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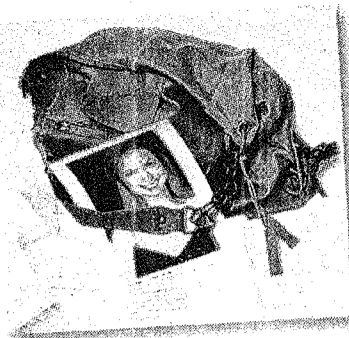
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PINK, A9



AROUND TOWN

Voters to face 3 ballot questions

It's nine months until the next round of city elections, but local officials already are thinking about it.

As such, Westland voters will be asked Nov. 3 to approve three ballot questions that would bring minor changes to the city charter.

Two of the proposals would simply allow political candidates to decide whether they want to pay a \$100 filing fee rather than collect signatures on petitions to get their names on the ballot.

A third measure would move the candidate filing deadline to the 12th Tuesday before the city's primary rather than the seventh Tuesday.

"It just brings us in compliance with every other office in the state," City Clerk Eileen DeHart said.

The changes would give the clerk's office more time to deal with an array of issues, such as verifying names on petitions, getting ballots printed on a more timely basis and ensuring that election equipment has been tested, DeHart said.

W-W program receives award

A Wayne-Westland Community Schools program designed to educate middle and high school girls about issues they face today has received a 2009 Outstanding Service-Learning Award from the Michigan Community Service Commission and Learn and Serve - Michigan.

The Talk to Us Service-Learning Program at the district's Tinkham Alternative High School in Westland has been received the Innovative Program Award which honors a K-12 service-learning program demonstrating innovation and excellence.

Within the program, discussions often revolve around feminism, body image, gender roles, healthy relationships, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

This service-learning course which helps improve the lives of many students, was created by three veteran women's studies students who committed to facilitating an after-school intervention program for middle school-aged girls. The six-week program includes time for discussions, presentations and reflection.

Service-learning connects student's curriculum to a service experience making learning intellectually challenging and relevant to the real world. Students apply what they learn in the classroom to important community issues.

The award is presented at the 13th annual Institute: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement taking place now in Grand Rapids.

Meetings to chart city's future

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland city leaders, faced with a turbulent era of declining revenues, rising expenses and an aging city infrastructure, will try to develop a five-year blueprint to guide them through an increasingly painful economic recession.

Mayor William Wild confirmed that a two-day strategic planning

session has been scheduled for 9 a.m. on two consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, at the Livonia corporate headquarters of Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, a firm that does engineering work for Westland. The meetings are expected to end by 4 p.m., if not earlier.

OHM's offices are at 34000 Plymouth Road, between Wayne and Farmington. The two sessions will be open to the public.

Administration officials had earlier considered having the strategic meetings at the Ann Arbor offices of the auditing firm Plante & Moran, but some Westland City Council members lobbied for the sessions to be closer to home to accommodate local residents. Wild said officials needed a spot, such as OHM's headquarters, that could provide audio-visual equipment and other amenities needed to get the job done.

Council President James Godbout called the planning sessions crucial for city leaders who need a long-term plan that balances revenues, staffing levels and infrastructure issues like deteriorating roads and aging city buildings.

The strategic planning process comes amid a backdrop of declining revenues, the foreclosure crisis,

Please see **PLANNING, A2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn High School seniors Bradley Sheahan (from left), Jake Kitzmiller and Angelina Floied take a close look at a deer's heart during Cathy German's anatomy class.

Hunter's success provides anatomy lab for students

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cathy German was looking at using a chart and model to show her anatomy students the many valves, chambers and openings in the human heart. That was until John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham made her an offer she couldn't refuse.

Before last fall's hunting seasons, Ingham asked his anatomy teacher if she could use a deer heart for her class. She didn't hesitate to say yes. A mammal, a deer's heart was very much like a human heart and having one would give her students some good hands-on observations.

Little did she know Ingham would have three very good hunts, bagging three deer during the state's bow, firearm and black powder seasons.

"I've done this in the past, I did it with the science class at Adams

Middle School, when I'd get lucky," said Ingham. "I mentioned it to Cathy and she said it would be great for this lab. It's the kinds of hands-on lab kids will remember."

"I wanted to bring in something that's real," said German. "I have a plastic model I can open up so they can see the chambers and valves and I have a pink and blue drawing. There are preserved hearts in catalogs, but they're expensive. We know a real heart looks totally different."

Ingham admits he took care so he would "get good specimens, not something that looked like road kill," and was rewarded with three intact hearts that he kept frozen until German needed them.

German took the hearts home where she practiced to make sure she could use them. She left one intact, but cut the other two so students could see the chambers, valves and

connective tissue inside.

Students put on surgical gloves to handle the specimens, drawing pictures and labeling what they saw. It was all in preparation for a quiz on Wednesday in which they had to trace the flow of blood through the heart and name the 17 structures, among other things.

Seniors Bradley Sheahan, Jake Kitzmiller and Angelina Floied got their hands on the whole heart, using probes to identify such things as the aorta, pulmonary vein and ventricles.

Terms like the super vena cava and right and left auricles easily rolled off their tongues and the fact that they faced a 35-point quiz the next day didn't worry them, even though they just started studying the cardiovascular system this week. They've worked on rats and will dissect a cat at the

Please see **ANATOMY, A3**

8 residents file in W-W school race

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a crowded field of candidates vying for one of three seats on the Wayne-Westland school board that will be filled in the May 5 school election.

Two four-year terms, currently held by incumbents Ed Turner and Steve Becher, as well as the remaining year of four-year term that had been held by Frederick Weaver, will be filled in the annual school election. Weaver resigned from the board last August after moving to the Midland area.

Turner, a Westland resident, joined the school board in 1997. He is seeking a fifth four-year term. Becher, a Wayne resident, was elected to the school board in 2004 and is completing his first four-year term. He has opted to seek the one-year term.

Incumbent appointee Shawna Walker who has been filling Weaver's seat since last September. A Westland resident, she is seeking a four-year term.

Also campaigning for the four-year terms are Gregory Maxwell of Wayne, the husband of Shawn Maxwell who spearheaded a failed recall attempt of two school board members; retired Wayne-Westland teacher Carol Middel of Canton; Lori Mireles-Smith of Westland who has twice tried for an appointment to the school board; Brian Mulligan of Westland, who is making his third bid for a seat on the board; and Westland resident Mark Neal, a retired Westland fire chief.

In addition to Becher, businessman John Goci of Westland and Angela Hoops-Cossey of Wayne have filed for the one-year term.

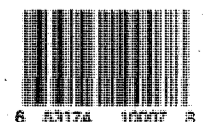
The candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, to withdraw from the election.

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Teen to stand trial on assault charges

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges he tried to kill a 19-year-old man while intervening in a domestic dispute on a residential street near Wayne and Cowan.

Leon Anthony Lamont Anderson, 26, faces trial for assault with intent to murder and two other felony assault charges after the victim, testifying during a preliminary hearing last Thursday in Westland 18th District Court, accused Anderson of stabbing him several times in the back.

Westland police Sgt. Michael Harhold said the incident happened about 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, inside a residence on

Sandwood. Anderson was identified by the victim during a hearing in front of 18th District Judge Mark McConnell.

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

A police investigation indicated that Anderson was among four people who went to Sandwood after a 22-year-old woman called for help when her boyfriend, the eventual stabbing victim, refused to leave during an argument, Harhold has said.

According to police accounts, Anderson, two other men and the woman's sister had gone to intervene in the dispute. Harhold said the woman's boyfriend eventually left the house and was allegedly followed outside by Anderson while everyone else stayed inside.

"They heard the victim yell from outside," Harhold said, and the victim testified in court that he was stabbed by Anderson when the dispute escalated.

The 19-year-old victim received serious injuries but had been released from a hospital in time to testify against Anderson during the preliminary hearing.

Anderson remains jailed with a \$250,000 cash bond, and a not-guilty plea was entered for him in 18th District Court as he now awaits the outcome of his case in the higher circuit court.

Harhold has said that to his knowledge, the victim and the defendant hadn't had any fights or encounters prior to the Jan. 24 stabbing incident.

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Aiming for the top

Robert Woodson (from left), Jeremy Vandegriff, Renaldo Powell, Matt Mills and Eric Story are royalty as candidates for the 2009 Coming Home King at Wayne Memorial High School. They won't find out who gets to wear the crown until the Coming Home basketball game tomorrow evening.

PLANNING

FROM PAGE A1

business closings and the rising cost of paying for city services. "We're going to have to look at how we do things, our staffing levels and try to come up with a plan on how we work our way through this," Godbout said. "It's not just financial. We can't just continue to operate year to year without looking forward to see what needs to be addressed. We have to have a vision." Wild said the theme of the strategic sessions will be man-

aging the city — and maintaining services — during economic decline. He said it appears that Westland will lose substantial revenues as it braces for a likely double-digit drop in property values for 2009-10. "I think we're going to be in a declining market for property taxes for the next five years," Wild said. Even so, city leaders hope to move forward, as much as possible, with an array of improvements such as revitalizing the Ford Road commercial corridor and redeveloping vacant commercial properties like those surrounding Westland Shopping Center.

City leaders will bring in a strategic planning facilitator and certain specialists to help them in developing a five-year plan. Godbout said that Westland has fared better than many communities amid the economic downturn. The city started its current budget year with a \$2 million surplus, but officials are keenly aware that financial resources could be quickly depleted as they struggle to maintain services during a recession. Moreover, Godbout said the city needs to resolve issues like how to fix crumbling roads and how to repair buildings like City Hall, which recently had a mold problem due to basement flooding. "We can't bury our heads and pretend these issues don't exist," he said.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Meeting delay

Due to the Presidents Day holiday, the Westland City Council's business meeting will be moved from Monday to Tuesday next week. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. on the second floor of Westland City Hall on Ford Road.

Benefit dinner/concert

The Acoustic Coffee House will present "The Cats and the Fiddler" benefit dinner and concert Saturday, Feb. 21, for the Wayne County Family Crisis Center in Westland. A mostacoli dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner cost \$4 per person or \$10 per family of four or more. A \$12 donation is asked for the concert, with children under age 15 free. The event will be held at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760 to reserve a spot for dinner or for more information.

reserve tickets, call (734) 751-7057. Warren Road Light and Life Church is at 33445 Warren Road, between Wayne Road and Venoy.

Blues buster

The Westland Friendship Center has just the remedy for the winter blues — a party! Tickets are on sale now for the Friendship Center's Winter Blues Bash on Friday, Feb. 20. Kerry Price from the Windsor-Detroit Jazz Club will entertain with her signature blend of blues. The buffet meal will include slow roasted beef in brown sauce, boneless breaded pork chops, wedged red skin potatoes with parsley, and there also will be raffle prizes. And one more thing — attendees must wear blue to enter, and any shade will do. For more information, call (734) 722-7628. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland.

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.

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. 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.

Scrapbooking

A scrapbooking workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at St. 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.

Glow Skate

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

Preschool enrollment

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

Prison families

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at hope4healing@rocketmail.com. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, Feb. 8, issue of the *Westland Observer* should have identified Edhre Truesdell Smith as helping organize the annual Wayne-Westland district spelling bee.

CITY OF WESTLAND 2009 ANIMAL LICENSES

Licenses must be obtained on or before Monday, March 2, 2009 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Starting March 3, 2009, a \$2.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:
WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36601 Ford Road OR
MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marquette
EILEEN DeHART, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK
Publish: February 12 & 26, 2009

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Sunday Evening Worship 6 pm
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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On February 17, 2009, the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1993	Buick	Century/4 Dr	White	2G4WF54LP1402713
1995	Chevy	4 Dr	White	1G1LD5546SY139024
1995	Pontiac	Grand Prix/4 Dr	Red	1G2WJ52M1SF252994
1996	Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Gray	1FALP52U9TA233563
1995	Ford	Aerostar/SW	Blue	1FMDA31X7SZC10083
1989	Dodge	Van/SW	Blue	2B7HB21YXKK320506
1993	Mercury	Sable/4 Dr	Silver	1MELM5349PG647302
1997	Dodge	Ram/Pkup	Green	1B7HC16X4VS270834
1996	Mercury	Mystique/4 Dr	Brown	1MELM66L9TK616227
1967	Buick	Wildcat/4 Dr	Burg	464697D152814
1999	Saturn	SL2/4 Dr	Gold	1G8ZK5273XZ317585
1997	Dodge	Stratus/4 Dr	Maroon	1B3EJ46X2VN676301
1992	Honda	Accord/2 Dr	Red	1HGCB725XNA049251
1997	Ford	Conversion Van	White	1FDDE1461VHB66706
1993	Dodge	Dynasty	Blue	1B3XC4634PD146081
1993	Mercury	Villager/SW	White	4M2DV11W4PDJ19632

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after March 14, 2009 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1993	Lexus	300/4 Dr	Brown	JT8VK13T3P0214663

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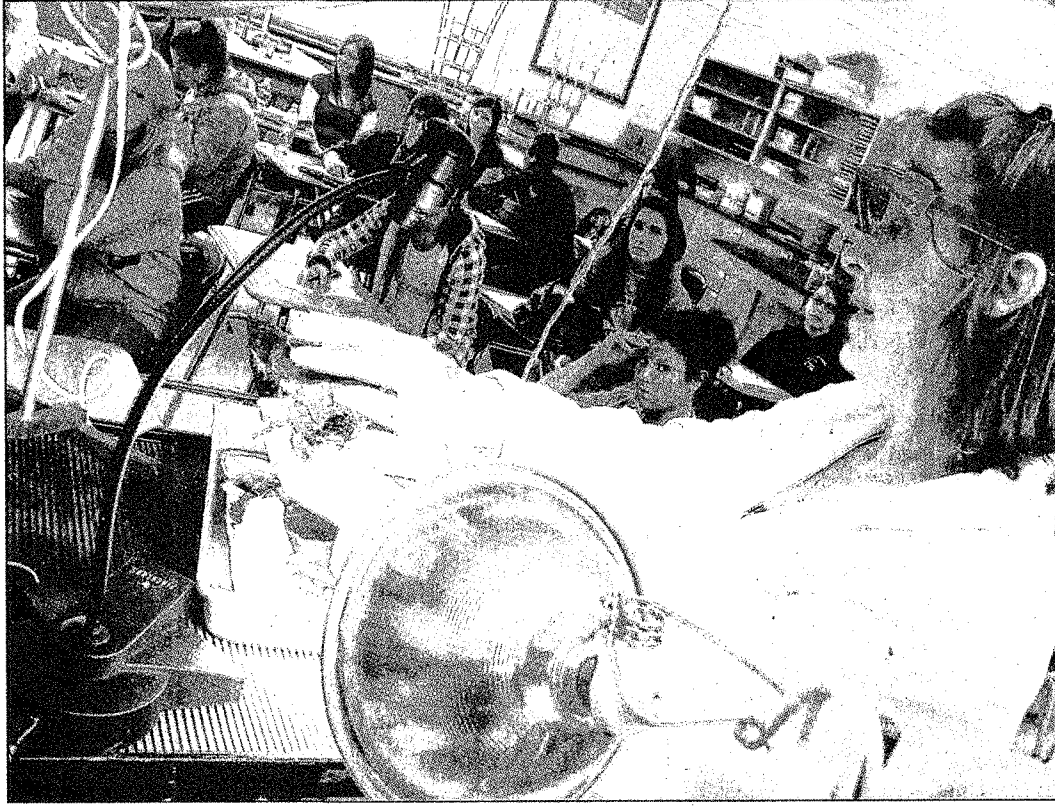
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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn High School teacher Cathy German discusses the valves of the deer heart with her students.

Inkster man faces trial for armed robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An Inkster man is facing trial on charges he took a taxicab to a Westland apartment complex, The Landings, and then robbed the driver at gunpoint.

Marcus Laron Terrell, 18, of Inkster remains jailed with a \$500,000 cash bond as he awaits trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of armed robbery, felony firearm, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and assault with intent to rob while armed.

Terrell was ordered to

stand trial after he voluntarily waived his right to a preliminary hearing last Thursday in front of Westland 18th District Judge Mark McConnell.

If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison. A not-guilty plea had been entered in his court file prior to Thursday's hearing.

Charges against Terrell stem from an incident in December in which a lone bandit caught a taxicab to The Landings, southeast of Warren and Central City Parkway, and tried to rob the driver of money, police Sgt.

Brian Miller has said. The bandit escaped with only a cell phone after the two men struggled. No shots were fired from a handgun that Terrell is accused of brandishing, Miller said.

The taxicab driver told police the incident happened after he picked up a passenger near Inkster and Annapolis roads.

Terrell was arrested at his Inkster home following an investigation by the multi-agency Metro Street Enforcement Team, Miller has said.

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ANATOMY

FROM PAGE A1

end of the year and already know all the bones and muscles in the human body.

"We had to learn 40 different bones and then had a quiz two days later," said Kitzmiller who plans to attend Wayne State University to become a nurse anesthetist.

"We have coloring books where we learn to label and color different things," added Sheahan. "And we use a lot of mnemonic devices to learn."

For the trio, the anatomy class dovetails well with their future careers. Sheahan plans to study pre-med at Michigan State University, Kitzmiller is going to study to be a nurse anesthetist at Wayne State University. Floied plans to study nursing at Schoolcraft College.

"They learn the anatomy and then the physiology," said German, watching as students gathered in groups of eight at the three lab stations.



Seniors Crystal Johnson and sisters Brittany and Rebecca Meister look at the chambers of the deer heart during their anatomy.

Ingham visited one of the classes and was glad to see students handling the hearts.

"I think she did a wonderful job and the kids I saw handled them more than I thought," he said. "I didn't see any squeamish kids in that classroom."

By the third class, German

had to admit her specimens were getting "old." The fat on the one heart was hardening and they were starting to darken in color.

"These poor hearts won't make it another day," she said.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Man caught exchanging goods for cash

Quick change

1 One Meijer shopper might have thought he was being thrifty in tough economic times, but Westland police saw it as a crime.

A crime prevention officer from the store, on the southeast corner of Warren and Newburgh, told police the suspect found a discarded sales receipt outside, brought it into the store, selected the items that another customer had bought, placed them in bags and took them to the service desk for a refund. The suspect was given \$21.60.

The incident happened about 5:15 p.m. last Thursday. The Meijer employee saw what was happening, stopped the man, took him to the office and recovered the money. The employee told police the man admitted what he had done and confessed to a similar incident in the past.

The suspect said he had a drug problem and had recently relapsed, according to a police report. The employee contacted police, who arrested the man for retail fraud. The 35-year-old suspect also was wanted on warrants from Dearborn and Wayne County.

Unwanted paint job

2 A 28-year-old woman told police that her 2001 Chevy Cavalier was spray-painted while it was parked outside her Woodland Villa apartment, northwest of Warren and Central

City Parkway, between 6 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The victim told police her car had been sprayed with yellow and black paint. She also said Dumpsters in the complex also may have been spray-painted.

Laptop stolen from car

3 A 43-year-old Westland woman told police that someone stole her laptop computer and her purse from her unlocked car while she was inside the Marathon gas station on the southwest corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman shortly after 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 1. The woman told police the theft happened when she went into the station to buy cigarettes.

She reported the incident four days later, telling officers she hadn't had a chance to go to the police station earlier because she had been working.

2 arrested for assault

4 Police arrested two women, both in their 40s, for simple assault charges following a domestic dispute that happened about 12:45 a.m. last Thursday on Merritt Drive, northeast of Ann Arbor Trail and Farmington in Westland.

One of the women told police the second woman assaulted her and struck her in the face because she had talked with a third woman earlier at a bar. The second woman also claimed she had been assaulted by the first woman. Police noted that both

women appeared intoxicated.

Locks damaged in break-in

5 A 20-year-old woman reported that someone damaged the locks on her apartment door on Yale, west of Wayne between Hunter and Warren, sometime between 3-10 p.m. Saturday. The victim told police that although entry was made, nothing appeared to be missing. She told police she didn't know who might have broken into her residence.

