

THURSDAY

February 5

2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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75 CENTS

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

Private art
collections
highlighted

Filter, B8



New look, new features debut in today's Observer

Dear Readers:

Your hometown *Observer* has a new look. The changes are a result of your feedback in e-mail surveys and local interviews over the last four months. The design has been updated and inside you'll find new features on "Public Safety" and "Strictly Business" and a Hometown Life section with Sports, Filter and Food & Wine. It's all local and packaged with more photos and more local names. In addition, you will see a new emphasis on local opinions - from us and from you.

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

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

AROUND WESTLAND

Council OKs contract

Westland has joined some 30 other communities in approving a 30-year contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

In a unanimous decision, the Westland City Council approved the agreement during Monday's business meeting, ensuring that Westland has a long-term pact with Detroit, which is seen as the only viable water supplier for this city of 86,000 residents.

One of the purposes of the contract is to work toward reducing the volatility of peak water usage, such as discouraging customers from using excessive water for lawn sprinkling during peak hours of 6-9 a.m. and 5-9 p.m.

Westland Mayor William Wild has said he hopes that by working with Detroit, the city can hope for lower water rate increases that are typically passed on to local consumers. Wild also has said the new contract may lead to more cooperation as the two sides seek ways to improve water-system infrastructure.

Library goes to 'battle'

The William P. Faust Public Library is planning to battle. Forget the soldiers and weapons, this battle involves middle school students and a bunch of books.

The library will hold its first ever Middle School Battle of the Books. The battle is open to anyone who lives in Westland or attends school in Westland, likes to read, and likes to win. This competition pits teams of middle school students against each other to determine who knows the most about six books selected for the competition. Teams will answer trivia questions about the books in an eight-round competition with the top team taking home the trophy.

Anyone who wants to enter the Battle of the Books just needs to find a team, an adult sponsor and fill out the registration form by March 4. Then, just read the books and come to the battle on May 1 at the Bailey Center. And don't forget a team costume there will be prizes for the best one.

Registration forms and books are available at the Westland library. For more information, log on to library Web site at www.westland.lib.mi.us/teens/, call Bridget at (734) 326-6123 or e-mail her at bridgets@westland.lib.mi.us.

W-W, union ratify agreement

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials and representatives of its teachers union are hoping that with approval of a new four-year agreement, the district can leave behind the animosity fostered by a four-day strike in October and begin to move forward.

The comments came Tuesday evening as members of the school board voted 5-0 to approve the settlement agreement reached with the Wayne-Westland Education Association during fact-finding, a joint press release about the agreement and a letter related to the strike.

Board Secretary Cindy Schofield abstained from voting, telling the board that she

WHAT WAS AGREED TO

- Teachers will receive 6.75 percent in pay increases over the life of the agreement - 1.75 percent retroactive to the start of Aug. 28, 2008, and 1.5 percent for each of the remaining three years. Wages for a beginning teacher with a bachelor's degree will go from \$35,011 the first year to \$36,610 in the fourth year. At the top of the scale, wages for teachers with a doctoral degree will go from \$96,112 to \$100,505 respectively.
- The district will continue to offer the MESSA Choices health care plan as well as an HMO. However, new hires will now have a choice between the two plans.
- Teachers will continue to pay a \$480 co-pay along with a deductible of \$100 and \$200 the first year and \$200 and \$400 starting in the second year of the agreement. There also will

be co-pays for office visits - \$10 - and emergency room visits - \$25 - starting in the second year of the agreement.

There also will be some modifications in class sizes. The overload language will be reduced by one student in K-12 for the 2009-2010 school year, and middle school and high school physical education and music classes will be reduced from 40 to 39 students. High school health classes will be reduced from the physical education class size to normal class size and science lab classes also will be reduced by two students.

In the 2010-2011 school year, grades 6-12 classes will be reduced by one student as well as fourth- and fifth-grades and four-five splits.

would benefit from the agreement because her husband is a teacher in the district. Trustee William Gabriel was absent.

"We worked very long, hard hours, we were committed to a common goal of getting agreement and moving on for the good

of the community," WWEA president Nancy Strachan said. "I'm

Please see **AGREEMENT, A3**

Small church reaches out to community

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From a tiny, storefront church tucked away in one of Westland's poorest neighborhoods, the Rev. Karl Childs hopes to change the lives of down-hearted folks who pass his way.

Some days, he may minister to only six or seven people who take a seat in his Ecclesiasticus Temple Church, located at 2361 S. Venoy south of Palmer. Some evenings, he may stir the souls of 25 former drug addicts and alcoholics who show up for his 12-step Celebrate Recovery meetings. Other times, he may find himself advocating for missing and exploited children, or their parents.

"We're reaching out to the downtrodden," Childs, 45, said as he took a break from scribbling inspirational messages on a church chalkboard that stood in front of 12 folding chairs, six to a row.

Childs, who gets help from people like church secretary Rhonda Griffin, is an ordained pastor who started having services in his Westland home last March. His small congregation also met outdoors in Garden City Park, but since October it has had a home in the Norwayne neighborhood, across the street from The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps.

Childs' non-denominational church has services at 11 a.m. Sundays, Bible classes at 3 p.m. Saturdays, and Celebrate Recovery meetings at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and 7 p.m. Fridays. Its mission, according to Childs, "is to lead poor pilgrims from darkness into the marvelous light."

The church also has a book store, which consists of book shelves lined against a wall. It is stocked with Bibles, including those with large print, and books that delve into history, jazz music and overcoming addictions.

Childs, a Westland resident who grew up in Detroit, has had a diverse background. He worked as a Detroit cab driver and a pizza delivery man, and he was self-employed in masonry and con-

Please see **CHURCH, A3**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Karl Childs sits inside the small Ecclesiasticus Temple Church he has opened in the Norwayne neighborhood.

Index

APARTMENTS	... C3
AUTOMOTIVE	... C6
CAREER BUILDER	... C5
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	... C2
FILTER	... B8-9
FOOD & WINE	... B10
OBITUARIES	... B6
PUBLIC SAFETY	... A4
REAL ESTATE	... C2
SPORTS	... B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS	... B5

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Gunman gets cash in holdup

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A masked gunman robbed a Dollar General employee and two customers during a brazen holdup that happened Saturday evening inside the store on Glenwood east of Newburgh, Westland police said.

No shots were fired during a 7:42 p.m. robbery that nonetheless left a 23-year-old store employee "very shaken up" after he was threatened at gunpoint, according to police reports.

The worker told authorities he was ringing up a purchase for a 58-year-old man when the lone bandit entered the store, ordered him at gunpoint to open the register and warned, "I'm not joking."

As the employee obeyed his orders, the gunman walked around to the customer and demanded his wallet, police said.

About that time, another customer described as a 50-year-old man walked up to the counter to make a purchase, unaware that a holdup was taking place, police said.

"The suspect turned to (the second customer), pointed the gun at him and stated, 'Give me your wallet,'" according to police reports.

The 50-year-old man took his money out of his wallet and placed it on the counter, and police said the gunman robbed the store and both customers before he fled. The bandit was last seen walking north along

Newburgh.

Officer Grant Allen and police dog Drago arrived on the scene but the suspect wasn't found, and police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said Monday that an investigation was continuing.

The suspect was described as a black male, 25-35 years old, nearly 6 feet tall, 200-250 pounds. He wore blue jeans, a black hooded sweat shirt, a black coat, and a black cloth or mask that covered his mouth, nose and one eye, according to police reports.

Anyone who has information is asked to call Westland police at (734) 722-9600 or (734) 721-6311.

dclem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Council says no to AT&T request

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents who choose to get their television service from AT&T's Internet-driven U-verse will continue to miss out on the city's WLND cable station programs.

A split Westland City Council refused Monday to spend tax dollars to entice the communications giant to provide city cable programming that officials said would usher in thousands of dollars in costs not imposed by Comcast and WideOpenWest.

In a 5-2 decision, the council rejected an AT&T contract that

President James Godbout said would cost the city \$6,700 a year plus a start-up hardware price tag of \$5,230. Godbout said the company's offer for a one-time credit of \$5,000 after nine months wouldn't begin to offset expenses.

"Why do I need to pay somebody to make them competitive in the marketplace?" Godbout asked, during a telephone interview. "They want us to subsidize them so they can keep their rates down to their subscribers."

Mayor William Wild's administration supported the three-

Please see **CABLE, A3**

Coach resigns in wake of sex scandal

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Madonna University officials Monday accepted the resignation of men's basketball coach Chuck Henry in the wake of allegations he had inappropriate sexual contact with a 13-year-old student when he taught in the Wayne-Westland school district more than two decades ago.

The allegations were made by the former student, whose name was not divulged, in a report aired Sunday and Monday nights on WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

In a statement released Monday by the university, offi-



Henry

In the wake of Henry's resignation, assistant coach Myron Brown was named the school's interim coach. Assistants Monte Dennard and Noel Emenheiser will help run the team.

The woman, now 36, alleged the inappropriate contact happened some 23 years ago, when she was a student and Henry,

cials said: "Our prayers are with the young woman. We have accepted Mr. Henry's resignation, and he is no longer a university employee."

then 37, was a gym teacher at Adams Junior High School in Westland. The girl had a tape recording of a conversation she recently had with Henry, a conversation she recorded without telling Henry he was being taped.

During that conversation, played during the televised report, the woman could be heard asking Henry if she was "the only one or were there others?" Henry's reply: "You were the only one."

When approached by WDIV reporter Karen Drew, Henry, a Canton resident, at first denied the allegations. When shown a transcript of the recorded conversation, and being told

the girl alleged the inappropriate conduct happened multiple times over the course of a year, Henry admitted to recalling "maybe two or three times." He also called it "the one thing in my life ... I've never been able to understand or forgive myself for."

Neither Henry nor the victim could be reached for comment.

Henry moved from Adams to Wayne Memorial High School and then coached at Agape Christian Academy. Officials for those schools said no complaints had ever been filed against Henry.

In a statement, Pastor Mark Moore, lead pastor and administrator for the Agape Family

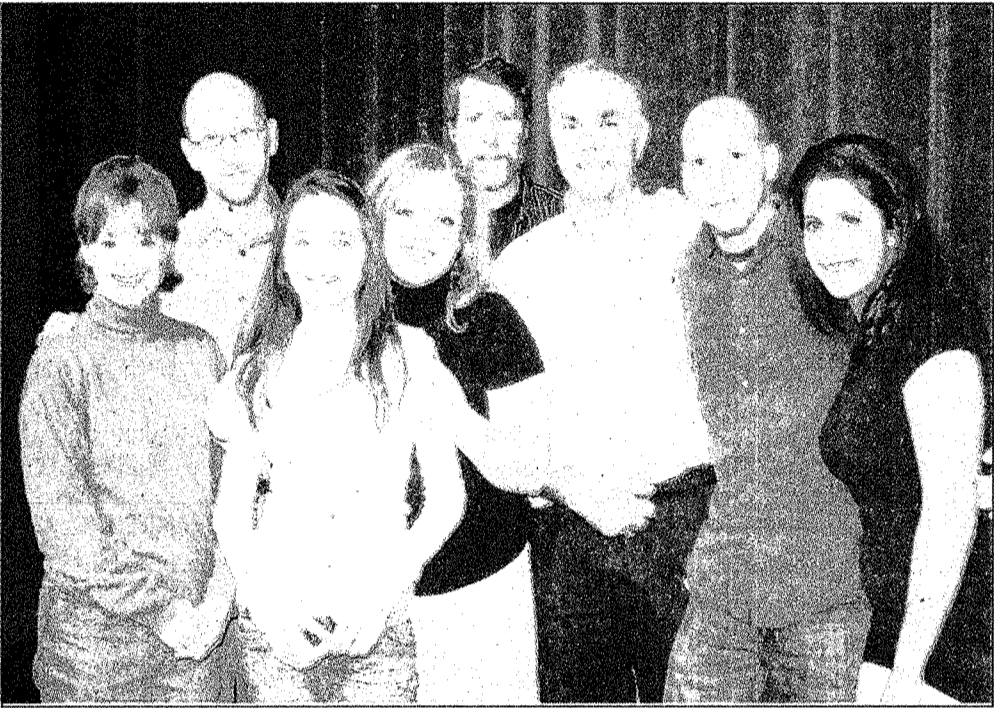
Worship Center and Christian Academy, said Henry was "well-respected" in his years at Agape.

"We were saddened to hear the news of Chuck Henry's alleged involvement in the molestation of a former student of Adams Jr. High in the Wayne-Westland Public School District," the statement read. "Chuck Henry was a well-respected coach at Agape Christian Academy for several years. There were never any allegations of misconduct occurring while he was on our coaching staff. We will continue to pray for the alleged victim and also for his family during this time."

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Supt. Greg Baracy said no complaints were ever filed with the district against Henry.

"The District has learned through the media that allegations have surfaced regarding an inappropriate relationship which occurred over twenty years ago between a teacher/coach and a student," Baracy wrote in a statement. "While the teacher/coach retired from our district several years ago, we are deeply disappointed to learn of these allegations. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this young woman and her family."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Stella!

The Spotlight Players theater group will perform the comedy "Divine Stella Devine" starting later this month at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The show runs Feb. 20, 21, 27, 28, March 1, 6, 7, and 8. The show revolves around character Stella Devine, the aging star of the popular Ritz Theatre, and her fellow company of actors, who are preparing for the epic play "Civil War Darlin'." The cast is comprised of local actors, including (from Canton and Plymouth) Pat Filios (pictured from left), Christopher Tremblay, Kelley Donnelly, Meg DaPont, Drex Morton, Pat McKane, Patrick Wears, and Lia DeBiasi. "This production will add some style and glamour to an already well-written and funny show. With actors frequently in the house engaging the audience, Broadway-style lighting effects, and even a little song and dance, this run of Divine Stella Devine promises to be an 'all out' assault on the senses," said Director Christian Cash. To buy tickets and for more information (discounted tickets are \$13 each and available online only) visit www.spotlightplayers.net. At the box office tickets are \$15-\$18. Call the box office at (734) 394-5300.

AROUND WESTLAND

Blood drive

Roll up your sleeve and give a unit at a blood drive being held from 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.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour from 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month. LeBlanc also invites residents to join him for refreshments and an informal fireside chat from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the library. Residents who have any comments or concerns or needing more information, can contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517) 373-2576.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City on Monday, Feb. 9. He will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, from 9-10 a.m., then move to the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone toll-free at (866) 262-7306; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Surplus food

The City of Westland has established the day, times, and locations that residents may obtain surplus federal food for the month of February.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

The pickup time and location for Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 9, or the second Monday of each month, at St. James United Methodist Church, which is located at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 729-1737. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers may collect their food at Taylor Towers and must contact their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of February, distribution will include beef stew, green beans, salmon, noodles, grape juice, trail nut mix, and possible additional items.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hot line at (734) 595-0366.

