dean's List recognizes superior academic achievement during the fall 2008 term at the Livonia-based university.

Westland residents on the list were Reylan G. Acuna, Dawn M. Andrus, Amanda K. Andrysiak, Meagan Balés, Yola Jabbour Barchini, Carla Beaver, Geoffrey K. Bedner, Sarah B. Bent, Cory D. Boutin, Kristen Marie Boven, Jaclyn Flora Brandt, Diana Lynn Brda, Kevin Allan Buchan, Andrea LaCheryl Burston, Lindsay Marie Caswell, Amanda Marie Christensen, Shannon Ailene Clarke, Elizabeth Eleanor Closser, JoAnn Michael Conner, Emily Yvonne Coombs, Christopher Robert Cosselmon, Elizabeth Therese Dempsey, Lindsay Mary Dixon, Yean-Ok Eun, Suzanne P. Follo, Sandra Lynn Forslund.

Michael Robert Fraser, Ryan Pelobello Gatz, Lorraine Adaline Getkin, Tamila Shere Green, Danielle Marie Haase, Alan Clinton Hagedon, Kimberly Mary Hagelthorn, Christina M. Haley, Jennifer Joann Hamilton, Chersonia S. Hendrix, Latrice Michelle Henry, Lauren Lee Hochstein, Joseph Anthony Horka, Danielle M. Horton, Karen Michelle House, Jacqueline M. Hubert, Nicholas Robert Jentz, Andrea Natali Jimenez, Tannessa S. Johnson, Lisa Michelle Kaluzny, Christine M. Kapelanski, Kristin M. Kelley, Kelly Morgan Killebrew, Woo-Suk Kim.

Sharon Langa, Lauren Elizabeth Leese, Yuliya Yevgenyevna Levina, Tracey Deanna Lidge, Amy Christine Lipan, Daniel John Mahoney, Ana Paula Marcolina, Charles Brian Meyers, Amanda Lee Morrill, Jana Raji Musleh, Cassandra Catherine Nedock, Robert Lawrence Oliver, Emil Andrew Pando, Jeong-Eun Park, Sang-Hyep Park, Samantha Grace Paul, Andrew James Pepera, Endia Y. Price, Pamela Joann Richmond, Tiffany Elaine Rickett, Rund Amin Rihani, Catherine Agness Rivera, Ramana Mikki Roberson, Summar Denielle Ronning, Sean Adam Sciba.

Lauren Catherine Seppanen, Megan J. Sergeichik, Nina Prakash Singh, Bryant Patrick Slaughter, Laura Sinclair Smith, Kelly Skye Stradtner, Danielle Kathryn Suh, Muma Robert Takwi, Jared Todd Thirjung, Jessica D. Vaughan, Daniel Michael Walsh, Teri Suzanne Weiland, Jennifer Lara Wheeler, Lisa Wheeler, Jody M. White, Jamie Allison Young and Javier Arturo Zarate.

The Dean's List recognizes superior academic achievement during the fall 2008 term at the Livonia-based university.



Students competing in St. Raphael School's annual spelling bee were Danielle Keane (front row, kneeling), Taylor Bejma, Raymond Morrison, Brendan Strausbough, Kyle Cavanaugh, runner-up Ashley Ilonze (back row, standing), Jonah Globke, Kevin Pociask, Katelyn Jacobi, Lilly DeRamos, Seth Globke, winner George Sawaya, Robert Piepsney, Thomas Cahill, and Kennedy Gossett.

Achievement: 6th-grader wins St. Raphael bee

Students at St. Raphael Catholic School put their words to the test in a spelling bee to determine who will represent the school at the *Detroit News* Bee on Feb. 21 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Fifteen students in fifth-

through eighth-grade competed in the annual school spelling bee held Jan. 23. Students in the fourth-eighth-grades were the audience for the bee, which lasted 45 minutes and ended when sixth-grader George Sawaya correctly spelled the word achievement. The run-

ner-up was Ashley Ilonze. In addition to George and Ashley, the other grade level finalists were Kyle Cavanaugh, Ray Morrison, Brendan Strausbough, Taylor Bejma, Danielle Keane, Thomas Cahill, Robert Piepsney, Kevin Pociask, Jonah Globke,

Kennedy Gossett, Lilly DeRamos, Seth Globke and Katelyn Jacobi.

The spelling bee was coordinated by St. Raphael teacher Pam Swiderek with the help of fellow teachers Barb Dyke, Karen Beaubien and Brenda Gibbons.

Madonna offers master classes in organ, vocals for high schoolers

High school musicians can fine tune their skills during Madonna University's Master Class for Organ and Master Class for Singers.

Family and friends are welcome to attend and observe as students perform their selected pieces. Cash prizes and an opportunity to perform at a spring concert will be awarded.

The Master Class in Organ is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

Applications are due by Feb. 13. The Master Class for Singers is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Applications are due by Feb. 20.

The spring concert is set for Sunday, April 19.

Organ instructor David Wagner and vocal instructors Linda Meehan, Allen Schrott and Barbara Wiltsie will provide onstage guidance and interpretative suggestions. "Each musician has the benefit of a private lesson,

while gaining valuable performing experience," said Linette Popoff-Parks, chair of the music department at Madonna.

For more information or to register, contact Barbara Wiltsie at (734) 432-5715 or bwiltsie@madonna.edu. Registration forms are available in the music department, Room 1506 E, at Madonna University's main campus in Livonia. Students should include the name of the piece

they wish to perform. There is a \$20 performer registration fee. An additional \$15 is required if an accompanist is needed for vocal entries. Observers are welcome that evening for \$5 per person or family and participants are encouraged to invite their current instructors, who will be admitted free of charge.

Madonna University is at 36600 Schoolcraft Road (I-96 and Levan Road).

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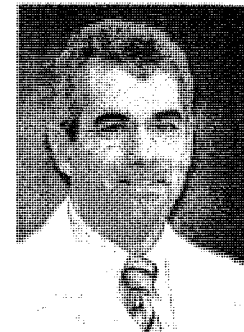
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Chief, Cardiovascular Services



Gary Goodman, MD
Chief, Cardiac Surgery



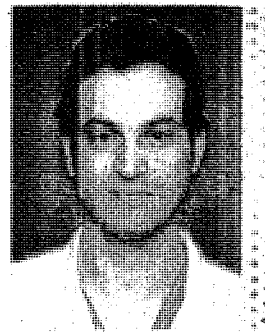
Salwan Anton, DO
Invasive Cardiologist



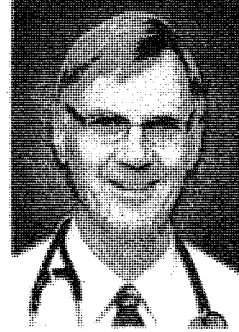
Dimitrios Apostolou, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon



Isaac Barr, MD
Clinical Cardiologist



Marcos Daccarett, MD
Electrophysiologist



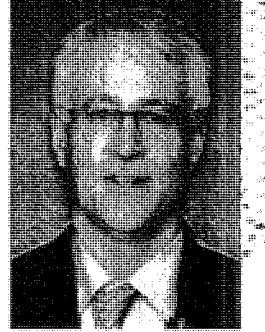
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Keith Johnstone, MD
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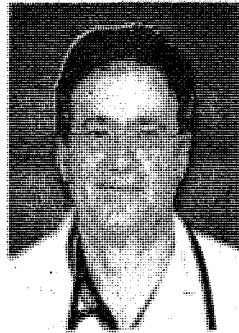
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Gregor McKendrick, MD
Clinical Cardiologist



Ronald Miller, MD
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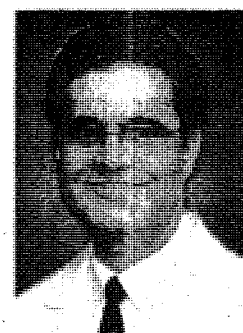
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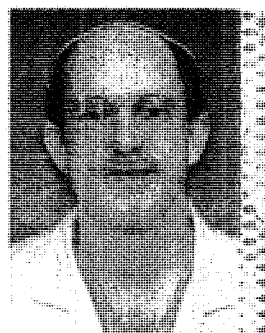
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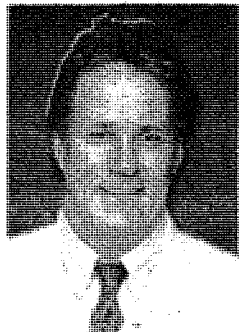
Abhinav Raina, MD
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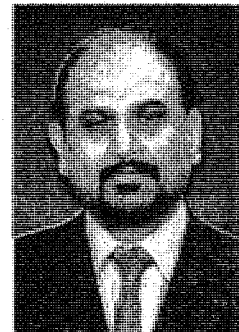
Mark Rasak, DO
Interventional Cardiologist



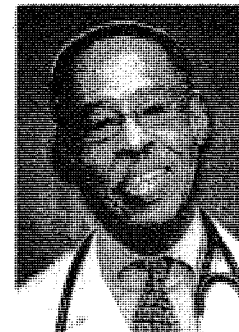
Irina Shanidze, MD
Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic



Michael Shaw, PhD
Medical Researcher



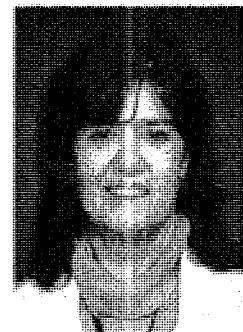
Mukarram Siddiqui, MD
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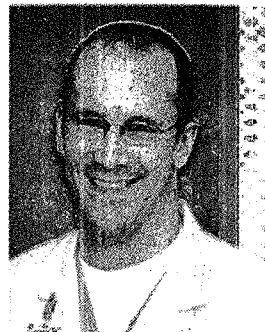
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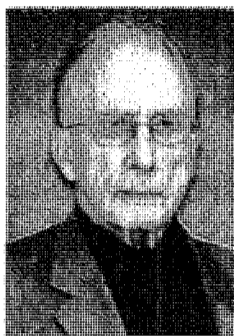
Jerry Deputat
Admin. Dir., Cardiology



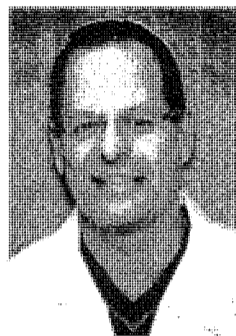
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Eduardo Garcia, MD
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Henry Green, MD
Clinical Cardiologist



Isaac Grinberg, MD
Invasive Cardiologist



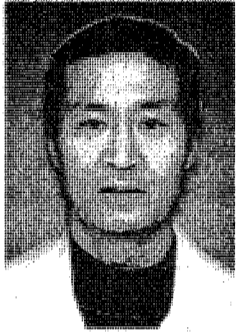
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Michael Lee, MD
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Barry Lewis, DO
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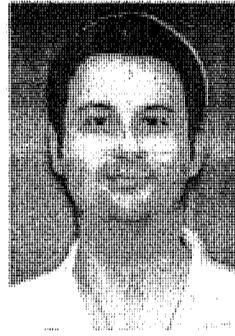
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HEALING

Westland library offers Everyone's Reading

Finding My Voice, the story of NPR personality Diane Rehm's struggle with a rare neurological disorder that almost ended her broadcast career, is the featured selection for the 2009 Everyone's Reading, a Metro Detroit Book Club that begins today (Feb. 1) at the libraries in Wayne and Oakland counties.