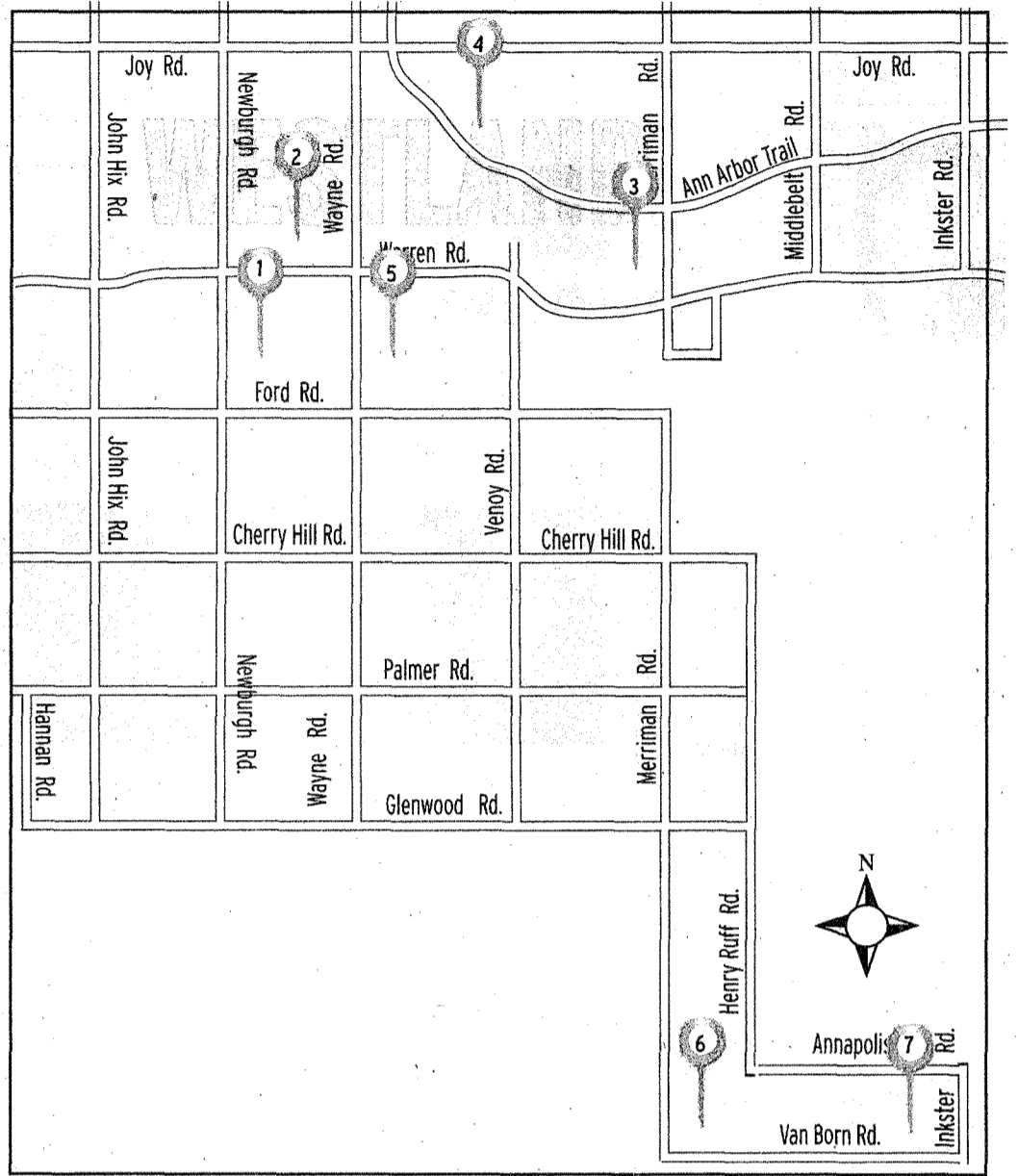
Man breaks security gate

6 A manager of Westland Meadows mobile home park, on the northeast corner of Van Born and Merriman, told police that someone broke through a security gate around 9:40 p.m. Tuesday of last week. The culprit was identified from a video as a former roommate of a Westland Meadows resident. The manager has asked police to follow up with prosecution for the incident.

Woman finds ring missing

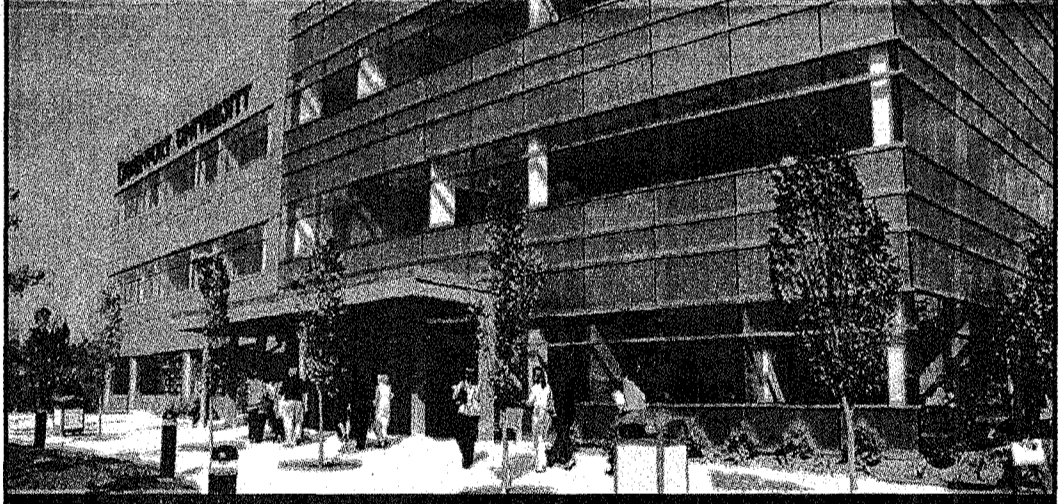
7 A 20-year-old woman reported that a ring worth \$130 was taken from her residence on Powers, northwest of Van Born and Inkster roads, sometime before 8 p.m. Feb. 3. She told police the ring was taken from a computer room. She said she had a possible suspect in mind but had no proof. She asked police for an investigation.

- By Darrell Clem



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

Got Game? Yep, got scores, too. **SPORTS**



TOMORROW'S BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS ARE AT DAVENPORT TODAY.

You Still Have Time to Enroll for Winter Term. Winter 2 classes begin March 1.

ADVANTAGES OF DAVENPORT

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- Only MBA with five career concentrations
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- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

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LIVONIA Now Open at I-275 and 7 Mile Rd.

MATHISON Kitchen • Bath • Plumbing Supply

Great Baths by Mathison

Bertch® Vanity Package SALE 30% OFF

Same discount applies on all vanity tops and sink faucets when purchased as a package.

Many Styles To Choose From! Expires March 31, 2009.

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Close to home. And heart.

Within an easy one-tank drive, Crystal Mountain® makes the most of every moment. Blessed with some 10 feet of natural snowfall each year and enhanced by masterful grooming and snowmaking, we consistently have some of the best ski and snowboard conditions up north. Guests enjoy 45 exciting downhill runs, the fastest lift in northern Michigan, a nationally-recognized snowsports school, award-winning family programs and some of the Midwest's finest resort lodging. We really put our hearts into it.

This is *your* Mountain. Crystal Mountain, just 28 miles SW of Traverse City.

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CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT & SPA

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Term insurance might be the best option for many

I have received a number of letters dealing with life insurance issues. Two major concerns are what to do with life insurance if you lose your job and can no longer afford your premium payment.

The first step is to determine whether you need life insurance. Many people who have a change in family situations find that they may have had life insurance through their employer, but really do not need it. If you do not need life insurance, then in most situations there is nothing you need to do. On the other hand, if you need life insurance, the first thing to determine is what your rights are under your existing insurance policy. In many situations the policy is portable, which means that you can transfer the policy without a break in coverage.

If your employer-provided policy is not portable, you lose your insurance coverage. If you have the option of keeping your insurance coverage and need it, I say keep the policy. However, begin the process of shopping for a new policy. Many times, group coverage is not the most cost-effective type of policy. It makes sense to shop around. You may find — particularly with term insurance — a better policy at a lower cost. Don't cancel your existing policy until you have been approved for the new policy.

I am a fan of term insurance for the great majority of people. It is easy to understand

and cost-effective. Typical term policies are available for 10-, 15-, 20- or even a 30-year period. The length of time does not depend upon your age but rather for how long you need insurance coverage.

You can deal with an agent when it comes to term or shop it around on the Internet.

For those who can no longer afford their premium pay-

ments, the key is, do you need life insurance? If the answer is no, cancel the policy. Those over age 65 can potentially sell their policy to investors. There are investors that will pay to buy someone's life insurance policy. This is not an easy transaction but it is something to explore.

For people who can't afford the current premium with a

permanent insurance policy like a whole-life or universal-life, there is cash surrender value that can be used to pay the premium. In addition, some creative agents can restructure the policy to fit your needs.

There is no cash surrender value for term insurance. However, it is potentially possible for the coverage on that

policy to be adjusted to make it more affordable.

In these difficult economic times, it is easy to sometimes ignore a problem and hope it goes away. When it comes to life insurance the reason you have it is to protect a loved one who is financially dependent upon you. When it comes time to make a decision regarding life insurance, don't rush. Take

your time, ask questions and make the best choice for your situation.

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

determine is what your rights are under your existing insurance policy. In many situations the policy is portable, which means that you can transfer the policy without a break in coverage.

If your employer-provided policy is not portable, you lose your insurance coverage. If you have the option of keeping your insurance coverage and need it, I say keep the policy. However, begin the process of shopping for a new policy. Many times, group coverage is not the most cost-effective type of policy. It makes sense to shop around. You may find — particularly with term insurance — a better policy at a lower cost. Don't cancel your existing policy until you have been approved for the new policy.

I am a fan of term insurance for the great majority of people. It is easy to understand

Frog, toad workshop changed

Friends of the Rouge's first Frog and Toad Survey Training Workshop scheduled for 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, has been moved to the Southfield Public Library at 26300 Evergreen Road, Southfield. There will be no power at the original location.

LIKE NUMBERS? there are a pile of them in today's **SPORTS** section



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

THINKING ABOUT... A NEW FURNACE? LENNOX FREE ESTIMATES (734) 525-1930 Our 35th Year! UNITED TEMPERATURE 8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA www.unitedtemperatureservices.com

PRESIDENTS' DAY VALUES

5 DAYS ONLY FEBRUARY 12-16, 2009

\$139

ENTIRE HOUSE CARPET INSTALLATION*

Price only includes labor for installation of carpet and pad purchased from Lowe's. Offer limited to single-family homes. Additional charges may apply. Offer valid until 4/5/09. See store for details.

LOWE'S

Let's Build Something Together™

10% off

ENERGY STAR MAJOR APPLIANCES

\$397 or more (before taxes)

Receive 10% off in-stock and Special Order ENERGY STAR® major appliances. Offer valid 2/12/09 - 2/16/09. Discount taken at register. Not valid on previous sales, installation and delivery fees, extended protection plans, water heaters, select Fisher & Paykel® or Electrolux items. See store for details.

\$5

MAIL-IN REBATE VALSPAR SIGNATURE COLORS PAINT

Offer valid 1/14/09 - 2/20/09. Please see store for more details. Discount taken at time of order. Not valid with any other product offer.

\$118

ENTIRE HOUSE BASIC INSTALLATION OF BLINDS AND SHADES

\$118 price includes basic installation labor only. Requires purchase of refundable in-home measurement fee and three or more blinds/shades from Lowe's. Additional charges may apply. Offer limited to single-family homes. See store for details.

free \$100

GIFT CARD

via mail-in rebate

with the purchase of \$400 of any in-stock Owens Corning insulation. Via mail-in rebate. Offer valid 2/12/09 - 2/16/09. See store for details.

SPECIAL VALUE!

now \$188

per sq. ft. was \$214

12" x 12" Multicolored Slate Tile

•Gauged for easy installation #131691

SPECIAL VALUE!

now \$698

each was \$898 each

Bright White or Daylight 4-Pack 60-Watt Equivalent CFL Light Bulbs

#77180;79261

Selected for strength and appearance. Surfaced on 4 sides. **TOP CHOICE** UNDER PROMISE

NEW LOWER PRICE!

now \$247 each was \$273 each

2" x 4" x 96" Top Choice Kiln-Dried Whitewood Stud #7001

Honeywell

NEW LOWER PRICE!

now \$49 was \$59.97

5 + 2 Day Programmable Thermostat •ENERGY STAR® qualified #39500

\$1897 2-pack

Micro Allergen Extra Reduction Filter

Sizes vary by market.

NEW LOWER PRICE!

now \$98 was \$108

Windemere™ Oil-Rubbed Bronze Bath Faucet

•4" centerset •Limited lifetime warranty #290863

WERNER

\$85

8' Fiberglass Stepladder

•250 lb. load capacity •Includes Tool-Tra-Top® #98195

clearance

10-25% off

CLOSEOUT MODEL APPLIANCES

Look for yellow clearance labels throughout Appliance department. Includes select refrigerators, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, ranges and over-the-range microwaves. Price reflects discount. Quantities limited. While supplies last. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

10-30% off

POWER TOOLS, PNEUMATICS & COMPRESSORS, BENCHTOP TOOLS AND HAND TOOLS

Look for yellow clearance labels throughout Tool department. Applies to select clearance tools. Price reflects discount. Selection may vary by store. Offer starts 2/12/09. While supplies last. See store for details.

50% off

SEASONAL HEATING

Applies to portable electric heaters, portable construction heaters, kerosene heaters and accessories, fireplaces and mantels, fireplace accessories, fireplace maintenance, gas logs, all stoves and vent-free gas space heating. Starts 2/12/09. Discount taken at register. While supplies last. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

For the Lowe's nearest you, call 1-800-993-4416 or visit us online at Lowe's.com

Prices may vary after 2/16/09 if there are market variations. *Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 2/5/09, and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. +\$139 entire house carpet installation only includes labor for installation of both carpet and pad purchased from Lowe's. Offer is limited to single-family residential homes. Additional charges may apply, as offer does not include any customization, or any other optional labor such as removal, haul-away, or moving of furniture. Multi-family and commercial properties will be priced by quote only. Offer not valid on glue-down carpet, prior purchases, and may not be available in your area. See store for additional information and listing of all available carpet. Offer valid until 4/5/09. See store for details. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only. © 2009 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. (080291) 001/090291/062



The Palace of Versailles provides the backdrop for Aurea and Elizabeth Suvoy's Wish You Were Here photograph with their Garden City Observer.

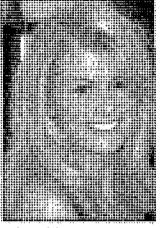


Posing outside the Roman Forum are Elizabeth Suvoy (front row, from left), Jennifer Sharpe, Mikenzie Frost, Aurea Suvoy (middle row from left), Liz Smith, Stephanie Ferrante, Chris Yee, Rose Smith, Jean Brackett, Pam Thomson (back row, from left), Glynis Wilkins, Brittany Wilkins, Alyssa Wilkins, Jennifer Ferrante, Jenna Brackett and Troop Leader Pam Sharpe.

Parkside Dental employee named Mrs. Wayne County

An employee of the Parkside Dental Team is looking to the state and possibly national competition after being selected as the 2009 Mrs. Wayne County.

Kelly Ciccotte will represent Wayne County in the Mrs. Michigan United States Pageant pageant, slated for 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Trenton Village Theatre in Trenton.



Ciccotte

Contestants will be judged in the areas including personal interview, physical fitness, onstage question and evening gown. The winner of the Mrs. Michigan Pageant will receive cash and prizes and will represent the Great Lakes State at the Mrs. United States Pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ciccotte, a dental hygienist, volunteers during Children's Dental Health Awareness month each year and poses as the Tooth Fairy for local events. Married, Ciccotte and her husband have one son.

Tickets for the 2009 Mrs. Michigan United States Pageant can be purchased online at www.mrsMichiganUnitedStates.com.

Paris to Rome: Scout enjoys European trip

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, but in the case of Aurea Suvoy and her mother Elizabeth, their Wish You Were Here photo was worth more photos and more words.

The Garden City residents enjoyed an eight-day trip to Europe, visiting London, Paris, Florence and Rome. They were traveling with nine members of Dearborn Girl Scout Troop 813, six moms and one aunt.

They posed with their Garden City Observer in of the Palace of Versailles which they visited on Dec. 31st, snapped photographs of the statuary. According to Elizabeth Suvoy, she should have taken her photograph of the Grapes sculpture in the opposite direction to catch a glimpse of the palace gates.

"The gates are back at Versailles for the first time since the Revolution," she said.

The Suvoy's were the only members of the group to visit the famed palace as well as the city of Pisa where Aurea Suvoy struck the obligatory pose of holding up the Leaning Tower.

This was Elizabeth Suvoy's first time outside the United States, not counting Canada or a visit to Alaska 35 years ago. Her daughter is a seasoned travel, having spent six weeks as a foreign exchange student from the Henry Ford

Academy in Finland.

As for the trip, Girl Scout cookies sales and gift wrapping for Girl Scouts at the mall paid for the trip. The girls now are hoping to save up to go on a Disney Cruise after high school graduation in June 2010.

If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or send it by e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-02-23 AUTHORIZING BALLOT QUESTION TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009, GENERAL CITY ELECTION ON WHETHER OR NOT SECTIONS 10.8, 10.9(a) AND 10.9(b) OF THE WESTLAND CITY CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED

The following Resolution 2009-02-23 was presented on motion of STOTTLEMYER, supported by GRAUNSTADT:
WHEREAS, Chapter 10, Sections 10.8 and Sections 10.9(a) and (b) of the Charter of the City of Westland, which were duly adopted by the electors of the City of Westland on April 5, 1966, provide as follows:

Section 10.8 CANDIDATES

Candidates for any elective office to be voted for at any municipal election under the provisions of this Charter, shall be nominated at an odd year primary election, and no other names shall be placed on the election ballot for the election of such officers, except those nominated in the manner hereinafter prescribed; provided, however, that if, upon the expiration of the time for filing petitions, not more than twice the number of candidates as there are persons to be elected to that office have filed, the primary for that office shall not be held and those persons filing valid petitions shall be declared the nominees for the offices, and the names of such candidates for any such office shall be placed on the election ballot to be voted for at the next regular odd year municipal election, the same in all respects as though the said candidates had been nominated at a primary election.

Section 10.9 STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

(a) Any person desiring to become a candidate for nomination to any elective office at any primary election shall, on or before 4:00 p.m. on the seventh Tuesday prior to the odd year primary election, file with the Clerk a statement of such candidacy in substantially the following form:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, _____, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at No. _____ Street, City of Westland, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, that I am a registered elector in said City and will have resided therein for at least two (2) years immediately prior to the election to be held _____, 20____; that I am a candidate for nomination to that office of _____ to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the _____ day of _____, 20____, that I possess such legal qualifications therefore, and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official primary ballot for nomination at such primary election for such office.

Signed _____
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 20____

_____, Notary Public
County of Wayne, State of Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____
Acting in the County of Wayne

(b) Each candidate shall at the same time file therewith a petition bearing the signatures of not less than one percent nor more than four (4) percent of the City votes cast for the Secretary of State in the preceding general election. Such petition shall be substantially as that required by state law for state and county officers. Official petition forms shall be prepared and furnished by the Clerk.

WHEREAS, Section 21 of the Home Rule Cities Act, PA 279 of 1909, as amended, being MCL 117.21, provides that an existing city charter may from time to time be amended by an amendment proposed by the legislative body of a city on a 3/5 vote of the members-elect which shall be submitted to the electors of such city at the next regular municipal or general state election or special election to be held in such city not less than 60 days after the proposal of such amendment;

WHEREAS, in accord with the provisions of the Home Rule Cities Act, the Westland City Council desires to submit a proposition to the electors of the City of Westland to determine whether or not Chapter 10, Section 10.8 and Sections 10.9(a) and (b) of the Westland City Charter shall be amended to provide that candidates for office may file nominating petitions or a \$100 filing fee to become candidates, and make the filing deadline twelve weeks before the date of the primary;

WHEREAS, in the event that the above specified amendments to Sections 10.8 and Sections 10.9(a) and (b) of the Westland City Charter is approved by the electorate, Chapter 10, Section 10.8 and Sections 10.9(a) and (b) of the Westland City Charter shall provide as follows:

Section 10.8 CANDIDATES

Candidates for any elective office to be voted for at any municipal election under the provisions of this Charter, shall be nominated at an odd year primary election, and no other names shall be placed on the election ballot for the election of such officers, except those nominated in the manner hereinafter prescribed; provided, however, that if, upon the expiration of the time for filing petitions, or paying the \$100 filing fee, not more than twice the number of candidates as there are persons to be elected to that office have filed, the primary for that office shall not be held and those persons filing valid petitions, or paying the filing fee, shall be declared the nominees for the offices, and the names of such candidates for any such office shall be placed on the election ballot to be voted for at the next regular odd year municipal election, the same in all respects as though the said candidates had been nominated at a primary election."

Section 10.9 STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

(a) Any person desiring to become a candidate for nomination to any elective office at any primary election shall, on or before 4:00 p.m. on the twelfth (12th) Tuesday prior to the odd year primary election, file with the Clerk a statement of such candidacy in substantially the following form:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, _____, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at No. _____ Street, City of Westland, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, that I am a registered elector in said City and will have resided therein for at least two (2) years immediately prior to the election to be held _____, 20____; that I am a candidate for nomination to that office of _____ to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the _____ day of _____, 20____, that I possess such legal qualifications therefore, and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official primary ballot for nomination at such primary election for such office.

Signed _____
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 20____

_____, Notary Public
County of Wayne, State of Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____
Acting in the County of Wayne

(b) Each candidate shall at the same time file therewith a petition bearing the signatures of not less than one percent nor more than four (4) percent of the City votes cast for the Secretary of State in the preceding general election, or paying a filing fee of \$100. Such petition shall be substantially as that required by state law for state and county officers. Official petition forms shall be prepared and furnished by the Clerk."

WHEREAS, Chapter 10, Section 10.9(c) of the Westland City Charter shall remain in effect and will not be changed or altered by the above proposed amendment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westland City Council does hereby resolve that the following propositions shall be submitted to the electorate of the City of Westland at the regular City election to be held on November 3, 2009:

Shall Section 10.8 of the Westland City Charter be amended to allow a candidate for office to file nominating petitions, or file a \$100 fee to become a candidate?

YES _____
NO _____

Shall Section 10.9(a) of the Westland City Charter be amended to change the candidate filing deadline to twelve weeks prior to the primary election date?

YES _____
NO _____

Shall Section 10.9(b) of the Westland City Charter be amended to allow a candidate for office to file nominating petitions, or file a \$100 fee to become a candidate?