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 from 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 today. 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 from 3-4:30 p.m. and the second installment will be from 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 today. 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 more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Vegas Nights

St. Theodore Parish will hold its Vegas Nights from 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 from 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 from 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.

Learn to save energy at free seminar

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army and the WARM Training Center will present an energy-saving seminar 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, and Thursday, March 12. Sessions will be at the Salvation Army corps center, 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland. Participants should attend one session; sessions will continue the second

Thursday of each month. The WARM Training Center is based in Detroit, and focuses on energy savings/conservation, such as weatherization and insulation measures.

Utility prices keep going up, yet 10-50 percent of the energy used in most U.S. homes is wasted. Come find out what you can do to save money by saving energy. This seminar will cover:

- What works and what doesn't for saving energy
 - Inexpensive materials that lower the bills
 - How to shop for energy-efficient appliances, and more.
- The seminars are free. For information or to sign up, call (734) 722-3660. Advance registration is required, and there will be goodie bags for participants.

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#830	Gail A. Scott	Miscellaneous household items
#1012	Mary Horn	
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Publish: January 29 and February 5, 2009

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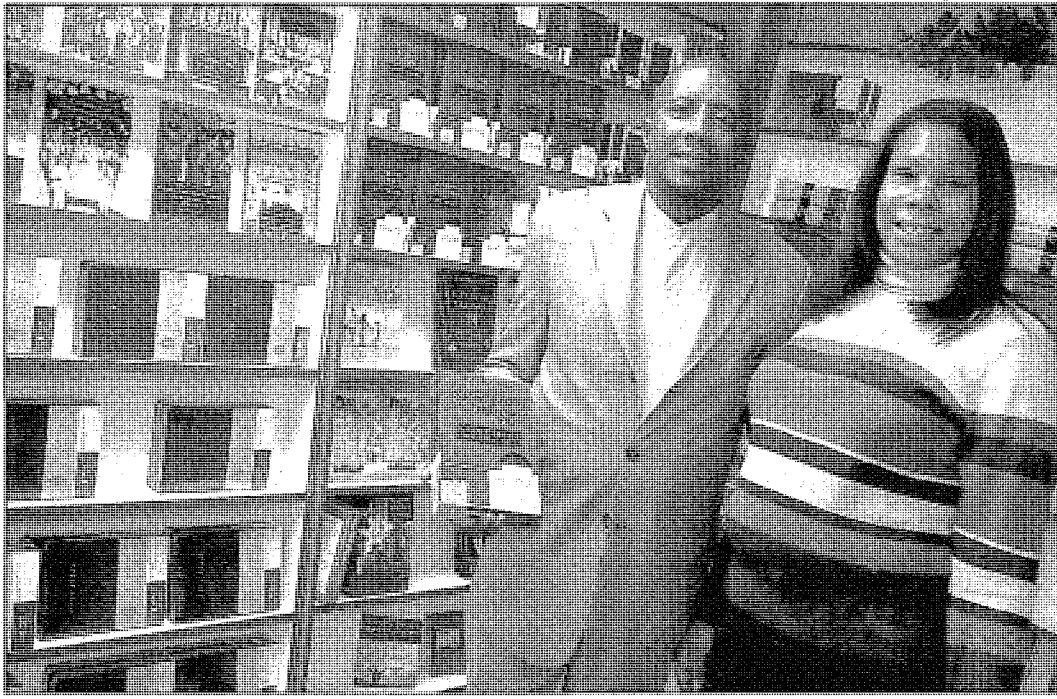
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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Rev. Karl Childs and church secretary Rhonda Griffin stand in front of book shelves that make up their church's book store.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE A1

struction after he obtained his residential builder's license in 1994.

Childs studied juvenile issues, including delinquency and counseling, and had a court law class at Wayne State University. He completed 42 credits in liberal arts and sciences at Wayne State University and then moved on to the University of Detroit for a six-month, polymer technician program through the city of Detroit's CETA, or

Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

Childs completed an adult-education building maintenance program at Plymouth Canton High School, and he went on to earn a paralegal associate degree from a Southfield-based court reporting academy.

He worked as a Salvation Army uniformed officer in Chatham, Ontario, and also volunteered for jail and hospital work there, through The League of Mercy. His ex-wife and six children, ages 10 to 22, still live in Ontario.

Closer to home, Childs has donated his time in the Detroit

Harbor Light Corps and soup kitchen as a minister. He also formerly worked as a greeting sergeant and as a paid bell ringer for The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps.

In the 1980s, Childs traveled the world on a small budget and visited places like Egypt, Greece and Hong Kong, along with U.S. cities like San Francisco and New York. He said he believes all his life experiences have brought him to his small, humble church in Norwayne for a reason.

"I see it as God's bigger plan and His will for me," he said.

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

AGREEMENT

FROM PAGE A1

pleased with where we ended up, but we did a lot of work along the way."

"We're elated that this is behind us, now we can focus all of our abilities and capabilities on moving forward and on the education of our children," Superintendent Greg Baracy said.

Main areas addressed in the new agreement were wages, health care and adjustments in class sizes, which had become a rallying cry for angry parents during the four-day strike.

In the joint press released after the meeting, the two sides acknowledged that strikes are illegal and collective bargaining must be done in good faith. To that end, the new contract includes a no-strike, no-lockout provision. The union also agreed to withdraw all pending grievances, charges and lawsuits related to the dispute.

It also agreed that it "will not and does not support" the recall of board members Martha Pitsenbarger and Skip Monit.

"It is recognized that board members acted in what they believed to be the district's best interests," according to the press release.

The letter the board approved is a letter of reprimand of teachers who participated in the strike. It will become a permanent part of their personnel records. It also puts teachers on notice that "similar misconduct in the future will result in additional discipline, up to and including discharge."

According to Baracy, the district agreed not to prosecute the teachers. "That was never the district's intention," he said, adding the letter was "all part of a packaged deal."

While Pitsenbarger said she was "extremely relieved" that the two sides have an agreement, board Treasurer Steve Becher let the union know that

the agreement, in his estimation, didn't address class sizes.

"There's no real difference in class size," said Becher, a former teacher and WWEA member. "A great deal was brought to this community over class sizes, but you didn't address it. I think you could have taken smaller class sizes than take 6.5 percent over four years. You got what you wanted. You kept the money and your health care, that's what you wanted. I think you won."

His comments drew criticism from Shawn Maxwell who has been spearheading the recall campaign.

"The comments you made weren't necessary," she told Becher. "They deserve what they got. The reason for the recall was when the teachers walked, we realized that we had to take out the people we chose to represent us because they wouldn't listen to us. Our teachers deserve a fair and equitable contract."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

CABLE

FROM PAGE A1

year AT&T contract, saying the company's customers pay local cable franchise fees like their Comcast and WideOpenWest counterparts but don't receive WLND programming. The city's cable station has garnered national honors for its service.

U-verse customer Mark Rodriguez told the council he subscribes to the service because he gets more channels and better quality for less money.

AT&T spokesman Joe Steele

said Tuesday the contract also would provide city cable programming to customers outside of Westland, such as companies that do business with the city.

"We will continue to talk with the city and see how we can make this work," he said.

Councilman Charles Pickering raised concerns that paying AT&T to offer WLND might spur the other cable providers to ask the city for money to continue their city programming.

When asked if Comcast and WideOpenWest might have a legal window to ask for additional funding, City Attorney Angelo Plakas responded, "I

imagine they would have the right to do that."

Godbout and Pickering voted against the AT&T contract along with council members Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Robert Stottlemeyer. Two of their colleagues, Cheryl Graunstadt and Dewey Reeves, supported it.

Ultimately, the dispute may become less relevant as the city moves closer to showing WLND programming on the city's Web site, Godbout said. That would provide another option for households with home computers.

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

Routine traffic stop may have solved murder case

A routine traffic stop in Westland may have solved a murder in Detroit, police said.

Officer Richard Novakowski stopped a Detroit driver for a routine traffic violation about 3 p.m. Tuesday and arrested him for having a suspended license, but Chief James Ridener said that was only the beginning.

Novakowski reportedly searched the car and found crack cocaine and a 22-cal-

iber rifle that had blood and hair on it.

"Ultimately he got the suspect back to the (police) station and got a confession that he had argued with his (Detroit) roommate, who had a gun," Ridener said. "The (suspect) said he pulled out a screwdriver."

The two men fought, and Ridener said the suspect told Novakowski, "I think I killed him."

Authorities checked with

Detroit police, who confirmed that an apparent homicide had happened as the suspect described it.

Detroit sent officers to Westland to take the man into custody.

Ridener commended Novakowski for turning a routine traffic stop into a major arrest.

"We're pleased he took the extra steps to solve this crime that happened in Detroit," the chief said.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

4 fund-raising jugs stolen

1 A suspect has been charged with larceny after a 26-year-old man told Westland police that money was stolen after he placed milk jugs at various locations in town to raise money for his stepbrother's funeral.

The victim told police he realized donations had been taken when he recently went to retrieve the money and learned it had been taken by a family acquaintance.

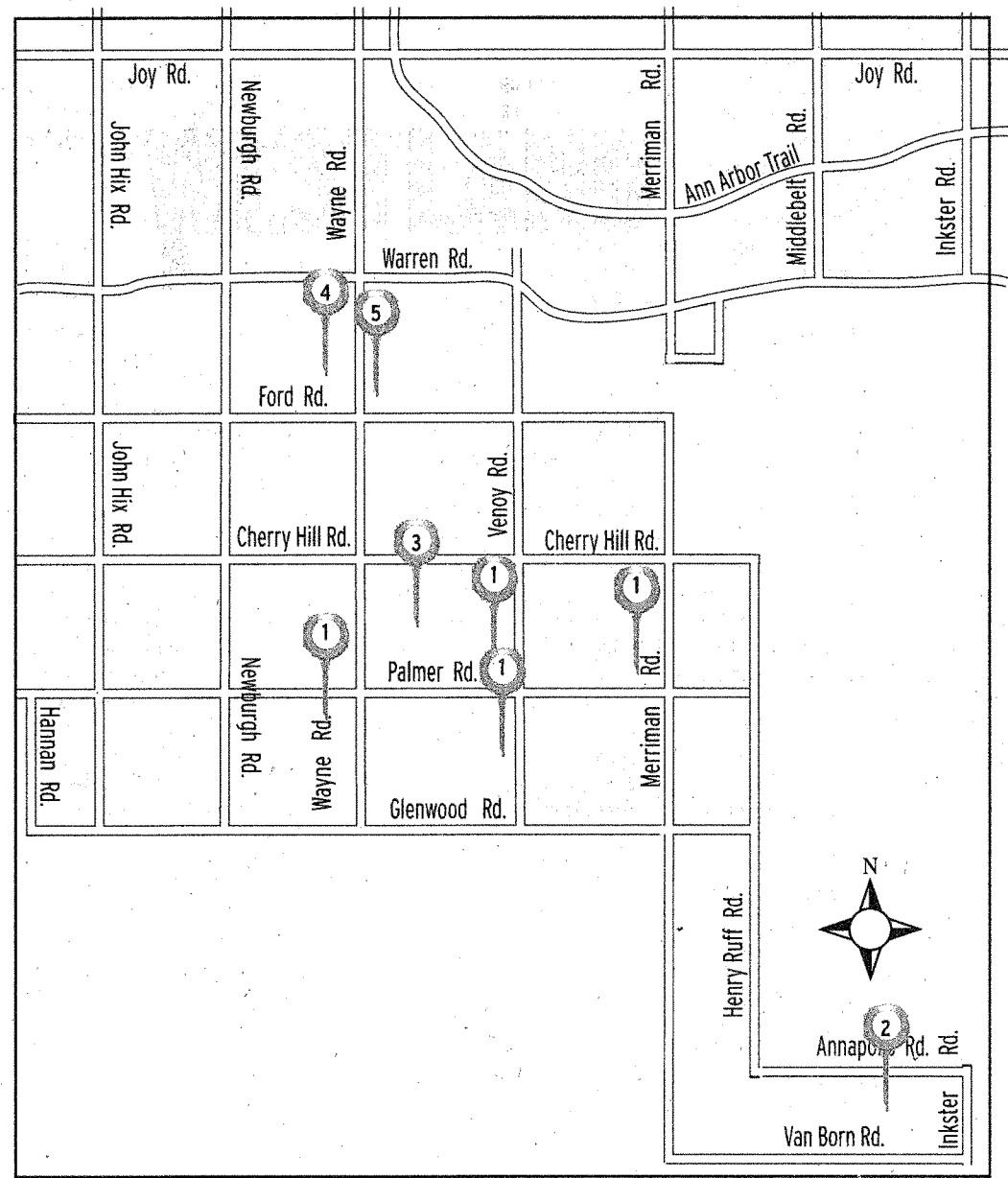
The jugs had been placed at Al's Beverage on Venoy south of Palmer; at Buscemi's Pizza on Venoy north of Palmer; at the Sunoco station on Merriman just north of Palmer; and at the Mobil station at Wayne and Palmer.

The victim showed a Buscemi's employee a picture of the suspect, taken from a public Web site, and the worker identified him. The victim had learned from a friend that the suspect might be a family acquaintance.

It wasn't known how much money may have been taken from all the jugs. According to police, the suspect confessed to taking the money from at least two of the locations, saying he used the money to support his family and buy a prescription drug, Vicodin.

Laptop taken in break-in

2 A woman told police that someone broke into her home on Currier, a residential street northeast of Middlebelt and Van Born, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, taking a laptop computer from her living room and earrings from her upstairs bedroom. The woman told police she also found several kitchen drawers had been opened and that a utility room



window had been left open. **Back door kicked open**

3 A woman reported that someone kicked in the back door of her home on Parkwood in the 32000 block of Parkwood, north of Palmer between Venoy and Merriman, sometime between Jan. 20-28. The woman called police before she entered the house and waited outside until officers arrived. Everything appeared in order inside the house, and the woman and her

six children told police that nothing appeared to be missing. **Funny money**

4 A manager of the Taco Bell on Wayne Road south of Warren told police that a customer gave an employee a \$20 counterfeit bill in the drive-through shortly about 7:25 p.m. Jan. 28. The only description of the car was a dark green sedan, possibly a Dodge Intrepid. The people inside the car were described as a 24-year-old white female with long, curly,

blonde hair, and a black male who was believed to be about 24 years old. **GPS unit stolen**

5 A Wayne man reported that someone punched in the passenger door lock of his vehicle and took a GPS unit while it was parked at Westland Music, on Wayne north of Ford, around 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28. The victim told police he had gone to pick up his son from class.

By Darrell Clem

3 firefighters get top honors

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three veteran Westland Fire Department employees have been singled out to receive top honors for their service to this city of 86,000 residents.