In its eighth year in Michigan, Everyone's Reading is a community reading program to promote dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. Thirteen public libraries, including the William P. Faust Library in Westland, are participating.

Rehm's book uses a memoir format to examine truths

about her life and help readers reflect on their own human experience. Memoirs and autobiographies are the bestselling nonfiction category after travel books. From Frank McCourt's best seller and Pulitzer winner, *Angela's Ashes*, to Dave Eggers' *Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, the memoir has gone beyond traditional autobiography and become a literary art form in itself.

Rehm is one of the nation's most well known talk show hosts. In 1973, with no prior experience, Rehm began her radio career as a volunteer producer at WAMU in Washington, D.C. She became host of her own radio show in 1979, and in 1995 it became part of National Public Radio.

Washingtonian Magazine named her "Washingtonian of the Year" in 1998 and one of Washington's "100 Most Powerful Women."

Rehm, who has interviewed many of the most famous public figures of the past 25 years, will make two appearances in metro Detroit during National Library Week in April to discuss *Finding My Voice*. Signed copies of her book also will be available for purchase. She is scheduled to appear at the Royal Park Hotel, 600 East University Dr., Rochester, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, and Maple Art Theatre, 4135 West Maple at Telegraph, Bloomfield Township, at 7 p.m. April 15.

Due to popular demand, a ticket will be required for

both author appearances. Tickets are free and available at William P. Faust Public Library, beginning Monday, March 23.

Additionally, a variety of programs and events tied to the book's theme will be conducted at many of the participating libraries. Events will include book discussions, movies, programs about the memoir genre and heritage scrapbooking to preserve your own voice.

A readers' guide and Everyone's Reading program brochure containing complete information about these events are available at all sponsoring libraries and at the Everyone's Reading Web site at www.everyonesreading.info.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Knockin' down

Melissa Bosman of Garden City helps her five-year-old son Garrett with his approach at the Garden City Parks and Recreation Department's mom and son bowling event held at Westland Bowl.

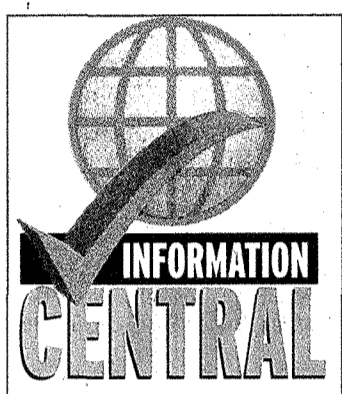
Celebrating Idlewild

Called the "Black Eden", Idlewild is one of the oldest and most famous African American resort communities in the United States. It is located in Yates Township in the rural northwestern area of Michigan. Founded in 1912 during the time of strict racial segregation, the community served as an escape from discrimination for professional middle class African Americans who lived in large urban cities.

During the height of its popularity from the 1920s to the mid-1960s, Idlewild became an intellectual center. Many activists and members of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association and W.E.B. Dubois' NAACP, as well as numerous businessmen and women took advantage of the market at that time and bought up much of the property to develop into nightspots and a business center.

Many famous performers, such as Louis Armstrong, B.B. King, Sammy Davis Jr., Aretha Franklin, Jackie Wilson, Della Reese, and the Four Tops, came to Idlewild early on in their careers. Outside of the community, these entertainers still had to submit to segregation.

After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Idlewild experienced an economic decline. With many more options available, black entertainers and professionals were no longer relegated to institutions, such as Idlewild. Along with many other establishments in the black community, Idlewild faced



a large loss of patronage as African Americans turned to businesses and other public accommodations that had previously denied serving them. During the early 1990s, Idlewild experienced the start of a rebirth. Several new developments in services and building renovations to the community brought the return of the young people who were born and raised in Idlewild, as well as a migration of a new generation of professionals. In July 2007, Governor Granholm established the Idlewild, Michigan Transformation Initiative that is being supported by \$93,875 in federal and state grants to attract new investments and economic growth.

In December 2007, the Governor created the Idlewild Centennial Commission to plan activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Idlewild. Despite the many

challenges Idlewild faces today, the revitalization effort is still striving to maintain its unique sense of community unity and solidarity.

To learn more about Idlewild stop by the Westland Public Library. The library is proud to host a month long exhibit about the Idlewild community. Unveiling of the exhibit will take place today (Feb. 1) at 2 p.m. It will feature a talk by Dr. Ben C. Wilson professor, historian and coauthor of the book, "Black Eden: the Idlewild Community."

This traveling exhibit from Michigan State University Museum is funded with help from the Michigan Humanities Council. All are invited to attend the unveiling and visit the exhibit throughout February.

Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westland.lib.mi.us for information about this topic and other activities at the library.

Highlighted Activities
Adult Poetry Group: 7 p.m. Feb. 2. Ages 19 and up.

Interested in reading, discussing, and writing poetry? Please join us for one of our sessions, whether you're a first-time writer or a serious wordsmith. Sign up at the Reference Desk or just show up. Check out our blog at: westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com

African American Film Series: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4. Teens and adults. Join poet, playwright, and actor

Victor Walker in viewing the contemporary classic, "A Lesson Before Dying," starring Don Cheadle, Mehki Phife, and Cicely Tyson. (Based on the novel by Ernest J. Gaines.) Walker will introduce the movie as well as lead a post-movie discussion.

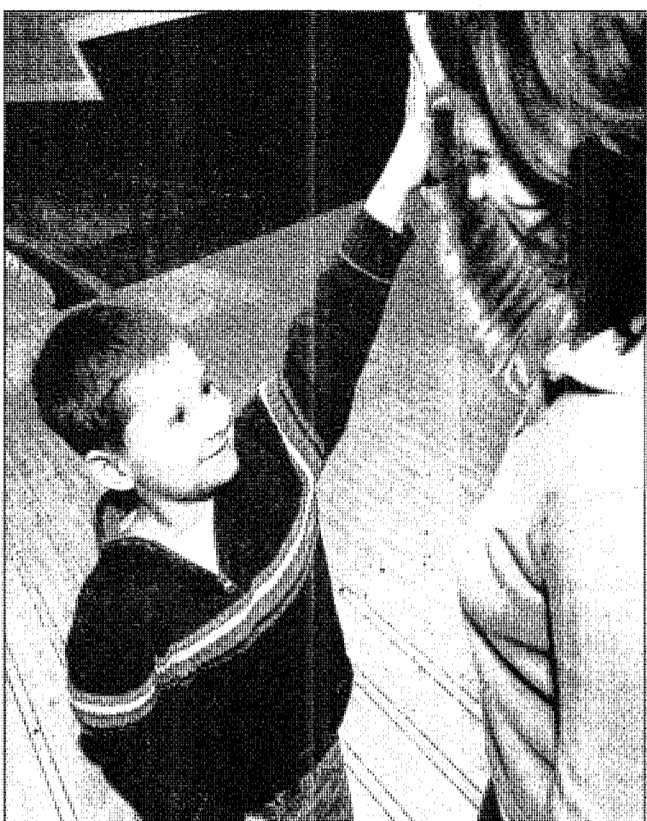
"When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel Music": 2 p.m. Feb. 7. Teens and adults.

Professor, concert producer, and WJLB (98 FM) Sunday host Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard, will discuss her 2009 Michigan Notable Book dealing with contemporary gospel music as the genre and its various incarnations enter the twenty-first century. A special appearance by Detroit area gospel singer Mary Wynn will complement Dr. Smith Pollard's presentation in this afternoon, African American History Month program.

Romantic Piano Classics: 2 p.m. Feb. 8.


Come enjoy an afternoon of soothing melodies of the romantic masters. Renowned Philippine-born concert pianist, Roy Coloma, will perform selections from Chopin, Liszt and Brahms, modern composers and also classical romantic Filipino piano pieces.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian and homebound coordinator Andrea Perez. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



Carter Devlin, 5, of Garden City receives a high five from his mother Amy Devlin after picking up a spare.

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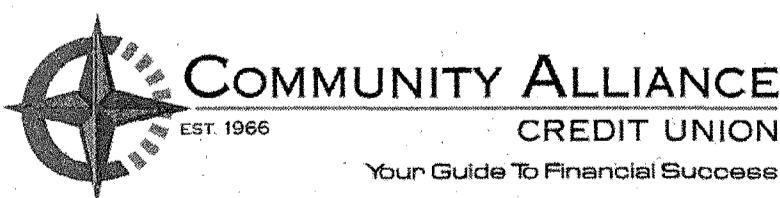
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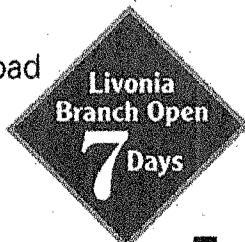
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Drop-in group keeps members in stitches

NEEDLE NIGHT

What: Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library
When: 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday
Where: Faust Reading Rom of the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.
What: Whether you want to learn to knit or are an experienced knitter, join Linda Sparkman for an evening of instruction and camaraderie. Crocheters also are welcome. There's no charge.
Information: Call (734) 326-6123.

BY SUE MASON
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's not something you'd expect to find at a public library. Once a week, the reading room of the William P. Faust Public Library is transformed into craft area, where women of all ages pull out their needles and hooks, grab their yarn and knit or crochet to their heart's content. They talk about this and that, share ideas and patterns and even help each other with their projects.

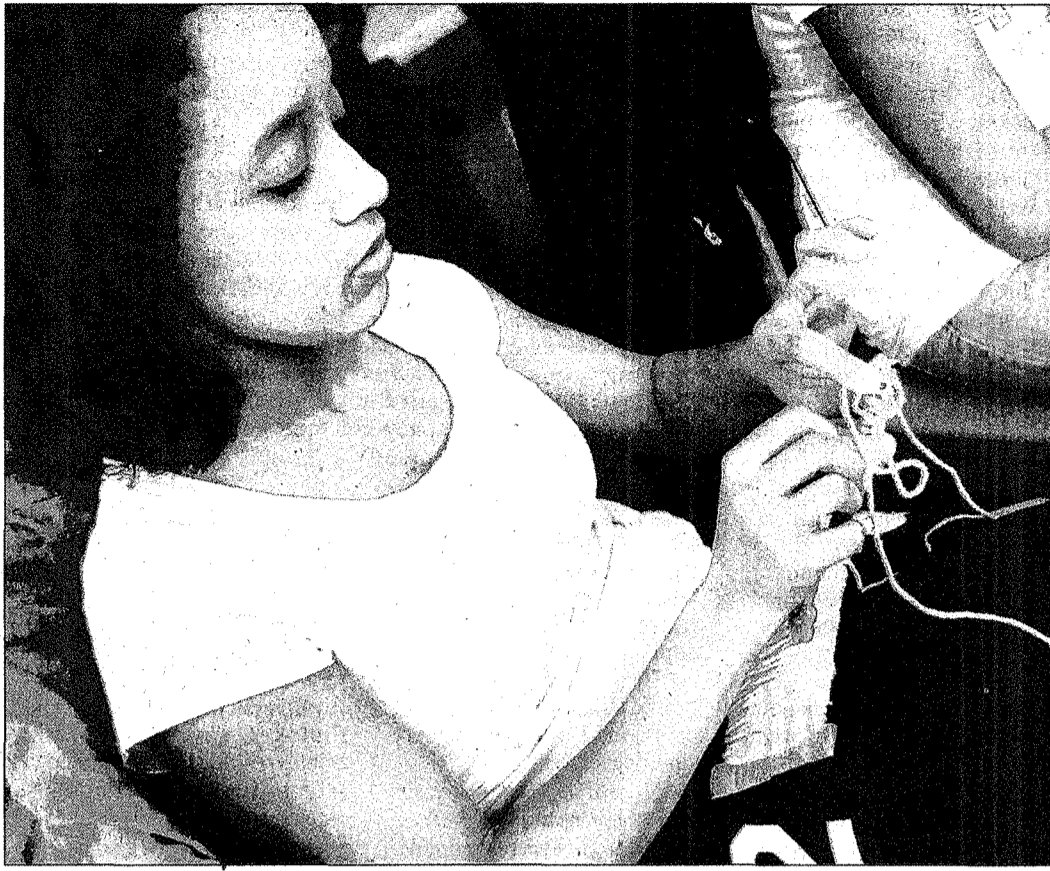
What started out as a 10-week knitting class taught by Linda Sparkman of Garden City is now Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library.