YES _____
NO _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with the Home Rule Cities Act, the City Clerk shall transmit a copy of the proposed charter amendment to the Governor of the State of Michigan for her approval, and submit this resolution to the Attorney General, publish and post the proposed Charter Amendment along with the text of the existing Charter provision which would be altered and/or continued thereby, and perform such other measures as are required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with the Home Rule Cities Act, this resolution shall be effective only upon the affirmative vote of 3/5 of the members elect of the Westland City Council (five members).

YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT
GRAUNSTADT	NONE	NONE
JOHNSON		
KEHRER		
PICKERING		
REEVES		
STOTTLEMYER		
GODBOUT		

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Westland City Council at regular meeting held on FEBRUARY 2, 2009 and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, including the case of a special or rescheduled regular meeting, or a meeting recessed for more than thirty-six hours, notice by posting at least eighteen hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

EILEEN DEHART, CMC
Westland City Clerk

NOTICE

There will be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Westland at the regular City election to be held on November 3, 2009 the following proposition: Shall Section 10.8 of the Westland City Charter be amended to allow a candidate for office to file nominating petitions, or file a \$100 fee to become a candidate?

YES _____
NO _____

Shall Section 10.9(a) of the Westland City Charter be amended to change the candidate filing deadline to twelve weeks prior to the primary election date?

YES _____
NO _____

Shall Section 10.9(b) of the Westland City Charter be amended to allow a candidate for office to file nominating petitions, or file a \$100 fee to become a candidate?

YES _____
NO _____

TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The text of the proposed charter amendments are as follows:

Section 10.8 CANDIDATES

Candidates for any elective office to be voted for at any municipal election under the provisions of this Charter, shall be nominated at an odd year primary election, and no other names shall be placed on the election ballot for the election of such officers, except those nominated in the manner hereinafter prescribed; provided, however, that if, upon the expiration of the time for filing petitions, or paying the \$100 filing fee, not more than twice the number of candidates as there are persons to be elected to that office have filed, the primary for that office shall not be held and those persons filing valid petitions, or paying the filing fee, shall be declared the nominees for the offices, and the names of such candidates for any such office shall be placed on the election ballot to be voted for at the next regular odd year municipal election, the same in all respects as though the said candidates had been nominated at a primary election.

Section 10.9 STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

(a) Any person desiring to become a candidate for nomination to any elective office at any primary election shall, on or before 4:00 p.m. on the twelfth (12th) Tuesday prior to the odd year primary election, file with the Clerk a statement of such candidacy in substantially the following form:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, _____, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at No. _____ Street, City of Westland, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, that I am a registered elector in said City and will have resided therein for at least two (2) years immediately prior to the election to be held _____, 20____; that I am a candidate for nomination to that office of _____ to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the day of _____, 20____, that I possess such legal qualifications therefore, and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official primary ballot for nomination at such primary election for such office.

Signed _____
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 20____

_____, Notary Public
County of Wayne, State of Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____
Acting in the County of Wayne

(b) Each candidate shall at the same time file therewith a petition bearing the signatures of not less than one percent nor more than four (4) percent of the City votes cast for the Secretary of State in the preceding general election, or paying a filing fee of \$100. Such petition shall be substantially as that required by state law for state and county officers. Official petition forms shall be prepared and furnished by the Clerk.

EXISTING CHARTER PROVISIONS

Section 10.8 CANDIDATES

Candidates for any elective office to be voted for at any municipal election under the provisions of this Charter, shall be nominated at an odd year primary election, and no other names shall be placed on the election ballot for the election of such officers, except those nominated in the manner hereinafter prescribed; provided, however, that if, upon the expiration of the time for filing petitions, not more than twice the number of candidates as there are persons to be elected to that office have filed, the primary for that office shall not be held and those persons filing valid petitions shall be declared the nominees for the offices, and the names of such candidates for any such office shall be placed on the election ballot to be voted for at the next regular odd year municipal election, the same in all respects as though the said candidates had been nominated at a primary election.

Section 10.9 STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

(a) Any person desiring to become a candidate for nomination to any elective office at any primary election shall, on or before 4:00 p.m. on the seventh Tuesday prior to the odd year primary election, file with the Clerk a statement of such candidacy in substantially the following form:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, _____, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at _____ Street, City of Westland, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, that I am a registered elector in said City and will have resided therein for at least two (2) years immediately prior to the election to be held _____, 20____; that I am a candidate for nomination to that office of _____ to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the day of _____, 20____, that I possess such legal qualifications therefore, and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official primary ballot for nomination at such primary election for such office.

Signed _____
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 20____

_____, Notary Public
County of Wayne, State of Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____
Acting in the County of Wayne

(b) Each candidate shall at the same time file therewith a petition bearing the signatures of not less than one percent nor more than four (4) percent of the City votes cast for the Secretary of State in the preceding general election. Such petition shall be substantially as that required by state law for state and county officers. Official petition forms shall be prepared and furnished by the Clerk.

Dated: February 2, 2009

EILEEN DEHART, CMC
Westland City Clerk

ADOPTED: 2-2-2009
Publish: February 12, 2009

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open Houses
McKinley Co-op Preschool will hold an open house 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, at the school, 6500 Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. The preschool is now enrolling for the fall 2009-2010 school year for 2-5-year-olds. McKinley Co-op offers morning and afternoon sessions in a fun and comfortable learning environment, affordable tuition and a teacher with more than 25 years experience. For more information, go online to www.mckinleypreschool.org or call (734) 729-7222.

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, will hold an open house 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 5, for the 2009-2010 school year. The 3-year-old program is 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and the 4-year-old program runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Potty training is not required. Low cost tuition. For more information, go online to www.academicpathwayspreschool.com or call (734) 844-8147.

St. Sebastian Catholic School will hold an open house 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18. Tour the school and meet the teachers. St. Sebastian offers preschool 3 through eighth-grade, childcare before and after school, all-day and half-day kindergarten, affordable tuition and financing options, sports, Scouting, chess club and Spanish. For more information, call (313) 563-4460 or visit the Web site at www.saintsebastiancatholicsschool.org. The school is at 20700 Colgate St., Dearborn Heights.

Music at St. Damian's
University of Notre Dame's Celebration Choir and the Notre Dame Handbell Choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at St. Damian Church, 30055 Joy Road, Westland. Concert is freewill offering. Choir also will sing at the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Feb. 14. For more information, call (734) 421-6130.

Swap meet
The Livonia Amateur Radio Club will hold the 38th Annual LARC Swap-N-Shop 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Livonia Civic Park Seniors Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5 at the door. Great vendor access, table rental is \$16 per table in advance and \$20 the day of the event. For information, please contact Fred Deschenes, W8GKH, at (734) 513-8784 or send an e-mail message to w8gkh@arrl.net.

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

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

Free seminar
A free public health workshop entitled, "What is Interfering With Your Health?" will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Guest speaker, Dr. William H. Karl will outline the "Six Interferences to Health" and explain how to get started on the path to wellness. The Livonia Civic Center Library is at 32777 Five Mile Road, between Merriman and Farmington Road. Call The Foundation for Wellness Professionals at (734) 465-8588 to reserve a seat.

Poker fund-raiser
U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, located at 34824 W. Michigan Avenue in Wayne, has a permanent poker room that runs Sunday through Wednesday every week available for local charities in the community. For more information, call John at (734) 216-1688.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gch-1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides

to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

EDUCATION

St. Raphael
St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade. Programs include 3-4-year-old preschool, technology updates and a host of extra-curricular activities. Computer labs, new classroom technology, Japanese class, and chess club are some of the school's newest additions. The school has a strong academic program and also offers religion class, weekly Mass and sacramental preparation including Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Latchkey and bussing is available, and all faiths are welcome. For registration information or to learn more about St. Raphael Catholic School, contact the school office at (734) 425-9771 or visit the Web site at www.straphael-gc.org.

Willow Creek
Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment in its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

St. Damian

St. Damian Catholic School at 29891 Joy, Westland, offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680 or check out the school's Web site at www.stdamian.com.

Academic Pathways
Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

YWCA preschool
The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2+ to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4100, Ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute
The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step
First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training pro-

gram. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.
Drivers
Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

VNA Hospice
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

Seasons Hospice
Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. For more information please call Ruth at (800) 370-8592.

Literacy Council
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Heartland Hospice
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe

and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Writing Group
Story Circle Women's Life Writing Group meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free. For more information about story circle, go online to www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to shepy@yahoo.com.

TOPS
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) M128 of Westland meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland. For more information, call Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879.

Democratic Club
The Garden City Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June) in Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman. For more information, call Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344.

Citizens for Peace

Citizens for Peace meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome. Colleen Mills, (734) 425-0079.

MOMS club
MOMS Club, a non-profit support group, welcomes all western Wayne County stay-at-home mothers, offering children activities, weekly age-appropriate play groups, and family get-togethers. MOMS Club also performs service projects that benefit needy children in our community. For more details, call Birtha, (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248)231-6120.

In Harmony
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Veteran's Haven
Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Silver Strings Dulcimer
Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass. Call (734) 482-2902 or check out the Web site at <http://gcoecities.com>.

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OUR VIEWS

With pact, it's time to put students first

Last week, the Wayne-Westland school board voted to approve a contract with the Wayne-Westland Education Association. In one way, it was a reason to celebrate. Approval by both sides brought to an end a rancorous six months, punctuated by an illegal strike, legal wranglings and a failed recall attempt.

The job that the district and the union now face is repairing the damage that was done. The first step came in a joint letter to parents in which the two sides acknowledged and expressed regret for the impact the negotiations had on the school community. They also stressed that they have put aside their differences and will work together to move the district forward.

Unfortunately, there are those still caught in the time warp. It was apparent last week when school board Treasurer Steve Becher told the union he was reluctantly voting for the agreement because he believed the teachers chose salaries and health care over class size reductions, an issue that had been trumpeted on picket signs before and during four-day strike. Resident Shawnn Maxwell took offense to Becher's remarks, calling them rude.

We disagree. Rudeness is the treatment the school board and Supt. Greg Baracy were subjected to at a special meeting at the Stockmeyer Auditorium during the four-day strike. Rudeness was residents who used their time at school board meetings to ask questions meant to make the board look like it cared nothing about the students and teachers and everything about the bottom line.

Quite frankly, it's a good thing the board and school administration have kept an eye on that bottom line. We're in a recession, unemployment in Michigan is more than 10 percent and foreclosures are dragging down property values and tax revenue. The money the district worked so hard to save is helping to stave off layoffs and program cuts ... for now.

Becher was entitled to his comments. He said nothing out of line. He simply let the teachers know that he believed they could have done more for the students — and rightly so. If overcrowded classrooms were a problem in October, they will continue to be. The changes in class sizes in the new contract are modest at best in comparison to the problems stated at the height of the dispute.

This dispute is at an end; it's time to shelve the animosity and focus on the reason public education exists — the students. They need everyone's supports — parents, teachers, administrators and the community — if they are to succeed in today's world.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Quo Vadis is eyesore

I applaud the teen's efforts, however this empty building has become more of an eye sore than a once-plush movie house. I am an architect, and even I say "tear it down." As a community, let's encourage new development on abandoned property. Do we really want empty buildings all over our city?

WestlandGal

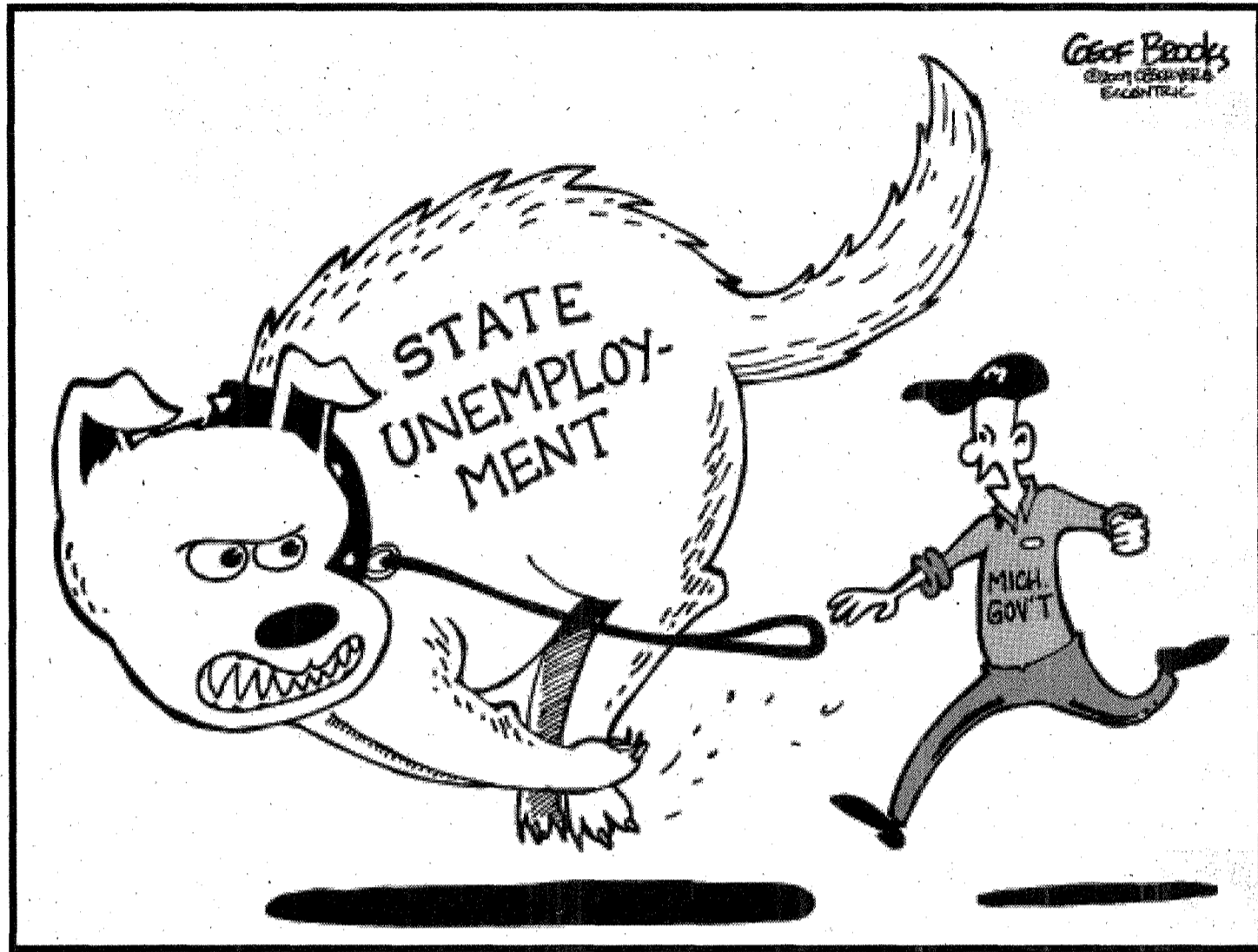
Join the discussion

Careerbuilder.com was the favorite Super Bowl commercial of hometownlife.com visitors last week.

Michigan lawmakers will have to make cuts in order to balance the new state budget. What area of the budget would you cut?

- Corrections
- Social services
- Roads
- Education
- State employees
- Other

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.



"He's getting too big to control!"

LETTERS

Crime map is good idea

I just wanted to say that I really like the Public Safety feature that shows the neighborhood crimes and the map that shows where they took place. A picture is worth a thousand words!

Sylvia Wilsdon
Westland

Dems only make mistakes

The headlines show us a frightening story, Democrats levy taxes while Republicans have to pay them.

Obama promised us the most ethical and transparent administration ever. These are some of the people he has nominated to his cabinet:

■ Timothy Geithner, our new Treasury secretary, who oversees the IRS, who forgot to pay \$34,000.00 in taxes.

■ Hillary, well that says it all. So many bones in that closet, I don't need to say anymore.

■ Tom Daschle, who owed in excess of \$140,000 in taxes, got the nod to fill the position of Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services at least had the decency to remove himself from the nomination

■ Nancy Killefer (the first "Chief Performance Officer") also withdrew because she screwed up paying payroll taxes for her household help.

■ And then there's Charlie Rangel, head of the House Ways and Means Committee, who didn't pay his taxes.

■ Al Franken who might steal the Senate seat in Minnesota thanks to the strange

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.

way they count votes in that state, he also neglected to pay taxes he collected from his employees for years!

"No problem," the Dems say, it was just a "little mistake" a "hiccup," nothing to be concerned about. Well, that certainly does not work for the rest of us. The IRS is relentless in collecting back taxes with penalties and interest on the working class people.

Obama spoke out on behalf of Daschle: "Tom made a mistake, which he has openly acknowledged. He has not excused it, nor do I. But that mistake and this decision cannot diminish the many contributions Tom has made to this country."

Democrats never commit crimes. They merely make mistakes. If a Republican tells a joke at the 100th birthday of a retiring and dying senator, his career will be in shambles, just ask Trent Lott. If you're a Democrat, however, it's just a little "mistake"

Democrats do whatever they want, they avoid paying taxes, wrap \$90,000.00 in bills in aluminum foil and stick it in their freezer and when discovered say "Oops, how'd that get there?" Another little "mistake."

When somebody asks why Barack Obama isn't flying over storm-ravaged Kentucky the way they asked why George Bush

why he didn't fly over New Orleans after Katrina, you can bet his flunkies will say it was a mistake. Here's a tragedy where hundreds of thousands of people are shivering in frigid weather without electricity, and Barack Obama is hosting Super Bowl Parties, all toasty and comfy in White House.

When George Bush didn't go to New Orleans, it was seen as a crime of enormous proportions. Barack Obama gives a party instead of giving aid and comfort to those affected by the ice storm.

How many more mistakes are we going to hear about as President Obama goes about picking nominees for top administration posts?

Phil Solarz
Westland

Acknowledges mistakes

How refreshing, President Obama readily admitted making mistakes and took full responsibility for these mistakes. Two weeks into office, President Obama did what his predecessors, Bush/Cheney, absolutely refused to do in eight years.

President Bush made mistake after mistake but refused to take responsibility for any of them. Two weeks into office, President Obama readily did what Bush consistently refused to do for eight years. He refused to have two sets of standards.

We fine President Obama's candor and taking responsibility quite refreshing. He did campaign on change. This is an excellent example.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you concerned about losing your job? We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Garden City post office.



"I'm afraid not to find a job, I just lost mine 30 minutes ago."
Josh Fetty
Westland



"Yeah, I've been at my place for 14 years. It's slower than it used to be, but I can't complain."
Robert Strutz
Westland



"My business is declining for sure, I'm the sole employee. I do home maintenance, and business is definitely down. It's been down steadily the last three years."
Marty Hynes
Garden City



"I'm not concerned, but many people in my church are losing their jobs. As a church we're concerned. It's a great concern."
Bill Riddle
Garden City

pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk, Editor
(313) 222-8883. wvonb@hometownlife.com

Go Red with handbag auction

I am the daughter of a woman who loves handbags. Fortunately or not, the trait is inherited, so I got extremely excited when the Observer & Eccentric hatched a plan to host a Purse Power auction to raise money for women's cardiovascular health.

Playing on my strengths, my boss named me resident purse collector, and I took the job to heart.



Wensdy Von Buskirk

Mining my Rolodex, I requested donations from every stylish contact I knew, including celebrities I've interviewed for PINK, public relations reps and boutique owners who've helped me with stories, and fellow members of the Detroit chapter of Fashion Group International.

The outpouring of purses would make mom proud. In all, I almost single-handedly collected 30 handbags, and among them are some true gems.

Governor Jennifer Granholm sent a tote made from recycled seat belts and stocked with Michigan goodies. Emmy award-winning "Sex and the City" stylist Patricia Field contributed a clutch from her old school "House of Field." Stacy London, star of "What Not to Wear," sent a sassy satchel embellished with a gold panther.

Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia donated a Kate Spade purse and wallet, and Detroit native Ross Burton, now National Artistic Director for Lancome, sent a bag stocked with beauty must-haves.

I even called an old friend of my husband's, fellow Livonia Stevenson High School grad Nicole Forester, who now stars on "Guiding Light."

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GO RED LUNCHEON

What: American Heart Association event includes lunch, health screenings, red dress fashion show, silent auction and keynote address by Dr. Annabelle Volgman

When: 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25

Where: Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center

Tickets: \$250 per person, with proceeds benefitting education and research for women and heart disease

Information: Call (248) 936-5806 or visit www.americanheart.org

She sent a trendy number from her favorite Manhattan boutique.

The purses piled up — big, small, spring and fall — even a couple yoga mat bags. But, there was one hitch. Tickets to our 'Handbags with Heart' event weren't selling fast enough. Purse Power was cancelled.

As seasons came and went, the purses languished in a closet while we worked to arrange a new outlet for the cause. Finally, our purses have found a home.

They will all be up for bid during the American Heart Association's popular Go Red Luncheon, Feb. 25 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

I've been involved with the Metro Detroit's AHA efforts for years — I've even been a Go Red Calendar Girl! I can tell you the luncheon is always fun and inspiring.

I'm so thankful the Metro Detroit AHA folks have agreed to add our purses to their silent auction, and that our fabulous donors will finally get the recognition they deserve.

I plan to bring my checkbook to the Go Red Luncheon, as I've had my eye on a particular purse all along.

Which one? Well, I don't want to drive up the bids, so I'm not telling anyone.

Not even my own mother!

Lauren Beras of Loria's shoe boutique in downtown Northville donated this velour floral bowling bag by SR Squared. It will be among 30 purses up for bid.

