

SUNDAY
February 15
2009

See Career Builder inside or go to hometownlife.com for more than 50 new jobs

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 44
Number 76

75 CENTS

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

Oscar contest
Win a year-long
movie pass to
Emagine Theater
See hometownlife.com
for details.



©A.M.P.A.S.

AROUND TOWN

A place to say 'I do'

It's not at all unusual to see snazzy hats, decorative T-shirts, or even angel wings at Westland's annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a 24-hour walk dedicated to highlighting cancer awareness and celebrating survivorship. But when the City of Westland hosts the event on May 30-31 at Jaycee Park, there will be an additional, albeit unusual, accessory: wedding vows.

The American Cancer Society with the cooperation of AMVETS Post 171 and the City of Westland is sponsoring "A Relay Wedding" at the event. All that's needed is a loving couple.

The American Cancer Society is accepting applications now through Monday, March 9, from couples who wish to be married by Westland Mayor William Wild at the Westland's ninth consecutive Relay For Life. In order to be considered, at least one of the potential candidates must be a resident of Westland and either a cancer patient, survivor or caregiver.

In addition to receiving a "Bridal Bliss Basket," complete with sparkling apple cider, wine flutes and other goodies, the bride will receive a complimentary floral bouquet and may also choose to have her hair coiffed by a professional stylist, while the groom will receive a complimentary tux rental.

The Relay for Life will be held at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter, and the wedding will take place on the event's central stage at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 30. It will be followed by a "bubble lap" in which walkers are encouraged to "toast" the couple by blowing bubbles while walking a lap around the park's track. A "dollar dance" will follow and all money collected will benefit the American Cancer Society.

In keeping with the rules and regulations established by the American Cancer Society, this is an alcohol-free and smoke-free event.

The city is gearing up for the official kickoff on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the AMVETS Hall at 1217 Merriman Road, just south of Cherry Hill in Westland. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m., the program will start at 7 p.m. Dinner will follow. The one-hour party is designed to increase awareness about the American Cancer Society Relay for Life as well as the American Cancer Society in general and is a great way for the general public to find out ways to get involved and make a difference. Applications for couples who wish to be married at relay also will be accepted at the kickoff.

Couples interested in being considered can contact Holly Soranno, Westland's community representative, at (248) 663-3452 or by e-mail at Holly.Soranno@cancer.org. Finalists must be available for a sit-down interview at the American Cancer Society headquarters in Southfield.

Man found guilty of sexual assault

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has been convicted of sexually molesting his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old daughter, who told police she was shown pornographic movies and given alcohol.

Tadario Derwin Sims, 22, was convicted during a trial this month on charges he molested the child while his girlfriend was hospitalized early last year with pregnancy complications involving a boy Sims fathered. The baby survived.

Sims was found guilty of seven

counts of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury that returned its verdict after deliberating for part of two days. He is facing a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison, but Judge Vonda Evans could impose stiffer penalties when she announces her decision on Feb. 25.

Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews, who investigated the case, welcomed the jury's verdict.

"I definitely feel it was a just verdict," she said. "This man took advantage of an 8-year-old girl while

her mother was in the hospital due to complications from pregnancy with a child that was his. There were numerous acts over several weeks."

Sims is facing at least 25 years in prison because the child he molested was under 13 years old. The girl was among the witnesses who testified against Sims during his trial.

Sims decided to go to trial even though Mathews said he made two videotaped confessions admitting what he did.