"It's really nice to have a place where people can go," said Sparkman, who leads the group, showing first-timers how to knit. "They can ask any question they want and do any project they want."

For Sandy Kollinger, Drop-in Knitting Nights has been a place for her Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Girl Guards to work on their needle knock badge. Kollinger and six teens sat around a table, trying to master knitting and in the process make a pillow from a kit. "That's the final goal," she said. "Our ultimate goal is a pillow, but I'll be happy with whatever they make."

Kollinger had checked out books on knitting, but couldn't figure it out. When she saw a drop-in knitting flier, she knew it was perfect for her guard members.

"Last week was our first



Wayne Memorial sophomore Brittany Nichols, a member of the Salvation Army Girl Guard, is learning to knit to earn her needle knock badge.

time and by the time we got back to the building, they wanted to come back," she said. "They took to it better than I thought."

Across the room, Sparkman was showing Jennifer Benkowski of Westland how to knit. Once she mastered the stitch, Sparkman showed her how to cast on.

"There's only one stitch, the knit stitch," Sparkman said. "Purl is the exact opposite of knit. If you learn to knit, purl is easy."

Benkowski wasn't so sure. "I'm a scrapbooker, so this is completely different," she said. "It was just kind of awkward at first, but it doesn't seem that hard to do."

She came with several family members and friends to try it out and plans to come back.

"It's something new to do," she said.

One of her group is Mary Bowyer of Ecorse, who's working on a yellow afghan. An experienced knitter, she started the project at Thanksgiving and was down to the last 30 rows.

"I don't work on it every day, but when I knit I tend to do that and nothing else," she said, adding that the afghan is for her.

The library provides needles and yarn for beginners and Sparkman provides the instruction. The attendance is 15-20 people each week. She estimates close to 100 people have come since the beginning.

She also has attracted a few knitters from the library staff. Kim Butterbaugh of Belleville and Lynne Salow of Plymouth are among her drop-in knitters. Butterbaugh is a "very beginning knitter," while Salow has taken it back up after a 25-year hiatus.

"I had a granddaughter a year ago and knit her a crib blanket, that's what got me going," she said. "I thought it would be easy because I knew it was an easy pattern. That made the difference."

Sparkman has been knitting for 40 years and with her sister is in the process of starting a yarn shop in Northville. In addition to the drop-in program, she also teaches knitting

at Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts.

"The library has been so accommodating, so wonderful," she said. "We use the reading room, and they provide beverages and snacks. We've even had a harpist play for us."

There's also another perk for the group, according to Sparkman. The library has a



Gina Allison of Westland (left) and Kim Butterbaugh of Belleville work together on a knitting stitch.



Among the beginning knitters at the library are John Glenn freshman Jalesa Turner (from left), Wayne Memorial senior Amanda Wood, John Glenn freshman Alaysha Horne and Girl Guard leader Sandy Kollinger.

nice collection of knitting and crochet books.

"We're here from 7 to 9 p.m., and they start shutting off the

lights at 8:50; it's like last call for us," she said. "Sometimes they have to unlock the doors to let us out."

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CDs, annuity may be best for an anxious investor

I am very troubled by the economy and the stock market. I don't have confidence that the new administration will be able to solve the problems and I don't think things will get better anytime soon. I respect your opinion. I want to know what I should do with cash. I have sold all my stocks and I am looking for something guaranteed for at least another five to six years. What do you recommend?

There is no doubt we are in difficult times and I have no idea when things will turn around. I am confident that the markets will turn and I believe investors must maintain



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

American people who will bring us out of this crisis.

No matter what, investors should never invest in anything they do not

a discipline during these times.

I hope, as I assume all Americans do, that the new economic team can work through our difficulties to put the economy back on solid ground. I have confidence in the American people and ultimately, it is the American people who will bring us out of this crisis.

feel comfortable with and that applies to stocks. I would not recommend stocks for you. There are, however, a couple different investments with no principle fluctuation that can offer positive returns. The first is the old-fashioned certificate of deposit (CD). Certificates of deposit are sold through banks, are federally insured and will give you a guaranteed rate of return. You can shop five- or seven-year CDs around the country. A good Web site to use is www.bankrate.com. The key in buying a CD is to use a federally insured institution. Bankrate.com only provides information regarding federally insured institutions. In

addition, since you do not need the income from the CD and you will be rolling over the interest, the rate to focus on is the *effective rate of return*. The other investment vehicle to consider is a traditional-fixed or equity-indexed annuity. Both are insured up to \$100,000 and have no principal fluctuations. The one advantage an annuity has over a CD is it grows tax deferred. Taxes are paid when the money is withdrawn.

Unfortunately, it is not as easy to buy an annuity. They are more complex and you cannot buy them directly through the insurance company. You must go through a

representative of the company. I recommend Hutton Financial, (800) 870-4444.

We are in difficult times and no one knows when things will turn around. However, as hard as this may sound, as investors it is important we don't let short-term comfort cause long-term pain.

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

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Madonna offers Chinese students new degree

Increasing campus diversity with international programs has been a top priority at Madonna University.

The recently approved China 3+1 business bachelor's degree program will enable Chinese students to attend Madonna, successfully complete their bachelor's degree and experience American life and culture.

The majority of Chinese students earn a three-year degree with a concentration in a specific major, based on the British model for higher education. Madonna University will offer these students an opportunity to complete the fourth-year of their education

and earn a bachelor's degree in applied management or applied technology.

"There is stiff competition in China for educational programs beyond the three-year degree," said William McMillan, business professor and 3+1 program director. "These highly-respected business programs will prepare students for China's expanding, yet fiercely competitive employment market, where a four-year Western degree is valued."

McMillan and other Madonna officials believe the China 3+1 program not only will benefit Chinese students, but also other Madonna students.

"Madonna University prepares students to be successful in a global society, where the workplace is characterized by diversity and international linkages," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration. "By increasing campus diversity, the University will enrich the educational experience of all its students and create opportunities for intercultural communication and understanding."

Currently, Madonna University is recruiting throughout China, so as to have students begin the program this summer. The Chinese students will live on Madonna's

campus in Livonia for a year taking courses specifically designed to educate them on American culture and business.

New courses added for the China 3+1 program include: Orientation to American Higher Education; American Culture through Literature, Music and Art; Science and Social Responsibility; and Advanced Reading and Writing for Business. To aid in their success, the students are tested on their English skills before being accepted into the program and are offered English as a Second Language (ESL) classes the summer before their courses begin and throughout.

Madonna University offers film boot camp Feb. 7

Members of the community can train for jobs in Michigan's burgeoning film industry at Madonna University during "Production Algebra/Production Assistant (P.A.) Boot Camp," offered through the Michigan Production

Alliance (MPA). The unique workshop, hosted by the Madonna University Broadcast Club, is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

The P.A. Boot Camp will provide more than just an overview of what is expected of production assistants on

both film and video sets. MPA instructor Mark Adler will engage students with demonstrations, hands-on activities, form usage exercises, and give a review of set/client etiquette. Students will gain job search tips from a panel of production profes-

sionals during an informative discussion on local production companies, unions and film organizations, and the resources they offer.

"Those who attend the workshop will gain valuable skills and credentials that will help prepare them to work in Michigan's growing movie industry," said Charles Derry, director of Broadcast and Cinema Arts at Madonna University.

The P.A. Boot Camp takes place at Madonna University's main campus in Livonia, room 1605, located at 36600 Schoolcraft Road, at the intersection of Levan and Schoolcraft Roads, off I-96. The cost is \$40 for general admission and \$35 for students. For more information, contact Mark Adler at (313) 447-0566. Register and pay online at www.mpami.org.

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GUM DISEASE LINKED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

While few people would readily associate gum disease with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), researchers have recently done just that. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that is characterized by the body confusing healthy tissues with foreign substances and attacking itself. Those with RA experience pain, stiffness, and swelling in multiple joints and, in some cases, inflammation in other organs. With this in mind, researchers surveyed the oral health of RA patients between the ages of 45 and 84 and found that they experienced gum disease at more than twice the rate seen in the general population. This finding should prompt RA sufferers to pay more attention to their oral health and schedule regular visits to the dentist for examination.

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P.S. Treatment of periodontal (gum) disease has previously been linked to better control of other systemic disease, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

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Father, son put on show to fight homelessness

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Patrick Elliott first learned about homelessness while he was attending Divine Child High School.

He took trips with classmates to St. Aloysius in Detroit to see firsthand the destitute conditions surrounding the poor and homeless.

Even attending Tiger games he would see the homeless.

"It's sad," Elliott said. "My dad and I talked, asking

"What can we do?"

Four years ago, Patrick and his father, Dr. Gregory Elliott, both of Livonia, started Hilarity for Charity, a comedy show fund-raiser, with proceeds to help St. Aloysius' community outreach program.

Comics will take the stage at this year's event at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theater in Canton, 50400 Cherry Hill (at Ridge Road).

The show features headliner Paul Kelly and special guest Dan Orr. Patrick's

uncle, Jerry Elliott, who hosts the radio show "Wags and Elliott" on a Columbus, Ohio, radio station, will host the event.

Patrick Elliott, a 22-year-old marketing student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and his father, a dentist in Farmington Hills, developed the show to create awareness of homelessness in Detroit. Just days ago, a newspaper published a photo of a man who froze to death inside a block of ice.

"It's really bad right now,"

Patrick said of homelessness. "St. Aloysius works with drug addicts in their programs, and they have a warming center and soup kitchen."

All of the proceeds go to the outreach program, 100 percent to helping the homeless, Elliott said. "They need all the help they can get. They do really good work down there."

They chose the Village Theatre in Canton because "we just love the theater," Elliott said. "It's beautiful and (Canton arts coordinator) Jennifer Tobin does a

great job."