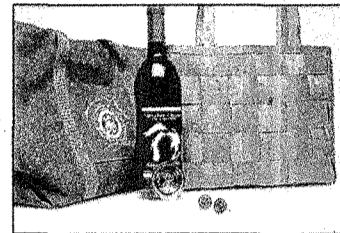
PURSE POWER DONORS

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers would like to thank the following generous donors for their contributions to the Go Red Luncheon silent auction:

- Astute Artistry, Livonia
- High Wire Girls, Royal Oak & Novi
- Gena Conti Custom Millinery, Wyandotte
- Biejo Bags/La Bella Bags, Chesterfield
- Blue Lotus, Franklin
- Bussbuss.com
- C&B Scene, Southfield
- Dancing Eye Gallery, Northville & Walled Lake
- Fuchsia Frog, Birmingham
- Lancome
- Loria's, Northville
- MetroChick Radio
- Number Six Salon, Farmington Hills
- Ruby's Balm, West Bloomfield

PRIVATE DONORS

- Parisian, Laurel Park Place, Livonia
- Roma Sposa, Birmingham
- Governor Jennifer Granholm
- Patricia Field, stylist for "Sex & The City"
- Stacy London, host of TLC's "What Not to Wear"
- Nicole Forester, Livonia native and star of "Guiding Light"
- Candy Band
- Elaine Perlin Crossley, West Bloomfield
- Jannell Eagan, Art of the Fifth Sense
- Keenie Fieger, Bloomfield Hills
- Janet Haas, Farmington Hills
- Gwen Joy, Redford
- Mydols
- Heather St. Amour, Everything Old is New Again



Governor Jennifer Granholm donated a tote made from recycled seat belts, stocked with Michigan goodies ranging from Leelanau Cellars wine to inaugural cuff links.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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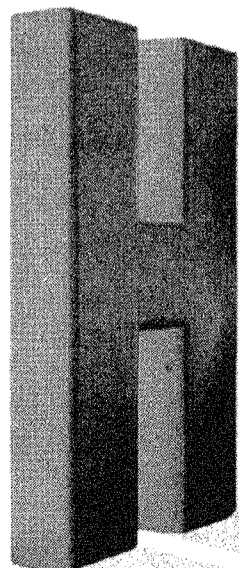
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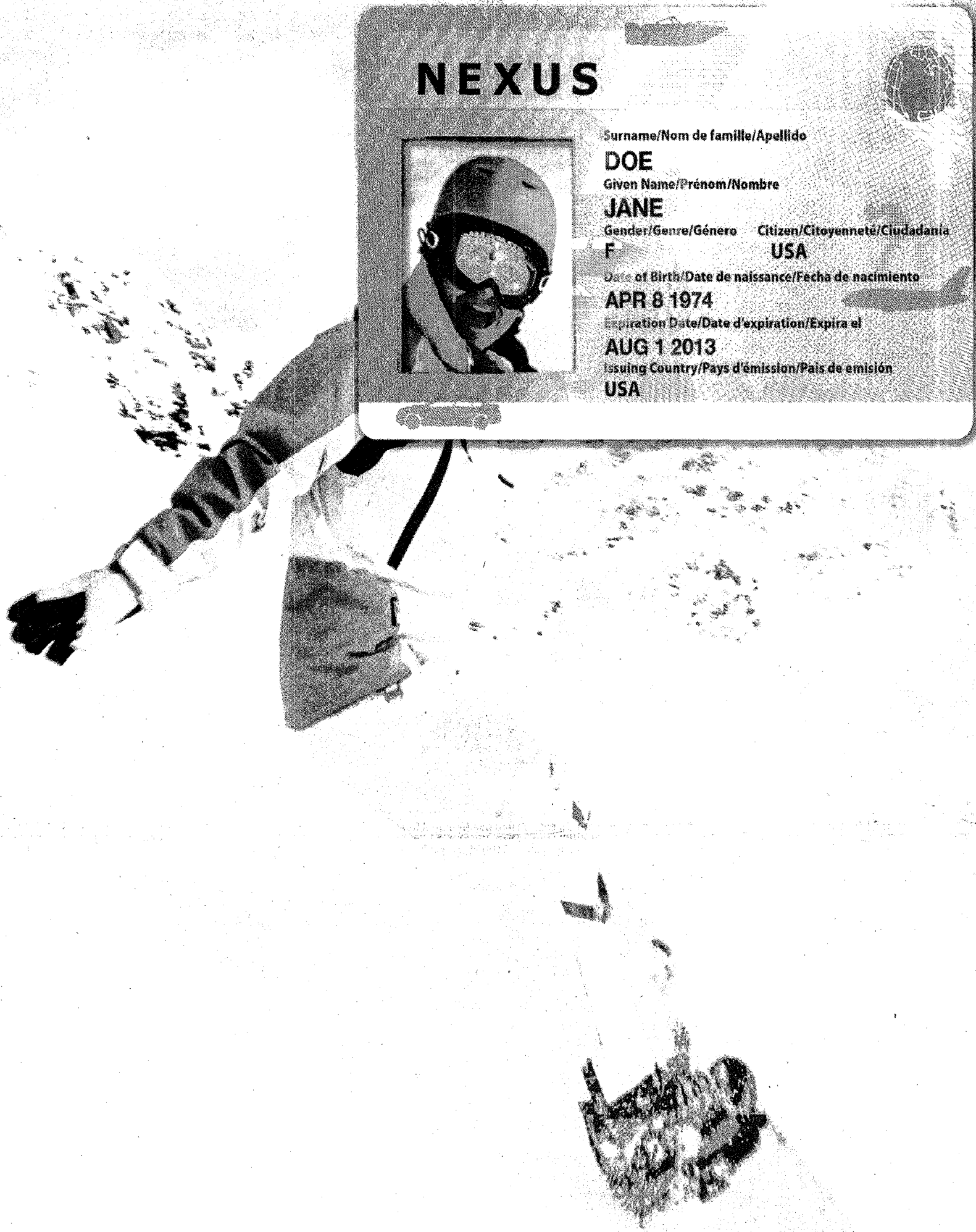
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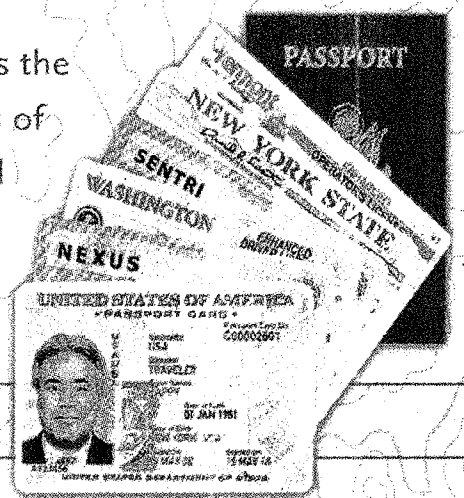
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SECTION B
(LW)

Brad Emons, editor, (313) 222-6851
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HOMETOWN LIFE

In control: Zebras rip rival Glenn

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thanks to its own version of the DeLorean, Wayne Memorial appears to be motoring toward a KLAAs South Division boys basketball title.

Wayne took care of business Tuesday night with a convincing 68-48 win on the road over rival Westland John Glenn.

The Zebras, now 9-4 overall and 6-1 in the South, find themselves in the driver's seat, holding a two-game advantage over Canton and Plymouth with only three division games remaining.

Senior point-guard Robert Woodson was Wayne's leading scorer with 20 points, but it was the play of 6-foot-1 senior Delorean Holland that manufactured a victory over Glenn for the second time this season.

Holland made some timely plays, finishing with 15 points, while going 7-for-9 from the floor to go along nine rebounds.

"He got some rebound put-backs, but I kind of got on him (Holland) early on in the game because he was not paying attention to his man on defense," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "But Delorean's a nice kid and a super hard worker. He's coachable and he take criticism well. He doesn't pout when things don't go his way."

Wayne, which connected on eight 3-pointers on the night, led 17-16 after one quarter and 32-26 at halftime. The Zebras, getting eight points from Holland, stretched their lead to 49-37 after three quarters and cruised home to victory.

Holland also helped hold Glenn's leading scorer Austin Anderson, who had 31 points in the last meeting to 15 points.

Meanwhile, Derric Horton and Jimmel Bennett chipped in with nine and eight points, respectively, for the Zebras, who can clinch at least a share of the KLAAs South title with a win Friday at home over Livonia Franklin.

"It was Jimmel's best game by far," Woodard said. "It's nice to see him play the way he's capable of playing. He had Austin (Anderson) early on and that's a job in itself."

The Rockets had trouble rebounding the ball on the defensive end and Wayne took advantage.

"We've been doing this NBA drill we call — No Babies Allowed — where we have three guys in the middle and they stay in there until they make a basket," Woodard said. "It's to

Please see **ZEBRAS, B2**



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Mike Cruce, bouncing back from aortic heart valve surgery, has returned to excel in his signature event, the 100-yard butterfly.

Heart of the matter

Spartans' Cruce glad to be back in pool after major surgery

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Michael Cruce hits the pool for meets with the Livonia Stevenson boys swim team, he gets more than a few glances.

"Most kids don't have a 12-inch scar down their chest," the senior captain said. "I get a lot of stares."

Prior to his five-hour open-heart surgery in July at the University of Michigan-Mott Hospital to repair a leaking aortic valve, Cruce had turned heads with his performances in the pool.

At last year's Division 1 state finals, Cruce clocked 53.69 seconds to finish 10th in the 100 butterfly. He was also a member of Stevenson's 11th-place 400 freestyle relay team and qualified last year for the state meet in the 500 freestyle.

But shortly after last March's state finals, Cruce's world was turned upside-down when he began to experience some minor heart palpitations (skips) that became a once- or twice-weekly occurrence.

"It (the palpitations) started right after last year's state meet," Cruce said. "I was not sure about it, but my dad made me go in."

Dr. Pawaz Hasso of Infinity Primary Care in Livonia ran an EKG to check Cruce's heart rhythms.

Further tests were run and a 24-hour heart monitor deter-



Stevenson senior captain Mike Cruce has bounced back from open-heart surgery to remain a key member of the state-ranked Spartans.

mined some minor irregularity.

Referred to cardiologist Dr. Edward Bove at U-M Mott, and following an echocardiogram, it was determined that Cruce had a serious heart condition and needed surgery to replace his valve. His heart was working too hard and it had become enlarged.

Bove advised that strenuous exercise — swimming or lifting — had to be stopped.

"Needless to say, although we were grateful to discover this before Mike had a stroke or heart attack while swimming, he was devastated that he could no longer swim," said Mick Cruce, Mike's father.

Cruce has been a competitive age-group swimmer since he was 6. He competed for the Bulldog Aquatic Club

until he was 15 before moving over most recently to the Novi Sturgeons. He was a three-year swimmer for Stevenson and had been elected captain.

"I will never forget the day (April 9) we were told about Mike's heart condition," the elder Cruce said. "All of his friends and activities were wrapped around swimming, so we didn't know how he was going to deal with this. We had several talks with Mike to convince him how fortunate we were to discover this before something happened to him and there was much more to life than swimming. Obviously, this was a difficult thing for any 17-year-old to deal with, but he was committed to get it repaired and hopefully swim again."

Being out of the water

didn't sit well with Cruce, who felt almost depressed at the thought of not competing again.

"I had to watch. It's something I didn't want to do," Cruce said. "When I first found out, I was more concerned about swimming than my heart — because it's my whole life."

"I did not talk to anyone. I turned off my phone. I'd sit in my room."

Cruce's surgery went better than even he expected.

"I got out in four days and was up and walking the day after," he said.

Cruce, however, desperately wanted to get back in the water. He got a second opinion after meeting with one of U-M-Mott's senior cardiologists, Dr. Gregory Ensing, who floated the idea that Mike had a chance to swim competitively again if the tests returned favorably.

"The doctors worked very closely with Mike by reviewing his surgery results and various stress tests," Mick Cruce said. "They determined that Mike's heart condition was responding normally under stress conditions."

Under close monitoring, Cruce felt emancipated when he returned to the pool, but he was learning the sport all over again.

"I got back (in the water) right when school started,"

Please see **CRUCE, B3**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tournament time

Garret Pearson (left) of the Redford Wolfpack tries to maintain control and skate past the Livonia Kings' Brendan Ryan during a Midget BB Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League playoff game Monday night at the Redford Arena. For more on the game, see page B4.

The Entertainer: Cedric saves MU

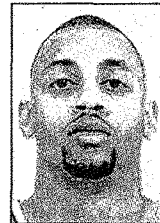
BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He was Madonna University's version of Cedric The Entertainer, but the joke was on the Siena Heights men's basketball team.

MU guard Cedric Sims tied his career-high with 32 points, including the dramatic game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer Saturday afternoon to give the host Crusaders a much-needed 76-73 overtime win over the Saints.

MU is now 10-16 overall, while Siena Heights falls to 13-13. Both teams are 4-6 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

The victory also gave interim coach Myron Brown his first win following Monday's sudden and stunning revelation when fourth-year coach



Sims

Chuck Henry resigned.

The 6-foot Sims, a senior from Wayne Memorial High via Schoolcraft College and Wayne State,

came off the bench and didn't enter the game until 14:34.

But his impact was felt immediately throughout his 34 minutes of action.

He was 11-of-17 from the field, including a perfect 3-of-3 from three-point range, to go along with 7-of-10 from the foul line. Sims also grabbed eight rebounds.

Sims' basket with 1:32 left in regulation sent the game into OT (61-58). The Crusaders

Please see **MADONNA, B2**

GAME WRAPS

Girls basketball: KLAAs

JOHN GLENN 49, WAYNE 28: A 20-2 first-quarter run carried Westland John Glenn (7-8, 3-4) to a KLAAs South Division victory Tuesday at Wayne Memorial (2-13, 0-7).

Chanel Payne led the victorious Rockets with 12 points.

Andrea Gordon-McClain chipped in with eight, while Nyah McReynolds and Samantha Fox added seven points apiece.

Senior center Brittany Holbrook controlled the boards with 16 rebounds.

Freshman guard Holland Boertje led the Zebras with 14 points.

Glenn was 15-of-26 from the foul line, while Wayne made only 5-of-16.

FRANKLIN 41, PLYMOUTH 24: KLAAs South Division co-leader Livonia Franklin (12-2, 6-1) got a game-high 15 points Tuesday from senior forward Brianna Taylor to beat the visiting Wildcats (5-10, 3-4).

The Patriots got off to a slow start, leading only 6-4 after one quarter and 18-10 at halftime before outscoring Plymouth 17-6 in the third period.

Nicole Emery and Amanda Borio, who made 7-of-8 free throws, each added seven points.

Shaakira Haywood led Plymouth with 10 points, while Stacey Klonowski contributed six.

SALEM 51, STEVENSON 36: Three players scored in double figures Tuesday as the host Rocks (7-6, 6-1) downed Livonia Stevenson (5-10, 1-6) in a KLAAs Central Division encounter.

Sara Stone led Salem with 15 points, while Victoria Brotz and Chelsea Davis tallied 14 and 13, respectively.

Senior center Kaylee McGrath paced the Spartans with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Sophomore guard Sarah Smith dished out five assists.

"We limited their chances inside, but they hit outside shots," Stevenson first-year coach Paul Tripp said. "After we got it to five (late in the third quarter), their passing and ball movement picked up. They made some good interior passes."

Salem was 6-of-11 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 5-of-10.

CANTON 41, CHURCHILL 26: On Tuesday, Kayla Bridges led the way with 10 points and Kari Schmitt contributed nine as the Chiefs (12-2, 6-1), the KLAAs South Division co-leader, came on in the second half to down visiting Livonia Churchill (7-7, 3-4).

Canton led 19-14 at the half and outscored the Chargers 22-12 in the second half.

Kia Griffin scored nine for the Chargers, who made only 4-of-13 free throws.

Metro Conference

LUTH. WESTLAND 41, HARPER WOODS 24: Rachel Storck pumped in 17 points Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland (6-7, 3-4) earned a Metro Conference win over the host Pioneers (3-13, 2-5).

Allyson Yankee was another catalyst for the Warriors, who built a 16-point halftime lead. The senior guard added six points, five rebounds and three assists.

"She (Yankee) continues to adapt to different responsibilities compared to her three previous years on varsity," Lutheran Westland coach Bill Strang said. "Her defense and our team defense remains strong."

Senior center Charita Woods led Harper Woods with 10 points.

Michigan Independent

HURON VALLEY 51, YPSI CALVARY 43: Sophomore Katie Nell had 21 points and eight steals Tuesday to propel host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-11, 3-5) to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division win over Ypsilanti Calvary Christian.

Junior Claire Wood added nine points and 16 rebounds to the Hawks, who led 31-16 at intermission.

Senior Verity Thurmond scored 14 points for the Cougars, who slipped to 0-7 in the MIAC Red.

"We came out strong tonight and really attacked the basket," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said. "However, we got sloppy as the game went along. We shot better from the floor tonight. Defensively, we need to improve on boxing out on rebounds."

Moving in

Lady Ocelots cage Warblers to zero in on crown

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team inched closer to wrapping up the Eastern Conference title in the MCCA Eastern Division II poll, improved to 21-2 overall and 14-0 in the conference. They have won 23 straight conference games and 55 of their last 57.

Taylor Langham (Salem) led Schoolcraft with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Other contributions came from April Goins (15 points, eight rebounds); Amber Avery (13 points, eight rebounds); Antania Shepherd (nine points, seven rebounds) and Brittany Collins (eight assists). Whitney Bonham paced the

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Warblers (15-7, 9-5) with 18 points. Natasha DeWald added 12.

Kirtland shot only 23.5 percent from the field (16-of-68), while Schoolcraft hit 29-of-62 shots (46.7 percent).

The Lady Ocelots, who led 41-24 at halftime, also connected on 19-of-26 free throws (73 percent) and outrebounded Kirtland, 52-38.

Schoolcraft could earn at least a share of the MCCA Eastern Conference with a win Wednesday at home against Wayne County CC. (Visit www.hometownlife.com for more coverage).

MADONNA 65, SIENA HEIGHTS 52: Katie Mount scored 16 points in 37 minutes Saturday

as Madonna University (11-15, 6-4) downed host Siena Heights University (10-16, 4-6) in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference encounter.

Erin Bentley added 12 points off the bench for MU, which jumped out to a 35-18 halftime lead.

Alyssa Guerin (Salem) contributed 10 points, while Kim Olech (Plymouth) finished with a game-high 12 rebounds for the victorious Crusaders.

Ashley Jackson was the only Saints player to score in double figures with 11.

The Crusaders won despite 28 turnovers and shooting just 38.5 percent from the floor (20-of-52). MU hit 7-of-15 three-point shots and made 15-of-18 free throws.

MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

also held their breath when Mark Snipes short attempt went in-and-out as time expired.

In the overtime, MU led by as many as five, 71-66, but Siena Heights evened the count at 73-all on a basket in the paint with only 7.4 seconds remaining by Curtis Stephens, who led the Saints with 22 points.

Brown then called a timeout and Sims took the inbound pass from Bryant Slaughter. Sims dribbled through traffic up the middle of the court and launched his game-winning shot just beyond the top of the key with a Siena Heights defender draped all over him, sending the Crusaders into a wild celebration.

For Sims, it was his first buzzer-beater since his junior college days at Frank Phillips (Texas).

"The ball did not bounce our way a couple of times, but we continued to go hard

and we stayed together as a unit," said Sims, who tied his season-high of 32 against Cedarville (Ohio) on Nov. 15. "It was pure joy, excitement. We've had a lot of adversity and we celebrated this win as a family."

The Crusaders were coming off two WHAC straight losses, including a 72-47 shellacking Wednesday at Cornerstone.

"It was a great, great win for the guys," Brown said. "It was a heck of a shot and I'm real excited. They responded tonight and I'm extremely proud of the team the way they came to practice and were ready to work. I have a saying, 'It's not what you do, it's how you do it.' I'm a teacher first and that's how I break the game down. I focus on certain things."

MU junior center Leroy Allen added 11 points and seven rebounds before fouling out in overtime. Slaughter added 10 points, while Ryan Waidman (Canton) grabbed a team-high nine rebounds in 41 minutes.

Courtney Smith added 13 points for Siena Heights, while

6-8 center Brian Champine added 12 before fouling out as well.

Sims, meanwhile, wished his new bride, Katherine, had been able to witness his performance.

"She couldn't make it today, she really missed a game today," he said. "And I just like to say something about Madonna: Through all the adversity, it's still a good program, it will be better in the future."

KIRTLAND CC 90, SCHOOLCRAFT 84: On Saturday, Charles Brown scored 28 points and dished out five assists to lead host Kirtland Community College (10-14, 6-8) to an MCCA Eastern Division win over Schoolcraft College (6-19, 3-8).

Latvia native Klavs Bogdanovics added 21 points and eight rebounds, while Nick Simpson and reserve Robert Phillips contributed 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison) had a team-high 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Ocelots. He was 10-of-11 from the foul line.

Bruce Watson added 16 points and eight rebounds. Ryan Matthews contributed 12 points and Eric Henry added eight.

GLIAC schools grab Observerland talent

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Observerland continues to be fertile ground for NCAA Division II football recruiting, most notably in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Ferris State plucked off a pair of area players led by Livonia Franklin's Brandon Lane, a 6-foot-4, 230-pound defensive end, and Westland's 5-7, 165-pound slotback Alan Freeman, who transferred prior to his senior year from Wayne Memorial to Inkster.

Lane recorded 97 tackles, including 33 solo, to go along with four sacks for the 5-5 Patriots, who made the Division 1 state playoffs. Freeman, who joins older brother D.J. with the Bulldogs, accounted for 1,200 all-purpose yards this season for the Division 3 state runners-up.