Capt. John Adams, a fire investigator and inspector, has won the Michael J. Reddy Father of Advanced Life Support Award for 2008, an honor named after the former fire chief who spearheaded the city's ALS program.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal, in charge of training and education for the city's fire department, has earned the title of Fire Officer of the Year for 2008.

And, Firefighter Steven Walters has been named Firefighter of the Year for 2008.

"While all of our troops are stellar, they stood out," Chief Michael Reddy, the son of the former fire chief, said. "They are doing everything that's asked of them and beyond that. They are an asset to the department and to the residents they serve."

Adams, Neal and Walters received their honors during a recent public safety awards ceremony in Westland.

Adams has been with the fire department since 1993 and became a captain in 2005. He routinely conducts first aid training, fire safety and extinguisher training for local school children and for the senior citizen community. He also participates in many extracurricular activities, such as serving as co-president for the charitable Goodfellows organization, which helps needy children during the

holiday season.

Adams also has been involved with a mayoral task force and has helped with Mayor William Wild's Mission Green program, aimed at making Westland more environmentally conscious.

Neal has been a fire department member since 1992 and was promoted to assistant chief in 2006. Since then, he has developed a new training program for all 69 members of the fire-suppression division and all newly hired probationary firefighters.

Neal also has developed training for the city to comply with state and federal standards and laws, including "flashover" training in a "live burn" training facility, response to simulated propane fires ranging from a gas grill to tanker vehicles, and rapid intervention to rescue trapped firefighters.

Neal also has helped lead efforts to develop a video conference with other fire departments for resource sharing and training, thanks to a grant that was received to buy nearly \$20,000 in equipment for the department's training room. He also works with schools to teach fire safety awareness in kindergarten through fifth-grade during Fire Safety Week in October, in addition to developing classes for businesses and civic groups.

Walters has been with the fire department since 1994 and, according to fire officials, he has stood out among his peers for capturing the spirit of professionalism in fire service. His award partly stems from his customer service to citizens, his work ethic within the fire station, and his participation in specialized teams.

Walters is a member of the department's Tactical Emergency Medical Services team, and he is a certified Rapid Intervention Team instructor.

Capt. Tim Wilson described Walters as "a person who handles stressful situations with a cool hand and never allows a situation to get out of control."

Wilson also referred to Walters as "a consummate team player" and "a leader" who makes the jobs of other fire personnel a little easier.



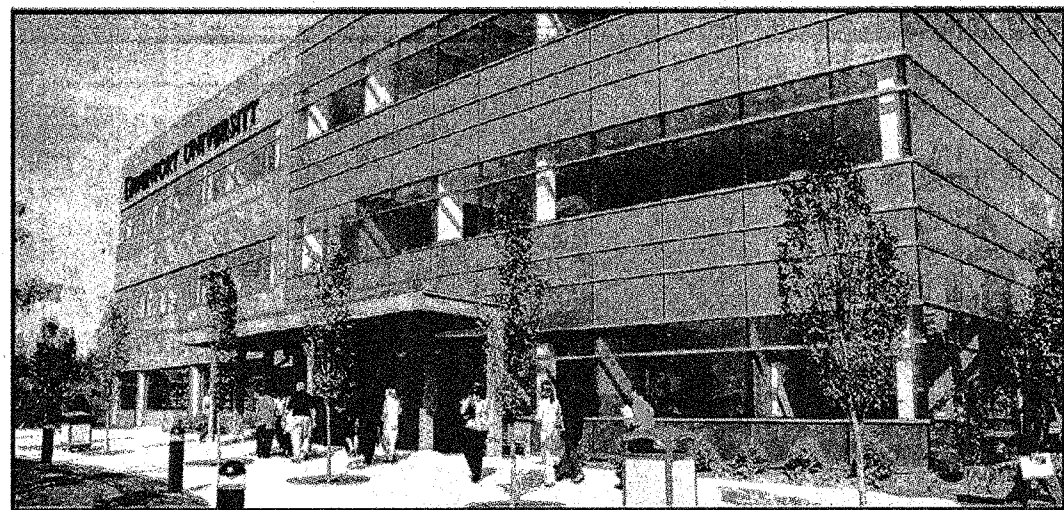
Adams



Walters



Neal



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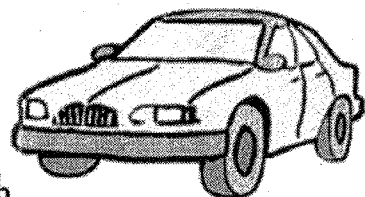
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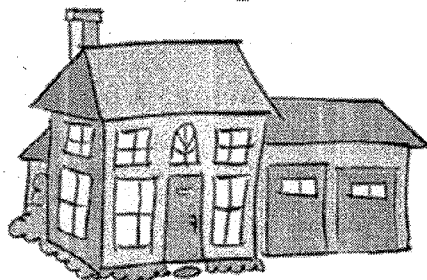


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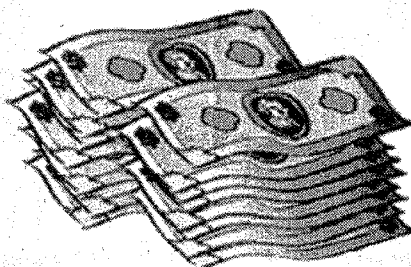
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The first 100 days

Students track Obama's work after attending inaugural

A group of students who took a trip to Washington, D.C. last month are keeping track of what the man they went to see is doing. Students from the from Detroit Edison Public School Academy went to Washington for President Barack Obama's inauguration, and according to William Campbell, they couldn't stop talking about the trip when they returned to school.

As a result the students are creating a huge timeline of President Obama's first 100 days and display it in the academy's cafeteria.

"We will start with his first day, with essays from the students and continue with newspaper clippings, articles and personal essays on the country and this historic president," Campbell said.

Campbell recounted the trip:

country's 44th president. Jo-Ann Odom rode on the bus along with her grandson, Brinson Doederlein. Although the trip was tiring, both she and her grandson described their experience as special and one that they will remember for the rest of her lives. And not just for viewing the inauguration, but also for the mood of the audience itself that warmed the cold air and cheered despite the crowded conditions.

"The people we traveled with were welcoming and gracious. Many of the people in Washington, D.C., were African-American and certainly everyone on our bus was too. Although I will never know how deeply they felt, I was honored to be with them, I felt honored to share this experience," she said.

Brinson added that he felt special to be able to share this trip with his grandmother.

"It was awesome," said Brinson. "It was great that I could take this trip with my 'Meme' and it was cool to see the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument up close."

School Superintendent Ralph C. Bland came up with the idea of chartering a bus from Detroit Edison Public School Academy to take National Honor Society Students and members of the Student Council to the inauguration. Dr. Hakim Shahid traveled with the students who were also accompanied by their parents, grandparents and relatives. Also traveling from the school were Paul Szymanski, Assistant Principal and Nellis Caldwell, creative writing teacher and chair of the National Honor Society.

"We had close to 50 on the bus," described Dr. Shahid, "over 40 students, parents and relatives plus a few visitors. It was cold, but these students are excited and I promise you they will never forget this trip."

Joanne Inglis, Housing and Community Development Director from the City of Westland, rode on the bus to be witness to history. What she experienced was more.

"In Washington that day you could sense the change in the air, particularly among the younger people," she said. "Despite the cold and the crowds, there was no pushing, no anger or angst. The young people I spoke to were not trying to get to the front row, they were just excited to be there in Washington that day. They came and embraced the moment."

So too did 12-year-old Jasmine Brockman. Jan. 20, in addition to being Inauguration Day, happened to be her 12th birthday.

"I had a great birthday," she said, "Washington is a cool place and it was great to be present in the Capital and share my birthday with the inauguration of the first black president."

Along with nearly 2 million guests, it was quite a celebration.

Anderson understands governor's upbeat tone

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Anderson

Gov. Jennifer Granholm acknowledged Michigan's continuing economic troubles in her State of the State address Tuesday, but offered an optimistic view that things will improve.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland), who represents Redford Township, understands the governor's approach.

"It was good speech," he said Wednesday in a call from the Senate floor. "One thing we have to do is assure people that things will get better. We are at such a low place in our economy."

Michigan unemployment is a nation-leading 10.6 percent, the auto industry is reporting record losses, foreclosures are up and people are leaving the state in huge numbers.

Anderson said his fellow legislators seemed more open to her ideas.

"I was really taken by the reaction to the speech by folks on both sides of the aisle, how many times they applauded her," he

said. "What she said had more bipartisan support than I have seen since I've been here."

The governor looked

mostly to the future, emphasizing Michigan's prospects as a producer of green energy technology from solar panels to wind turbines. She marked a goal of reducing electricity generated from fossil fuels by 45 percent by 2020.

"Certainly we'll never get close to that unless we set goals," Anderson said. "It remains to be seen if we can. Renewable energy from wind turbines and solar panels is exciting. We are in a position to be a leader in the country and certainly in the region."

Granholm also pointed to the film industry's continued interest in Michigan since special tax incentives were approved last year. She announced major film production facilities for Detroit and Pontiac and a digital games manufac-

turer for Plymouth.

"There was a lot of good news about the film studios. Livonia has done a lot to be a one-stop source for the film industry," Anderson said.

The other major initiative announced by Granholm was a major shrinking of state government under the leadership of Lt. Gov. John Cherry.

"It's very ambitious to go from 18 down to eight (state departments). I am concerned about some of those, in particular libraries, eliminating the department (Department of History, Arts and Libraries)," Anderson said. "I will be cautious on that. I believe libraries are very important for providing knowledge for our citizens."

Anderson said he will need to see the details outlined in the governor's budget report in a couple of weeks.

"This is just the broad outline. We have to wait for the nuts and bolts," he said.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8730

Thousands of buses were on the road the evening of Jan. 19, journeying to Washington, D.C., for an appointment with history. Eighteen hours from Iowa, 19 hours from St. Louis, and our bus, along with the others from Detroit, were on the road for 12 hours winding our way through Ohio and the hills of Pennsylvania.

Around 4 in the morning, still a few hours west of the Capital, the highway was packed and the sense of excitement moved through all of us traveling - the parents, school kids, grand parents and adults - who made this overnight trip to be present at one of the defining moments of our nation's history and a moment few expected to see in their lifetime. The nation's first African-American president-elect would take the oath of office to become our

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Today's Health

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BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

With Valentine's Day around the corner, restaurant reservations are booking up fast, candy boxes are flying off the shelves and love, love, love is in the air.

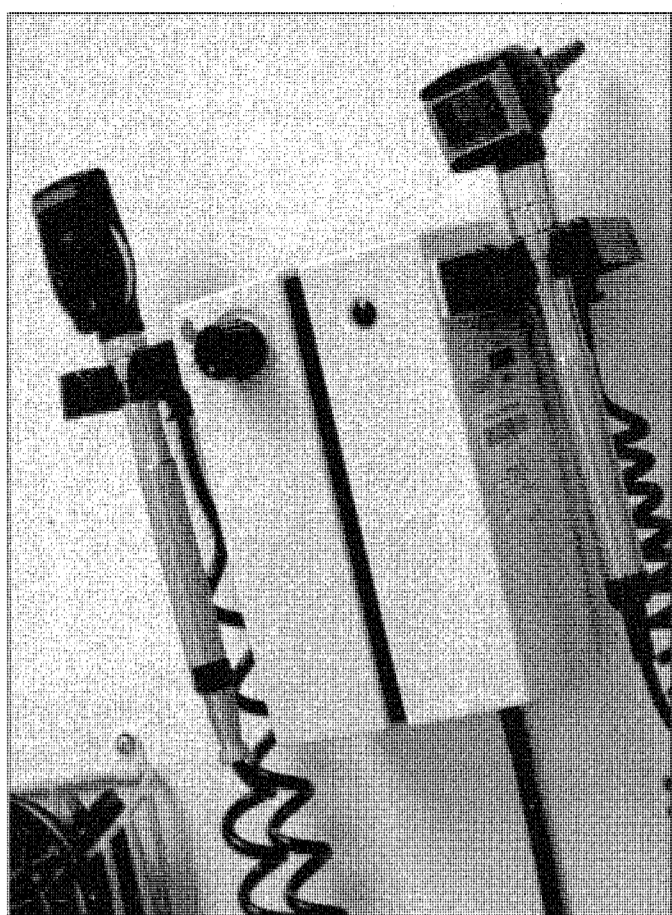
Whatever your thoughtful plans are this month for loved ones, February is also a month for nurturing your own health — starting with your heart.

February is American Heart Month, a reminder that healthy nutrition and fitness habits are essential for reducing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, lung disease, cancer and injury.

"Heart disease is probably one of the most common causes of illness and death in the country," said David Steinberger, a board certified internist at Infinity Primary Care's Vital Internal Medicine facility in Livonia. "There's a lot we can do to mitigate that risk, and having regular checkups is a great place to start."

Symptoms associated with some heart-related issues often aren't obvious indications of a problem, Steinberger said.

"Even if you feel great, it's important to go over things about how your daily life is going and to go over nutrition and things to do to lower cholesterol and lower your risk," he said. "Many people show no symptoms — or no



February is American Heart Month, a reminder that healthy nutrition and fitness habits are essential for reducing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, lung disease, cancer and injury.

symptoms that they're recognizing."

Now is also a great time for already diabetic patients to come back in and check up on their health.

"If you have diabetes, it makes you susceptible to other diseases that are associated with heart diseases," said Cheryl Schwartz, Chief Operating Officer of Infinity Primary Care. "By managing a health lifestyle and helping patients take care of themselves, we help them stay well."

Diabetic patients are especially at higher risk for kidney disease and should be on certain medications to prevent its onset, Steinberger said.

"Diabetes untreated could also lead to blindness and nerve damage," Steinberger said.

A low-fat, high-fiber diet is generally recommended to maintain good health,

Steinberger added. To maintain a normal weight, a person should aim for a body mass index (BMI) lower than 25. "Americans have a huge misconception about weight," Steinberger said.

"We all think that people look healthier when they are actually slightly overweight. I think that an easy target is that men should have a waist smaller than 37 inches and women should have a waist smaller than 33 inches, but a BMI is a more accurate test based on height and weight."

Infinity Primary Care is a group of family and internal medicine physicians located in Brighton, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Novi.

Infinity recently built a new Diagnostic Testing Center, providing ultrasound, nuclear vascular, echocardiogram, dexta testing, X-ray, CT scanning and laboratory services.

Pilates Fitness Evolution delivers personalized training

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

Maintaining a fit and healthy body can be a difficult priority to manage between a full-time job, raising a family or attending school.

But there are fitness professionals close to home eager to help you achieve your fitness goals.

Pilates, a non-impact exercise that focuses on the deep muscles of the abdomen and spine, is a method increasingly in popularity for those looking to improve their fitness in a low-stress environment.

Ron Jegadeesh, owner of Pilates Fitness Evolution in Southfield, is a Stott Pilates certified instructor and physical therapist. His fitness studio offers Pilates, Gyrotonic, physical therapy and Power

Plate training to those looking to strengthen their minds and bodies.