Elliott describes Dan Orr as a musical comedian, who does parodies similar to Weird Al Yankovic. Paul Kelly, of Chicago, features a show of comedy surrounding family life. Elliott, who is a filmmaker too, will show his short film of kids and comedy.

"It's definitely a family-friendly event," Elliott said.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The event features free appetizers before the show and a cash bar. Tickets are \$40 for

adults and \$25 for students. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Village Theatre Web site at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, visiting the Summit at the Park ticket office, 46000 Summit Parkway (located south of Cherry Hill, west of Canton Center Road) in Canton, or by calling Elliott's dental office at (248) 473-2000. Major credit cards, cash or checks are accepted.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2591

Local magician to appear on national TV

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

And now, he's hit the big time.

Jason Hudy, a local magician and Livonia native, will make his first national television appearance at 12:35 a.m. Thursday (OK, it's really late Wednesday evening for you nightowls) on *The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson* on CBS.

Hudy is known locally for the magic show he presents at libraries and elementary schools, but the 25-year-old magician also performs 600-700 shows annually, including at theme parks such as Six Flags in Ohio.

"When I first heard about it, I was pretty nervous," Hudy said of the Ferguson appearance. After all, about 2 million viewers see Ferguson's show.

He'll perform live for the studio audience, but the program will be taped for the television audience so that eases his nerves a bit.

"We'll tape during the day (Feb. 4) and it airs later so I'll be watching it along with everybody else."



Jason Hudy will perform his magic on "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson."

Hudy first wanted to learn sleight-of-hand tricks and sleight-of-eye illusion at age 12 when Mingus the Magnificent visited Frost School. It became his new hobby that day.

"I remember (Mingus the Magnificent) was enjoying it and laughing with the kids," Hudy said. "That's what I try to do in my show, is bring laughter and enjoyment."

Hudy drew inspiration from other local magicians,

JASON HUDY

What: Local magician makes national television appearance on "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson"

When: 12:35 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5

Where: CBS, Channel 62

and also follows the work of David Copperfield and Lance Burton.

Hudy continued reading, studying and practicing his magic through Grant Middle and Franklin High schools and then through his collegiate academic career at Wayne State University where he obtained a marketing degree in 2005.

He uses that knowledge in marketing to promote his magician's career. "It was my game plan, not my parents' game plan," he said. He now resides in Flint, but his parents, Robert and Joyce Hudy, still live in Livonia.

Hudy has performed magic and illusion over the years at all the Livonia schools and libraries, the Livonia

Recreation Center and the Blue and Gold Banquet for the Cub Scouts. He will appear at American Montessori Academy in Livonia Feb. 6 and the Youths Making a Difference celebration at Franklin High School April 7.

Hudy expects to perform an illusion on Ferguson's show with a levitation and then the traditional "saw the assistant in half" illusion, but he'll also make the assistant's body vanish with only her head revealed, then make her disappear completely as her head vanishes.

He's conducted this routine more than 300 times, but never for a national audience, he said. "You won't have as much freedom (on the Ferguson show); it will be just myself and an assistant, but at other shows, I will have as many as eight to 10 people," Hudy said.

"I love all the illusion things and watching the reaction of the 6- and 7-year-old kids," Hudy said. "Sometimes I just burst out laughing."

"That's where the magic is."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com|(313) 222-2591

WOW seeks nominees for ATHENA Award

The word has gone out. The Women of Westland are looking for a few good nominees for its ATHENA Award program.

The 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 contrib-

ute 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.

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.

The winner will be announced at the fifth annual ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball Saturday, March 7, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. 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. Tickets are \$20 each and include appetizers, cash bar and the chocolate buffet. 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.

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Women unite to open cat rescue shelter - Neighbors, B6

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE

Novi's Bellamy too much for Stevenson, 68-44

BY JEFF THEISEN
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Novi raced out to a 25-5 first quarter lead Friday night and held off Livonia Stevenson the rest of the way for a 68-44 boys basketball victory.

The Wildcats' Chris Bellamy exploded in the first quarter for 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting on his way to a game-high 23 points.

"Bellamy is a great player," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "He virtually outscored

our whole team in the first half. Novi does a great job. They're a solid team."

Novi stays unbeaten in Central Division of the KLAA's Kensington Conference with a 4-0 record. The Wildcats are 9-1 overall.

The Spartans (6-3, 2-2) didn't throw in the towel after the first quarter and managed to battle back within 10 in the early moments of the fourth quarter, but Novi outscored Stevenson 19-5 the rest of the way.

BOYS HOOPS

Stevenson trailed 6-5 before the Wildcats ripped off the final 19 points of the first quarter.

The Spartans switched to a pressure zone on defense, and though it slowed down the Novi offense, the Spartans only managed to cut the lead to 36-17 by the half.

Spartan junior Robert Naubert scored nine of his team-high 18 points in the second quarter.

"Bobby has always been a tough player for us," Allie said. "He's a special player. He's going to have a great career here."

"This year he's really asserted himself on the offensive end."

The third quarter gave the Spartans hope, outscoring Novi 18-13, thanks to an 8-2 run to end the quarter. The opening four points of the fourth pulled the Spartans within 10, but they ran out of gas and the score turned into a rout late.

"My kids are relentless," Allie

said. "I give them all the credit in the world for fighting back, but anytime you dig yourself a 25-5 hole in the first quarter, it's tough to come back against a team like Novi."

Brian Rowe was next highest-scorer for the Spartans with nine points.

Brandon Bradford complimented Bellamy's big night with 13 points, and Tyler Wenson also hit double digits with 11.

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GAME WRAPS

KLAA girls basketball

FRANKLIN 45, JOHN GLENN 26:

Balance was the key Friday night as host Livonia Franklin rolled to a win over Westland John Glenn.

Sophomore Chelsea Williams led the victorious Patriots, now 10-1 overall and 4-0 in the KLAA's South Division, with 12 points.

Brittany Taylor chipped in with eight, while Brittany Milican and Nicole Emery added seven apiece.

Franklin jumped out to a 17-5 first quarter lead and led 35-16 after three quarters.

The Rockets (5-7, 1-3) got a team-high nine points from Chanel Payne.

PLYMOUTH 41, CHURCHILL 36: Kelsi Robinson scored 12 points and Shaakira Haywood added 10 as the Wildcats (4-8, 2-2) upended host Livonia Churchill (6-5, 2-2) in a KLAA South Division encounter.

Churchill led 19-16 at halftime, but went cold in the final two quarters.

Alysa Boldizar led the Chargers with 11 points.

"They (Plymouth) were aggressive, beat us to loose ball and got some transition layups against us the second half," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said. "We couldn't hit outside and got nothing inside. Shaakira did a good job controlling the lane."

CANTON 73, WAYNE 16: In a KLAA South game Friday, the host Chiefs (10-2, 3-1) invoked a running clock in the third quarter to rout Wayne Memorial (2-10, 0-4).

Kayla Bridges and Alyssa Cottrell each tallied 10 points to pace Canton, which led 49-7 at intermission.

Allie Coleman scored six for the Zebras.

NOVI 49, STEVENSON 21: Caroline Johnson and Chantel Hill each tallied 11 points as the Wildcats (9-3, 4-0) romped to a KLAA Central Division victory Friday night over host Livonia Stevenson (5-7, 1-3).

"All the credit goes to them," Stevenson first-year coach Paul Tripp said of Novi. "They're a disciplined, well-coached team with depth."

Novi nailed six 3-pointers in the opening half to take a 31-7 advantage.

"We knew they could shoot it, but I didn't know they'd shoot it that well," Tripp said.

Senior center Kaylee McGrath paced Stevenson with seven points and 10 rebounds.

The Spartans made only 9-of-23 free throws, while Novi hit 11-of-15.

NORTHVILLE 59, WAYNE 17: On Thursday, Chelsea Atzinger tallied 16 points and Catherine Jansen added 10 to lead the host Mustangs (5-6) past Wayne Memorial (2-9) in a KLAA cross-over.

Northville led 22-4 after one quarter and stretched its lead to 36-10 at halftime.

Freshman guard Holland Boertje and junior guard Allie Coleman scored seven and five, respectively, for the Zebras.

More girls basketball

MARIAN 53, LADYWOOD 41:

State-ranked Birmingham Marian got 13 points apiece from Michelle Lindsey and Chanel Perkovic to beat host Livonia Ladywood, 53-41, in a Catholic League Central Division encounter.

The Mustangs, who jumped out to a 27-11 first-quarter lead, improved to 12-1 overall and 6-0 in the division.

Junior guard Mary Fitzgerald led the Blazers (6-8, 2-4) with 10 points, all coming from the free throw line. Freshman guard Cara Miller added nine.

Ladywood was 19-of-27 from the foul line, while Marian hit 8-of-15.

LUTH. WESTLAND 40, HURON VALLEY 14: Rachel Storck scored eight points Friday night to lift the Lutheran High Westland (4-6) to a non-conference win over next-door neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-9).

Katey Ramthun, Allyson Yankee, Emily Wilson each added six for the victorious Warriors.

LUTH. WESTLAND 48, CLARENCEVILLE 23: In a Metro Conference game Thursday, Allyson Yankee's 20 points sparked Lutheran High Westland (3-6, 1-3) past rival Livonia Clarenceville (3-9, 1-3).

Kristen Jolly paced the Trojans with 11 points.

Hill puts Wayne ahead of class

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Daniel Hill's game might be described as "old school."

And the 6-foot-3 junior forward from Wayne Memorial continued to stay ahead of the curve Friday night as he scored a game-high 20 points to lead the host Zebras to a convincing 64-47 boys basketball win over Canton.

The battle for first place in the KLAA's South Division was all Wayne as the Zebras led 24-9 after one quarter and by as many as 25 early in the fourth.

Wayne is now 4-0 in the KLAA's South Division and 7-3 overall, while Canton drops to 6-4 and 3-1.

Hill, plays with his back to the basket and uses either hand. He was his usual efficient self offensively, going 9-of-12 from the floor and 2-of-2 from the foul line. He also grabbed 11 rebounds and made life miserable around the basket with his inside post presence for the Chiefs, who made just 4-of-24 first-half shots to trail 30-16.

"I like Tim Duncan," said Hill of the San Antonio Spurs center. "He's not the most exciting player, but I like his

moves. I just try and do all the intangibles to get the win. I'm not too flashy and don't force it, just try to play unselfish and play within the offense."

Canton coach Dan Colligan certainly agreed that his Chiefs were taken to school with Hill being the main culprit.