Another Franklin player headed to the GLIAC is 6-0, 205-pound linebacker-running back David Fortin, who will suit up for Grand Valley State. Fortin missed most of his junior year with a broken arm before returning to the state playoffs. He was plagued by a knee problem most of his senior year after being injured for the second straight season in the 2009 opener.

Wayne State, meanwhile,



WSU signs Rocket

On Feb. 4, Westland John Glenn's T.J. Arancibia, an offensive lineman who made honorable mention All-Observer, signed an NCAA Division II football letter-of-intent with Wayne State University. Among those in attendance for the 7 a.m. signing were Arancibia's mother, Kathy-Ellen Kups; stepfather Robert Kups, varsity coach Tim Hardin, assistant coach Steve Conan and Glenn Football Booster Club president Jim Spleen. "T.J. is not only a great football player, he's a great person," Hardin said. "He's a young man of high character and integrity. Wayne State is going to be very happy that they recruited him."

FOOTBALL

grabbed 6-3, 285-pound T.J. Arancibia, an offensive lineman who played his senior year at Westland John Glenn after transferring from Algonac.

Hillsdale College also grabbed Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Steve Harding, a 6-0, 183-pound defensive back who played

for the 6-4 Shamrocks, another state playoff qualifier.

Livonia Clarenceville's Jeremy Gainer, a 6-2, 215-pound linebacker-running back, signed his NCAA Division I letter-of-intent with Michigan State (see related story on www.hometownlife.com).

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Pats' defense smothers Plymouth

Livonia Franklin did it on both ends of the floor Tuesday night en route to a 49-39 boys basketball win over visiting Plymouth.

The Patriots, who improved to 5-7 overall and 3-4 in the KLAA's South Division, got a game-high 17 points from senior Connor Leidal and 16 from junior Mike Gadsby.

Andy McCaffery chipped in with eight points and Nate Coleman grabbed seven rebounds as the Patriots made a 20-15 halftime advantage stand up. The Patriots increased their lead to 33-21 after three quarters.

"We played excellent defense and executed against their zone," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team made 14-of-26 free throws.

Brad Lineberry led the Wildcats (8-5, 4-3) with 14 points. Mike Nadratowski added nine.

The Wildcats, 2-of-5 from the foul line, now trail KLAA South leader Wayne Memorial by two games.

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

CHURCHILL 50, CANTON 44:

Junior forward Adam Bedell scored 14 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Tuesday to propel host Livonia Churchill (5-7, 2-5) to a KLAA South Division triumph over the Chiefs (7-6, 4-3).

"We played good, hard defense the whole game and toughed it out at the end," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We were able to handle their pressure and were finally able to finish. It was a good effort all the way around."

Senior center Cameron Norscia chipped in with 12 points and seven rebounds for the Chargers, who outscored Canton 13-9 in the final period. Junior guard Tony Frenzell chipped in with nine points and five rebounds.

Senior forward Kevin Weisz led the Chiefs with 13 points, while Sharif Hassanien and Kiere Daniels contributed

eight each.

Churchill won despite making only 7-of-18 free throws. Canton was 5-of-9.

STEVENSON 63, SALEM 54: On Tuesday, Bobby Naubert and Brian Rowe tallied 18 and 15 points, respectively, leading Livonia Stevenson (8-4, 4-3) to a KLAA Central Division triumph over the Rocks (4-9, 2-5).

Ricky Chrzasz added 10 points for the Spartans, who jumped out to a 15-8 first-quarter advantage.

"We shot the ball extremely well as a team," said Stevenson coach Mike Allie, whose team connected on 10 three-pointers. "Both Bobby (Naubert) and Brian (Rowe) did what was expected and I thought Austin (White) and Ricky (Chrzasz) both brought tremendous energy."

Heath Parling and Jim Dexter each scored 11 points for the Rocks.

Stevenson was 11-of-17 from the foul line, while Salem hit 11-of-15.

Trojans get best of Cranbrook, 64-48

Livonia Clarenceville got off to a 18-4 first-quarter start Tuesday en route to a 64-48 Metro Conference boys basketball win over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

The win improves the Trojans' overall record to 8-6 and 5-0 in the Metro.

Nathan Clark led the Trojans with 12 points, while Corey Reynolds added 11 points.

Jamie Stewart and Jeremy Gainer contributed 10 apiece. Eric Fishman tallied 18 points for the Cranes, who fall to 7-7 overall and 5-2 in the Metro.

Despite the margin of victory, Clarenceville coach Corey

BOYS BASKETBALL

McKendry said there is room for improvement.

"We need to sustain defensive intensity for all four quarters," he said.

HARPER WOODS 52, LUTH. WESTLAND 47: D.J. Cribbs and Michael Childs scored 17 points apiece Tuesday to lead the host Pioneers (4-9, 2-4) to a Metro Conference win over Lutheran High Westland (9-5, 3-3).

Ryan Rakovalis scored 18 points, while Eric Shoats added 10 for the Warriors, who got outscored 18-8 in the third period after leading 22-18 at intermission.

"We had a mental lapse in the third quarter, causing us to take quick shots and turn the ball over,"

said Warriors' coach Brandon Bekius. "That, combined with poor free throw shooting, was too much for us to overcome."

"I don't want to take anything away from Harper Woods because they did a nice job of taking us out of our offense and dominating the boards."

HURON VALLEY 68, YPSI CALVARY 30: On Tuesday, Tyler Wagaman and Bryan Gruenewald scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, sparking host Huron Valley Lutheran (7-4, 4-2) to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division triumph over Ypsilanti Calvary Christian Academy (0-10, 0-5).

The Hawks opened the game with a 30-4 first-quarter run.

Jonah Langederfer led the Cougars with 11 points.

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ZEBRAS

FROM PAGE B1

emphasize being aggressive on the backboard.

"Going into the game we wanted to defend, rebound and make free throws. That was one of our goals."

Jon Swagerty was the only other Rocket to score in double figures with 12 points.

Glenn made only 18-of-55 shots from the floor (32.7 per-

cent) and 8-of-22 free throws (36 percent).

"Right now we just have to get back to the basics," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "We just have to get back to what we're good at. We have to string some good practices together. We have to play defense, rebound and share the ball, which is what we're all about."

Glenn committed a total of 16 turnovers as Wayne was able to capitalize on the other end.

"We have to get our assists up and our turnovers down,

but right now our turnovers are up and our assists are down," Young said. "We've got to get a rhythm offensively and defensively."

The loss drops the Rockets to 6-6 overall and 2-5 in the KLAA South.

"Our guys are in a little bit of a tailspin," Young said. "All teams go through it, but you learn that there are no excuses. We just have to play harder and better as a team. To start we just have to try and improve. We'll try and figure it out."

Franklin grapplers split pair in KLAA crossover matchups

There is no doubt that Hartland is the class of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association when it comes to wrestling.

Just ask Livonia Franklin coach Dave Chiola, who watched his Patriots fall to the West Division champs Friday in a dual match at Northville, 60-13.

Franklin, the South Division champion by virtue of a tie-breaker over Westland John Glenn and Canton, defeated the host Mustangs in the other KLAA crossover to win the Kensington Conference crown on Friday, 29-24.

Winners for the Patriots included Ryan Haarala (130), Brandon Billiau (145), Matt Roos (160), Don Stratz (189), Mike Modes (285), Rian Klein (103), Gabe Martinez (112) and Justin Jacobsen (125).

"Overall its was not a bad performance for the team," Chiola said. "We had a couple of kids out but we had just enough to beat Northville. They're a very good team. We won a lot of the close matches and that was what we needed

to do. One match goes the other way and they beat us. It was an exciting night. I was glad we brought everyone with us to experience the new format."

The only victors for Franklin against Hartland were Elvin Ferreira (152), Roos (160) and Modes (285).

"The drawback to this Association format is that there are good teams that don't see each other," Chiola said. "On the other side we never got to see Howell or Brighton, and teams over there never got to see us, John Glenn or Canton.

"The one thing I think is clear is that Hartland is the best team in the Association. They were certainly the best team we've seen all year. If they don't win it all (Division 1) they are going to come close."

Franklin is now 19-8 overall and 5-2 in KLAA crossovers after finishing 4-1 in the KLAA South.

"I was very happy that we were able to win the (Kensington) Conference

after not winning it last year," Chiola said. "Winning four out of the last five shows that we're doing it with different kids. We're graduating a lot, but the young kids that we have gained a lot of experience this year. The end of the season should be exciting. I just want to get everyone healthy and see how we do in the postseason — both as a team and individually."

Spartans 4-1 at Okemos

Livonia Stevenson captured four-of-five matches Saturday to finish runner-up in the Okemos Team Dual wrestling tournament.

The Spartans, 23-19 overall, defeated Birmingham Groves (52-8), Saginaw Arthur Hill (65-12), Ionia (62-18) and the host Chieftains (71-11).

Eventual champion DeWitt handed Stevenson its lone defeat, 40-23.

Individual winners for the Spartans included Mitch Gonzales, who went 5-0 at 135 pounds; Raz Markosian, 4-1 at 140; and Jonny Myshock, 4-0 at 160.

Also going 4-1 on the day were Ash Alhaj (103), Dan McCarthy (152), Josh Seibert (171), Jake Burns (189) and Andrew Schramm (215).

Nathan Keedle went 3-1 at 285, while Corey Davis (110) and Samer Shebak (125) each finished 3-2 on the day.

Young Patriots excel

On Saturday, Franklin took runner-up honors in the sophomore division and fourth in the freshman division at the 43rd annual Garden City Novice Invitational.

In the sophomore division, Josh Hatfield (135), Matt Roos (160) and Zach Leuenberger (189) all took firsts, while Alex O'Connor (152) chipped in with a second for the Patriots.

Jordan McGuire (125) and Ryan Derry (119) each placed third to pace the frosh.

"This was the best we've done in both divisions in several years," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "Those two classes went on to lead us to a lot of tournament and meet wins. Hopefully we can expect the same from this group."

CRUCE

FROM PAGE B1

he said. "I was really out of shape. I felt terrible, I felt sore from the surgery in my chest area. I had to start out really slow. It took a while. I felt pretty weak all over because I took eight months off. I lost 15 pounds, but I've gained it back."

Cruce had a setback in October when he was diagnosed with a condition called pericarditis (inflammation around the heart). It was unrelated to his surgery, but he spent four more days in the hospital and needed medications for the random viral infection.

Cruce eventually returned to his regular practice schedule with the Spartans swim team.

"There's very few who could come back from that — open-heart surgery — and be back six months later after looking death in the face," Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "I give him the utmost respect for what he's done and what he continues to do."

"I knew he wanted to come back. Swimming was his whole life, his whole thing. And to take that away from him his senior year and being a captain ... he was voted our team MVP last year and he's one of the best on the team."

"I had to watch him closely the beginning of the year. It was nervous for me because I have a big responsibility. Now it's like any other day. It's a non-issue from here on out."

Cruce enters Saturday's Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet Saturday at Eastern Michigan with an entry time of 55.43 in the 100 butterfly. He'll also swim in three relay events.

"I'm not fat," Cruce said of his performances. "I was right around here last year. I'm building up for now."

Shoemaker has scaled back Cruce's workload in meets,

dropping the 500 freestyle in favor of the sprint relay events.

"We've adjusted his schedule," the coach said. "You can see his frustration. He's close to normal, but in his mind he's not back to normal."

"There's not a lot of people who could fight back like Mike did. His parents gave him a free reign and they didn't shut him down for selfish reasons. He's never once used it (the heart condition) as an excuse. He'll finish a set in practice no matter what."

Cruce, who compiled a 3.4 grade-point average last semester, hopes to study business in college and, of course, continue his swimming career.

"We had no clue and we might have missed it, but fortunately we caught it," Mick Cruce said. "We are continuing to monitor his heart condition at U-M and pray that it all works out well. We're amazed with Mike's recovery and feel so blessed that he's been able to return to swim again. However, having gone through this experience, we feel we can move forward without swimming, if he's unable to swim."

He's shown amazing courage through all of this and we're so proud of him in his drive in recovering and achieving his goal to swim again."

Cruce's valve replacement is not permanent, according to his father, and he'll have to have another procedure down the road.

"Hopefully it will last him at 10 to 15 years and technology will improve so it can be replaced without open-heart surgery," Mick Cruce said.

Meanwhile, Cruce can kid about his scar with swim teammate and close friend Mark Johnson, who is coming off major back surgery.

"He said he hopes my valves fall off and I told him I'll kick his rods in," Cruce jokes.

But both have scars that are anything but a joking matter.

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

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

KLAA CROSSOVER RESULTS

Feb. 6 at Northville
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 29
NORTHVILLE 24

130: Ryan Haarala (LF) decisioned Kevin Lerner, 9-5; 135: Josh Wright (N) pinned Josh Hatfield, 5-12; 140: Harry Eichholtz (N) dec. Nick Clendennin, 9-3; 145: Brandon Billiau (LF) dec. Jon Nelson, 6-2; 152: Matt Hagan (N) dec. Elvin Ferreira, 8-6; 160: Matt Roos (LF) Kevin Mantay, 15-13; 171: Nick Mudar (N) won by technical fall over Garrett Hay, 19-3; 189: Don Stratz (LF) won by major dec. over Colin Maresch, 12-1; 215: Bobby Lahiff (N) won by major dec. over Jeff McMeekin, 12-0; 285: Mike Modes (LF) dec. Steve Widzinski, 3-2; 103: Rian Klein (LF) won by major dec. over Ian Stirtion, 18-8; 112: Gabe Martinez (LF) dec. Adam Bentley, 8-2; 119: Greg Lorrain (N) dec. Steve Tuyo, 3-1; 125: Justin Jacobsen (LF) won by void.

HARTLAND 60

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 13
135: Doug Baughman (H) pinned Josh Hatfield, 0-54; 140: John Julien (H) p. Nick Clendennin, 0-56; 145: Sean Hultberg (H) p. Alex O'Connor, 3-14; 152: Elvin Ferreira (LF) decisioned Kyle Regorrah, 8-0; 160: Matt Roos (LF) p. Nick Long, 1-18; 171: Kyle Summerfield (H) dec. Don Stratz, 7-2; 189: Noah Ramirez (H) p. Zach Leuenberger, 0-47; 215: Dan Spadafora (LF) dec. Jeff McMeekin, 1-27; 285: Mike Modes (LF) dec. Brandon Kesterson, 2-1; 103: Ross Kantola (H) p. Rian Klein, 1-07; 112: Nick Monitz (H) p. Steve Tuyo, 1-29; 119: Spencer Hellner (H) won by technical fall over Erik Czech, 19-4; 125: Chase Snider (H) dec. Jordan McGuire, 19-6; 130: Jeff Lopez (H) won by void.

Franklin's dual match record: 19-8 overall.

Feb. 6 at Livonia Stevenson
LIVONIA STEVENSON 46
LIVONIA CHURCHILL 25
103 pounds: Jacob Meadows (LC) pinned

Ash Alhaj, no time available; 112: Omar Mostafa (LS) won by major decision over James Locklear, 17-8; 119: Matt Hecksel (LC) dec. Corey Davis, 8-2; 125: Kane Kanouse (LC) won by major dec. over Samer Shebak, 13-5; 130: John Bannoura (LC) dec. Cory Zanger, 10-3; 135: Mitch Gonzales (LS) won by void; 140: Brian Fortney (LC) dec. Charlie Kokenakes, 10-6; 145: Raz Markosian (LS) won by void; 152: Dan McCarthy (LS) won by void; 160: Josh Gustitus (LC) p. Chris Arnold, 2-49; 171: Josh Seibert (LS) won by void; 189: Jake Burns (LS) won by void; 215: Andrew Schramm (LS) p. Emmett Sheppard, 1-26; 285: Rich Sayig (LS) won by void.

Stevenson's overall dual match record: 19-18 overall.

MILFORD 43

LIVONIA STEVENSON 24
103 pounds: Jeff Martini (M) pinned Ash Alhaj, 1-29; 112: Jimmy Schroeder (M) p. Omar Mostafa, 0-38; 119: Devin Pooria (M) won by major decision over Corey Davis, 14-1; 125: Playton Purani (M) p. Samer Shebak, 0-58; 130: Jake Hosking (M) p. Cory Zanger, 0-50; 135: Mitch Gonzales (LS) dec. Nick Bert, 8-3; 140: Billy Curry (M) dec. Raz Markosian, 10-8 (overtime); 145: Charlie Kokenakes (LS) dec. Dillian Diatkar, 4-0; 152: Dustin Poisson (LS) dec. Colin Granroth, 11-3; 160: Dan McCarthy (LS) dec. Patrick Teomini, 10-6; 171: Josh Seibert (LS) won by technical fall over Kyle Hardiman, 18-2; 189: Wayne Curran (M) p. Jake Burns, 5-58; 215: Andrew Schramm (LS) p. Greg Stanek, 1-36; 285: Rock Mikulic (M) p. Rich Sayig, 1-38.

Feb. 6 at Novi

WAYNE MEMORIAL 54
PINCKNEY 19
103 pounds: Wade Phillip (WM) won by void; 112: Patrick McAulliffe (P) decisioned Tristen Jaroscicwicz, 13-7; 119: Darryl Ison (WM) pinned Cody Harrison, 0-53; 125: Michael Wallace (WM) won by void; 130: Ed Torres (P) p. Keith

Perez, 0-47; 135: Brandin Everley (WM) won by void; 140: Tevin Hines (WM) won by void; 145: Christopher Schmidt (WM) won by void; 152: Brandon Whittenberg (WM) dec. Scott Hasseld, 10-3; 160: Adam Kay (WM) won by void; 171: Ryan Erps (P) won by major dec. over Nate Cavanaugh, 13-1; 189: Dimitrus Renfro (WM) p. Brent Iman, 0-50; 215: Shane Crawford (P) p. Jimmy Kassis, 3-16; 285: Chris Bowie (WM) p. John Stine, 1-10.

NOVI 38

WAYNE MEMORIAL 25
103 pounds: Tristen Jaroscicwicz (WM) pinned Sheldon Randall, 3-31; 112: Darryl Ison (WM) won by major decision over Shahbaig

Sidu, 12-1; 119: Ryan Pollard (N) p. Micheil Hood, 3-28; 125: Michael Wallace (WM) won by technical fall over David Plante, 22-7; 130: Clayton Caldwell (N) p. Keith Perez, 5-28; 135: Chris Cavery (N) won by major dec. over Brandin Everley, 13-5; 140: Tevin Hines (WM) won by major dec. over Glenn Malear, 17-6; 145: John Deleon (N) dec. Anwar Oliver, 3-1; 152: Alex Engebretson (N) won by major dec. over Brandon Whittenberg, 11-2; 160: Josh Mills (WM) dec. Adam Troher, 15-14; 171: David Sparling (N) p. Dimitrus Renfro, 3-43; 189: Alan Mercer (N) dec. Nate Cavanaugh, 12-7; 215: Ben Farley (N) p. Jimmy Kassis, 1-02; 285: Chris Bowie (WM) dec. Joe Beno, 9-4.

PREP BOWLING

GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 16
NORTHVILLE 14
Feb. 3 at Novi Lanes
Clarenceville individual scorers: Bridget Moricz, 158-191-349; Amber Cummins, 183-146-329. Team totals: 776-779-1,555 (10 points).
Baker games: 198-160-358 (6 points).
Northville individual scorers: Angie Ramsey, 188-190-378; Marie Samson, 168-182-350. Team totals: 736-862-1,598 (10 points).
Baker games: 130-199-329 (4 points).
Clarenceville's dual match record: 7-3 overall.

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 19
NORTHVILLE 11
Feb. 3 at Novi Lanes
Clarenceville individual scorers: Jason Bertera, 165-297-462; Cody Kissandi, 173-234-407; Chris Diaz, 204.
Team totals: Clarenceville, 944-1,089-2,033 (17 points); Northville, 894-793-1,687 (3 points).
Baker games: Northville, 192-171-363 (8 points); Clarenceville, 192-146-338 (2 points).
Clarenceville's dual match record: 6-3-1 overall.

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WHEN ALL YOU DO IS GOLF, YOU DO GOLF BEST™

Rivalry renewed

Midget BB Livonia Kings get best of Redford, 4-1

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

HOCKEY

Early penalty trouble Monday night spelled trouble for the Redford Wolfpack and the Midget BB hockey team never recovered.

By the 9:33 mark of the first period, the visiting Livonia Kings had scored two power play goals and went on to a 4-1 victory in the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League play-off game at Redford Arena.

"Our penalties were stupid penalties," lamented Wolfpack coach Mark Nicholas, whose 32-6-2 team lost for the fourth time against the Kings. "They were penalties because they're running their mouths or not skating hard enough so they have to use their sticks."

"Or they get frustrated and take it out the wrong way."

The Kings (35-3-1) felt good from the start, still riding the wave of positive momentum from Sunday night's 7-3 victory over Farmington in the MAHA District 4 championship game to advance to the state finals (March 5-8, also at

Redford Arena). "They've played strong hockey all year long," said Kings head coach Tim Jason. "They carry one game to the next no matter what game they previously played."

But Jason praised his team for not losing composure when the hard hits picked up.

"Obviously this is a pretty big rivalry for us," Jason said. "But I think whenever teams get down they start chopping away a bit more at us. 'We just try to skate through it and keep our heads on our shoulders. ... We'd rather be on the ice than in the penalty box and I think so far they're handling themselves pretty well.'"