"Pilates builds strength without building up bulky muscles," Jegadeesh said. "It creates a newly-conditioned body with a long, lean look."

Pilates Fitness Evolution also offers Cardiolates classes — incorporating cardiovascular activity into Pilates routines.

Those looking for a more advanced technique can try the Gyrotonic Expansion System at Pilates Fitness Evolution, a unique exercise system that incorporates three dimensional and circular movements to mobilize the spine and joints.

"Gyrotonic incorporates movement principles from swimming, yoga, gymnastics, dance and martial arts," Jegadeesh said. "It's similar to pilates but slightly more

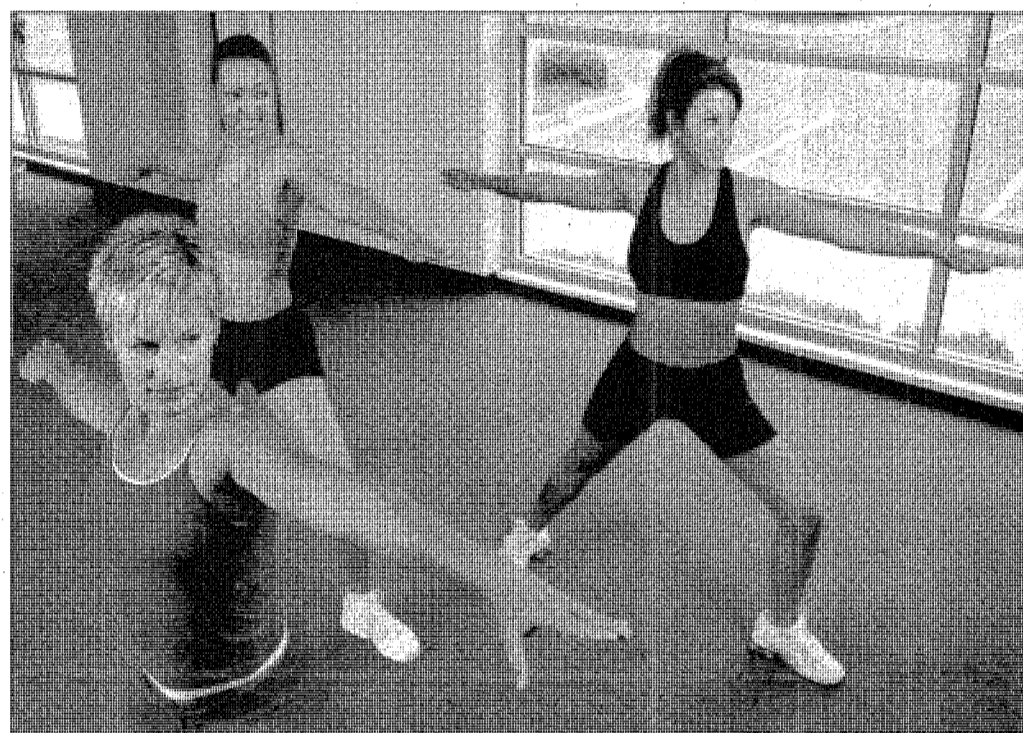
advanced."

For those seeking relief from Osteoporosis, Fibromyalgia, hormonal imbalance, obesity, stress and a variety of other conditions, Pilates Fitness Evolution offers Power Plate Advanced Vibration technology, offering the same strength benefits of conventional strength training at the gym in just 10-minute sessions.

"When you stand on it, it vibrates 30 to 60 vibrations per second and then activates all the muscles and postural muscles," Jegadeesh said. "I use it for arthritis and lower back pain and it also helps for sports conditioning."

Pilates Fitness Evolution is located at 17418 W. 10 Mile Rd. in Southfield. To learn more about Pilates Fitness Evolution, contact Jegadeesh at 248-552-1012 or visit www.pilatesfitnessevolution.com.

Pilates focuses on the deep muscles of the abdomen and spine and is a low-impact exercise regime used to improve overall fitness and strength.



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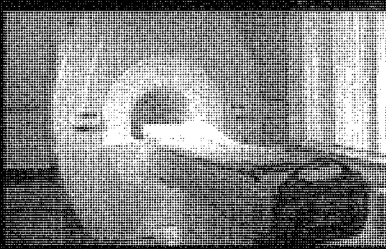
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OUR VIEWS Youth Assistance turns kids around

Is it a sign of the times? Last year, the Westland Youth Assistance Program received 312 referrals for help, the second-highest 12-month total since it was started 15 years ago.

The answer is probably yes, but there's more to it. The slumping economy, the loss of jobs and foreclosures, to name today's big problems, have all put tremendous pressure on families — parents and children alike. But we also believe, as Director Paul Motz said at last week's Youth Assistance recognition dinner, that the increase reflects community awareness of what the program does to help young people turn themselves around.

The program pairs troubled youths with adult mentors who work with them to change behaviors like skipping school, fighting and stealing. In addition, there are life-choice classes, parenting sessions, prison tours and other activities that can spur good behavior.

Its success can be measured by youths like Artesia McKeever, Jalen Manning and Nicole Shire. McKeever and Manning were honored at the program as Female and Male Youth of the Year, respectively, for the changes they have made in their lives. Shire went through the program and returned to handle a youth life-choices classes.

They are success stories because of adults like Debra Fowlkes who was named Mentor of the Year. She is representative of the men and women who give of their time to work with the youth. There is no pay, it's a volunteer job. The reward is in seeing the young person the mentor works with make a change for the better.

The program relies on mentors to make good things happen and the need for them is a given. There are no special skills required, no fancy degree. If you're a good listener and a person who cares and wants to help young people bring out strengths that are already there, then you're a good candidate.

We can sit around and talk about what the younger generation is doing wrong, but Youth Assistance is a way to show them how to do things right. There's no handbook for raising kids, nor is there a handbook for becoming a responsible adult. Some people get it right, others don't and for them, Youth Assistance is the answer.

We congratulate this year's honorees, including Ronaele Bowman, the former Youth Assistance director who built a rock-solid foundation for the program, and all of the staff and volunteers. You are what makes this program what it is. Keep up the good work.

And we encourage people interested in being mentors to contact program director Paul Motz at (734) 467-7904. You need to be at least age 21, have no felony criminal record and have a driver's license as well as take the training.

Remember: A few hours a week can help turn today's troubled teen into tomorrow's responsible adult.

Join the discussion

What was your favorite TV commercial during the Super Bowl?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Auto show poster shows talent

Wow ... that's the kind of design I would expect from a paid graphic design professional. I would never have guessed that it came from someone in high school! Should this be the field you choose to follow after high school/college, I'm sure you'd be very successful at design. You're obviously not afraid of challenges, so you're already ahead of the game. Keep at it ... I look forward to hearing more about your work in the future! Good luck!

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Jeannie Parent
Senior Director
of Sales &
Marketing



LETTERS

Looking for answers

I'm the director of the Westland Condos Organization. We represent 51 condominium associations in Westland. In these hard times we experience even greater challenges as we have to provide services to our residents that cities don't cover due to private roads and association guidelines set by the cities when they were developed.

Our costs are escalating to provide these services and our taxes are going higher as well. In the past two years, our values have lowered as you know and when our houses or condos sell the prices are up to one half the cost paid by most living here now.

We are having a meeting on Feb. 9 at Woodview Condominium Club House at the rear of property, located on Central City Parkway just north of Warren Road in Westland. This meeting will address the 2009 tax assessments levied by Westland this year. We are looking at why are we paying 100 percent when we only receive about 88 percent of the services we pay for. Secondly, will our taxes in 2009 be lowered by this down-scaling of the cost of housing and how does the city formulate this.

The director of the Westland Assessment Department, James Elrod, will be addressing this issue this night. We currently have about 32 of the 51 associations in Westland on our mailing list, we would like to ask for help from you to ask all associations in Westland to attend to support helping

What do you think?

Mail comments to the Westland Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com

us all move forward during these trying times and looking at solutions to save our investment.

Edgell Turnquist
Westland

Enlightened thinking returns

The cold and snow of the past several weeks in southeast Michigan and portions of the eastern United States is hardly unusual for any winter season in much of North America. This winter has seemed especially harsh, perhaps, because of a general trend toward somewhat milder winters during the past few decades. However, for many in the global-warming denial community, for whom critical thinking is an unlearned concept, the current winter season is for them "proof" that anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change is a myth.

Despite overwhelming evidence and hard data supporting rapid — by historical standards — climate change on our home planet, there remains a hard core group of apologists for the fossil fuel industry who seem obsessed with perpetuating doubts and misinformation regarding global warming. Fortunately, the Obama administration's commitment to restore science in

America that is based on facts and data instead of discredited conservative ideology means that most of the naysayers have been removed from government positions.

Regarding the current winter season, even as we have shivered through one of the colder Januaries in recent years, portions of western North America have observed record warmth. Extremes of cold in one area are typically offset by extremes of warmth in others, and this winter is no different.

One unusually cold winter season in Michigan provides no more evidence to discredit the facts of global warming than one unusually hot summer season provides to support them. Instead, global climate change is measured on a much larger and longer term scale. Unfortunately, large scale concepts require large scale thinking, not an easy task for those who would rather have Rush Limbaugh tell them what they must think.

During the past 10 years, twice as many record high temperatures have been set in North America, in all seasons, as have record low temperatures. Even Antarctica, previously the last continent not to experience a warming climate, has now begun warming. I am pleased that Westland is committed to expanding its recycling program, and look forward to working with the enlightened citizens of our community and our nation towards, a cleaner, greener, and ultimately cooler world.

Joe Golonka
Westland

COMMUNITY VOICE

If you were the president, how would you spend the proposed economic stimulus money? We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Garden City post office.



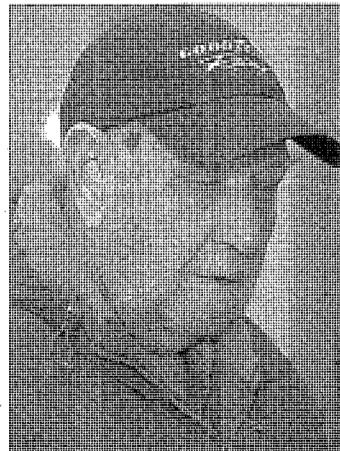
"I have no idea ... Fix some streets - there's a lot of pot holes and they're very bad. Get the homeless off the streets, to. And we need more jobs."
Daniel Zella
Wayne



"I think, if you're going to give it to business or private concerns, we should make them accountable. We didn't get in this shape overnight."
Ann Heart
Westland



"I'd take care of the auto companies and then health care and make sure anyone who is on welfare gets a drug test."
Mary DeGiulio
Westland



"I'd throw it out and the president along with it. With the condition the economy's in, how much more are we going to spend to do something we've already done. To me 90 percent of it doesn't help the little man on the street."
James Spears
Garden City

pink

pink picks

Kat Von D signs 'High Voltage Tattoo'

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

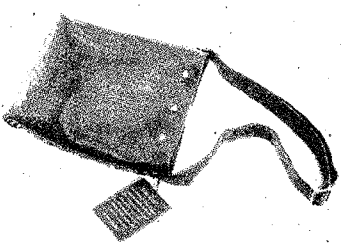


KAT VON D BOOK SIGNING
Who: Kat Von D, star of The Learning Channel's "L.A. Ink," will sign copies of her new book, "High Voltage Tattoo."
When: 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13
Where: Borders, 34300 Woodward Ave., Birmingham
Call: (248) 203-0005

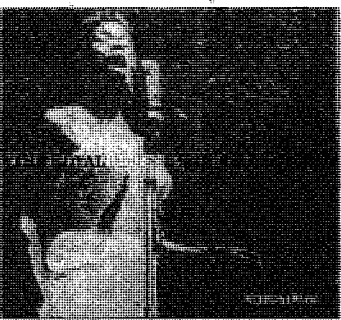
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DON'T Wear it!
Multiple earrings

Kick it!
UGG Crochet boots



Tote it!
Eco-Chic recycled tire tube purse at Catching Fireflies



Tattoos have made Kat Von D an international sensation. Soon, you'll be able to see them for yourself as the tattoo artist and star of *L.A. Ink* comes to Borders Birmingham to sign her new book "High Voltage Tattoo," at 1 p.m. on Feb. 13.

According to Amy Stanton, Event Manager for Borders, turnout is expected to be so great, Borders will begin handing out colored wristbands in the morning to determine fans' positions in line.

Kat Von D, 25, was born to Argentinian parents and grew up in Mexico and Southern California. She got her first tattoo at age 14, and gave her first tattoo soon after.

After working at several Hollywood tattoo shops, she was asked to join the show *Miami Ink*. The beautiful brunette, with artistic talent to match, quickly stole the spotlight and was asked to star in her own spinoff, *L.A. Ink*, which became Discovery TLC's number-one-rated program. The show's third season started last month.

Von D has since been tapped to create a makeup line with Sephora, and is working on a line of apparel along with her own self-titled magazine.

"I think tattooing and makeup and fashion — anything that you wear can definitely be used as a form of self expression so I think it makes sense that tattoo col-

lectors are avid fans of fashion as well for the most part," she said.

Von D also holds the Guinness World Record for doing the most tattoos in a 24-hour period (400).

Now, she can add published author to her lengthy resume.

High Voltage Tattoo (Collins Design, Jan. 20, 2009, \$29.95) is designed to resemble a leather bound journal, and reads like Von D's personal diary.

"Much like the show the book really sparked my interest to show people an insider's view on the tattoo world. I think the show did a really great thing for the world of tattooing and hopefully the book will do the same," Von D said in a recent interview with Pink.

In the book, Von D shares stories behind tattoos she has both given and received. It also includes a forward by rocker Nikki Sixx, pho-

tos of her outrageous tattoo machine collection, as well as profiles of other tattoo artists she admires.

Among them is Bob Tyrell of Night Gallery tattoo shop in Eastpointe, Mich. Kat said she met Tyrell on the tattoo convention circuit and has always admired his fine line, black and white portrait work.

"He is one of my mentors," she said. "He's definitely someone I look up to in the industry."

Since Von D is visiting The D the day before Valentine's Day, we asked her about the significance of hearts in the tattoo culture.

"Hearts date back to the old Catholic artwork, the sacred heart of Jesus and the sacred heart of Mary, and since sailor times the heart was definitely a prominent image you saw in tattoos — hearts with banners with 'mom' or wives' names," she

said. Readers can search for Von D's own heart tattoos in the book's 10-page photo spread of her wearing a yellow bikini.

As busy as she is, Von D still takes appointments at her L.A. Shop High Voltage and responds to every tattoo request. "I don't like to get booked more than like two months in advance, but it takes us about a year to get to everyone's e-mail," she said.

Her passion for tattooing is what gives rise to all her other pursuits, and it's still her top priority.