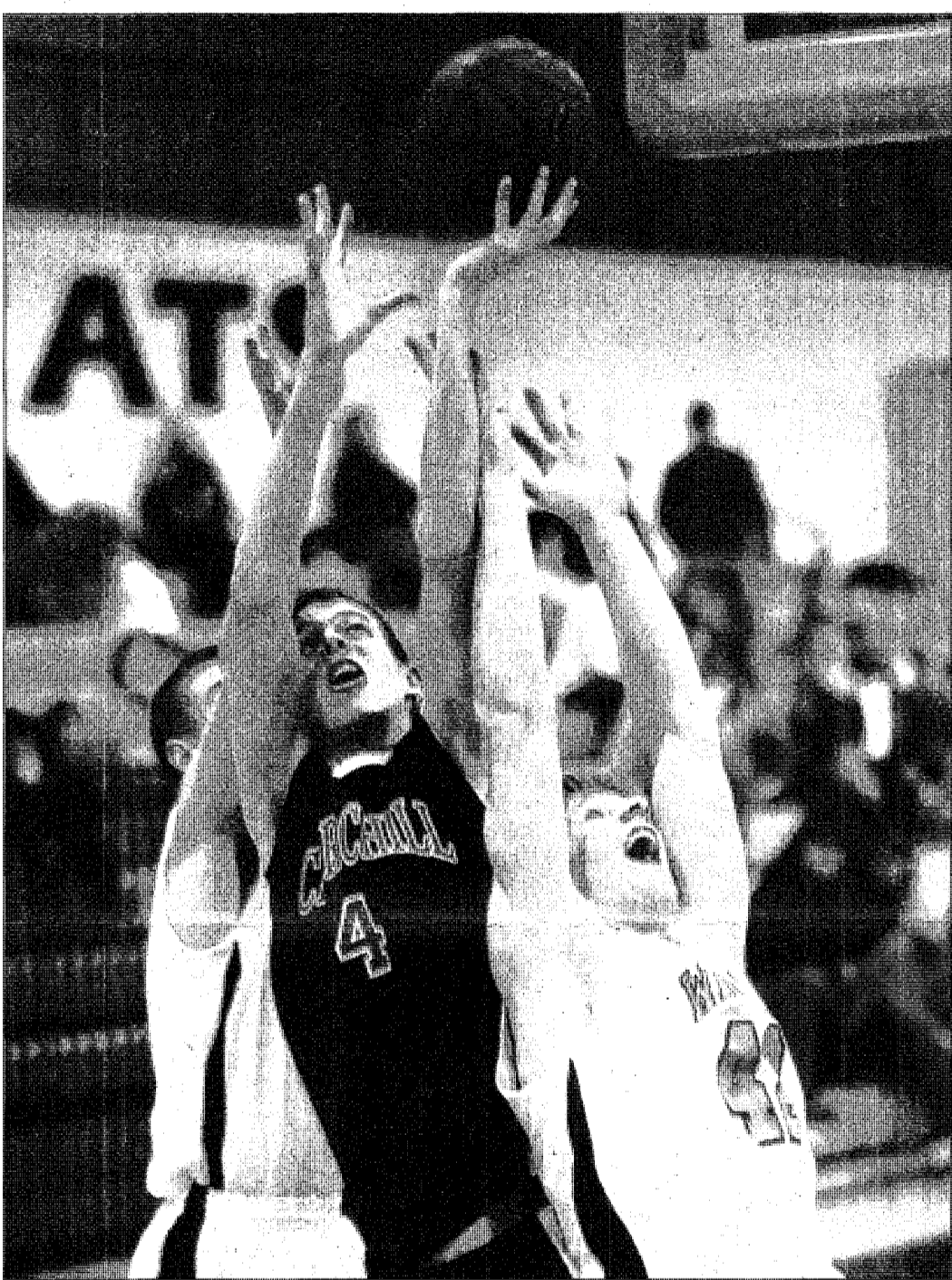
"He was tough tonight," Colligan said. "We tried to double-team him, but they (Wayne) do a good job of spreading the court. And once he catches the ball down low, you don't want to be in a one-on-one situation. He's a unique combination, a player who is quick and strong. He gives defenses trouble and finishes around the rim. Give him the credit."

Senior point-guard Robert Woodson added 17 points and Delorean Holland six for the Zebras, who made 27-of-55 shots from the floor.

Sophomore Dietrich Lever had 12 points for the Chiefs, while Marlan Glenn and Kiere Daniels added 11 and nine, respectively.

"We had a hard time making shots," Colligan said. "Because of Wayne's high pressure, it makes things tough and took us out of our offensive flow. Wayne's quick, they play aggressive defense. And in

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Finger-tip control

Churchill's Adam Bedell (4) scrambles for the rebound against Plymouth's Brennan Beyer (right) and Brad Lineberry (left). For a roundup of KLAA boys basketball games, see page B3.

Chargers avenge loss, unseat Canton in KLAA South

It appears the KLAA South Division boys hockey race in the KLAA's Kensington Conference is far from over.

Senior Kody Strong scored the game-winning goal from Stefan Kubus with 5:25 left in the second period to give Livonia Churchill a 2-1 win over host Canton at the Arctic Edge.

The Chargers, who avenged a 7-2 loss to the Chiefs 10 days earlier, improved to 6-5-4 overall and 4-1-1 in the KLAA South.

Canton falls to 13-3-1 over-

all and 3-2-1 in the division.

"After the last game we talked about playing better position hockey in our defensive zone and win the battles along the wall," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said.

After a scoreless opening period, Churchill's Steve Klisz scored with 9:33 left in the second period on an assist from Kubus.

Canton's Bryan Davison answered just 1:44 to make it 1-1 on assists from Nick Tomilenko and Donnie Barlow.

BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill goaltender Aaron Crouse, who made 19 saves, then kept the Chiefs off the board the rest of the way.

Canton goaltender Zane Birchler stood out making 39-of-41 saves.

Mazzoni also received a clarification last week from Brighton athletic director John Thompson, who oversees hockey in the KLAA, that only South Division

games count in the standings and that crossovers against the Central Division don't factor in.

"It was a good win for us and the division is still up for grabs," Mazzoni said.

CHURCHILL 5, NORTH-HARRISON 1: Goaltender Aaron Crouse stopped 18-of-19 shots Wednesday as Livonia Churchill (5-5-4) downed host North Farmington-Harrison (9-7) in a non-league encounter at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

"The boys worked hard and played pretty consistent for three goals — a good effort overall," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said.

Cheerful results

Livonia Franklin captured first place in Division 1 at the 16-team News Herald Competitive Cheer Invitational held Jan. 24 at Grosse Ile High School. Novi was runner-up and Plymouth garnered third. The Patriots, under first-year varsity coach Tabatha Weddle, were presented by individual judges with perfect scores of 9s for their jumps, front hurdlers and toe touch, as well as general impression. Team members include: Alecia Geraghty, Abby Kileen, Angel Fugaban, Audrey Geraghty, Aly Leight, Emma Robertson, Erica Newa, Erica Manni, Chelsie Davis, Jessica Krasinski, Jenna Ruokolainen, Lauren Murphy, Laura Kosmalski, Katie Panyan, Kelly Plocharczyk, Mady Byrd, Marissa Kreutzfeld, Lindsay Ponkey, Sam Oudeh, Shannon Niznik, Colleen Swims, Nicole McCloud and Amy Fuller (assistant coach).



Chargers go down in overtime; Franklin gets 1st divisional win

So much for the sophomore jinx.

Justin Moss, a 6-foot-6 10th-grader, led all scorers with 23 points Friday as host Plymouth pulled out a 66-57 overtime boys basketball win over Livonia Churchill.

Mike Nadratowski added 12 for the Wildcats, who improved to 5-5 overall and 2-2 in the South Division of the KLAA's Kensington Conference.

Cliff Buttermore and Brennan Beyer chipped in with 11 apiece.

Adam Bedell, a 6-6 junior, paced Churchill (4-5, 1-3) with 15 points and 17 rebounds. Scott Senczynski added 11, while Ryan Woods and Tony Frezzell added 10 each.

Churchill led 22-13 after one quarter before the Wildcats got untracked and took the lead, 44-42, going into the final stanza.

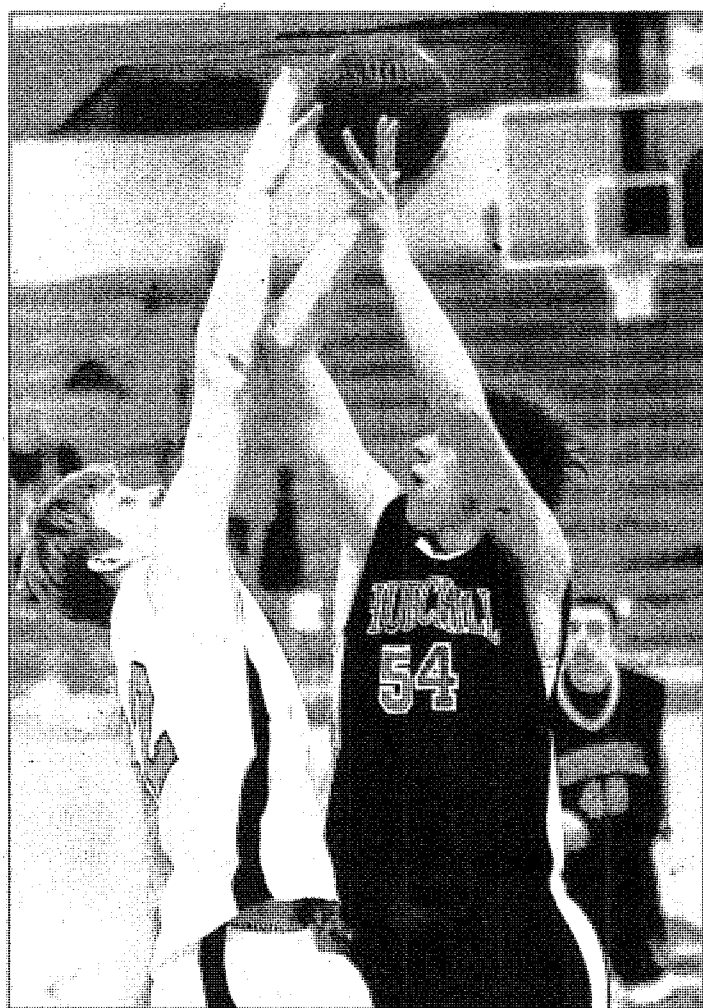
Despite being outscored 12-8 in the final quarter, Charger senior forward Alex Bay scored on a putback with 15 seconds remaining in regulation to send the game into OT.

Plymouth then outscored the Chargers 14-5 in the four-minute extra session to earn the victory.

"We missed our first two good looks," Churchill coach Jim Solak said of the OT period. "We came out with a lot of energy (in the first quarter). Then they switched to a zone defense. They packed it in a 3-2 (zone) and forced us to make shots we couldn't make."

Churchill was only 23-of-68 from the field (33.8 percent), including just 7-of-26 from three-point range (26.9 percent).

Plymouth was only 10-of-19 from the foul line, while Churchill made just 4-of-9. **FRANKLIN 56, JOHN GLENN 48:** Free



Plymouth's Brennan Beyer goes for the block on Cameron Norscia during Friday's KLAA Central Division clash.

throws were the difference Friday as host Livonia Franklin (3-6, 1-3) notched its first KLAA South Division victory against Westland John Glenn (5-4, 1-3).

Junior Andy McCaffery and senior Connor Leidal each scored 14 points for the victorious Patriots, who made 15-of-22 free throws on the night compared to Glenn's 1-of-8.

Senior Jeff Poole added 11 as Franklin outscored the Rockets 21-13 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"We got to the free throw line and that was big," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We executed our offense, got to the rim and the guys played their

hearts out. I thought defensively we were strong, too, and we rebounded the ball. I'm proud of the guys."