T.J. Cavanaugh chipped in the rebound of a Matt Hope shot behind Wolfpack goalie Ryan Wagner just 5:43 into the contest, giving the Kings a power play marker and 1-0 lead.

Two more minors followed against Redford, and Kyle Schwarz made the Wolfpack

pay. With a 5-on-3 advantage, Schwarz took a centering feed from Michael Padgen and snapped the puck past Wagner.

Livonia tacked on another tally with 4:09 to go in the second, upping the lead to 3-0. Nick Gilliland ripped a shot from the right circle low to Wagner's stick side for an unassisted goal.

In the third period, the Kings made it 4-0 with 6:32 remaining. Joe Cummings scored with assists going to Padgen and Gilliland.

At that point, Nicholas inserted backup goalie Alex Montagano and he played well, stopping all five shots he faced.

The Wolfpack finally got on the board with 2:53 left in the contest. On a delayed penalty, the first to be called against the Kings, Joey Catalano sent a pass near the goalmouth where Tim Hall jammed it past goalie Colin Beck.

Livonia played a strong, steady defensive game to keep the Wolfpack's high-octane offense in check. The Kings

held a 25-22 edge in shots on goal.

One of the players who epitomized that steadiness was Livonia defenseman Stephen Koch, who took several hits to make plays. Jason said Koch has been a solid player on the blueline, making strides from the start of the season.

The Kings next will compete in the Little Caesars semifinals this weekend, whereas the Wolfpack needs to win Thursday against Belle Tire.

Regardless of what happens in the LCAHL tourney, the Kings and Wolfpack will both be in the Redford-hosted MAHA final and could conceivably meet again.

"If we're going to win 'states' we're going to have to beat them," Nicholas said. "We've got to stick to our game plan, which we just don't do."

"If we don't get off good it seems we play back on our heels against these guys. It's a total mental edge they have on us, they're in our heads."

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GYMNASTICS RESULTS

CANTON INVITATIONAL GIRLS GYMNASICS MEET Feb. 7 at Plymouth H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Grand Ledge, 151.375; 2. Livonia Blue, 146.350; 3. Farmington, 146.125; 4. Northville, 143.625; 5. Sturgis, 140.975; 6. Grand Rapids Forest Hills, 138.050; 7. Canton, 138.000; 8. Howell, 135.800; 9. Portage, 135.475; 10. Salem, 135.425; 11. Livonia Red, 133.325; 12. Brighton, 133.225; 13. Holt, 131.500; 14. Walled Lake Western, 130.550; 15. Freeland, 130.425; 16. Fraser, 129.325; 17. Plymouth, 115.475; 18. Hartland, 29.950.

DIVISION 1 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Meaghan McWhorter (GL), 9.9; 2. Alexys Byington (GL), 9.8; 3. Hannah Grow (GRFH), 9.55; 4. Alyssa Bresso (Farm.) and Cathy Huang (Canton), 9.5 each; 6. Katie Koetting (Salem), 9.4; 7. Kallin Abbs (Sturgis) and Brittany Janis (Blue), 9.35 each; 9. (tie) Emily Quint (Blue), Makenna Pohl (N'ville) and Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.3 each.

Uneven bars: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.7; 2. Byington (GL), 9.55; 3. Grow (GRFH), 9.45; 4. Samantha Kohl (Farm.), 9.35; 5. Quint (Blue), 9.3; 6. Elana Coker (Farm.), 9.2; 7. Bresso (Farm.), 9.175; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.175; 9. (tie) Chloe Presley (N'ville), Katie Koetting (Salem), Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.0 each.

Balance beam: 1. Presley (N'ville), 9.675; 2. Byington (GL), 9.5; 3. Quint (Blue), 9.35; 4. McWhorter (GL), 9.3; 5. Pohl (N'ville), 9.2; 6. Coker (Farm.), 9.175; 7. Abbs (Sturgis), 9.15; 8. (tie) Corrine Jones (GRFH) and Kallie Strazbas (Portage), 9.15 each; 10. Charniga (Blue), 8.825.

Floor exercise: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.75; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.6; 3. Koetting (Salem), 9.525; 4. (tie) Byington (GL) and Presley (N'ville), 9.5 each; 6. Bresso (Farm.), 9.4; 7. Abbs (Sturgis), 9.375; 9. (tie) Powers (Blue) and Pohl (N'ville), 9.3 each.

All-around: 1. Whorter (GL), 38.65; 2. Byington (GL), 38.35; 3. Quint (Blue), 37.55; 4.

Presley (N'ville), 37.45; 5. Grow (GRFH), 36.90; 6. Koetting (Salem), 36.65; 7. (tie) Bresso (Farm.) and Kohl (Farm.), 36.425 each; 9. Pohl (N'ville), and Coker (Farm.), 36.40 each; 11. Powers (Blue), 36.35; 12. Abbs (Sturgis), 36.225; 13. Janis (Blue), 36.075; 14. Charniga (Blue), 35.975; 15. Monica Cauley (Howell), 35.85.

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Madeline Burman (GL), 9.6; 2. Laura Nomura (Blue), 9.45; 3. Kelsey Pierce (GL), 9.4; 4. Nicole Wood (Holt), 9.325; 5. (tie) Brianna Maroukis (Portage) and Allison Kemp (N'ville), 9.3; 7. Amanda Lumley (Farm.), 9.225; 8. (tie) Nicole Jacobs (Salem) and Courtney Schippers (Howell), 9.2; 10. Meredith Robinson (Brighton), 9.15.

Uneven bars: 1. Christine Wilson (GL), 8.95; 2. (tie) Nomura (Blue) and Pierce (GL), 8.85; 4. Wood (Holt), 8.8; 5. Elissa Martinez (GRFH), 8.75; 6. Kate Scheske (Sturgis), 8.7; 7. (tie) Katina St. Pierre (Red) and Amanda Rohkohl (Howell), 8.65; 9. Maroukis (Portage), 8.6; 10. Megan Weessies (Portage), 8.55.

Balance beam: 1. Wilson (GL), 9.45; 2. Pierce (GL), 9.4; 3. Mary Boyd (Sturgis), 9.125; 4. (tie) Burman (GL) and Julie Davidson (N'ville), 9.0; 6. Jacobs (Salem), 8.95; 7. Scheske (Sturgis), 8.925; 8. (tie) Natalie Zaleski (Holt) and Allie Seager (Free.), 8.7; 10. Whitney Gilbert (Free.), 8.675.

Floor exercise: 1. Burman (GL), 9.375; 2. McKyleigh Geddert (GL), 9.35; 3. Lumley (Farm.), 9.325; 4. Wilson (GL), 9.3; 5. Boyd (Sturgis), 9.15; 6. Maroukis (Portage), 9.075; 7. Marina Moretti (Brighton), 9.0; 8. Jacobs (Salem), 8.925; 9. Scheske (Sturgis), 8.6; 10. Martinez (GRFH), 8.775.

All-around: 1. Wilson (GL), 36.7; 2. Burman (GL), 36.025; 3. Boyd (Sturgis), 35.275; 4. Wood (Holt), 35.125; 5. Jacobs (Salem), 35.075; 6. Maroukis (Portage), 34.8; 7. Martinez (GRFH), 34.65; 8. Nomura (Blue), 34.375; 9. St. Pierre (Red), 34.275; 10. Moretti (Brighton), 34.025.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 13
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at S. Lyon East, 7 p.m.
Luth. North at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Wash. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 8:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 13
Luth. Westland at Wash. Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.
S. Lyon East at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Feb. 12
Churchill vs. Stoney Creek at Trenton's Teifer Rink, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Stevenson vs. G.P. North at Trenton's Kennedy Arena, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
Churchill vs. Anchor Bay at Trenton's Kennedy Arena, 10:40 a.m.
Ladywood vs. B.H. Kingswood at Cranbrook's Wallace Arena, noon.
Stevenson vs. Wyandotte at Trenton's Kennedy Arena, 6:40 p.m.
Franklin at Dexter, 7:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday, Feb. 14
Kensington Conf. Tourney at Salem, 9 a.m.

Metro Conf. Tourney at Harper Wds., 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Thursday, Feb. 12
John Glenn at Novi, 6:30 p.m.
Churchill at South Lyon, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin, Wayne at Salem, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASICS

Monday, Feb. 9
Livonia Red at Salem, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10
Livonia Blue at Canton, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING

Thursday, Feb. 12
Clarenceville vs. Novi-Detroit CC-Mercy at Drake's Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
(at 700 Bowl-South Lyon)
John Glenn vs. Novi, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne vs. Northville, 3:30 p.m.

BLAZERS TOURNAMENT

at Super Bowl Lanes, 11 a.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

Friday, Feb. 13
Napoleon Invitational, TBA.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Bishop Foley Invitational, 3 p.m.
Ferdale Tournament, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 14
Madonna at Concordia, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Delta CC, 3 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Ann Arbor's Chronis scores five vs. Blazers

Angie Chronis went on a goal binge Saturday, leading Ann Arbor to a 7-1 Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League triumph over host Livonia Ladywood at Plymouth's Arctic Edge.

Ladywood's Shelby Kucharski opened the scoring with her 36th of the year in the first period, but Ann Arbor's Malakia answered with the first of seven unanswered goals to make it 1-1.

Chronis, who had five goals on the night, scored twice in the second period and added

PREP HOCKEY

three more in the final period as Ann Arbor improved to 16-2 overall and 14-2 in the league.

Freeman also scored a goal in final period as Ann Arbor outshot the Blazers 42-8.

Kristina Keil and Emy Guttman each contributed two assists for the winners.

Ladywood goaltender Jessica Pavela made 35 saves, while Ann Arbor Sydney Supica had to make just seven.

The loss drops the Blazers to

8-7-1 overall and 6-7-1 in the Michigan Metro.

WYANDOTTE 5, CHURCHILL 4

Gerald Mayhew and Alex King each scored a pair of goals to lead state-ranked Wyandotte Roosevelt (14-2-2) to a non-league win over visiting Livonia Churchill (6-7-2) at Yack Arena.

The Bears, ranked No. 4 in Division 2, scored four times in the second period to build a 5-1 lead before holding off the Chargers.

Drew Sieber's goal from Scott Hamill with 13:03 left in

the final period cut the deficit to one-goal. Other Churchill goal scorers included Robert Louwers (power-play from Alec Smthye); Steven Klisz (from Kody Strong); and Stefan Kubus (from Andrew Carlson and Ryan Cioch).

"It was very similar to the (Livonia) Stevenson game," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We had a real bad stretch in the middle of the second period. We dug ourselves a deep hole. We had our chances and couldn't score the equalizer."

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GARDEN CITY - 3 bdrm ranch, new paint, wood floors, bsmt, very clean, near schools, fenced. \$875, (313) 917-2183

HIGHLAND 3 bdrm, \$695/mo. 248-568-8900.

HOLLY 2 bdrm, \$595/mo. 248-568-8900.

INKSTER-North 1428 Helen St. 3 bdrms, bath, garage, basement. Immediate Occupancy. \$700. 313-475-0542

LIVONIA 7 Mi. & Merriman, 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, A/C, all appliances. No smoking inside. \$1125/mo. 248-755-3125

LIVONIA - Merriman/Plymouth Rd area. 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bonus room, bsmt, \$800/mo. + security. Call: 313-363-0198

REDFORD NW Lg. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, attached gar, full bsmt, all new, double lot. \$1200/mo. 248-535-2300

SOUTHFIELD - REDUCED 2 bdrm, 1 bath, large yard, appliances incl, \$625/mo. Call: (734) 525-3157

Homes For Rent 4050

WEST BLOOMFIELD 6007 Shillingham, \$1,650. 4 bdrm, 2.5 baths, fin bsmt, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, Broker owned. (248) 318-3453

Westland - Norwayne 2 bdrm, \$900 total move-in. For appt. 734-968-2636

WESTLAND 3 bdrm ranch. Finished bsmt, attached garage, fenced yard. Close to schools, nice area. \$875. 248-425-0200

WESTLAND Just remodeled ranch style duplex. 2 bdrm, full bsmt, all appl., rent negotiable. 734-335-7363

WESTLAND Livonia schools. 3 bdrm, 1 bath brick ranch, bsmt, 2.5 car garage. \$950/mo. 248-941-2772

WESTLAND Ranch, Ford & Hix Rd. area. 2 bdrm, single story, 800 sq. ft., all new. Ideal for senior. \$800 per month + sec. Sec. 8 OK. 734-564-2993

Rooms For Rent 4140

NORTHVILLE AREA Non-smoking. Background check required. \$400/mo + sec. deposit. Mike: 313-300-8150.

REDFORD Plymouth & Inkster area. \$100/week, utilities included. 313-937-1750

WEST BLOOMFIELD House on LAKE. Beautiful view. Female. 1500 sq. ft. \$300/mo. (248) 242-6164

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No experience necessary, all shifts available.
Call 313-000-0000.

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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Give a pint

While they don't call it a pint, the American Red Cross will be at the Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, for a blood drive. Call Jenny at (734) 721-5700 to make a blood donation appointment or just stop by. The Red Cross always welcomes walk-ins.

Dinner and movie

Treat your Valentine to dinner and a movie and do it without breaking the bank. Alexander the Great Restaurant in Westland is partnering with Emagine Theater to offer patrons its package of two full dinners and two movie tickets for \$29.95. The movie tickets are good at both Emagine Theater's Canton and Novi locations. The movie and dinner package can be purchased at Alexander the Great at 34733 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-5410.

Winterfest Bowling

If you have never participated in the Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual Winterfest Bowling event, this is the year to start. This fun-filled afternoon at Westland Bowl provides participants with a great network-

ing opportunity, great contests and a fabulous buffet dinner at Marvso's Italian Grille. Partial proceeds to the Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund. Registration is at 12:30 p.m., with event hours 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Register online at www.westlandchamber.com or at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. For more information, call, (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.

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.

Juggling act

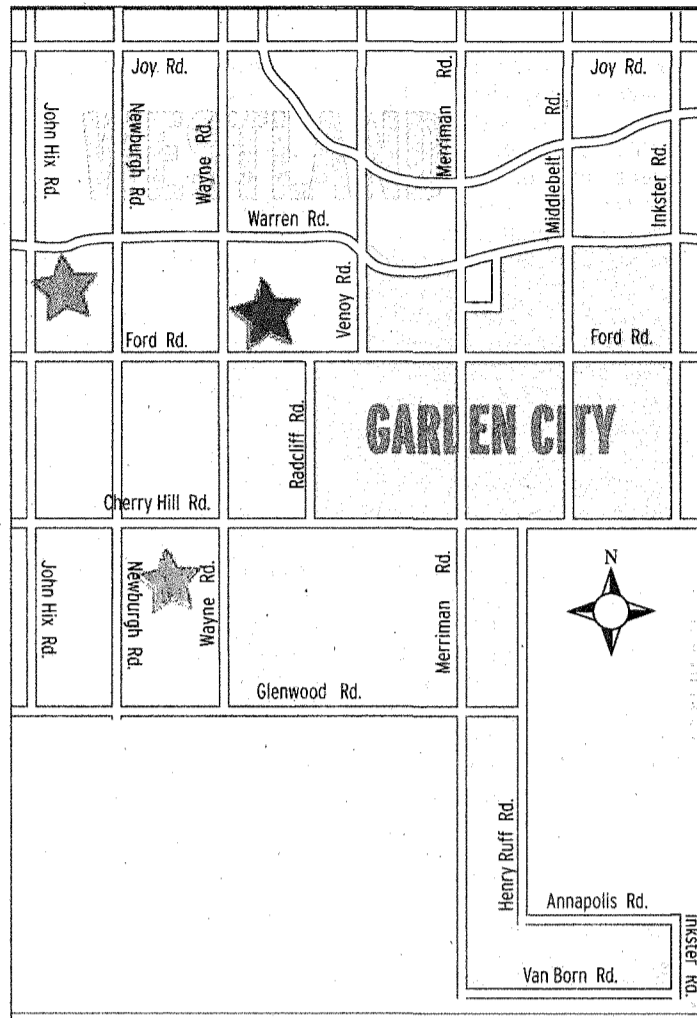
As part of its World Music Series, the DSO is hosting a performance by the National Acrobats of China at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Orchestra Hall. This family event offers an exhilarating afternoon of spectacular acrobatics, tumbling, juggling and stunning feats of fun. Stop by Art Van Metro stores 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.

ONGOING

Free vitamins

If you're pregnant you can get the vitamins you need through a free pre-natal vitamin program offered by Meijer. Five leading brands of pre-natal vitamins are available. Stop by and see the pharmacists at the Meijer store at Warren Road and Newburgh for details. The pharmacy also offers free oral generic antibiotics with a special focus on the prescriptions most often filled for children. Free with a doctor's prescription, regardless of insurance or co-pay, are Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, SMZ-TMP, Ciprofloxacin, Ampicillin, Penicillin VK and Erythromycin. Prescriptions, a maximum 14-day supply at normal oral dosages, must be picked up at store in person. Not included are extended release formulations. List may be subject to change, and the off isn't valid with any other offer.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographer Christopher Holdwick of Holdwick Event Photography is very familiar with the St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church and Hellenic Cultural Center where he has covered events.

Photographer tells 'whole story'

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

My business does every aspect of photography. Weddings, portraits, real estate, conferences, special events, sporting events, fairs, festivals, and more. I don't believe in specializing. It makes you a better photographer when you have experience in many different aspect of your business. I also believe that you have to diversify in these economic times we live in.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

I am a person that pays attention to the details. My job is to tell the whole story of your event. This may include emotion, actions, weather conditions, and more. I also am a very personable person. I get to know my clients' likes and dislikes. This helps me tell the story from their perspective. Other aspects that set me apart from my competitors is that I'm a smaller business. I can be

HOLDWICK EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Business name: Holdwick Event Photography LLC
Address: 8540 N. Hix, Westland, MI 48185
Name and Title: Christopher Holdwick, owner
Hometown: Ann Arbor
Business Opened: 2003
Number of Employees: 2
Specialty: I don't have one, I have many.
Hours: anytime, day or night
Business phone: (734) 812-4637

very budget-friendly without sacrificing quality.

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

I decided to open my business after taking pictures for my friends' wedding. People complimented me on so many of the pictures I decide to go into business for myself. After volunteering for the National Cherry Festival and

the Traverse City Film Festival, I have now been able to get my feet wet in many different aspects of photography. Being able to confidently walk in to any photography situation makes all the difference.

How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?

I have been living in Traverse City, Michigan, for the last three years, while my parents and siblings have been living in the Ann Arbor area. The stresses of having family in another part of the state brought me back home. Westland is a beautiful area to live and work in. Plenty of room for a growing business. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?

I have really enjoyed this profession. I have held so many different positions, and have met so many famous and interesting people, I couldn't think of a better dream job. Now that I teach photography, my passion has come full circle.

CHAMBER CHAT

The Westland Chamber is not only keep running by its staff, the chamber has several committees that add their input, support and time to help events and projects become successful.

Recently, the Westland Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee met to discuss a few issues, one of which being the public's awareness of this committee. This committee is made up of a few business owners and city officials. Their goal is to influ-

ence local, regional and county public policy to represent the best interests of the Westland business community.

With that in mind, they would like to extend an invitation to anyone with a business concern to contact them. You can do so by e-mailing westlandchamber@yahoo.com. Just put Government Affairs in the subject line.

The Membership and Marketing Committee will be introducing a new community

event. The Westland Jaycees and the Westland Chamber will be hosting a Dueling Piano's event on Friday, March 13, at Joy Manor. All are welcome. The cost is only \$15 per person.

Come check out the Chamber, the Jaycees, and have good time all at once. If you would like more information, call the Chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Brookellen Swope
President and CEO
Westland Chamber of Commerce

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

INSTANT CASH

GOLD IS AT RECORD LEVELS

MIDWEST GOLD BUYERS

will be at

Laurel Park Mall

Next to AMC Theaters

BUYING Platinum, Gold & Silver in any condition

TWO DAYS ONLY EVENT
Saturday, Feb. 14th 10:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 15th 11:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Necklaces
- Wedding Bands
- Mountings
- Rings
- Earrings
- Charms
- Class Rings
- Gold Watches
- Dental Gold

Unlock Hidden Treasures for Big Cash (EASY FAST)

HIGHEST PRICE PAID GUARANTEED

Bring in this coupon for an additional **10% INCREASE** over our already guaranteed highest price February 14th and 15th

INSTANT CASH

MIDWEST GOLD BUYERS

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Our professionals use the latest high tech testing equipment

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

At the top

Petland, once again, is among top-ranked franchises in the United States.

Overall, Petland Inc. ranked 292 in the Entrepreneur Magazine's 30th Annual Franchise 500. According to Entrepreneur.com, there are close to 3,000 active franchisors in the United States.

"It is an honor for Petland to be recognized nationally as a franchise leader in pet care services," said Frank Difatta, president of Petland Inc.

"At Petland, we are poised for growth as more and more qualified candidates look to the development of their own

business to meet financial and lifestyle goals," added Petland Inc.'s Franchise Development Manager Jim Whitman "We welcome this prestigious recognition as it helps get the word out about our unique and dynamic full-service pet store franchise opportunity."

In conducting its annual rating of franchises in the world, Entrepreneur considers such factors as financial strength, stability, growth rate and size of the franchise system. Other rating factors include number of years in business, length of time franchising, start-up costs, litigation, percentage of terminations and whether the

company provides financing. An independent CPA firm audits financial data. Every company with verifiable data receives a cumulative score. The franchises with the highest cumulative scores become the Franchise 500.