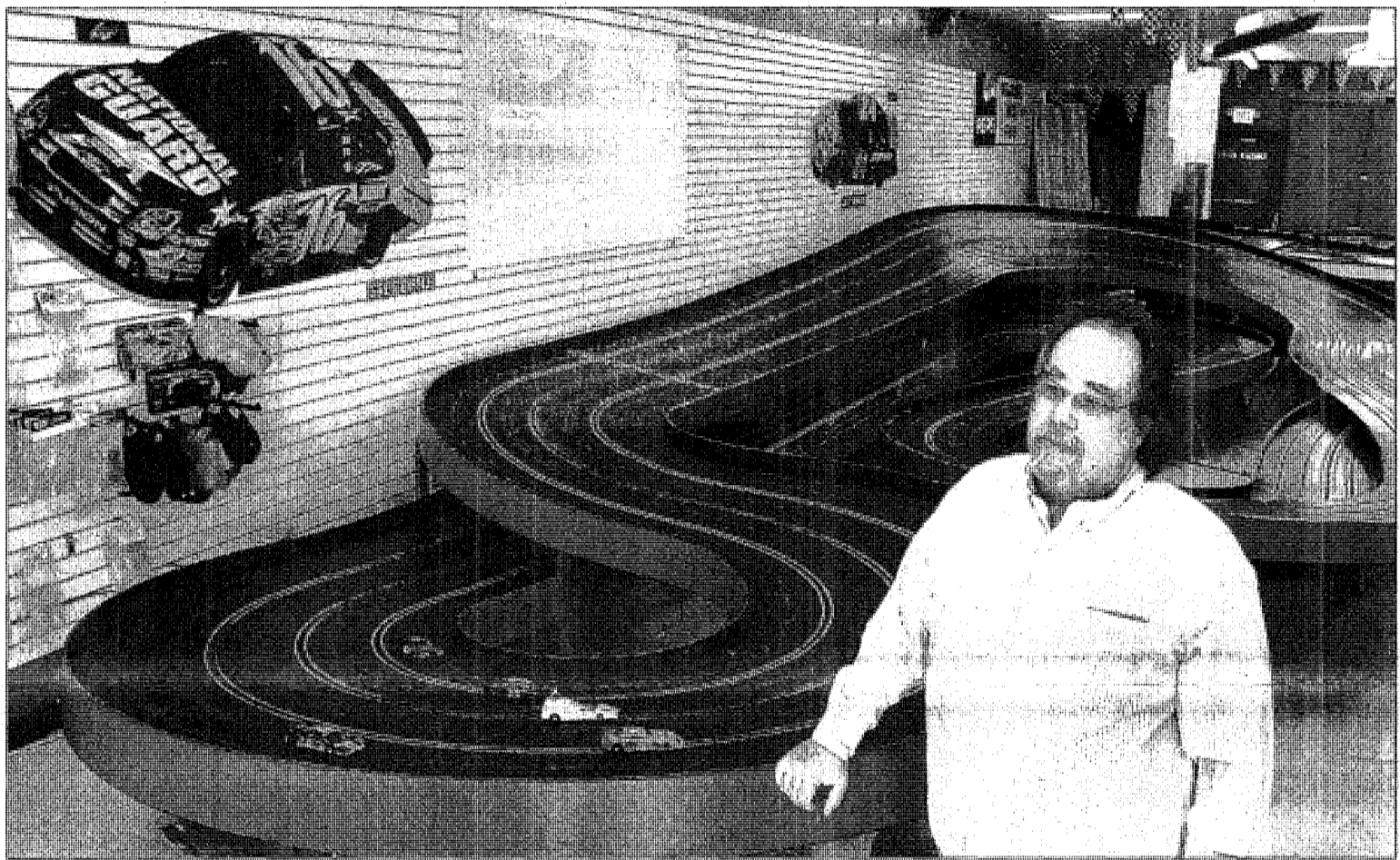
Sims' girlfriend reported the crimes to police last March after she left the hospital and her daugh-

ter told her what had happened, Mathews said. Police arrested Sims the same day at a Westland restaurant.

Sims was caring for the girl and her siblings in their Norway neighborhood residence while the mother was hospitalized. The girlfriend now has four sons and just the one daughter, but Sims is the father of only the last-born boy.

Prior to the incident, Sims had no known criminal history of criminal sexual conduct.

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



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Cummins of Livonia shows off the eight-lane Ogilvie Hill Climb CrissCross track that dominates the floor space in the SlotCar Mania store in Westland that he owns with son Shawn Cummins of Westland.

Shop revives interest in slot car racing

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Shawn Cummins may not like the radio station his father Paul listens to, but the Oldies music fits in well with their revival of an activity that was the rage among kids more than 20 years ago.

There's no roar of the engines, but there's plenty of racing to be had at their Slot Car Mania store on Wayne Road in Westland. From an eight-lane Ogilvie Hill Climb CrissCross track to the 1/24 scale quarter mile drag strip, racers can test their reflexes against other "drivers" or the clock for fun and excitement.

"It's really neat, every day someone comes in and says 'I remember doing this as a kid,'" said Shawn Cummins. "We can get their car back on the track, we can get those memories back."

START YOUR ENGINES

What: Slot Car Mania
Where: 6527 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.
Hours: 2-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday
Information: (734) 469-7087 or online at www.slotcar-mania.com

Paul Cummins remembers going to different slot car race tracks with his sons when they were younger. But those places are all gone, so he and his son developed idea of Slot Car Mania in 2007 and opened their store last September in the shopping plaza at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Located in what had been a clothing store, the two men painted it in

bright colors, hung up checkered flags and moved in a variety of parts and kits from companies like Great Lakes Slot Car, Blind Designs, Koford, JK Products, Sonic and Slick 7. Work on the shop attracted attention from passers-by who stopped to see what was going in the vacant building.

"People would poke their heads in and say 'I remember that,'" said Paul Cummins. "It's word of mouth that has brought people in."