"I tattoo almost every day. The book tour is going to be pretty tough for me because the longest I've gone in 10 years without tattooing is six days, and it was the worst time of my life," she said. "I'm bringing my kit with me on the road. Maybe I'll tattoo my boyfriend."

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The Royal Blues at Nordstrom to celebrate Black History Month (proceeds benefit the Thurgood Marshall College Fund)

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IRS offers free tax filing software for those who qualify

I don't know about you, but I am happy January is behind us. It was a lousy month for investors and for the economy as a whole — hundreds of



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

thousands of jobs lost, the worst month for the Standard & Poors 500 Index on record, and a deepening recession. I wish I could give you some good news.

Nothing I can say can offset the present difficulties we are experiencing.

The recession is a deepening recession, so try to save money wherever possible. Live within your means because while the government may bail out banks and businesses, it will not bail out the individual taxpayer.

One area for many to save money is 2008 tax returns.

A partnership between the Internal Revenue Service and private tax preparation companies allows many taxpayers to take advantage of tax preparation software. Known as IRS Free File, the software is typically available to anyone with an adjusted gross income of \$56,000 or less. This income threshold applies whether you are married or single. Go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and click on "free file program." Once you link to the

program there will be a number of software companies you can select.

Of course, when most people hear the word free they are skeptical. However, this program is free and legitimate.

Why do these companies offer such a program? For a number of reasons. First, from the IRS standpoint, it is one way to encourage people to e-file their return. About 70 percent of taxpayers will e-file 2008 tax returns. The IRS encourages this because it is more efficient and more cost-effective to process.

Private companies benefit in a number of ways. First, it allows them to introduce their product to a variety of taxpayers. Many companies offer a variety of software packages above and beyond preparation of tax returns and this provides an excellent way to introduce those products to the public. Furthermore, the free tax preparation software only applies to federal returns not state returns.

After using the free service for a federal return, these companies will offer to sell the software to prepare your Michigan return. There are many companies that participate in the free tax file system that also provide free state tax preparation software.

The only way to take advantage of free tax software is through the IRS Web site. If you go to the tax preparation company Web site directly, you

will be charged.

For those who don't qualify for free software, can you/should you prepare your return? Over the years, taxes have become more complex. It is virtually impossible for the average person to complete his/her tax return unassisted. I recommend hiring a professional or buying a software package. Most people, with the assistance of a software package, can prepare their own tax return.

The question I get is what tax preparation software is the best? There is no one software package that is better than the rest. Most of the popular tax preparation software is similar and it's difficult to distinguish between them. You will be in good shape no matter what system you use. However, as with all software, pay attention to what you are doing. If you think that you can mindlessly complete your tax return by using a software package, you are mistaken. Following the instructions on the software package and use last year's tax return as a guide.

Finally, when it comes to completing your tax return, take your time, don't rush and leave plenty of time to review the return before filing.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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

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A special Valentine's treat - Food & Wine, B10

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

SECTION B
(LW)

HOMETOWN LIFE

Brad Emons, editor (313) 222-6851
bemons@hometownlife.com

Patriots' defense smothers Churchill, 39-14

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to defense, the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team can usually rest its case.

The Patriots improved their overall record to 11-1 and 5-0 in the KLAA's South Division Tuesday with a workman-like 39-14 triumph over visiting Livonia Churchill.

Franklin's matchup zone defense held the Chargers to a pair of field goals and only two free-throw attempts to build a commanding 22-4 halftime lead.

"There's a good reason why they're 11-1," Churchill coach

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chad Jenkins said. "They're a very good team. They completely shut us down. They extend out their pressure. They trap the corners and they help each other out. They work well together. And what makes it a killer is that they're so athletic — that when they do make a mistake, they can recover."

Briauna Taylor scored a game-high 12 points for the Patriots, who jumped out to a 10-0 first-quarter lead.

Sophomore Chelsea Williams added eight, while Brittany Milican chipped in six.

The Patriots also got a boost defensively from 5-foot-8 sophomore center Amanda Borio, who scored five points and is filling in nicely for the injured Seneca Scott (wrist).

"She's very strong and athletic in the middle," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "She's able to hold her ground against some of the big, strong girls inside."

The Chargers made a total of 32 turnovers on the night and shot just 5-of-31 from the floor (16.1 percent).

"We extended our zone and picked our opportunities to pop up and keep them on their heels," McCall said. "The

girls are doing a great job of anticipating and understanding the concept of being aware of the ball on the opposite side. They're helping on the weakside, especially the group up front — Nicole Emery, Brittany Milican, Chelsea Williams and Mary Gilliland. They're doing a good job on the ball and away from the ball. They made it not comfortable for them (Churchill) to get things going."

Churchill's offense was stagnant all night with no player getting more than four points.

"We need to work on passing, understanding where the ball needs to go in the open

areas," said Jenkins, whose team is 6-6 overall and 2-3 in the KLAA South. "We had players not waiting and making cuts without any purpose. And that led them to getting into the passing lanes."

Franklin, meanwhile, has a key South Division matchup Friday at home with Canton (11-2, 4-1). The Patriots grinded out a 37-34 win in the first meeting against the Chiefs.

"That's a big game, it's a huge game," McCall said. "We'll be studying the films again trying to come up with something."

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

GAME WRAPS

Prep boys hockey

STEVENSON 3, SOUTH LYON 3: Justin Shureb proved Monday night that when you go to the net good things happen.

The sophomore forward notched a hat trick, including the game-tying goal with only 35 seconds left, to give Livonia Stevenson (9-5-3) a tie with host South Lyon (8-5-4) at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

"I thought we played O.K., it was a hard-fought game both ways," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said.

South Lyon led 1-0 after one period on a goal by Jonas Jaskari at 11:46.

Shureb answered with the first of his three goals at 2:00 of the second period on assists from Cole Rochowiak and R.J. Kierdorf. Only 1:21 later, Nick Dirado scored for the Lions to make it 2-1.

With 3:17 left in the same period, Shureb notched his second on a power-play effort from John Vella and Trevor Baruzzini to even the count at 2-2.

South Lyon regained the lead, 3-2, with only 4:04 remaining in the final period as Chris Eckler scored on a delayed penalty.

The Spartans then pulled goaltender Richie Dunphy (20 saves) late in the third and scored with less than a minute left on Shureb's third of the night, a natural hat trick, from J.J. Petterson and Rochowiak.

"Justin cashed in on his opportunities, he works real hard and is tenacious," Mitchell said. "He went to the net hard and cashed in."

WOODHAVEN 8, FRANKLIN 0: On Saturday, host Flat Rock Woodhaven (9-6) got a pair of goals each from Luke McMahon and Cameron Smith to beat Livonia Franklin (0-15) at the Ice Box in Brownstown.

The game ended because of the eight-goal mercy rule with 11:29 left in the final period when Smith scored from Matt Willen.

Prep girls hockey

LADYWOOD 3, MERCY 2:

Livonia Ladywood (8-6-1, 6-6-12) held off rival Farmington Hills Mercy (10-5, 9-4) in a Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League game Monday at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Shelby Kucharski notched her 34th and 35th goals of the season in the opening period for the Blazers. Emann Freij and Brittany Galvin assisted on the first goal, while the second was unassisted.

Mercy's Kristen Maloure scored the first of her two goals in the second period to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Brittany Galvin's unassisted goal in the final period made it 3-1 for the Blazers before Maloure scored again from sister Karen Maloure and Jackie Buckley.

Jessica Pavela made 18 saves for the Blazers, while Alessi Nehr had 13 stops for Mercy.

LIGGETT 5, LADYWOOD 4:

Paige Counsman tallied a hat trick, including the game-winning goal in overtime as Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett (8-6, 8-4) downed host Livonia Ladywood (7-6-1, 5-6-1) in a Michigan Metro encounter Saturday at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Shelby Kucharski's hat trick paced the Blazers. Emann Freij added a goal and two assists. Other assists went to Brittany Galvin, Julie Bushart, Rana Freij and Julie Bushart.

Ladywood goaltender Jessica Pavela made 33 saves, while Liggett's Janaya Gripper faced only 12 shots.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Carl Lucke (left) gets tangled up with John Glenn's Joshua Austin during a 119-pound semifinal match during Saturday's 18th annual Observerland Invitational.

MU names new coach for interim

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Madonna University Sports Information Department confirmed late Tuesday afternoon that Myron Brown will serve as the interim men's basketball coach for the remainder of the 2008-09 season.

Brown, a first-year part-time assistant coach, replaces Chuck Henry, who resigned Monday in the wake of allegations that he had inappropriate sexual contact with a 13-year-old student when he taught more than two decades ago at Adams Middle School in the Wayne-Westland Community School District. The allegations were made by the former student, whose name was not divulged, in a two-part series aired Sunday and Monday on WDIV (Channel 4).

Brown, married with two children, played basketball and graduated from Rochester College and owns a master's degree from the University of Phoenix. He served as head JV and assistant varsity boys basketball coach last season at Auburn Hills Avondale High School.

Noel Emenhiser and Monte Dennard will continue to serve as Brown's assistants.

The MU athletic department, in a statement released Tuesday, said it will conduct a national search at the end of the season to find a replacement.

Put on administrative leave by university officials, the 59-year-old Henry did not accompany the team Saturday on its trip to Fort Wayne, Ind., as the Crusaders lost to host Indiana Tech, 95-84. Brown, Emenhiser and Dennard handled the coaching duties as the Crusaders fell to 9-15 overall



Brown

No lightweights Catholic Central grapplers first at Observerland

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Novi Detroit Catholic Central proved Saturday it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.

The Shamrocks held a 10.5-point advantage over Westland John Glenn heading into the final matches of Saturday's 18th annual Observerland Invitational Wrestling Tournament hosted by Livonia Churchill.

CC, the pre-tourney favorite, then put an exclamation point on its first team title since 2003 by dominating the lower weights and winning four individual flights to earn its seventh Observerland crown overall with a team-best 218.5 points.

Glenn finished with 181 to earn runner-up honors, with Salem (155), Canton (150.5) and Livonia Franklin (137.5) rounding out the top five in the 17-school field.

CC is ranked fourth in Division 1 behind Rockford, Holt and Hartland and was just coming off an impressive win over Davison.

"It's very unusual for a CC team to be stronger at the lower weights, but it's something we've



In a 152-pound semifinal match, Franklin's Elvin Ferreira (top) tries to keep Churchill's Grant Morgan from escaping in Saturday's 18th annual Observerland Invitational.

Please see **OBSERVERLAND, B3**

Please see **INTERIM, B3**

Franklin stuns Chargers on tech foul; Glenn wins in OT

It can only be described as bizarre, what unfolded during Tuesday's KLAA South Division boys basketball clash between host Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin.

The Chargers rallied with an 18-1 fourth-quarter run, capped by Scott Senczyszyn's 3-pointer with only 35 seconds remaining in regulation to make it 44-44.

In the overtime, Churchill appeared to have the game all but won, clinging to a 52-51 lead while inbounding the ball underneath the Franklin basket with only 1.5 seconds to go.

Patriots coach Jeremy Rheault called a timeout to set up his defensive strategy and it worked as Andy McCaffery, who finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds, deflected the inbounds pass

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

off a Charger player with 0.5 to go, giving the Patriots possession.

Churchill coach Jim Solak then called timeout to set up his defensive strategy, but when the Chargers returned to the court, six players came out for the final play and officials tagged the home team with a technical foul.

Franklin's Tom Percin then connected on a pair of free throws to give the Patriots a mind-boggling 53-52 triumph.

"We were yelling instructions and I didn't think to look our there," Solak said. "There was some confusion. It was my fault and I'll take the blame for that. It was an unbelievable way to lose."

Both teams are 4-6 on the season, but the Patriots are 2-3 in the South, while Churchill falls to 1-4.

"Things were not going well at times, but the kids hung in there," Rheault said. "McCaffery defended that play so hard, and you have to like the way he was able to deny the ball."

Senior Jeff Poole was the Patriots' leading scorer with 17 points, but made only 7-of-16 free throws. Meanwhile, the team's second leading scorer, Connor Leidal, was saddled with early foul trouble.

"We've played so well in games, but have not been able to hit free throws when we needed them," said Rheault, whose team was an abysmal 12-of-33 from the line (36.6 percent). "We missed 11 between the fourth quarter

and the overtime, but we hit the big free throws to win the game."

Junior forward Adam Bedell led the Chargers with a game-high 19 points.

JOHN GLENN 75, CANTON 74 (OT):

Austin Anderson scored a game-high 30 points, including two clutch free throws with 35 seconds left in overtime Tuesday, to give Westland John Glenn (6-4, 2-3) the KLAA South win over the host Chiefs (6-5, 3-2).

The 6-0 senior point guard made 10-of-11 free throws and dished out six assists as the Rockets snapped a three-game losing skid.

It was 67-67 at the end of regulation as Canton outscored the Rockets 15-12 in the final quarter.

Please see **KLAA, B2**

KLAA
FROM PAGE B1

Jeremy Langford, whose steal at mid-court in OT resulted in an Anderson layup to give Glenn the lead for keeps, 73-72, finished with 16 points. Dorian Prather added 12.

Sophomore guard Dietrich Lever, who sent the game to OT on a hoop with 20 seconds to play in regulation, paced Canton with 23 points. Marlan Glenn added 14.

Canton was 9-of-15 from the foul stripe, while Glenn was 12-of-15.

STEVENSON 54, NORTHVILLE

44: Brian Rowe notched 11 of his game-high 23 points in the opening quarter Tuesday as Livonia Stevenson (7-3, 2-2) downed the visiting Mustangs (2-9, 1-4) in a KLAA Central Division battle.

Bobby Naubert added 11 points for the Spartans, who put it away with a 21-12 fourth-quarter run.

Andrew Baldwin and Tim Hasse paced Northville with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Stevenson was 14-of-20 from the foul line, while Northville made just 3-of-8.

PLYMOUTH 57, WAYNE 46: On Tuesday, Brennan Beyer's 18 points carried the host Wildcats (7-4, 3-2) to an upset win over KLAA South

Division leader Wayne Memorial (7-4, 4-1).

Brad Lineberry added 12 points and Justin Moss contributed 10 for Plymouth, which overcame a 15-6 first-quarter deficit.

Daniel Hill and Derric Horton each tallied 16 for the Zebras. Wayne's top scorer, Robert Woodson, was held to seven second-half points.

"They (Plymouth) played a zone and they shadowed him," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "After the first quarter we stopped hitting shots and we had a problem with their size inside."

Wayne was only 1-of-2 from the foul line, while Plymouth hit 15-of-24.

Warriors rally by Northwest, 62-51

It was not how the Lutheran High Westland High boys basketball started the game, but more importantly is how they finished as far as coach Brandon Bekius was concerned.