Petland, Inc. is a franchise operation with more than 200 quality, full service, retail pet centers across the United States, including its store at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland, Canada, Japan, Chile and South Africa. Petland was founded in 1967 and is headquartered in south central Ohio. For more information on Petland, visit its Web site at www.petland.com.

To submit an item for the religion calendar, send e-mail to ichomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

FEBRUARY

Sharing Made Simple

Apologetics for Beginners Continues at St. Michael's. "Who does the Pope think he is?" will be the topic as nationally-acclaimed apologist and author, Gary Michuta, continues his series at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the school next to the church at 11441 Hubbard and Plymouth Rd., between Farmington and Merriman. Michuta's presentation focuses on the history and significance of the Catholic Papacy and is open to all those interested. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org.

Fish fry

Begins 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, and continues every Friday through April 3, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square across the street from the Wayne Post office. For more information, call (734) 721-4802 or (734) 891-2523. Choose from fried or baked fish. Includes baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, roll and coffee, tea, or punch all for only \$8. Special kids meals like chicken nuggets, corn dogs and fries for \$4.

Special needs dance

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and its Open Arms Ministry hosts a valentine's dance for adults with special needs, developmental disabilities, and their caregivers 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the church 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. Snacks will be served. Reservations required as space is limited. Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz no later than Friday, Feb. 6. If Livonia schools are closed due to inclement weather, this event will be canceled.

Kids against hunger

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth hosts a benefit for Kids Against Hunger, 6:30-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall on the corner of North Territorial and Beck in Plymouth. Tickets are \$35 and available by contacting Jeanne Baldwin at (734) 414-8900, by e-mail at janer@ameritech.net, or Dan Herriman at (734) 459-5440 or dherriman@herriman.net. The event will feature a Las Vegas-style wedding chapel, silent auction, the new Liberty Street Microbrewery beer, strolling buffet dinner with cash bar and dancing. Attendees will have the opportunity to renew their vows at the chapel to help raise money for Kids Against Hunger, an international food relief campaign that began in 1999. It has operations in metro-Detroit and

distributes a specially formulated dry rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in Detroit, elsewhere in Michigan, the U.S. and more than 40 other countries. Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth regularly organizes food packaging activities by partnering with other local organizations that provide both funding and volunteers for their packaging events. Proceeds from the event go to assist in defraying the cost for the food that is packaged.

Hunger workshop

Bread For The World, a Christian non-partisan hunger legislation organization, holds a Hunger Offering Of Letters workshop 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 North Campbell, Royal Oak. Registration and continental breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. For information, contact Bob Krzewinski at (734) 487-9058, e-mail wolverbob@gmail.com or visit www.breadmichigan.org. During an Offering of Letters, individuals and congregations are asked to write to Congress on specific hunger-fighting legislation. This hunger advocacy event is free and open to the public.

Valentine's Day dance

7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, north of Ford Road. Music by Solitaire. Tickets \$8. For information, call Kay at (734) 522-8868 or Sally (734) 421-0699.

Notre Dame choir concert

University of Notre Dame's Celebration Choir performs 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at St. Damian Church, 30055 Joy Rd., Westland. Freewill offering. Choir will also sing at 4:30 p.m. mass on Feb. 14. For more information, call (734) 421-6130.

B'Jazz Vespers

6-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, featuring the Darryl Roenicke Trio with special guest Sandra Bomar performing with pianist Darryl Roenicke, bassist Jordan Shug and drummer Alex Trajano, at First Baptist Church, corner of Willits and Bates, one block north of Maple, one block west of Old Woodward, Birmingham. B'Jazz Vespers includes 100 minutes of secular jazz performance and 20-minutes of non-sectarian worship interlude between two jazz sets. A free-will offering will be taken for the musicians. For information, call (248) 644-0550. Join the artists after the concert in the church parlor for conversation and refreshments.

Rush concert series

Continues Tuesday, Feb. 17, for a rush hour concert featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Concerts held every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m. with concert from 5:30-6 p.m. No charge. For information, visit www.metroum.org.

Couples prayer series

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, through Feb. 18, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia. Cost is \$55 per couple. Those

unable to pay because of financial difficulty may register and join the group. To register, visit www.coupleprayer.org or send e-mail to davidconrad@staidanlivonia.org. The six-week Couples Prayer Series is for married or engaged couples, and designed to nurture a life-long pattern of sharing daily prayer together.

Open house

St. Michael Christian School hosts an open house 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton. St. Michael offers a 3-year old preschool through fifth grade including a Young Fives program and all day kindergarten. For information, call (734) 459-9720.

VBS preview

Presented by International Christian Education Association 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Ward Church, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville. A day of meeting Christian publishers to view their curriculum. Sit in on four of 20 workshops. This is a nondenominational event. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceaonline.org.

Bethany singles

Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Sunday night lights

Riverside Park Church of God presents the non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music within a casual atmosphere.

Lenten services

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the chapel at St. James Presbyterian Church, 23530 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Lenten Services 7 p.m. every Wednesday through April 1. Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service on April 9 at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12. Lenten services Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Blood drive

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial at Ridge Rd., Plymouth. Register at www.givelife.org and enter NorthRidge in Step One (sponsor code) or call (800) 448-3543 (GIVELIFE).

or call (800) 448-3543 (GIVELIFE).

UPCOMING

House of worship tour

Tickets are now on sale for the Detroit Historical Society's Historic Houses of Worship tour Monday, March 2, in Oakland County, features Temple Beth El, Christ Church Cranbrook, St. Hugo Stone Chapel, and National Shrine of the Little Flower. Tour leaves the Detroit Historical Museum parking lot (Kirby at Woodward) at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. The price, which includes the guided tour, bus transportation, and lunch at one of the churches, is \$30 for Detroit Historical Society members, \$40 for guests. For reservations or more information on the 2009 tour series, call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org. No tickets will be sold on the date of the tour.

Dining in the kingdom of God

For five Wednesdays in Lent, St Aidan will be hosting the series: Luke's Gospel revealed 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist. This presentation will be given by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology 7-9 p.m. March 11, 18, 25, April 1, and April 8. No charge. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 425-5950 so we have enough food and materials for everyone.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

New worship schedule

Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. For more information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Church moves

Westwood Community Church has moved to 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Service time is 10-11:15 a.m. Come as you are. Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday. Children's church.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Course VI, called "Salvifici Doloris" addresses the Christian meaning of suffering. Based on the writing of Pope John Paul II, this is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, in the convent meeting room. The class began Jan. 13.

Based on Pope John Paul II's "Mulieris Dignitatem" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), the Course II group, meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays (began Jan. 22), in the convent meeting room behind the rectory, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Women of all ages and faiths are welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com.

St. Aidan Catholic Church also offers ENDOW. The eight-session course focuses on the ideas about human beings and God that St. Thomas Aquinas explores in his work Summa Theologiae, 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, through March 5, in the parish office conference room at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required.

Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950. Facilitator is Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING

Special needs Bible class

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

Church schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School followed by 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion each Sunday, Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Worship

Sundays 8 a.m. worship; 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverage, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebrew Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susah Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic

Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczynski, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule

Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

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. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

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

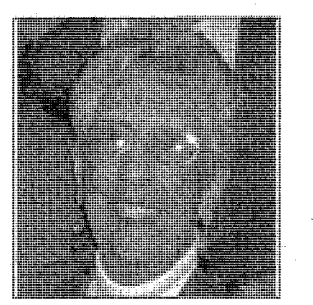
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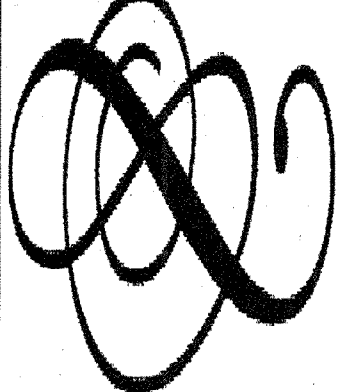
SHIRLEY L. BERRY
Age 88, of Plymouth, February 8, 2009. Loving wife of Fred. Beloved mother of Carl (Lucy) and Elaine (Tom) Goebel. Proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of ten. Funeral Thursday 11 am at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday 5-9 pm and Thursday 9 am until service. Shirley was a long-time member of the Eastern Star and the Plymouth Elks. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice, 806 Airport Blvd, Ann Arbor MI 48108-3351. To leave a message of condolence, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



ELIZABETH (DEROCHER) TOUPIN
Passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 under the care of Henry Ford Hospice. She was predeceased in 2005 by her husband (Walter) after celebrating 56 years of marriage. Together the couple raised three children: Ann Oberts, Northville, MI., Dr. John (Ruth) Toupin, Novi, MI., and Dr. Joel (Ann) Toupin, Farmington Hills, MI. Eight grandchildren also mourn her passing: Julie and Ted Oberts, Emily, Nicholas, and Erica Toupin, and Michelle, David, and Gail Toupin. Liz was born in Iron Mountain, MI, but grew up in Marquette. She was an avid artist, a volunteer helping to teach English to many foreign citizens, and enjoyed traveling. She had a Zest for life and will be greatly missed. Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Saturday, 1/31/09.

WESTON PALMER VANHILLE
Age 81, February 7, 2009, of Dearborn Heights. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Blanche Vanhille, and his brother Blaine Vanhille. He is survived by two nephews, Daniel J. and Jerome B. Vanhille; and a niece, Michaele Vanhille Holder. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends. Mr. Vanhille was a retired teacher from the Redford Schools. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 10am, at St. Anselm Catholic Church, 17650 W. Outer Dr., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127. The family suggests donations to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Please sign Weston's online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com.

HAROLD R. WESTFALL
Age 94. Life-long Farmington Resident, MI. February 6, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



KEVIN J. BOSKEY
Age 21. Of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away February 6, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

ALBERT SIDNEY
February 8, 2009. Age 84. Beloved husband of the late Genevieve. Loving father of Robert (Margaret) and Gary (Dana). Grandfather of Rylie, Crea, Christopher (Mary) and Jennifer and five great-grandchildren. Memorial Service Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel), 36100 Five Mile Rd. (one mile West of Farmington Road) Friday 10:00 a.m.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Let others know...

Temple opens doors in Livonia

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

A warmth comes over visitors to the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Livonia even though the temperature is 3 below outside with the wind chill. The welcoming nature of members follows the teachings of the saint who lived from 1835 to 1918 in India.

Imagine 450 men, women and children from the Hindu and Muslim faiths all practicing peace and forgiveness together in a place of worship. It happens every Thursday evening in the Main Prayer Hall of the temple which recently found a permanent home on Seven Mile, east of Middlebelt. During the rest of the week the priest, Ranganathan, leads prayers four times a day for devotees who come and go according to their schedule. It took 11 years of studies in India for him to learn the rituals.

"Saibaba is considered to be a saint for Hindus and Muslims alike although mostly Hindus visit the temple," said Prasad Beesabathuni of West Bloomfield. Beesabathuni is president of the membership based organization that includes devotees from Plymouth, Troy, Farmington Hills, Canton, Livonia, West Bloomfield, and around the area. The temple is the only one that pays homage to Saibaba in

Michigan and one of 10 in the U.S.

"He used to preach good things and slowly became popular. Saibaba was a beggar seeking alms. We don't know much about his childhood. As a youth he lived in a vacant mosque. He attracted a lot of devotees, Muslims and Hindus alike. He preached peace not specific to any religion. The temple is open to everyone."

REACHING OUT

Charity was an equally important part of Saibaba's philosophy. It makes Satheesh Mandalappa especially feel good to practice Saibaba's preachings on helping the needy and feeding the hungry. In November and December, temple members donated food and a truck load of children's winter clothing to the Livonia Goodfellows. The project is ongoing. Bags full of adult and children's clothing await delivery to 15 poor families in Lansing.

"It makes my life sincere," said Mandalappa of Farmington Hills. "I'm living happy and want to help somebody."

Since it's founding in 2005, temple members have held 5 bone marrow drives and plan to continue registering prospective donors twice a year. Plans are also in the works to offer regular health clinics for those who don't have health insurance.

"We'd like to be part of the community," said Beesabathuni. "We've been here since August meeting in the lower level. Until then we didn't have a building and met at the Novi Civic Center."

So far the Main Prayer Hall of the former baptist church has been totally renovated. The exterior work in Phase II begins in spring. In July an installation ceremony will be held after a statue of Saibaba arrives from India.

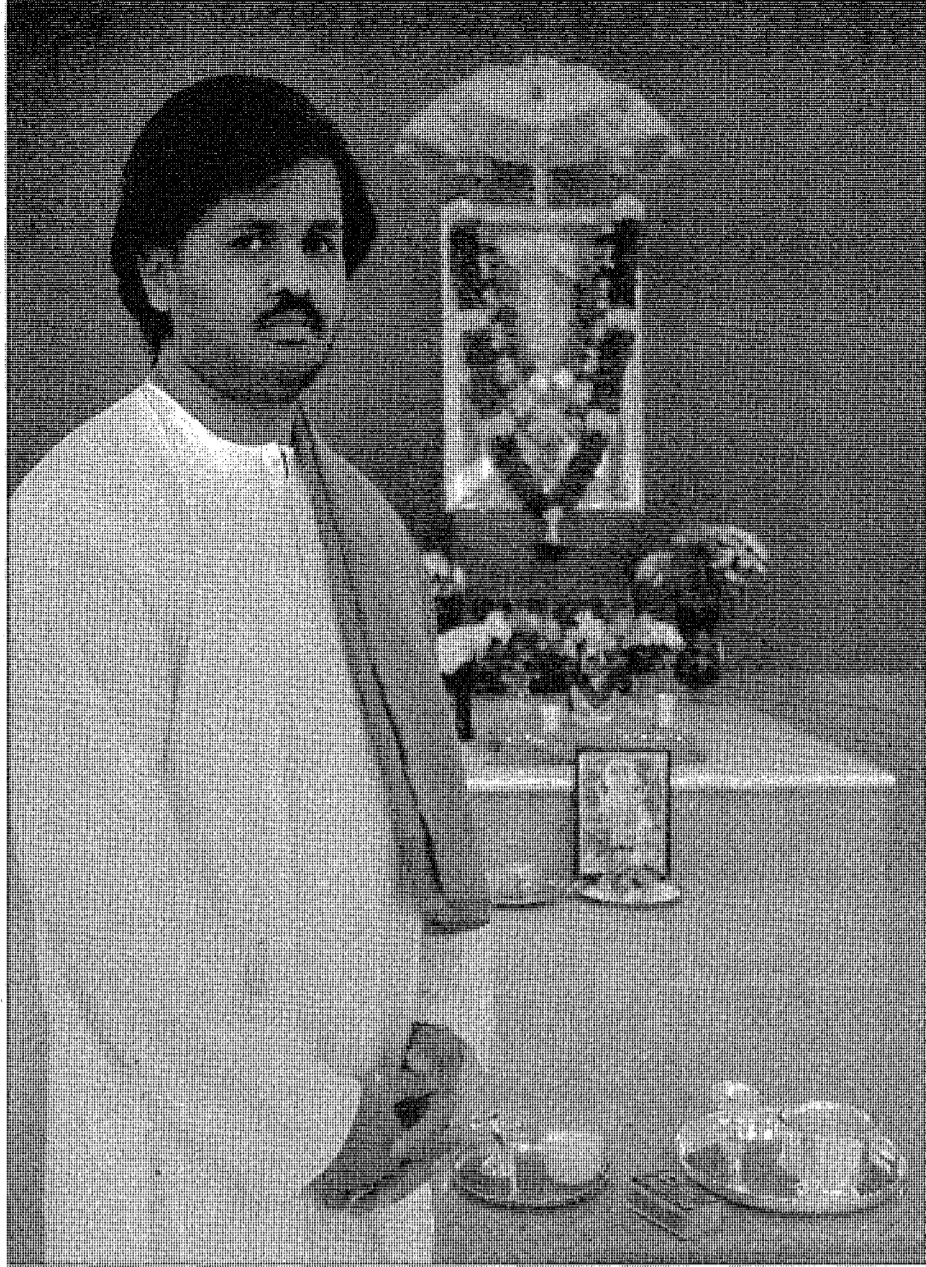
"Hindus have multiple Gods or saints. Saint is same as God," said Beesabathuni. "Our main religious day is Thursday when we have prasadam, an offering to the God of traditional vegetarian Indian food. Every day we offer fruit as devotees leave as they should not go empty handed."

"It's like a blessing," said Mandalappa. "They give an offering and in return receive fruit or almost a meal on Thursday when 20 volunteers are working and cooking (in the kitchen on the lower level)."

Four volunteers hold classes for children on Thursdays as well. "We want them to learn peace," said Beesabathuni.

Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple is at 28875 Seven Mile, east of Middlebelt. For more information, visit saibabami.org.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Priest Ranganathan in the Main Prayer Hall of the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Livonia. Ranganathan leads prayers at the temple four times a day, seven days a week.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>	
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 2310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE08025841</p>	<p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191</p> <p>Sunday Worship and Children's Church</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional</p> <p>Child Care Provided At All Services Youth Groups - Adult Small Groups CE08025850</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Libranda</p> <p>Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided CE08025859</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly</p> <p>2 blocks South of Plymouth 313-937-3170</p> <p>9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org CE08025857</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional</p> <p>Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Croeden CE08025850</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-8220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</p>	<p>Cherry Hill United Methodist 321 S. Ridge Road Canton, MI 734-495-0085 Rev. Merlin Pratt</p> <p>Worship 10:00 Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30 www.cherryhillumc.org CE08025812</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.</p> <p>Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboch, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboch, Assistant Pastor CE08025817</p>	<p>HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 9600 Laverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424</p> <p>Pastor - Reverend Paul Undlin</p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:45 a.m. Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233 CE08025816</p>
<p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Meriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a CE08025846</p>	<p>Cherry Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Vinoy) Phone: 734-524-0880</p> <p>Pastor: Eddie Petreaca</p> <p>Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class - 8am Worship Service-English-9:30 am Bible Studies English & Spanish (All ages) 11:00 am Wednesdays Prayer Meeting-7 pm CE08025853</p>	<p>"More than Sunday Services"</p> <p>Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM</p> <p>Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert</p>	<p>NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149</p> <p>Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 am & 11:00 am</p> <p>Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburghumc.org CE08025856</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schenck 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (Just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755</p> <p>Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m. http://churcharch.com/members/ImmanuelImmbus The Friendly Church on the Trail CE08025814</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org CE08025818</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth in the MI of 48134 (734) 453-5252</p> <p>Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info CE08025833</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 48901 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 CE08025838</p>	<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290</p> <p>Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available) CE08025855</p>	<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</p> <p>40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400</p> <p>Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours</p> <p>Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE08025837</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH in place for 100 years</p> <p>Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program</p> <p>Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Meriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service CE08025848</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Meriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org</p> <p>Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am</p> <p>WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH CE08025837</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>	<p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org CE08025830</p>
<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire</p> <p>Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia • Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE08025811</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicap Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquetto CE08025844</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL</p>	<p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1160 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970</p> <p>Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970 CE08025810</p>

FILTER

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HAPPENINGS

ACADEMY AWARDS PARTY AT EMAGINE

CANTON — Emagine Entertainment, Inc. and The Canton Community Foundation are pleased to announce "A Magical Night With the Stars", a celebration to watch the 81st Academy Awards at Emagine Canton on Sunday, Feb. 22 to benefit the hungry and homeless.

The red carpet reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a strolling dinner and dessert bar, music and dancing with the stars.

The presentation of the 81st Academy Awards will begin at 8 p.m. on the big screen. This event is being given by The Canton Community Foundation and proceeds will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank and First Step. Tickets, \$100 per person. Cocktail attire suggested. Call (734)495-1200 or email info@cantonfoundation.org.

Emagine Canton is located at 39535 Ford Road, just east of I-275 in Canton Township.

STARS & THE MOON A VALENTINE CONCERT

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington will host "Stars & The Moon, A Valentine Concert for Love," 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. The program will feature Christina Dragone, contemporary and jazz piano; Brandy Nicole Ellis, vocals; Brandon Faber, contemporary piano; Renzo Hutchinson, hammered dulcimer; Trish Shandor, vocals; and Colton Weatherston, guitar.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; \$10 in advance at (248) 478-7272. Doors at 7:30 p.m.; wine and chocolate meet the artists reception following the concert. All proceeds benefit the UUCF Music Program.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Len Fisher doesn't have to step on stage to become animated. The Westland resident is as enthusiastic before Monday night's rehearsal for Inspire Theatre's latest production Feb. 13-14 and 20-21, at Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church in Westland.

Before long he's jumping up to sing one of the tunes from "It Ain't Broadway, But It's Close." The revue is sure to bring back memories with favorites like "Give My Regards to Broadway," "No Business Like Show Business," "76 Trombones," and "Singing in the Rain." A children's chorus revisits the "Sound of Music" with songs such as Do Re Mi. Fisher wrote the script so he's partial to the production.

"We love doing musicals and thought it was time to do a Broadway revue," said Fisher. "We usually do a musical revue once a year and discovered musical revues bring in a large audience."

Fisher plotted the production around a theater company which rents space from a touring theater company which returns home to share the space. The result is comedy.

"The first act is the antics of auditions of this group," said Fisher. "The second act is dress rehearsal and we've thrown in a handyman who wants to add all-kinds of special effects."

The cast of 29 ranges from age 8 on up and includes his wife Sue and daughter, Elizabeth, 23. Son Benjamin, 19 runs sound. Fisher is a one-man band of sorts. Along with singing, he prepares the meal for the Valentine's Day dinner theater. Each of the cast have multiple jobs. Bev Green is stage manager plus. The Westland woman handles any task that comes along.