That and being the only slot car race track in western Wayne County has helped build the business grow. From first-time visitors and regular racers to Scout groups and birthday parties, people are rediscovering slot car racing that was the rage in the 1960s.

The store includes the Ogilvie track and drag strip as well as 1/24 scale 1/8-mile drag strip, and six-lane oval HO Buck Track. Race time, including all

tracks and a controller, is available in quarter, half and full hours and costs \$6, \$9 and \$13, respectively. Bring your own wheels and it's \$8 and hour or \$20 for a full day. For families of four, there's a \$30 deal — one hour of racing, all equipment and tracks.

There are specialty nights — \$2 bracket drag warm-ups on Wednesdays and 4-inch and 4 1/2-inch NASCAR night on Thursdays with the main drag nights on Friday. The Cumminses are looking to start a GTF and Formula 1 race night on Tuesdays.

"The tracks are always open, you don't have to belong to an organized race group," Shawn Cummins said.

"We have races through the week and have a lot of fans in on weekends," added Paul Cummins. "We've gotten some good customers and some good

Please see **SLOT CAR, A3**

Index

APARTMENTS C2
AUTOMOTIVE C4
CAREER BUILDER C1
CROSSWORD PUZZLE C2
EDUCATION A4
HEALTH & FITNESS B10
MILESTONES B7-8
NEIGHBORS B6
OBITUARIES B5
REAL ESTATE C2
SPORTS B1

For Home
Delivery call:
(866) 887-2737



6 53174 10007 8

Humphrey named Westland's Police Officer of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Police Officer Brian Humphrey has earned a reputation as an alert officer who has a knack for stopping crimes in progress and for catching suspects on the run.

While driving a prisoner to Detroit with Officer David Zucchetto, Humphrey noticed a robbery happening in Dearborn and quickly stopped, caught the suspect and held him until Dearborn police arrived to arrest him.

Another time, Humphrey was off duty when he noticed a suspect's car and spearheaded



COURTESY OF WESTLAND POLICE AND WLDN

Westland Police Officer of the Year Brian Humphrey stands with Chief James Ridener after receiving his award.

the arrest of a 29-year-old man who posed as a fake photographer and lured a teenage girl to Hines Park, where he started to sexually assault her until she broke free and fled.

His efforts earned Humphrey

the title of Westland Police Officer of Year during a recent awards ceremony in which the city's men and women in blue honored Humphrey and others

Please see **AWARDS, A3**

THE HOSPITAL
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
OPENS MARCH 15.

See the hospital everyone will be talking about.
henryfordwestbloomfield.com



Resident blasts recall folks about remarks

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has lashed out against a small group of city government critics, accusing them of making "libelous and malicious" statements and suggesting they back down or move out of town.

Westland City Council watcher Bill Tremper, saying he is "no longer able to sit back quietly," criticized recall supporters who had sought to oust

five city leaders for supporting a developer's plans for a senior citizen village on Joy east of Newburgh.

Tremper also blasted other residents for continually questioning the way the Wayne-Ford Civic League is run and for implying wrongdoing by the city assessor's office.

Without naming people, Tremper criticized the government critics tone down their criticism. His statement, made during a recent council meet-

ing, was partly aimed at recall supporters who had sought to oust Mayor William Wild and council members James Godbout, Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Dewey Reeves.

"This kind of behavior has to end," Tremper said. "I suspect they're probably saying to each other right now that they have a right to stand up here and desecrate our city and ridicule our city leaders, and that they have a right to free speech. Well, I disagree. Standing up here and

sharing their opinions about various subjects in a civilized manner and offering some positive solutions is a privilege, not a right."

Council watchers such as Donna DeWitt, Judy McKinney, Elenor Swistak and James Davis have repeatedly addressed the council and defended their right to speak out on topics that concern them. Moreover, they have accused city leaders of trying to quash their rights — an allegation offi-

cials have denied.

Councilman Charles Pickering said city leaders might not always like the comments made by certain citizens, but he nonetheless defended their right to speak out during public meetings. Council President Pro Tem Cheryl Graunstadt also has said residents are entitled to air their concerns.

Some other council members have suggested that their critics could make their points without

engaging in personal attacks.

Tremper called on residents to write letters to local newspapers and to stand up at council meetings to defend the city and its leaders. Tremper also publicly thanked the mayor, his administration, City Attorney Angelo Plakas and City Clerk Eileen DeHart for their "hard work and dedication and for making Westland a community we're proud to live in."

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

AROUND WESTLAND

Coffee Hour

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, is holding a coffee hour for constituents 10-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Biggy Coffee Shop, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Gebhardt represents the 12th District, which includes the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia. She serves on the commission's Committee of the Whole, the Committee on Government Operations, the Committee

on Public Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means reviews and approves the county's \$2.25 billion budget and provides oversight of compensation, bond issues, retirement, tax matters, and the assessment and equalization of property.