Senior guard Austin Anderson led the Rockets with 15 points. Senior forward Dorian Prather added 12.

WAYNE 57, NORTHVILLE 44: Down by as many as 13 late in the third quarter Thursday night, Wayne Memorial (6-3) stormed back with a 27-1 run to end the game to subdue the host Mustangs (1-8).

Robert Woodson, 7-of-8 from the line, led Wayne with 20 points. Daniel Hill added 13.

For Northville, Bryce Groshek had 19 points.

Hawks soar with 56-55 victory; Stewart catalyst in Trojans' win

Bryan Gruenewald popped in 17 points Friday to propel Westland Huron Valley Lutheran to a 56-55 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference boys basketball triumph over host Macomb Christian.

Tyler Wagaman added 13 for the victorious Hawks, who improved to 6-3 overall and 3-2 in the MIAC's Red Division.

The Hawks rallied by outscoring Macomb Christian 24-15 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Joel Battjes led the Crusaders (4-5, 2-3) with a game-high 21 points, while Christian Darnell added 20.

CLARENCEVILLE 71, HARPER WOODS 48: Jamie Stewart had a triple-double with 34 points, 13 rebounds and 10 steals Friday night as Livonia Clarenceville (5-6, 3-0) rolled to a Metro Conference win over the host

BOYS HOOPS WRAP

Pioneers (3-7, 1-2).

Another key to the Trojans' fourth consecutive win was senior guard Corey Reynolds, who contributed four points, 11 rebounds and six steals.

"He (Reynolds) just really gave us a lot of energy tonight," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said.

Twelve different players scored for the Trojans, who have won five four straight.

"We just have to keep improving and play hard," McKendry said. "I'm proud of our effort tonight."

CABRINI 63, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 56: On Thursday, host Lutheran High Westland (7-4) had trouble dealing with the low-post game of Allen Park Cabrini (8-3) en route to a non-league setback.

"Cabrini did a nice job of forcing the ball inside and taking advantage of their size," Lutheran Westland head coach Brandon Bekius said.

"They were the better team tonight and deserved to win. I thought our kids played hard, but just did not execute in the fourth quarter."

Austin Baglow and Sam Ahlersmeyer led Lutheran Westland with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

Vince Schantz and Joe Page scored 19 and 13 for the Monarchs.

BAPTIST PARK 67, HURON VALLEY 52: Last Tuesday, forward Josh Rooker scored 16 points as host Taylor Baptist Park Christian (6-3, 3-1) defeated Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-3, 2-2) in this Michigan Independent Athletic Conference game.

"Defensively, we did not play well," Huron Valley coach Jim Ott said. "Offensively, we played well enough to compete but we broke down and couldn't stop them" in the paint.

Rooker had help from Jake Grimaldo, who tallied 10 points for the Wildcats.

Sophomore guard Ian Lee and junior guard Bryan Gruenewald led the Hawks with 15 and 11 points, respectively.

PREP BOWLING

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS

WAYNE MEMORIAL 26 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 4
Jan. 29 at 700 Bowl (South Lyon)
Wayne individual scorers: Mark Shiemke, 223-252-475; Elliott Arnold, 200-233-433; Ryan Gabriel, 197-211-408; Josh Vojtkofsky-Kellen Collison, 185-164-349; Jesse English-T.J. Lave, 138-199-337. Team totals: 969-1,033-2,002 (16 points).
Glenn individual scorers: Chris Harper, 183-277-460; Kyle Hamlin, 187-209-396; Brian Monty, 199-161-360; John Cleaver, 174 (first game). Team totals: 131-211-342 (4 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 149-227-376 (10 points); Glenn, 131-211-342 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 11-3-1 overall, 4-1 KLAA Central; Northville, 3-2 KLAA Central.

5-1 KLAA Central Division; Glenn, 4-2 KLAA Central.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 28.5 NORTHVILLE 1.5

Jan. 27 at Westland Bowl
Wayne individual scorers: Elliott Arnold, 264-238-502; T.J. Lave, 233-208-441; Kellen Collison, 224-208-432; Ryan Gabriel, 235-195-430; Josh Vojtkofsky-Mark Shiemke, 185-183-368. Team totals: 1,141-1,032-2,173 (18.5 points).
Northville's top individual: Ian Lovdahl, 242-195-437. Team totals: 960-939-1,899 (1.5 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 246-199-445 (10 points); Northville, 182-117-299 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 10-3-1 overall, 4-1 KLAA Central; Northville, 3-2 KLAA Central.

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 17 WAYNE MEMORIAL 13

Jan. 26 at Town 'N Country Lanes
Clarenceville individual scorers: Jason Bertera, 209-207-460; Cody Kissandi, 184-218-402; Chris Diaz, 190-206-396; Charles Fox, 193-191-384; Gareth Hintzman, 190-160-350. Team totals: 966-982-1,948 (13 points).
Wayne individual scorers: Ryan Gabriel, 234-177-411; Elliott Arnold, 245-149-394; Kellen Collison, 216-172-388; Josh Vojtkofsky, 179-130-309; Mark Shiemke-T.J. Lave, 178-145-323. Team totals: 1,052-773-1,825 (7 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 209-182-391 (6 points); Clarenceville, 171-209-380 (4 points).
Dual match records: Clarenceville, 6-2-1 overall; Wayne, 9-3-1 overall.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 92 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 91
Jan. 29 at John Glenn
200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Jake Ferguson, Levi Cavender, Paul Gutu, Billy Lyons), 1:58.71; 2. Franklin, 2:01.23; 3. John Glenn, 2:10.27.
200 freestyle: 1. Brandon Larkins (LF), 1:58.6; 2. Brett Woods (LF), 2:14.33; 3. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 2:14.5.
200 individual medley: 1. Scott James (LF), 2:22.63; 2. Joe Michniewicz (LF), 2:29.81; 3. Cavender (WJG), 2:33.5.
50 freestyle: 1. Lyons (WJG), 24.4; 2. Tyler Lee (LF), 24.91; 3. Gutu (WJG), 24.92.
1-meter diving: 1. Cody Roe (WJG), 194.00 points; 2. Conner Monroe (WJG), 137.40; 3. Ainsworth Orr (WJG), 132.60.
100 butterfly: 1. Scott Ansteth (LF), 1:00.77; 2. Gutu (WJG), 1:09.2; 3. Eric Madaj (LF), 1:09.49.
100 freestyle: 1. Larkins (LF), 53.31; 2. Lyons (WJG), 55.46; 3. Lee (LF), 55.1.
500 freestyle: 1. James (LF), 6:20.95; 2. Michniewicz (LF), 6:29.63; 3. Woods (LF), 6:35.0.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Franklin (James, Larkins, Michniewicz, Lee), 1:40.24; 2. John Glenn, 1:42.23; 3. Franklin, 1:53.11.
100 backstroke: 1. Ansteth (LF), 1:05.38; 2. Ferguson (WJG), 1:11.46; 3. Jon Lara (WJG), 1:16.66.
100 breaststroke: 1. Cavender (WJG), 1:15.39; 2. Pat Kemp (WJG), 1:20.95; 3. Addison Queen (WJG), 1:25.99.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Franklin (Larkins, Ansteth, Michniewicz, James), 3:48.51; 2. John

Glenn, 4:09.9; 3. John Glenn, 4:25.13.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 3-3 overall; 2-2 KLAA South Division; Franklin, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAA South.
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 104 WAYNE MEMORIAL 78
Jan. 27 at Wayne
200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Jake Ferguson, Levi Cavender, Paul Gutu, Billy Lyons), 1:57.96; 2. Wayne, 1:59.65; 3. John Glenn, 2:12.16.
200 freestyle: 1. Steven Ogg (WM), 2:00.14; 2. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 2:12.14; 3. Sean Stewart (WM), 2:12.56.
200 individual medley: 1. Jacob Barnes (WM), 2:28.42; 2. Cavender (WJG), 2:34.37; 3. Aaron Sabal (WJG), 2:58.19.
50 freestyle: 1. Lyons (WJG), 24.89; 2. Gutu (WJG), 25.06; 3. Adam Karson (WM), 25.09.
1-meter diving: 1. Cody Roe (WJG), 190.35 points; 2. Conner Monroe (WJG), 122.45; 3. Ainsworth Orr (WJG), 106.80.
100 butterfly: 1. Gutu (WJG), 1:07.41; 2. Ferguson (WJG), 1:13.42; 3. Mike Gabriel (WM), 1:14.24.
100 freestyle: 1. Ogg (WM), 53.6; 2. Lyons (WJG), 55.93; 3. Wakeford (WJG), 58.01.
500 freestyle: 1. Barnes (WM), 5:54.7; 2. Josh Higgs (WM), 6:30.41; 3. Tim Moran (WJG), 6:32.55.
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Lyons, Cavender, Wakeford, Gutu), 1:42.46; 2. Wayne, 1:42.59; 3. Wayne, 1:59.41.
100 backstroke: 1. Ferguson (WJG), 1:09.03; 2. Zach Williamson (WM), 1:10.0; 3. Gabriel (WM),

1:14.57.
100 breaststroke: 1. Karson (WM), 1:15.56; 2. Cavender (WJG), 1:18.52; 3. Corey Robbins (WM), 1:20.75.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Barnes, Stewart, Williamson, Ogg), 3:55.47; 2. John Glenn, 4:11.44; 3. John Glenn, 4:35.68.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 2-3 overall, 1-2 KLAA South; Wayne, 0-6 overall, 0-3 KLAA South.
SALEM 126, LIVONIA CHURCHILL 60
Jan. 27 at Salem
200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Alex Suriano, Joe deTassanti, Adam Seroka, Noah Santer), 1:54.11; 2. Churchill, 1:54.94; 200 freestyle: 1. Max Mills (S), 1:55.46; 2. Greg Van Gorp (LC), 2:02.72; 200 individual medley: 1. Matt Collingwood (S), 2:11.43; 50 freestyle: 1. Seroka (S), 23.69; 2. Nate Larsen (LC), 24.89; 1-meter diving: 1. Andrew Richards (LC), 210.60 points; 2. Travis Holt (LC), 199.10; 100 butterfly: 1. Jeremy Wellman (S), 1:00.90; 3. David Vincentini (LC), 1:03.05; 100 freestyle: 1. Larsen (LC), 54.71; 500 freestyle: 1. Santer (S), 5:36.49; 3. Alex Lamerand (LC), 5:42.27; 200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Seroka, Mills, Aaron Micek, Paul Cherewick), 1:39.63; 2. Churchill, 1:44.99; 100 backstroke: 1. Collingwood (S), 1:02.83; 100 breaststroke: 1. Seroka (S), 1:04.66; 2. Vincentini (LC), 1:08.54; 400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Jeremy Wellman, Aaron Micek, Stan Kuang, Matt Collingwood), 3:47.45; 3. Churchill, 3:50.07.
Dual meet records: Salem, 1-3 overall; Churchill, 4-3 overall.