The Warriors trailed 40-39 entering the fourth quarter, but lit up the gym with a 23-point surge to post a 62-51 Metro Conference win Tuesday night over visiting Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

"We shot 9-for-10 from the field and did a nice job of taking care of the ball (in the

BOYS BASKETBALL

fourth)," Bekius said. "We talk about effort and how playing hard can make up for a lot of mistakes. I believe tonight was a perfect example of that and I'm proud of how they finished the game."

Sam Ahlersmeyer led Lutheran Westland (8-4, 2-2) with 15 points, followed by Josh Kruger (14 points) and Gage Flanery (12 points).

Mike Jasper and Steve Miscovich tallied 13 and 10








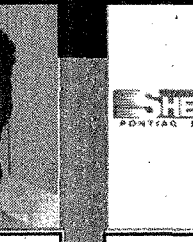
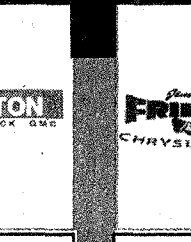
points, respectively, for the Crusaders (3-7, 1-3).

CLARENCEVILLE 71, LIGGETT 50: A 29-point performance from senior forward Jamie Stewart propelled Livonia Clarenceville (6-6, 4-0) to a Metro Conference win Tuesday night over host Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (3-8, 1-4).

The Trojans, who won their fifth straight, got nine points from senior Nathan Clark and seven from sophomore guard Anthony Lavallis.

Mark Ghafari tallied 12 points for the Knights.

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

								
16-0 187-101	16-0 180-108	16-0 185-103	16-0 185-103	0-16 166-122	0-16 183-105	16-0 201-87	16-0 188-100	16-0 183-105

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR READERS WHO PLAYED THIS SEASON & CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WEEKLY PRIZE WINNERS!

OBSERVERLAND

FROM PAGE B1

prided ourselves on all season," CC second-year coach Mitch Hancock said.

CC took a team-best six individual titles, including wins from Todd Melick (103 pounds), Alec Mooradian (112), Justin Melick (119), Charlie Joseph (125), Trevor O'Connor (152) and Mike Kinville (189).

The Shamrocks did it with only 11 available wrestlers after voiding three weight classes — 145, 160 and 285. Two grapplers were ruled out because of skin abrasions, while another was injured.

"It hurts, but you have to do what's right for the sport and it's for the good of the greater number of people," Hancock said of the disqualifications.

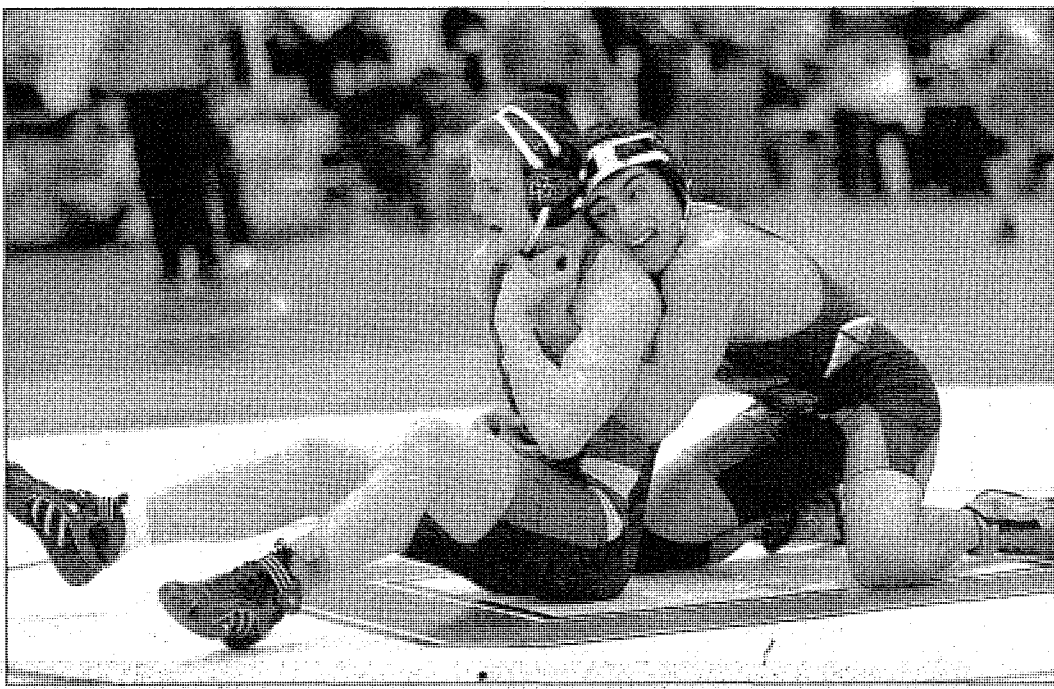
"Even with 11, I knew we could do it with these guys. I knew they could accomplish this. We had a good week of practice. We practice hard for five days and then the match is like a day off to them."

Glenn put four in the finals, but lost three head-to-head bouts with the Shamrocks. "CC is an impressive team, solid top to bottom," Glenn coach Bill Polk said.

"We're impressive in the lower weights, and they beat us in all three. Even with the two kids DeQ'ed-out, they deserved it."

Salem, which captured third place, hasn't won an Observerland title since 1998, but is making a resurgence this season.

Senior Sam Lepper (215) came home with an individual title, while Austin Root



CC's Kevin Sullivan tries to break the grasp of Livonia Stevenson's Raz Markosian at 140 pounds during the Observerland Tournament.

(189) was runner-up to CC's Kinville.

"The kids are working great, working together and working hard," Salem coach Greg Woochuk said. "When Sam (Lepper) was a freshman, he had no wins. As a sophomore, he had a couple. He started coming around as a junior and now he's put his whole being into wrestling. We hope it's infectious with the other kids."

Woochuk hopes the Rocks have turned the corner this season. They currently sport a 12-4 dual-match record and lead the KLAA Central Division at 3-0.

"It can be done," Woochuk said. "Jeremy Henderson started in the ninth grade and became a state champ. He did it in 2006. It's done with hard work and dedication. And now we finally have middle school wrestling."

Canton came away with three

individual titles, led by upper weights MVP Brent Winekoff (145), who pinned Garden City's Tyler Twigg in 2:22 for the title. Jeremy Filippelli (130) and Donnie Watkins (135) also garnered firsts.

Franklin boasted a pair of individual winners — Don Stratz at 160 and Mike Modes at 285. Stratz beat Canton's Keith Zech, 10-3, while Modes avenged a 7-2 dual-meet loss three days earlier to Glenn's Dustin Gajowiak with a 2-1 overtime win.

The 171-pound final also went to OT, with Plymouth's Vince Rizzo outlasting Churchill's Curtis Castleberry, 12-5.

One of the most impressive performers on the day was RU senior Dwan Burris, a 140-pounder who came in as the fourth seed.

Burris used his quickness and brute strength to pin

second seed Raz Markosian of Livonia Stevenson, in 1:57, for the championship. He also upended top-seeded Jimmy Mann of Westland John Glenn, 1-0, in the semifinals. Mann, a transfer from New Boston Huron, is a three-time state qualifier.

"Both of his losses were at 145," RU second-year coach Marcelle Roberson said. "He hasn't wrestled since his freshman year. He's always had the talent, but now he's putting it together in the classroom, which will get him somewhere. He's an athlete."

Meanwhile, it was another highly competitive tournament.

"This tourney gets more solid every year," Polk said. "You've got your top four or five teams, then you get some really good talent sprinkled in."

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Indiana Tech clips MU men's cagers

Junior forward Noah Williams' 22 points was not enough as the Madonna University men's basketball team fell Saturday to host Indiana Tech, 95-84.

The loss drops MU to 9-15 overall and 3-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Anthony Johnson led Tech (15-7, 5-3) with 22 points.

Shaun Cabrera added 18, while Brad Webster and Tim Browning chipped in with 14 and 12, respectively, for the Warriors. Webster also grabbed eight rebounds.

Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) added 12 points and seven rebounds of the bench for MU, which trailed 42-39 at intermission.

Ryan Waidman (Canton) contributed 11 points and eight rebounds, while Leroy Allen scored 10 points.

MU shot 45.6 percent from

the field (31-of-68) and only 9-of-26 from three-point range (34 percent). The Crusaders were 13-of-19 from the foul line and committed 18 turnovers.

Tech was 32-of-68 from the floor (47.1 percent), including 8-of-16 from beyond the arc and 16-of-23 from the free throw line. The Warriors had 11 turnovers.

ST. CLAIR CC 90, SCHOOLCRAFT 75: In an MCCA Eastern Conference game Saturday at the Skipper Dome, host St. Clair County Community College (14-6, 7-3) came away with the victory over Schoolcraft College (6-17, 3-9).

Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison) had 24 points, seven rebounds and four assists for the Ocelots, who couldn't overcome a 40-32 halftime deficit.

Other contributions for Schoolcraft came from Bruce Watson, 20 points and eight rebounds; Ryan Matthews, 14 points; and Larry Wilson (Livonia Churchill), 11 points and six assists.

INTERIM

FROM PAGE B1

and 3-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Henry coached his last game Jan. 28, a 66-53 MU win over Concordia University. He was 66-80 overall in his four-plus seasons with the Crusaders.

Prior to his stint at Madonna, Henry posted an overall high school record of 427-179 including three dif-

ferent stints with the boys team at Wayne Memorial H.S. (1978, 1984-90 and 1992-99), where he had his greatest success, capturing 11 league titles, seven district championships, three regional crowns and two trips to the Class A state semifinals.

He also coached the Dearborn Divine Child (1979-84) and Walled Lake Western (1991) boys squads; as well as the Canton Agape Christian girls team (2000-04).

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

18th OBSERVERLAND INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT Jan. 31 at Livonia Churchill H.S. TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 218.5 points; 2. Westland John Glenn, 181.2; Salem, 155.4; Canton, 150.5; 5. Livonia Franklin, 137.5; 6. Belleville, 117.7; Farmington Hills Harrison, 92.5; 8. Livonia Stevenson, 76.9; Livonia Churchill, 68.5; 10. North Farmington, 62.5; 11. Plymouth, 57.12; Farmington, 53.13; Lutheran High Westland, 48.14; Garden City, 39.5; 15. Wayne Memorial, 36.16; Redford Union, 28.5; 17. Livonia Clarenceville, 19. CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 103 pounds: Todd Melick (CC) won by major decision over Steven Wakeford (WJG), 13-0; 3rd place: Nick Kim (Salem) pinned Said Youssif (P), 2:08; 5th place: Jacob Meadows (LC) p. Matt Conn (FHH), 2:54. 112: Alec Mooradian (CC) dec. Anthony Pavlik (WJG), 3-2; 3rd: Brendan Papin (Bell.) won by major dec. over Ian Phillips (Salem), 9-0; 5th: Steve Turner (LF) won by major dec. over Jordan Russell (NF), 12-2. 119: Justin Melick (CC) won by major dec. over Carl Lucke

(Canton), 9-0; 3rd: Joshua Austin (WJG) dec. Matt Jaisle (NF), 7-2; 5th: Ali Bajrami (Farm.) dec. Brad LaRosa (LW), 10-3. 125: Charlie Joseph (CC) dec. Mark Thompson (WJG), 10-9; 3rd: Lath Francis (LW) dec. Justin Jacobsen (LF), 6-5; 5th: John Bills (Salem) p. Garrett Fisk (NF), 1:13. 130: Jeremy Filippelli (Canton) dec. Doug Eldridge (CC), 8-5; 3rd: Kevin Bezaley (FHH) p. Jon Bannoura (LC), 4:55; 5th: James Middleditch (Salem) p. Tyler Schneider (Bell.), 1:22. 135: Donnie Watkins (Canton) dec. Tommy Kozak (Bell.), 6-2; 3rd: Tevin Hines (WM) dec. Mitch Gonzales (LS), 12-11; 5th: Mikkel Tipton (WJG) dec. Roland Neal (CC), 10-4. 140: Dwan Burris (RU) p. Raz Markosian (LS), 1:57; 3rd: James Mann (WJG) dec. Kevin Sullivan (CC), 7-2; 5th: Jake Johnson (CC) dec. Nick Tomski (Farm.), 7-3. 145: Brent Winekoff (Canton) p. Tyler Twigg (GC), 2:22; 3rd: Robbie Schultz (Salem) dec. Kirk Tomski (Farm.), 9-3; 5th: Mike Johnson (WJG) dec. Matt Russell (NF), 7-6. 152: Trevor O'Connor (CC) won by major dec. over Elvin Ferreira (LF), 8-0; 3rd: Anthony Abro (Canton) dec. Grant Morgan

(LC), 12-8; 5th: Jeff Adkins (WJG) p. Chris Sweet (Salem), 1:55. 160: Don Stratz (LF) dec. Keith Zech (Canton), 10-3; 3rd: Stephen Kemp (LW) dec. Zaid Ammari (WJG), 7-0; 5th: Jimmy Gross (Salem) dec. Marcell Snodgrass (FHH), 10-5. 171: Vince Rizzo (P) dec. Curtis Castleberry, 12-5 (OT); 3rd: Rahmi Chaghouri (NF) dec. Alex Juchartz (Bell.), 11-5; 5th: Garrett Hay (LF) won by major dec. over Zach Redden (WJG), 11-3; 189: Mike Kinville (CC) dec. Austin Root (Salem), 3-1; 3rd: Kaare Cigan (Bell.) dec. Andrew Schramm (LS), 9-3; 5th: Zach Leuenberger (LF) p. Alex Winn (P), 2:14. 215: Sam Lepper (Salem) won by major dec. over Forrest Sampson (Bell.), 14-4; 3rd: Ryan Roberts (FHH) p. Joe Halapaa (LC), 1:32; 5th: Cody Hay (LF) won by major dec. over Craig Kowalsky (LW), 13-5. 285: Mike Modes (LF) dec. Dustin Gajowiak (WJG), 2-1 (OT); 3rd: Mark Mouawad (FHH) p. Dylan Wells (Farm.), 3:15; 5th: Dustin Staton (Bell.) p. Blake Abbey (Salem), 4:18. MVPs: Burris (RU), 140 (lower weights); Winekoff (Canton), 145 (upper weights).

PREP BOWLING

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 24 NORTHVILLE 6 Feb. 3 at Novi Lanes Clarenceville individual scorers: Jason Bertera, 165-297-462; Cody Kissanadi, 173-234-407; Chris Diaz, 204. Team totals: Clarenceville, 944-1,089-2,033 (17 points); Northville, 894-793-1,687 (3 points). Clarenceville's dual match record: 6-3-1 overall. DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS 16 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 14 Feb. 2 at Country Lanes Annapolis individual scorers: Brandon Schmitt, 201-204-405; Jordan Sanker, 257-212-469; Aaron Robertson, 218. Team total: 988-

941-1929 (16 points). Clarenceville individual scorers: Chris Diaz, 225-204-429; Cody Kissanadi, 181-215-396; Phillip Heidler, 221. Team total: 986-918-1904 (4 points). Baker games: Clarenceville, 196-222-418 (10 points); Annapolis, 187-167-354 (0 points). GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 22 DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS 8 Feb. 2 at Country Lanes Clarenceville individual scorers: Amber Cummins, 246-194-440; Amanda Bailey 220. Team totals: Clarenceville, 978-808-1,786 (18 points); Annapolis, 760-765-1,525 (2 points). Clarenceville's dual match record: 7-3 overall.