"I come to most of the rehearsals from auditions to finished production," said Green. "I watch people grow. It's so much fun."

Emma Boylan couldn't agree more. The Northville High School student sings a solo medley from "My Fair Lady" to accompaniment by her mother. Sharon Boylan, the pianist/organist at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, provides live music for the production.

"It's a great excuse to sing Broadway songs," said Emma Boylan, 15. "They're so well written and make you feel good."

Gerry Wiatr of Westland doesn't hide the



The cast of Inspire Theatre brings back the magic of Broadway in their latest production opening Friday, Feb. 13, in Westland.

IT AIN'T BROADWAY, BUT IT'S CLOSE

What: A musical comedy by Inspire Theatre
When: Friday-Saturday, Feb. 13-14, and Feb. 20-21. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. except for dinner theater 6 p.m. Feb. 14
Where: Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church, 33445 Warren Rd., between Venoy and Wayne roads, Westland
Tickets: \$11 except for Valentine's Day dinner theater \$20, Call (734) 751-7057

cast comes from Farmington Hills, Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, and Dearborn Heights.

"The goal of the theater is to have fun and learn more about theater and stage and be like a family," said Fisher. "Our goal is to inspire. We only seat 85 people so the back row is only 5 or 6 rows back."

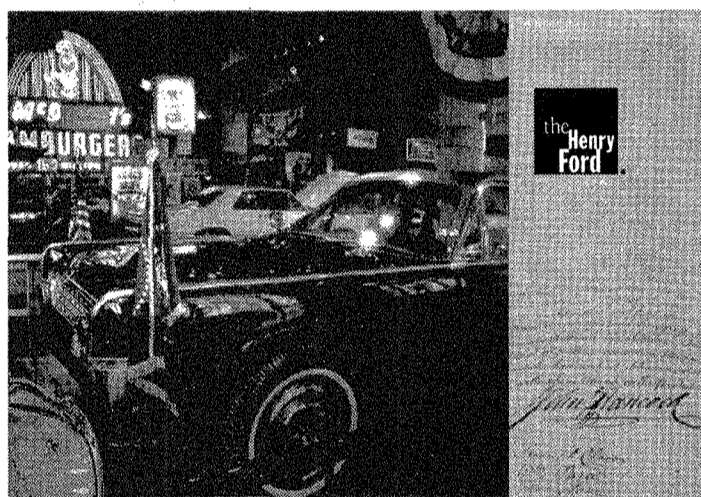
Back on stage Fisher is sharing retorts with Courtney Nixon as each sings they can do anything better than the other.

"We like to have as much fun as we hope people in the audience have," said Nixon of Farmington Hills. By day Nixon's a student teacher at Pierce Middle School in Redford.

Wendy Hardy of Livonia is a mom and the only one in her family not in the show. Son Mitchell, 10, is a fifth grade student at Botsford Elementary and sings in the children's chorus. Paul joins his son for the catchy beat of "Hakuna Matata" from "The Lion King."

"I can't imagine life without these people," said Hardy. "We saw an audition notice in the Observer calling for Munchkins and never left. We've done every kind of job from curtain pullers to light and sound."

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CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC

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"CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC" SHOPAHOLIC TAKES MANHATTAN TO SUPER KENSILLA
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Winter Fun Fest

an afternoon of music, fun and games
for the whole family

Sunday, February 22, 2009

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Southfield Pavilion & Sports Arena
26000 Evergreen Road

Free Ice Skating
(Southfield Sports Arena) 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy fun-filled activities including children's arts and crafts, petting farm featuring miniature horses, donkey, goats, sheep, alpaca, bunnies and ducks, air brush face painting, s'mores marshmallow roast, hayrides, ice sculpture carving demonstrations, Wii (interactive gaming area), moonwalk and much more.
Chili, hot dogs, soups and more will be available for purchase from food vendors.

The event will feature musical performances by:

Paul Miles - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Skye Island - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

and more

FREE ADMISSION

Call the Southfield Community Relations Department
at (248) 796-5130 for more information.

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MAYOR
NEWSPAPERS

Enjoy a romantic evening of music

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

John Zaretti and his wife usually catch a plane to warmer destinations for Valentine's Day but in this year's dire economic climate they're heading to Livonia instead for a romantic evening of love songs from Broadway to La Boheme and Carmen Saturday, Feb. 14.

As founder of Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, Zaretti is joining with Mary Galasso, president of the Italian American Club to present Concerto d'Amore which includes music sung by artists from the opera company plus a dinner of Italian food and wine all for \$45 per person.

"It's a great evening of entertainment in the neighborhood," said Zaretti of Canton. "It's really a love fest of music from Cole Porter to Rodgers and Hammerstein to Puccini then add the culinary delights and everything."

Kimberly Swan, a lyric-coloratura soprano, is one of the performers along with tenor Curtis Peters of Livonia, bass-baritone Allen Schrott, soprano Eva Evola, and mezzo-soprano Lisa Agazzi who will be accompanied by pianist Angelina

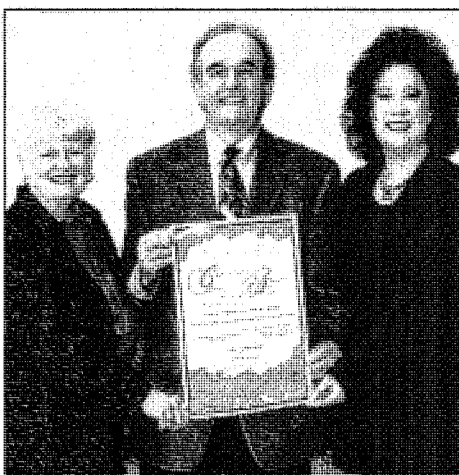
CONCERTO D'AMORE

What: Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan performs love songs from Broadway to opera, evening includes Italian dinner
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
Where: Italian American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile
Tickets: \$45 per person, and available by calling (734) 953-1137, press 2

Pashmakova of Troy. Pashmakova is on the Marygrove College faculty. Schrott served as an adjunct professor of voice at Madonna University in Livonia.

Swan has sung with the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan for 11 years. A native of Livonia, she holds two degrees in vocal performance and has appeared as a soloist throughout Europe. In 1992 she furthered her studies at the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Italian where she performed several operatic scene programs. Since returning home, Swan has taught not only at Madonna University, but established a following of over 50 private students.

"It's almost two hours of music, a



Mary Galasso (left), John Zaretti and Kimberly Swan pose with a poster for Concerto d'Amore, a romantic evening at the Italian American Club of Livonia on Valentine's Day.

full concert of Broadway selections like Tonight, Tonight; So in Love; If Ever I Would Leave You, and opera, mostly in English so people can enjoy it.

"It's a very romantic evening to have someone serenade with these great love duets. We're going to be dressed up in gowns and tuxedos. A lot of women will love this."

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

GET OUT

Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Mini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail lanamini@hometownlife.com.

ART

555: A Good Bye to the 555 "The 5 Senses," 8 p.m.-midnight Feb. 21, 4884 Grand River, Detroit, \$15 will call at www.555arts.org, \$20 at the door, proceeds benefit new location for 555, masquerade attire.

Arnold Klein Gallery: Celebrating 35 years at its current location with Water and Marine Life, through March; Landscapes, April-May; 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709, www.arnoldkleingallery.com.

Art Leaders Gallery: Exhibition and sale commemorating the 105th birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 1-April 31, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.

Artists: Get a free AHA Red Dress Pin, 25 percent off, and register for healthy recipes, tips and information in celebration of American Heart Association month, 203 E. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 647-4007, www.artistonline.com.

Bert's Warehouse Theater: 10th Anniversary Dirty Show, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 13, Valentine's Closing Celebration, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 14, 18 and over, tickets, \$15 advance, Eastern Market, 2739 Russell St. Detroit, www.dirtyshow.org.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Near and Far: Contemporary Fine Prints Curated by Norm Stewart; Inside the BBAC: The Annual Juried Student Exhibit Feb. 13-March 6; Calls for Artists, 2009 Birmingham Art Fest and 2009 Michigan Fine Arts Competition.

1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBACenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

D&M Art Studio: Painting classes for all ages, free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.

Lawrence Street Gallery: Call for poets; "Ut Pictura Poesis" readings 7 p.m. Feb. 27 and April 24; 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Lemberg Gallery: Mark Newport Alter Egos, through March; 23241 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Luncheon on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsartgallery.com.

Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suldan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com.

Northville Art House: "Art in Stitches, A Fiber Arts Exhibition" with Ann Avery, Boisali Biswas, Juliana Cerra, Anne Hemstra, Sidney Savage Inch, Lynn Kravczyk, Jackie Lams, Linda Larsen and Joan Potter Thomas, through Feb. 22; Antiques Roadshow-style Appraisal Clinic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 14, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0947, www.northvillearts.org.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Rob Kangas and Chris Schneider, "Photographs of the Ambiguous Landscape," and Julie Sereny Mahoney, "Familiar Objects," both through

Feb. 14; Taurus Burns: Detroit Cityscapes, Feb. 27-April 4, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Feb. 27; Object Permanence: Norwood Viviano and Sarah Lindley, Feb. 27-April 4, reception, 7-9 p.m. Feb. 27, gallery talk, 2 p.m. Feb. 28, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.

Plymouth Community Arts Council: Winter Break Art Camp for Kids, Feb. 27-29, \$50 a day per child, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.

BENEFITS

Majestic Theatre: SHIROCK'S "Everything Burns" tour featuring Lights Resolve, The Electric Playground and One Remains, 7 p.m. Feb. 13, all ages, \$10 door; \$5 presale at www.everythingburns.org, benefits Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, 4140 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-9700.

Newport Furnishing: Comfy Couch Concert series, Bill Bynum & Co., 8 p.m. Feb. 21, w/ 7 p.m. potluck, \$10-\$15 (\$3 off with donation of toothpaste, child-sized toothbrushes and warm socks), benefits Sweet Dreamzz, 29240 Lynn Oaks Drive, Wixom, (248) 910-4941, www.comfycouchconcerts.com.

BOOKS/LITERATURE

Borders Birmingham: Kat Von D signs "High Voltage Tattoo," 7 p.m. Feb. 13; Chris Bohjalian reads and signs "Skeletons at the Feast" 2 p.m. Feb. 15; New York Times bestselling thriller author Steve Berry will read and autograph copies of his book *The Charlemagne Pursuit* (2009) 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, 34300 Woodward Ave., (248) 203-0005.

Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus

Martius, next to the Compuware Building, Detroit, <http://www2.wsu.wayne.edu/news.php/>

CHAMBER MUSIC

Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www.vivaceseries.org.
Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22; Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1; Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit; "String Sundae," 3 p.m. March 29; Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5; Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26; First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org

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20th Winter/Spring UMS

Sweet Honey in The Rock® | SHE ROCKS!

THU, FEB 12 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

The repertoire of this African American cappella ensemble is steeped in the sacred music of the Black church, the clarion calls of the Civil Rights movement, and songs of the struggle for justice everywhere. Rooted in a deeply held commitment to create music out of the rich textures of African American legacy and traditions, Sweet Honey in The Rock possesses a stunning vocal prowess that captures the complex sounds of Blues, spirituals, traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, hip-hop, ancient lullabies, and jazz improvisation. Sign language interpreted.

Media Partner: **WEMU 89.1 FM, Between the Lines, Ann Arbor's 107one, Michigan Chronicle/Front Page, and Metro Times.**

Kodo Drummers of Japan

FRI, FEB 13 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"Superlatives don't really exist to convey the primal power and bravura beauty of Kodo... the devil of it is the combination of the discipline of a surgeon's scalpel with the primitive, muscular endurance of a cavalry charge..." (*Chicago Tribune*) With its "One Earth" tour, Kodo brings the sound of the taiko drum to people around the globe, transcending barriers of language and custom and reminding all of our membership in that much larger community, the world. In this age of exploding populations and lightning-fast communication, it is more important than ever that these diverse cultures learn to recognize and accept each other so that all may share our increasingly shrinking planet in harmony, says Kodo's primary philosophy. First appearance since 2005.

The 2009 Family Series is sponsored by Toyota.
Media sponsor: **Ann Arbor's 107one.**

Batsheva Dance Company

Ohad Naharin, artistic director
SAT, FEB 14 | 8 PM
SUN, FEB 15 | 4 PM (NOTE START TIME)
Power Center

Since its founding in 1964 by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, Batsheva Dance Company has become one of the most influential cultural role models in Israel, internationally renowned for pushing the boundaries of cutting edge dance with intense energy, rich sensuality, and a culturally diverse dance language. The company presents two different full-length programs. *Three* (Saturday, contains nudity) is an expansive work of astounding physical exploits and unexpected humor, performed to music ranging from Bach's Goldberg Variations to Brian Eno and the Beach Boys. *Dina Dance* (Sunday) celebrates 10 years of Naharin's work with Batsheva, providing the opportunity to look at the choreographer's repertoire over time, from its most extravagant to its most intimate and heartrending.

The Saturday performance is co-sponsored by **Glorie and Jerry Abrams and Prue and Ami Rosenthal.**
The Sunday performance is sponsored by **The Herbert and Julia Dean Foundation.**
Funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.**
Media Sponsor: **Metro Times, Between the Lines, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, and Detroit Jewish News.**

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Mar. 1*, 6, 7, 8*

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Tickets: \$15-\$18
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734-394-5460 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton Box Office 1 hr. prior to show
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill 50400 Cherry Hill Road Canton, MI 48157

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a romantic comedy by Bernard Slade
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February 19, 20, 21
26, 27, 28 at 8:00 PM
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FOOD & WINE

CITY BITES

ADD MYSTERY TO YOUR VALENTINE'S

CANTON — The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will present Murder Mystery Dinner Theater 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

"To Russia With Love" combines a professionally-produced Russian whodunit with a delicious dinner.

Main Street Catering of Plymouth will provide Chicken Cordon Bleu, wild rice medley, rainbow vegetables, Caesar salad, rolls and butter, chocolate torte cake, soft drinks and coffee. Wine and beer cash bar.

The play centers on a less-than-perfect Russian Ballet Troupe, Ballet Russe de Chernobyl, exiled to Siberia for total lack of talent and grace. The troupe recently made their way to Detroit thanks to a generous benefactress, Madame Olga Ouspenskya. Unbeknownst to her, the troupe is actually an ex-KGB front.

Doors at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Mature audiences. Tickets, \$45 per person, include dinner and show. Visit Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton; call (734) 394-5460 or click on www.canton-mi.org/village-theater.

SCHAKOLAD OFFERS VALENTINE'S TREATS

METRO DETROIT — Schokolad Chocolate Factory is helping romantics choose the perfect gift for their sweets this Valentine's Day with products like white and red chocolate roses, truffles, chocolate ring boxes, chocolate champagne glasses, even chocolate hand-cuffs and body paint.

Schokolad (shock-o-LOD) is European-style chocolate hand-made on-premises based on award-winning recipes passed down through a family of three generations of chocolate makers. Mayan and Chai hot chocolate drinks and sea salt caramels also are favorites.



Schokolad of Birmingham, 167 N. Old Woodward Ave., is marking its one year anniversary. Schokolad Chocolate Factory also has locations at 20450 Haggerty Road, Northville; and 3140 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Visit www.schokolad.com.

BIG ROCK SERVES SPECIAL MENU

BIRMINGHAM — Big Rock Chophouse will celebrate Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 with a special menu that includes a keepsake from South Africa's Juno Wine Company.

The Valentine's Dinner menu begins with a toast of Juno Rosé and continues with a choice of Rock Shrimp Ravioli, Classic Caesar Salad, Lobster Bisque, or Bibb Lettuce with honey-anise roasted berries and yogurt dressing.

Entrees include Seared Salmon with a malted potato cake, haricot vert and citrus, Beef Tenderloin Medallions with pesto potato and poblano corn salsa, Roasted Asparagus, Mushroom, Cauliflower and Quinoa Ragout with bleu cheese gratin and Maple, Pecan Crusted Chicken with mini yukon potatoes and boursin cheese sauce, and Raspberry Bumpy Cake with frozen Faygo red pop. Valentine's menu, \$40 per guest; reservations required, (248) 647-7774, www.bigrockchophouse.com or bigrockchophouse.com.

Big Rock Chophouse is located at 245 South Eton Street in Birmingham.

HAVE A HEART FROM PAPA ROMANO'S

COMMERCE TWP. — Papa Romano's Pizza will once again serve up its famous heart-shaped pizza through Feb. 15. The Love Pizza debuted in 1991, and nearly 30,000 were sold last year.

Despite the sour economy, the chain expects 2009 to be another sweet year for Love Pizza sales.

"It is really an ideal gift because it's affordable, tasty and something people enjoy receiving," said Casey Askar, chairman and chief executive officer of Papa Romano's Pizza. "Our Love Pizza makes a nice impression without breaking the bank."

The one-topping Love Pizza, \$5.99, comes packaged in a red box. The Romance Package coupon-offer features two one-topping Love Pizzas, a medium-size salad and two chocolate-chip cookies. Visit www.paparomanos.com.

VALENTINE ROMANCE AT RUGBY GRILLE

BIRMINGHAM — This Valentine's Day, The Rugby Grille, inside The Townsend Hotel, will offer a sophisticated romantic menu on Feb. 14.

Among the selections is a Lobster Tagliatelle pasta, Norwegian Salmon with a Franklin Mill cider emulsion and Colorado Rack of Lamb finished with natural lamb jus.

In addition, two Rugby Grille classics — Steak Tartare and Dover Sole "A La Meunière" — are available for tableside preparation by Executive Chef Jim Bologna's world-class team. Entrées are \$38-\$47. The Townsend Hotel is located at 100 Townsend St., Birmingham. Call (248) 642-5999 or e-mail reservation-sRG@townsendhotel.com.

Keep your heart in Michigan

Living close to the source of our wine (and food) strengthens our ties to the land, to our roots and the farmer who grew the grapes. Drinking Michigan wines



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

keeps revenue within our state, lessens the amount of fuel used to transport it, thus reducing the carbon footprint.

At the same time, the wine must be good and we are fortunate to have a wide range

of choices. In Michigan's northwest, two wineries are producing excellent wines, one from the Old Mission Peninsula and the other from the Leelanau Peninsula American Viticultural Area (AVA).

So, keep your heart in Michigan on Valentine's Day. On Old Mission Peninsula (OMP), Brys Estate grows grapes for its wines in vineyards overlooking east Grand Traverse Bay. The 2007 growing season was ideal with warm, sunny weather and just enough rain to keep the vines healthy. We recommend the following from Brys Estate:

Signature Red 2006, \$30, is a blend of cabernet franc and merlot with a touch of pinot noir.

WINE PICKS

CABERNET SAUVIGNON for your Valentine, sends you to California.

Ultimate: 2005 Joseph Phelps Insignia, \$200.

Classic: 2004 Kenwood Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon, \$70, has been made each year since 1975.

Outstanding vineyard: 2005 Sbragia Monte Rosso, \$50.

All five Bordeaux varieties: 2005 Dry Creek The Mariner, \$40.

Empty pockets: 2006 Bogle, \$11, a steal at this price.

Red berry flavors are highlighted by notes of vanilla and mellow tannins.

Dry Riesling 2007, \$17, is expressive of OMP with aromas and flavors of peach and apricot with bright acidity.

Signature White 2007, \$20, is a luscious blend of riesling, pinot gris and gewurztraminer that is versatile with a variety of cuisines.

Gewurztraminer 2007, \$18, has characteristic floral and spice aromas and flavors that complement any Asian or Thai cuisine.

Reserve Pinot Noir 2007, \$28, boasts dark cherry flavors with a hint of barrel spice that complements roast chicken, grilled salmon and sauteed mushrooms.

"Dry Ice" 2007, \$70/375mL, was awarded "Best of Class

Dessert Wine" at the 2008 Michigan Wine & Spirits Competition. With seven percent residual sugar, it is not overly sweet. An excellent end to a great meal.

Shady Lane Cellars winemaker Adam Satchwell has taken riesling fruit from the Leelanau Peninsula AVA and explored its full potential. He skillfully produced three wines in dry, semi-dry and sparkling styles. The Shady Lane wines recommended below show the three personalities of Michigan riesling.

Dry Riesling 2007, \$17, exhibits aromas of apples, wildflowers and citrus with balanced acidity that complements fresh fish and seafood as well as chicken and roast pork.

Semi-Dry Riesling, \$17, shows floral, honey, apple and pear flavors with balanced sweetness that magnifies the palate impression. Try it with Asian or Thai cuisine.

Sparkling Riesling, \$22, is dry with very good length boasting fine bubbles that heighten the peach, apple and pear aromas and flavors: A great bubbly to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

Local chef competes on Food Network



Local pastry chef Michelle Bommarito created this cake for a Food Network Challenge episode that will air at 9 p.m. Feb. 15.

FERNDALE — Pastry Chef Michelle Bommarito, along with her assistant pastry chef, Lindsey Tomasko, will be featured on an upcoming episode of Food Network Challenge: Mystery Client Cakes.

The pair competed at Disney World in California against three other teams of chefs to create a cake for singer Miley Cyrus' Sweet 16

birthday. The pair had eight hours to complete the cake, which was covered in teen- and music-inspired artwork made from fondant. See how their creation fared as the episode airs 9 p.m. Feb. 15.

Contact Michelle Bommarito, LLC for cakes and culinary courses at (248) 336-3977.



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