NEIGHBORS

Don't leave pets out in the cold

A co-worker recently reminded me that winter can be especially dangerous for pets when left outdoors. It's hard to believe anyone who loves an animal could perpetrate this kind of cruelty. Imagine standing on ice or snow for hour after hour. His friend made an innocent mistake by letting out the cat who proceeded to climb under a vehicle hood. When the engine was started the cat was nearly eviscerated. It did survive but not without pain and suffering.



Linda Chomin

Nancy Gunnigle of the Michigan Humane Society says many of the injuries to animals during winter could be prevented by not leaving them outdoors by themselves for any length of time.

"Our cruelty investigators are responding to large numbers of animals being left in the cold without proper housing. One was frozen to death. He had a dog house, a little bit of straw but not enough and was a short-haired dog," said Gunnigle, MHS communications manager. "We're educating animal guardians to bring animals inside. We always recommend animals live inside year round. Dogs have coats but most short-haired dogs or small animals need to be brought in when it drops to 15 or 20 degrees, taking into account wind chills or precipitations. Otherwise, they can face charges."

Leaving a dog outside without proper shelter, food and water is against the law. Gunnigle urges the public to keep an eye out for animals whose owners don't provide extra food (10 to 20 per-

Please see **COLD, B7**

It's all about meow

Women unite to open rescue shelter

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's funny how a little ball of fur is able to draw people together. Less than a year ago, Ann Grenier had never met Donna Brewer, JoEllen Wuotinen or her daughter, Carolyn Foster. Even though they're all cat lovers, the four women led separate lives, Grenier working in a factory, Brewer enjoying retirement, Foster driving a delivery truck, Wuotinen running a business, but all had one thing in common. They were cat lovers who couldn't see a stray without taking it home. Each has collected so many cats and kittens they're planning to open a rescue shelter in the building owned by Wuotinen and her husband, Wayne, in Livonia.

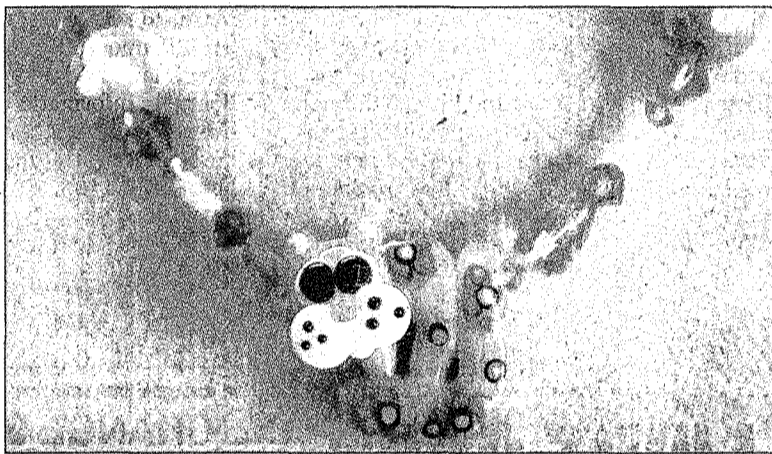
There's one small problem, though — money. It takes funding to apply for licenses and provide food for the felines. A recent garage sale brought in some cash to care for the cats, but Grenier pays for the rest. The Livonia woman took in her first stray 15 years ago and has been looking for homes for kitties ever since.

"We believe in 100 percent no kill," said Grenier who affectionately calls all cats kitties regardless of their age. "Everybody stays until they get adopted."

Please see **CATS, B7**



JoEllen Wuotinen and Benedicta at the building she and husband Wayne own in Livonia.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At left, Donna Brewer makes cat-themed jewelry. The Livonia woman is donating as well as selling necklaces and earrings at a fundraiser for Country Cat/City Kitty Rescue Group March 28-29.

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COLD

FROM PAGE B6

cent more), unfrozen drinking water, a well-built and correctly sized dog house, and straw for bedding, not linens which quickly become wet and freeze. Take the time to report dogs without proper shelter. It's not uncommon for MHS to receive more than 100 cold weather calls a week and although MHS responds quickly, many times it's too late because the animal has been left outside too long. MHS says, if a pet is shivering, trying to curl up into a tight ball, or attempting to dig a bed in the snow, he is probably too cold to remain outdoors. If extremely cold to the touch or if paws, ears or tail tip have turned bright red, he may be showing signs of frostbite. If so, the pet needs to be moved to a warmer area and a veterinarian contacted immediately.

NEGLECT PENALTIES

According to MHS, "lack of proper care or shelter can result in misdemeanor animal cruelty charges, carrying a sentence of up to 90 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time."

"We can all be on the lookout for animals who are at risk. To report pets outside, call our cruelty hot line for Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, or contact local animal control or police. We can remove an animal by state law. Visit the Web site and review the laws about providing conditions for animals. Even if left outside with proper housing, food and water, it's ideal for animals to live indoors with the rest of the family around. Dogs are pack animals and need to be around others for social reasons."

VEHICLE DANGERS

A number of dangers lurk outside besides the cold. According to MHS, outside cats often seek the warmth of car engines. Be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car. Antifreeze is extremely toxic to dogs and cats. Carefully cap antifreeze containers and keep them out of the reach of pets. If small amounts drip when antifreeze is being added to the car radiator, clean and flush the area with water.

To report pets left outside without proper shelter in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, call the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. To view Michigan's anti-cruelty laws, visit www.michiganhumane.org and click on Cruelty & Rescue.

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



Ann Grenier holds Benedict and Benedicta. Donna Brewer holds Jean-Paul and Waldo lounges on the couch.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CATS

FROM PAGE B6

HOW THEY MET

The four women just seem to attract strays as evidenced by the half a dozen purring creatures padding around on paws. That's how they were drawn to each other. Grenier initially called Wuotinen in response to an ad to find homes for four kittens born in a wood pile near her cottage Up North. Brewer gave her phone number to Grenier after seeing the cats at one of the adoption days at Pet Supplies "Plus" in Livonia. Foster grew up watching her mother bring cat after stray cat into the house. Today, Foster oversees the Web site page for the group at www.myspace.com/countrycatcitykitty.

Although some of the cats are currently in foster homes, more could be helped if Country Cat/City Kitty is able to open a shelter inside R & L Wall. Wuotinen says business is down anyway because the building of new homes has come to a halt. "We have

a shop in back we could use if business does come back. There are a lot of possibilities," said Wuotinen.

DESIGNING A SHELTER

Brewer traveled to Utah to visit Best Friends Sanctuary for ideas to turn the one-story building into a haven.

"We hope to have an open area with cats roaming the room not in cages," said Brewer.

In the meantime, the four women are putting their heads and hearts together to make the dream of opening the shelter reality. In late March, they're holding a fund-raiser where shoppers can buy jewelry and crafts or even adopt a cat. They need help to do both. Volunteers as well as artists, vendors, and foster cat parents are being sought to enable the organization to continue its work. From July to December of last year, they were able to find homes for 105 cats and kittens through adoption events thanks to a lot of people in the community working together. Dr. Shera Dickie of St. Julian's Cat Care in Dearborn provides veteri-

narian services at a discount to the rescue group. Grenier's sister, a nun in Ohio, even is helping. The Sisters of Charity are donating a guitar and amp, and keyboards to the fund-raiser. Brewer is making whimsical cat jewelry and stained glass panels for the raffle.

"We're looking for anyone who wants to donate or has skills to fix up the building," said Grenier. "At the fund-raiser we're going to have a blessing of the animals and Dr. Dickie will be there to answer questions. We want to educate people about spaying and neutering and not to take kittens away from the mother too soon if they've found a litter because they won't survive."

The charity fund-raiser takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road, between Merriman and Middlebelt. For more information, call Brewer at (248) 777-1430 or e-mail dmbrewer1@aol.com, or Grenier at (248) 249-9267.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

Milestones

Powers-Bufalini

Jesse and Susan Powers of Wayne announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa, to Ryan Bufalini, son of Gary and Kim Bufalini, of Westland. The bride-to-be is a graduate of John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. Her fiancé graduated from John Glenn High School and Michigan State University. The



couple plans to wed in May 2009 in Pisciotta, Italy.

Kosik-Templeton

Richard and Rosanne Kosik of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin, of Canton, to Ryan Templeton, also of Canton, son of Sandra and Darrell Templeton of Middletown, Ohio. The bride-to-be graduated from University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in 2001 and an MBA in 2007. She works in marketing for Ford Motor Company. Her fiancé graduated from Ohio State University in 2001 with a degree in elec-



trical engineering, and works as an engineer at an automotive supplier. The couple plan to wed in August 2009 in Plymouth.

Ciszewski-Silvestri

Natalie Ciszewski of Livonia, daughter of Tom and Connie Myler and the late Keith Ciszewski, announces her engagement to Michael Silvestri, son of Lorenzo and Barb Silvestri, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School and Madonna College of Nursing, and works at Karmanos Cancer Institute. After graduating from Divine Child High School, her fiancé also attended Madonna



College of Nursing, and now works at Harper Hospital. The couple will wed in June 2010 at St. John's Chapel with a reception to follow at the Italian American Club.

Sydney Marie Hartke

Brandon and Amanda Hartke of Royal Oak announce the birth of their daughter, Sydney Marie Hartke, on Dec. 22, 2008 at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. Sydney is the granddaughter of Bruce and Mary Barnes of Rochester and Michael and Toni Hartke of Plymouth. Great-grandparents are Ethel Barnes of Rochester and Joan Barton of Belleville.

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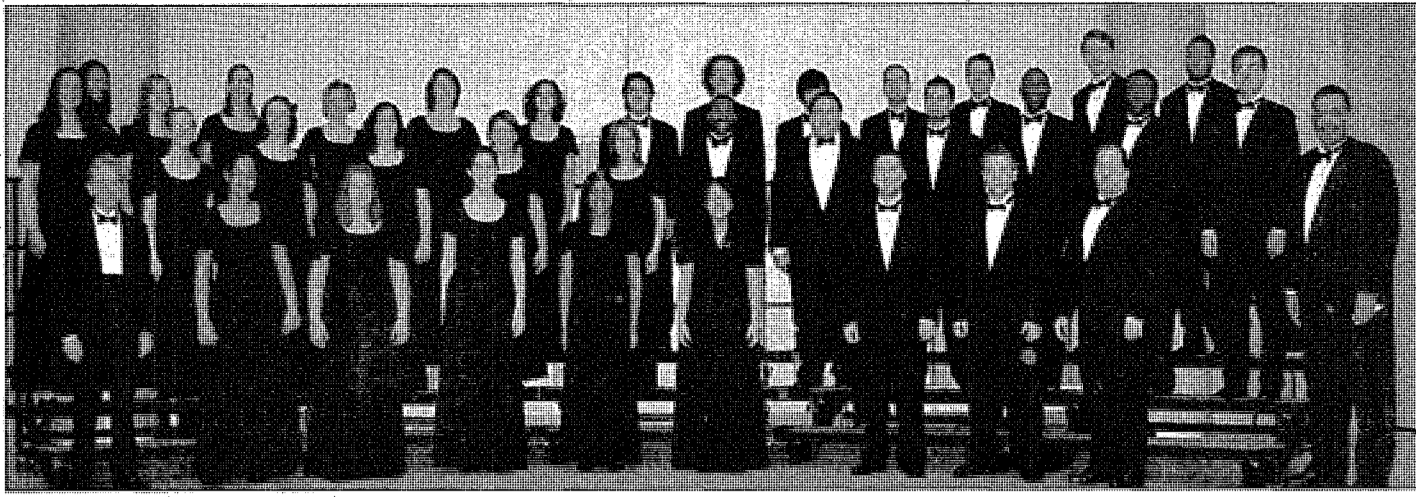
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Wayne State University's Concert Chorale.