PREP BOWLING

Advertisement for Community Home Finder. Includes text: "Looking for that special place to call home? Look no further!!" 800.579.7355 oeads@hometownlife.com. Features a grid of real estate listings with icons for various property types like Apartments, Condos/Townhouses, Homes For Rent, etc. Includes a large graphic on the right: "A penny earned, is a penny saved." and "It's All About Results!"

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cancer benefit

"Big or Small, save them All", is the motto at imaboobist.com where Alleycat Designs has developed a fun product line to benefit breast cancer research. At imaboobist.com you will find a complete apparel line which can be personalized along with the great imaboobist sayings and logos for all ages. The shirts are fun and a little on the edge which gives people the opportunity to express their humorous side while dealing with a very serious topic. Customers are not limited to the shirts and items on the Web site. Because Alleycat Designs produces the items in house, customers can customize a large array of products and add a personal touch. Kollar and his wife, Jocelyn have been in the embroidery and screen print business for 10 years. They have helped many young designers start their own clothing lines, but never developed one of their own, until now. They own Alleycat Designs is at 6647 Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 728-7867 or send an e-mail him to jim@alleycatdesigns.com. To read more about how they got started, go online to www.imaboobist.com.

Juggling act

As part of its World Music Series, the

DSO is hosting a performance by the National Acrobats of China at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Orchestra Hall. This family event offers an exhilarating afternoon of spectacular acrobatics, tumbling, juggling and stunning feats of fun. Stop by Art Van Metro stores to pick up a discount coupon good towards \$10 off the ticket price and register for your chance to win one of two family four packs of tickets to the performance. Register now through Feb. 17 at Art Van at 8300 Wayne Road, north of Cowan, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-9600.

Cuppa joe

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold a Coffee Connection 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Panera Bread, 35300 Warren Road, south of Wayne Road. Coffee Connection is an informal gathering of chamber members over a cuppa joe. No need to RSVP, no need to sign in when you get there. Just bring plenty of business cards and a couple of bucks for breakfast. Just get there when you can, make a few connections and head on to work. It's a great way to meet other busy business owners and still get some work done. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Sweet Retreat

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

5 Star Event

Business can share information and enjoy lunch when five local chambers revive their 5 Star Business Expo and Luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 17. Sponsored by the Garden City, Westland, Redford, Wayne and Dearborn Heights chambers, the event will be held at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born Road, Wayne. Registration and networking starts at 11 a.m. with lunch served at 12:15 p.m. A limited number of tables are available for \$5 for each for the expo cost \$5 and lunch is \$15. To reserve a spot, call the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4464 or the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Classic Time

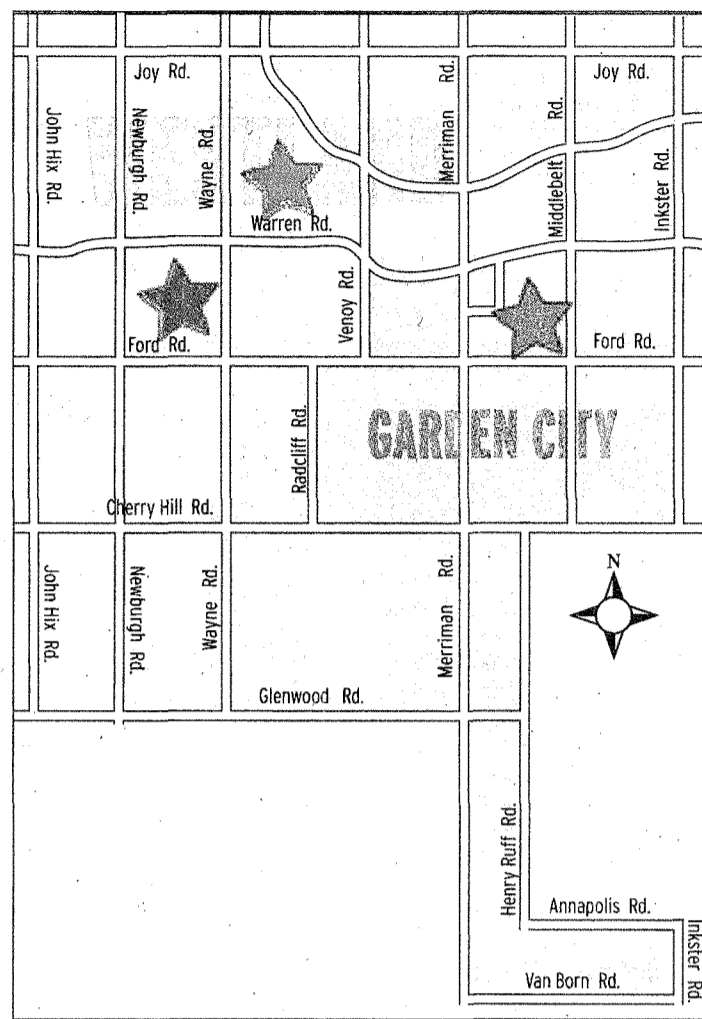
Looking for something different to do with your Saturday Valentine? Why not stop enjoy a reprise of Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw as Harvard Law student/hockey jock Oliver Barrett IV and Radcliffe music student Jennifer Cavalleri in the Oscar

winning "Love Story" at the State Wayne Theater Saturday, Feb. 14. The film will be shown at 1, 3:20 and 5:40 p.m., leaving plenty of time for dinner afterwards. And the price - \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children age 11 under - also is easy on the pocketbook. The State Wayne Theater is at 35310 Michigan Ave., west of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 326-4600.

ONGOING

Stick 'em up

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



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Partners Tim Prieur and Paul Portrey are meeting the tax and accounting needs of individuals and small businesses with their Precision Tax in Garden City.

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

Complete tax preparation and accounting services, refund anticipation loans, instant refund loans, free electronic filing with tax preparation, direct deposit of refunds, tax planning and financial planning

Observer: What makes your business unique?

The business is unique because we have a CPA on staff and our tax preparers are college graduates. The business is also unique because of the personal service that we provide to all of our customers. Our level of tax and accounting knowledge is superior to most of the large tax preparation services. Our prices are very competitive for the service and knowledge that we provide to our clients.

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

I was a regional manager for a tax and accounting business in Muskegon, MI and I wanted to move back closer to my family. I decided that it was time for me to start my own tax and accounting business. I had the experience from running the tax firm in Muskegon, where I managed seven offices and also prepared individual

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Business phone and Web site: (734) 421-7950 and online at www.precision-tax.com

and business tax returns. I also have a degree from University of Michigan in Finance, and a strong accounting background from all of the accounting courses I took in high school and college.

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

I originally opened the business in Wonderland Mall, in Livonia, the year before they decided to close the mall. With the closing of Wonderland Mall I needed to start looking for

a new location close to where I was originally located. I found several great locations in Garden City before deciding on my current location. I was warmly welcomed into Garden City from the moment I moved the business into the Garden City community. I have appreciated the business from the citizens of Garden City and I hope they have appreciated our services.

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

We have had the pleasure of meeting some great people that live or work in Garden City, and helping them with an important part of their financial lives. We feel honored when our clients call us to ask questions about their tax and financial situations looking for advice on how to handle a particular situation. Some of the situations we have to help clients with are difficult to deal with for them and for us, like a loss of a spouse, parent, child, or Internal Revenue Service problems, but they make us feel special by allowing us to help them through those difficult situations. We care about our client as if they were one of our family members and appreciate their business.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Free Tax Services

Need your tax refund check now? Don't have the time to do your taxes? Families earning under \$43,500 a year can save some money this tax season and qualify to receive free tax preparation services.

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and the Wayne County Asset Building Coalition have once again partnered to provide free tax services to families throughout Wayne County.

Tax services are available now through April 15 in many communities, including Westland, Inkster and Redford. Permanent and mobile tax sites are located throughout the county and many are offer night and weekend hours, making it convenient for families in need of assistance. Appointments are offered on a first come-first serve basis and are strongly encouraged to ensure efficient service. Walk-ins are also accepted at various locations.

Professional and experienced tax preparers will work with you to receive maximum returns and file quickly. Families also can receive free credit building and wealth building tools in addition to free tax preparation.

Appointments can be made by calling (313) 843-2550. A complete list of dates, times, locations as well as additional information on the program can be found online at www.waynemetro.org.

Special Dividend

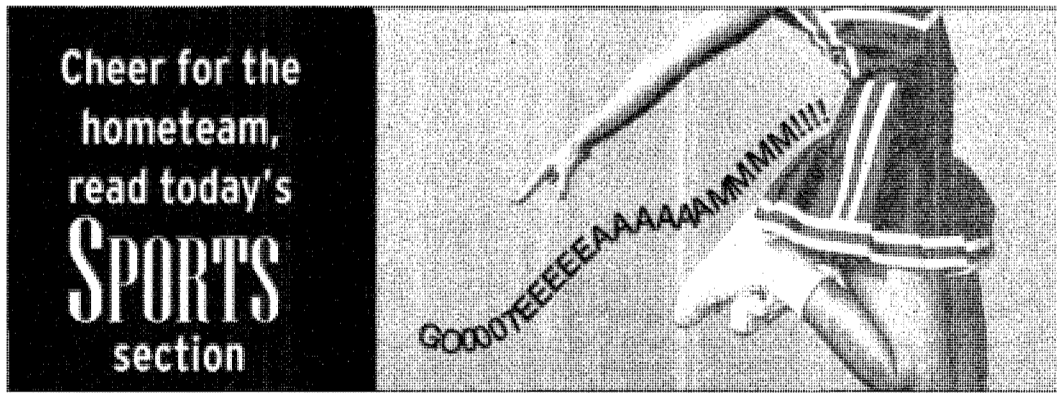
When DFCU Financial asked its members how this year's special patronage dividend would help them, the majority of the more than 600 who responded to the online poll said it was much-needed help during these tough economic times. Yet despite their struggles, there are those members who have decided to donate their special patronage dividend to those in greater need.

"It's gratifying to know that our special patronage dividend is helping members, so many of whom are struggling in our area" said Mark Shobe, president and CEO of DFCU Financial, Michigan's largest credit union. "We know times are tough and we are proud to be in a very strong financial position to pay the special patronage dividend and reward members for their relationship. Eligible members receive at least \$50, while others, who have their mortgages or car loans with us, receive thousands."

"We chose to issue the special patronage dividend three years ago and to date we've given more than \$50 million to members," Shobe added. "As one of the top performing credit unions in the nation, we go beyond providing members with basic services - we do what we can to improve their financial lives."

DFCU Financial's \$17 million in patronage dividends is the largest in the history of credit unions. No other credit union in the country has issued a dividend of this scale. Approximately 133,000 people in total are scheduled to receive the dividend, 125,000 of which are Michigan residents, including 6,000 people in the Garden City area.

The DFCU Financial special patronage dividend for 2008 was deposited to members' accounts this month. The amount of dividend received is based upon the member's total relationship with DFCU Financial - the greater the relationship, the larger the dividend. Qualifying members will receive a .005 percent dividend on their average loan and deposit balances, with each eligible member receiving at least \$50. That includes all savings accounts and loan balances.



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CHAMBER CHAT

The Garden City Farmers Market will be expanding in the 2009 year. The season will begin in May and run through October. It will open two months earlier than its first year. The market was popular with farmers and residents.

The extension of the season not only meets the demand of the farmers, but the residents, too. By opening earlier, farmers will be able to have bedding plants, herbs and spices, early spring flowers and early season produce for shoppers.

The boards of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority have been meeting jointly to discuss further expansion ideas for the market.

Amelia Oliverio
 Director

RELIGION

FROM PAGE B6

community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life.

Tai Chi and strength classes Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Thrift store Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule 9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages

and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia.

All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia.

Worship services Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton.

celebrate recovery Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts).

Scripture studies

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Personal ministry Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m.

Scripture studies From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m.

Learner's Bible study

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Unity of Livonia

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Beit Chaverim

Services open to all in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and

Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for additional information.

Single Point Ministries

For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults at 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks

4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

The Gap

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn-making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: CATHOLIC (St. Anne's, St. Genevieve, St. Maurice), EVANGELICAL COVENANT (Faith Covenant Church), UNITED METHODIST (Clarencville, Redford Aldersgate, Cherry Hill, Newburg United, First United, Rose Dale Gardens, St. James), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior, Grace Lutheran, Hosanna-Tabor), SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (Cherry Hill), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (Plymouth), EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (Timothy Lutheran), NON DENOMINATIONAL (Bell Creek Community Church), PRESBYTERIAN (Fellowship Presbyterian, St. Paul's Ev.), WARD (Ward Presbyterian), RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN (Risen Christ), LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD (St. Paul's Ev.), CHRISTIAN SCIENCE (First Church of Christ, Scientist).

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

FILTER

Home tour highlights two private art collections

BY WENSY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Most home tours are done for the love of architecture, antiques and decor.

An upcoming Canton home tour is being conducted "For the Love of Art."

Set for 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, the tour focuses on two homes owned by avid art collectors Walt and Mary Menard and David and Judy Johnson.

The tour was staged by the Public Art Committee of the Canton Commission for Culture,

Arts & Heritage. According to volunteer Sandy Gillig, the idea was hatched when committee members visited the Johnson's South Lyon home.

"After spending several hours there, we decided it would be wonderful to share this experience with other art lovers, so the idea was ignited," Gillig explained.

The Johnsons' art complements the country setting of their Victorian farm house, on land with a barn, horse and white fences.

"Their collection is mainly comprised of 19th and 20th century pastoral art — pastures, farm animals, still lifes and portraits," Gillig said.

The Menard art collection is very different. Owners of Lotus Arts Gallery in downtown Plymouth, they have their pick of work. Walt Menard said they tend to hang their most prized pieces at home.

"We have a tendency to fall in love with our inventory which we're not



"Concert on the Beach" by Yuroz, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Menard.

supposed to do," Menard said. "What I have at the house are more originals and probably more expensive works that probably aren't going to do very well at an art gallery price-wise, especially in this economy in Michigan. They're just out of reach for most people looking to purchase art."

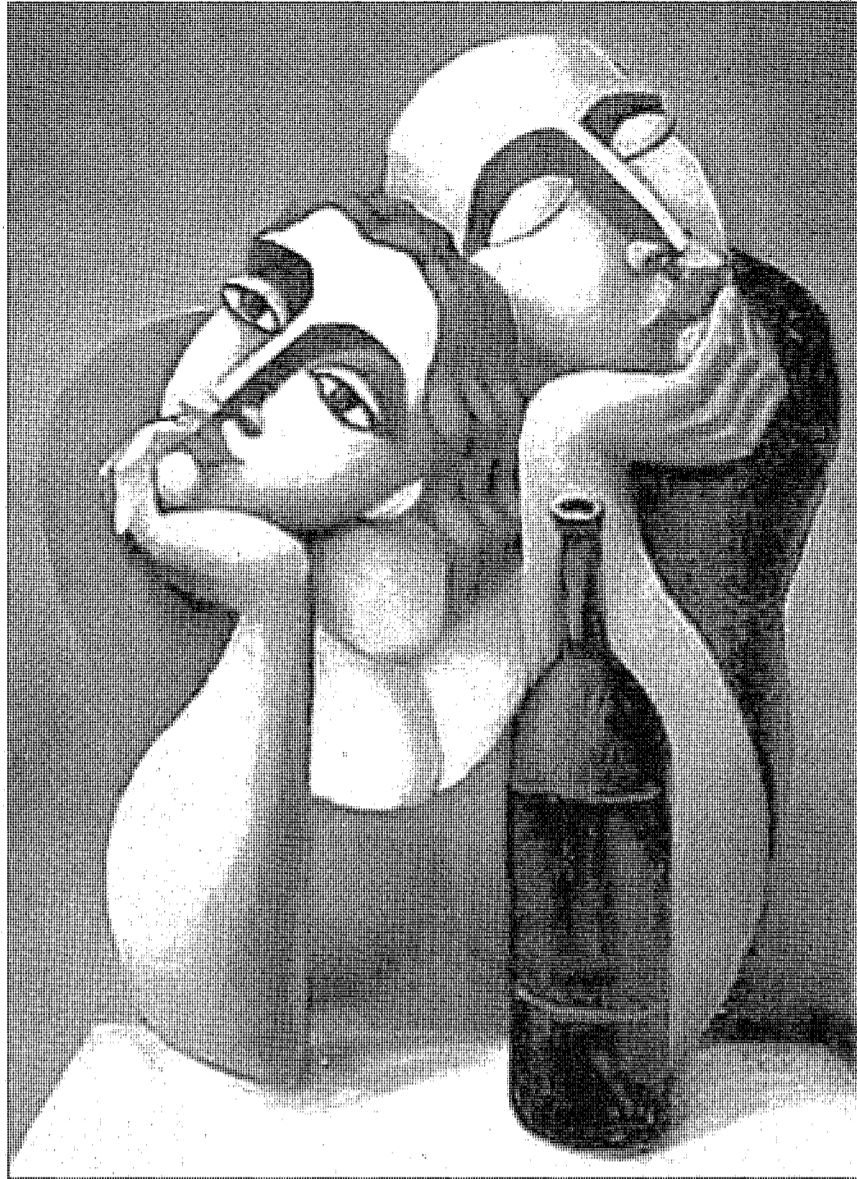
Artists on display include Edna Hibel, Salvador Dali, and the actor Anthony Quinn. Paintings by Todd White, lead animation designer for SpongeBob SquarePants, depict cosmopolitan nightlife scenes, while those by Michele Delacroix capture downtown Paris.

Also prominently featured are works by Yuroz. An immigrant from Armenian Russia, the Menards met Yuroz in New York in 1990.

"At first some of his works didn't really appeal to me, then they kind of grew on me and we became friends," Menard said.

Yuroz was a starving artist when he arrived in Los Angeles in 1985, but today one of his simple line drawings can sell for \$1,000, while a large oil painting can fetch \$150,000, Menard said.

Yuroz supports many humanitarian causes, and the Menards attended a ceremony to dedicate one of his paintings for use on a United Nations stamp in 2005.



"Dreams" by Yuroz, is among paintings found in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Menard.

Since the Menards are custom home builders as well as gallery owners, their country French-style Plymouth home was designed with art in mind. It features special nooks and lighting, along with door panels and a fireplace mantle carved and chiseled based on Yuroz sketches.

A shuttle will transport home tour participants to and from both homes from the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill. And since the tour falls on Valentine's Day eve, it also offers drinks, hors

d'oeuvres, chocolates and roses.

Gillis said it's a one-time opportunity to get a glimpse into the homes of serious art collectors, and spots are filling fast.

"What we wanted to achieve through this tour was an understanding of art collecting from the experts," Gillis said. "To hear about the process of finding and buying the art, restoring it, and displaying it. To basically remove the mystery that keeps us all too intimidated to purchase art for our homes."

HAPPENINGS

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

LIVONIA — The Senior Alliance will team up with Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia for a night of entertainment, great food, and spirits on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Tickets are \$20, and Joey's will donate 80 percent of proceeds to assist TSA in sustaining its mission to provide advocacy, programming, planning, contracting, funding and personnel necessary to enable older persons to function as independently as possible in their community.

Tickets also include a 25 percent discount on meals at Kickers All American Grill, located below the comedy club, or half-off pizza during the show. Reservations required for dinner. Call (734) 261-0555 and tell the operator you are supporting The Senior Alliance's "Comedy for a Cause." Joey's Comedy Club is located at 36071 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

JCELEBRATE LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY AT MUSEUM

PLYMOUTH — Abraham Lincoln turns 200 this month, and he and his wife, Mary, have agreed to celebrate at the Plymouth Historical Museum 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Abe, portrayed by Fred Priebe, and Mary, portrayed by Fred's wife Bonnie, will be joined by Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Senator Jacob Howard and reenactors from the 21st Michigan Infantry.

The Plymouth Historical Museum's current exhibit, "In the Presence of Lincoln," showcases original furniture from Lincoln's Springfield, Ill. home — on loan from The Henry Ford — as well as original historic ephemera associated with Lincoln.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main St. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5; \$2 for students 6-17; and \$10 for families. Tour groups can be accommodated. Call (734) 455-8940 or visit www.plymouthhistory.org.

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PURE PICKS



Monty Python's Spamalat has returned to Detroit's Fisher Theatre with Richard Chamberlain reigning as King Arthur for a limited two-week engagement through Feb. 15. Tickets are available at the Fisher Theatre box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or www.broadwayindetroit.com, and by phone at 1-800-745-3000.

5 Monty Python's Spamalat returns to Detroit's Fisher Theatre with Richard Chamberlain reigning as King Arthur through Feb. 15. Lovingly "ripped-off" from the comedy team's most popular motion picture, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," Monty Python's Spamalat tells the legendary tale of King Arthur, complete with a chorus line of dancing divas and knights, flatulent Frenchmen, killer rabbits and one legless knight. Tickets are available at the Fisher Theatre box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com, and by phone at 1-800-745-3000.



Celebrate the season by roasting marshmallows at Winter Blast in and around Campus Martius Park this weekend.

6 Don't let the cold keep you in the house. Get outside for the fifth-annual Winter Blast, Feb. 6-8 in and around Campus Martius Park in Detroit. The weekend includes free ice skating, marshmallow roasting, professional skating shows, and a new, 100-foot Arctic Blast Ice Slide. The music lineup features TJ Kelly, Twistin Tarantulas, Universal Temple of Divine Power and Macpodz, Rev. Marc Falconberry, The Miceys and Brandon Calhoon. Free. Visit www.winterblast.com.

7 Put a little love in your heart with A Valentine's Rock n' Roll Spectacular at the Detroit Opera House on Saturday, featuring The Miracles, The Reflections, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, The Contours, The Diamonds and The Drifters. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$37-\$67. Call (248) 645-6666.

HAPPENINGS

ABALI AFRIKA APPEARS AT OCC-ORCHARD RIDGE

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Kenya-based band Jabali Afrika will appear at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, Friday, Feb. 13. The two-hour program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Admission is \$20. Jabali Afrika's unique sound is a special fusion of African rhythms. Its origins lie in the Kenya National Dance Troupe. The group performs more than 250 shows per year internationally. For more information contact Dusty Rhodes at (248) 522-3595 or email him at lprhodes@oaklandcc.edu. The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Ample free parking is available in nearby college lots.

INTERNATIONAL FEST AT THE VILLAGE THEATER

CANTON — Find your passport around the globe during Canton's 2nd Annual International Festival, 1-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. A special project of the Canton Cultural Commission, the educational event includes stage performances, cultural displays and merchandise, and international sweets for sale and sampling. Cultural displays include storybooks, jewelry, Sri Lankan and Indian exhibits, and the Bilingual Fun Group. A \$2 donation is suggested at the door. Call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org/village theater. Visit www.canton-mi.org/village theater.

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FOOD & WINE

A sweet treat for Valentine's Day

Why not use this Valentine's Day as an excuse to bake something sweet for your sweet? Here's a recipe for an exotic dessert from Ristorante Cafe Cortina in Farmington Hills.

NAPOLEON DI LIMONCELLO

Prep Time: About 30 minutes
Cooking Time: About 20 minutes

Refrigeration Time: At least 30 minutes

- 1 lb. hand-made puff pastry (or pre-made if preferred)
- 1 shot of limoncello liquor
- 4 cups whole milk
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup flour
- 7 oz. butter (room temperature)
- 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 vanilla beans
- 10 egg yolks
- Additional flour to roll out pastry crust
- Additional butter for baking sheet (or use parchment paper as a lining)
- Powdered sugar to decorate

Preheat oven to 400°F
1. On a lightly floured surface, roll out pastry into a large rectangle that you will be able to cut into three even parts. Transfer rolled out pastry onto a baking sheet (lightly buttered or else lined with parchment paper). Prick top of pastry with a fork. Cover pastry with a layer of parchment paper and place another baking sheet, of the same size, on top, to keep pastry flat. If you don't have another baking sheet, just pour rice or any dried bean over the top. Put in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.

2. Remove pastry from the refrigerator and bake (with either the additional baking sheet on top, or with the rice/beans on top) for 10 minutes. Take out of oven, remove baking sheet (or rice/beans) and remove top layer of parchment paper. Put back in oven for another 10 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and let cool off entirely before spreading on cream filling.

3. As your pastry is baking, you can prepare the cream filling. In a large saucepan combine the yolks and sugar and stir well. Then stir in flour, and cornstarch.

4. Cut vanilla beans in half lengthwise, and scrape out the seeds into the mixture and stir well. Add Limoncello.

5. Slowly stir in the milk until homogenous. Put the cream filling on the stove (light heat) and very gently bring to a simmer — when you see small bubbles, take it off the heat and refrigerate.

6. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter so that it rises. Gently mix in the rest of the cream filling.

7. Once the pastry has cooled, cut it carefully (a serrated knife works best) into three even parts. Using a spoon and a spatula spread a thick layer of cream filling on two parts of pastry crust. Stack these two layers and cover with the third (top) pastry piece. Sprinkle top with powdered sugar. Refrigerate until serving.

Source: Ristorante Cafe Cortina, 30715 W. Ten Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-3033 or visit www.cafecortina.com



Layered Napoleon di Limoncello from Ristorante Cafe Cortina.

Seek designated syrahs

Syrah is the focus of some of the world's most creative winemakers. Although we first think of syrah as the principal grape of France's northern Rhone Valley, we are impressed by several syrahs from California and Australia.



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

Aroma and flavor profiles of syrah depend on the climate and soil where grapes are grown, a notion the French refer to as terroir. Tasting a series of vineyard-designated syrahs illustrates the distinct taste differences determined by place. Jeff Cohn (JC Cellars) makes wine in his urban winery in Oakland, Calif., but he sources grapes from vineyards as far south as Santa Barbara County and north to the Rockpile American Viticultural Area (AVA) in Sonoma County.

He likes steep, rocky vineyards producing distinctive fruit, resulting in wines of complexity and concentration. Each wine is fermented with a yeast selected to enhance the terroir aspect of the fruit. Wine is then aged up to 16 months in oak barrels sourced from more than 10 different French coopers.

WINE PICKS SYRAHS FROM JC CELLARS

- Ventana Vineyards 2005 Syrah, Monterey County, \$30
- Fess Parker's Vineyard 2006 Syrah, Santa Barbara County, \$30
- Broken Compass 2006 Syrah, California, \$40
- Caldwell Vineyard 2005 Syrah, Napa Valley, \$45
- Rockpile Vineyard 'Haley's Reserve' Syrah, Sonoma County, \$60
- Steve Beckmen farms Purisima Mountain Vineyard in Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara County, Calif. He grows his grapes biodynamically, a very strict organic method of farming, originally proposed by the Austrian scientist Rudolf Steiner. Beckmen has noticed that his vines are healthier and his wines more flavorful since he adopted biodynamic farming techniques.

WINE PICKS SYRAHS FROM

WINE PICKS

SAUVIGNON BLANC is as delicious in winter as it is in summer.
Pick of the pack: 2007 Flora Springs Soliloquy, \$27
Good buys at \$20 and under: 2007 Kenwood Sonoma County, \$20; 2007 Rodney Strong Charlotte's Home, \$14 and 2007 Bogle, \$10, which can't be beat at this price.

BECKMEN VINEYARDS:

Purisima Mountain Vineyard 2006 Syrah, \$42
Block Six 2006 Syrah Purisima Mountain Vineyard, \$50
Clone #1 2006 Syrah Purisima Mountain Vineyard, \$50
Australian winemakers, Michael Twelftree and Richard Mintz created Two Hands Wines and took on the challenge of making top-shelf shiraz (that's Aussie for syrah) from six different regions of Australia.

To emphasize regional character of each wine, Twelftree explains, "All vineyards are managed the same leading up to harvest. When we make the decision to pick, we look for optimum flavors and ripe tannins. When it comes to winemaking, for all these wines it's exactly the same. A key factor is that the use of new oak is kept low, between zero and 20 percent, so the regionality comes through."

WINE PICKS FROM TWO HANDS WINES, AUSTRALIA

- Bella's Garden 2006 Shiraz, Barossa Valley, \$60
- Lilly's Garden 2006 Shiraz, McLaren Vale, \$60
- Samantha's Garden 2007 Shiraz, Clare Valley, \$60
- Sophie's Garden 2006 Shiraz, Padthaway, \$60
- Harry and Edward's Garden 2006 Shiraz, Langhorne Creek, \$60
- Max's Garden 2006 Shiraz, Heathcote, \$60

Eleanor & Ray Heald write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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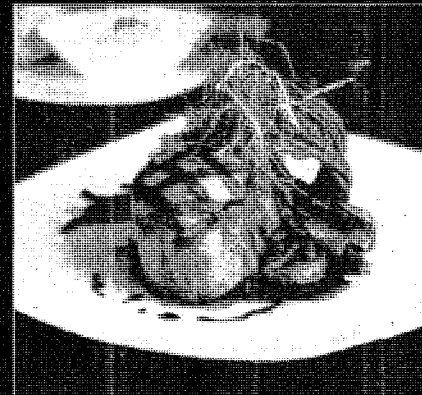
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