New suite to debut at WSU concert

Wayne State University Big Band and Concert Chorale will perform the world premiere of *Suite Justice*, an original jazz composition by WSU professor Russell Miller, at 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Suite Justice includes eight pieces representing each of the beatitudes from Matthew (5: 3-10) wherein the strengths of the Concert Chorale and the Big Band are combined in a presentation of original jazz compositions that reflect the composer's thoughts and feelings about these teachings. The rhythm and inflection of the text of each of the beatitudes suggests a melodic shape and song form that allows for musical expression of the idea. Employment of a wide range of musical textures — a Capella chorus, vocal solo, chorus with jazz band, full jazz band, small ensemble and jazz soloists — provide variety from piece to piece while the treatment of the text assists in maintaining continuity.

Saxophonist, flutist, composer and arranger Russell Miller teaches jazz improvisation, jazz bands and arranging and orchestration classes at Wayne State. His 30-year professional music career includes performances with Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy DeFranco, J.C. Heard, Rob McConnell, Jon Faddis, Joe Williams, Milt Hinton, Rosemary Clooney and Sammy Davis Jr. among others. Miller has also performed with his own group and guest artists at the Detroit International Jazz Festival, the Michigan Jazz Festival, Music on the Plaza in Grosse Pointe and at various local venues.

Big Band performs a wide range of traditional and contemporary repertoire. Led by Professor Christopher Collins, the elite ensemble has performed to sold-out concerts with the legendary Joe Lovano and his quartet at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Max M. Fisher Music Center and to enthusiastic audiences on the main stage of the Detroit International Jazz Festival with Diane Schuur and Kurt Elling.

Concert Chorale, a highly selected mixed ensemble of 30-plus voices under the direction of Dr. Norah V. Duncan IV, performs a diverse and demanding repertoire literature of the 16th through 20th centuries including compositions with orchestra and works in contemporary formats.

The Concert Chorale has performed and recorded internationally, including featured performances at festivals in the Central and Eastern Europe.

No tickets are required for this concert.

Donations (suggestion: \$10 per person, \$25 per family) will be accepted at the door.

All donations will go directly to the WSU Music Program.

Information about the Wayne State University Department of Music is available at the WSU web site: <http://music.wayne.edu/>.

Information about the Performing Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington is available at the church's Web site: www.farmington-pres.org.



WSU professor Russell Miller will debut his new suite at a performance of the Wayne State University jazz Big Band and Concert Chorale.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124.

DIA LECTURE SERIES

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents lectures 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main, and noon Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road. The evening topic is *The Beauty of Bronze*, noon is *Life After Death*. No charge.

Lectures are given by volunteers from the Detroit Institute of Arts. For information, call (734) 416-4278.

SATURDAYS @ THE PENN

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society and Plymouth Community Arts Council spotlight guest performers, Like Water Drum and Dance, with special host Guy Louis of Chautauqua Express noon Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth. Tickets \$3 and available at the door. For group purchases, call (734) 377-0914. For more information, visit www.PennSaturdays.com. Doors open at 11:15 a.m.

DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING

Madonna University's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs offers two events to inaugurate Diversity Week Programming. Detroit Police Chief James Barren discusses his academic and professional journey 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. Rick Robinson, first chair bassist from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra performs 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10. Both take place in the Kresge Auditorium at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia. To RSVP, call (734) 432-5308 or send e-mail to bjohnson@madonna.edu.

NEIGHBORS MEETING

Livonia Neighbors & Friends (a women's club) holds their annual Bingo and Pizza meeting on 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.

10H, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Seven Mile, west of Gill Road. New members always welcome. For more information, send e-mail to LivoniaNeighborsFriends@hotmail.com or visit www.geocities.com/LivoniaNeighborsAndFriends. Questions? Call Dorrie at (248) 777-3848.

SCHOOLYARD HABITATS

Smith Elementary in Plymouth and Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City will participate in The Friends of the Rouge Schoolyard Habitat Program thanks to funding from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. The program is focused on getting kids outside to learn by providing grants to create outdoor classrooms. Schoolyard habitats vary widely but usually incorporate four basic elements: food, water, shelter and space, all things required for plants and animals to survive. The multidisciplinary teaching tools educate children on the importance of having a healthy, clean environment.

Each school receives a \$500 grant to purchase native Michigan plants, and \$500 for expert assistance with implementing programs.

Burger students will combine the creation of a garden with the conduction of a study on the effectiveness of regular sensory lessons on children with autism.

Smith students will transform a vacant area of the school grounds into a vibrant habitat that will benefit the environment and provide hands-on education, according to principal Jill Cantin.

BENEFIT DINNER DANCE

Two charities, Goodwill Industries and the Livonia Elks, are working toward one goal to help the community by holding the 4th Annual Valentine's Dinner Dance and Reverse Raffle Saturday, Feb. 14. The event benefits the Elks National Foundation and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. For more information, call (734) 425-2246 or (313) 557-8791.

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Previous fracture refers to any past fracture whether spontaneous or because of trauma. Current smoker refers to tobacco smoking. Oral steroids means having taken a dose of prednisone or equivalent of 5 mg/day for 3 months or more. The diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis must be a firm one; having "arthritis" requires a "no" answer.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Close to home Cancer center makes care convenient

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The short walk from the parking lot to the front door of the new Botsford Cancer Center was planned that way. Radiation oncology is only a few steps further on the first floor. One flight up is the doctor.

Cancer treatment is taxing enough on patients' bodies without having to travel from location to location for care. The 30,000-square-foot building is meant to be a one stop center bringing not only chemotherapy and radiation together in one building, but offices of oncologists and surgeons as well as a lab for blood testing.

In the past patients had to leave the Botsford Hospital campus in Farmington Hills if they needed radiation. The \$17 million building offers state of the art equipment for treatment and diagnostics.

"Our objective was to make the cancer center convenient and comforting for patients," said Dr. Paul LaCasse, president and CEO of Botsford Health Care including the hospital. "Here they don't

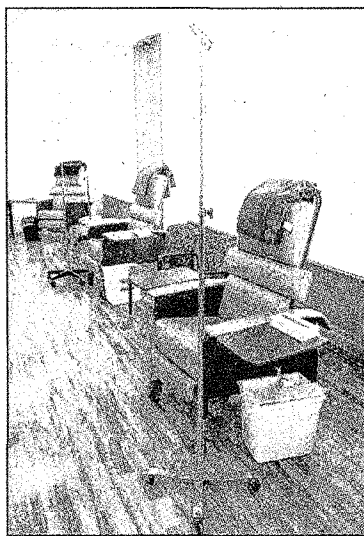
have to drive a distance and navigate the parking and facility."

Ted Tenenbaum was especially concerned that all systems were operational by the time the first radiation therapy patient was treated Thursday, Jan. 22. From the beginning in early 2005 the vision was to offer all cancer related services close to home.

"A diagnosis like this does consume your life," said Ted Tenenbaum, chief administrative officer for the cancer center. "You've already lost control and you get moved around from appointment to appointment. The cancer center makes their life a lot easier."

The availability of partial breast irradiation and diagnostics such as digital mammography is only a few months away once a breast care center in the building is completed. CT scan is already in use to plan radiation treatments customized for each patient. Diagnostic imaging should begin this week.

"It's the first step in planning safe treatment," said radiation therapist Clare English. "The new equipment takes slices through the body and does everything but



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This infusion room is one of the locations where chemotherapy is administered.

cook dinner. It has the ability to line up the patient to reproduce treatment consistent from day to day."

Clinical trials should be available later in the year through the Community Clinical Oncology Program at Beaumont Hospital. Tenenbaum is currently in the process of hiring a nurse trained at Beaumont. The Botsford and Beaumont connection is a strong one.

Dr. Larry Kestin was at Beaumont until four months ago when he became the Botsford Cancer Center medical director. Like Kestin, all of the radia-



Radiation technician Clare English prepares a CAT scan machine for a patient at the new Botsford Cancer Center in Farmington Hills.

tion oncologists in the Botsford Cancer Center are also on staff at Beaumont.

"I've been involved since the beginning with (medical oncologist) Jeff Margolis," said Kestin. "We're a comprehensive cancer center and plan to lease space to surgeons to make it a multidisciplinary clinic with three doctors to see all in one day."

Every thought was given to the care of patients including the \$2 million spent on the renovation of the historic Botsford Inn which eventually will serve as a meeting place for physicians as well as patients seeking support.

LaCasse is equally as proud of the history as the LEED certification of the building designed by Marshal Erdman & Associates in Wisconsin. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design registration means the building has met the highest environmental and health standards. The center uses 30 percent less water and 17 percent less energy.

"The Inn's been restored to 1924 configuration, the year Henry Ford bought the inn originally built in 1836," said LaCasse. "It was the resting point between Detroit and Lansing on the stage

coach trail. It's next to Clara Ford Rose Garden outside the cancer center. All infusion bays overlook the healing garden. We wanted the building to be convenient, aesthetically pleasing. It's a green building. We used environmentally friendly paints and wall coverings. Our mission is to provide health care to the community. There are toxins linked to some cancers. We felt we should reduce all those risks and toxins, reduce the hazards. We treat about 2,000 patients a year, diagnose about 800 cases a year. The prevalence seems to be increasing in our community."

Conference to focus on autism

The public is invited to attend the first International Conference on biomedical and other treatments that offer hope to individuals and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Autism Spectrum Disorders affect 1 in 150 children today and are present in many teens and adults. This is an opportunity to learn new treatment options for those diagnosed with autism, PDD, NOS, AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, RAD, OCD, and

other developmental disorders.

Presented by the American Medical Autism Board and Phillip DeMio, M.D., the conference includes general sessions and sessions for physicians and health care professionals. General sessions are designed for persons living with ASD, their families, caregivers, health care providers, educators, and other professionals.

Attending all or part of the conference will accumulate credits for eligible physicians toward American Medical

Autism Board certification.

Speakers and panel members include biomedical treatment physicians, parent advocates, chiropractic physicians, and other professionals in the field. Heidi Scheer, Mrs. Michigan United States and a parent of an ASD child, will be a special guest speaker and will show her son's "Road to Recovery" film.

Registration for one, two or three days is available with discounted pricing for all three days. Register online at www.asdboards.com.

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A Note from Florine

Let's face it - winter isn't the easiest time of year to stay active. The brisk cold air sends many of us into hibernation until spring. But the best way to keep that healthy momentum year round is to remain energized and rev up your metabolism. The New Year is still fresh and so should your commitment to a better, healthier you. Be creative with your workout. The gym isn't the only place to get some exercise. Try taking the stairs, going for a brisk walk outside, or even take on the mall with some good sneakers!

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