"Like everybody else, the county is facing a very difficult budget situation, and I am interested in hearing from citizens about what our spending priorities should be," Gebhardt said.

Citizens can contact Gebhardt's office directly with any questions or concerns by at phone at (313) 224-0902 or by e-mail at District12@co.wayne.mi.us.

Cardiac dinner

Brush up on your gaming skills and bet on having a grand time at the 19th annual Health Enhancement Center Cardiology banquet, Straight to the Heart, Saturday, Feb. 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The Garden City Hospital Cardiology Department is hosting an evening of casino-style gaming, dinner, raffles and live music by the Gold Tones.

All proceeds benefit the

Health Enhancement Center in purchasing new exercise equipment and educational materials for cardiac rehabilitation patients and anyone who utilizes the Health Enhancement Center Gym and fitness classes. The event will run 5-11 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call Garden City Hospital at (734) 458-3242.

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is hosting an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Willow Creek is accepting enrollment into our Parent/

Tot, Young 3's, 3 year and 4 year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

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.

In the footlights

Inspire Theatre presents "It Ain't Broadway, But It's Close," a musical review of some of the biggest Broadway tunes, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21, at the Warren Road Light and Life Church. Show times are 7:30 p.m. nightly. Tickets are \$11. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (734) 751-7057. Warren Road Light and Life Church is at 33445 Warren Road, between Wayne Road and Venoy.

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD
GANNETT

HOW TO REACH US

Home Delivery/Customer Service.....1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
Newsroom.....(313) 222-2223 Fax.....(313) 223-4650
Classified Advertising.....1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Display Advertising.....(734) 582-8363

online at hometownlife.com
615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 2/27/2009 at 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Darryl J Smith | 1018 | boxes, bags, chair |
| Yancy Davis | 1138 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Elleen Seaborn | 1386 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Robert Jones | 2018 | boxes |
| Robert Jones | 2152 | boxes |
| Rob Jones | 2170 | boxes |
| Shatunna Priester | 2188 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Robert Jones II | 2202 | boxes |
| Sade Walker | 2208 | sofa, love seat |
| Dwight Davis | 2286 | toys, boxes, bags |
| Nadia El-rawas | 2352 | tool box, bags, boxes |

Publish: February 8, 16, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 2/27/2009 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Hearthstone Assisted Living | 1009 | boxes, fans, tire |
| Paye Guerra | 1022 | boxes, bags, car parts |
| Steven Dale Trimble | 105 | boxes, dresser, tv |
| Toneka Pierce | 120 | bags, tv, toys |
| Randy Reinhold | 139 | bags, bike, totes |
| Pro Line Building | 143 | boxes, bags, saw |
| Jamison Tompkins | 212 | boxes, vacuum, tool box |
| Tracy Woods | 238 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Faith Collier | 336 | dryer, weights, bags |
| Karrie Boudrie | 346 | boxes, bags, clothes |
| Theresa Bosworth | 411 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Chaquita McCroy | 527 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Adam Fockler | 533 | bags, totes, bike |
| Scott Murray | 539 | boxes, bags, washer |
| Susan Dalimonte | 947 | boxes, bags, totes |

Publish: February 8, 16, 2009

HIGH VELOCITY SPORTS

W3 FLAG FOOTBALL

YOUTH LEAGUES:
Youth Flag Football for Elementary, Middle, & High School.
8 Games
Free Agents: \$100
Team Fee: \$950

ADULT LEAGUES:
8 Games
Team Fee: \$950

Winter 3: Mar. 2-Apr. 28
Registration Deadline:
Feb. 20th

All participants must be members of HVS.

(734) HV-SPORT 46245 Michigan Ave. hvsports.com

THE WOMEN OF WESTLAND
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
WESTLAND'S 5TH ANNUAL
ATHENA AWARD CHOCOLATE FANTASY BALL
Saturday, March 7, 2009

SPONSORS:
Women Of Westland, Westland Mayor William R. Wild, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

HAWTHORNE VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
7300 Merriman Road • Westland, MI 48185
(Between Warren & Ann Arbor Trail)

Tickets are \$20.00 per person

The evening includes appetizers and desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Recognition of the nominees and the ATHENA Award presentation at 7:30 pm. The ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy extravaganza will dazzle your senses!

ELEGANT, SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE • CASH BAR
RAFFLES AND PRIZES • DANCING

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Available at
Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe
(734) 261-3680

Knowledge.

I wanted to practice medicine where I could teach and learn.

Why did I choose Garden City Hospital?

We're the only teaching hospital in our region to be named a **100 Top Hospital**. And one of only 25 in the U.S. to earn that distinction. Medical students, interns and doctors from around the country come here to learn.

At great hospitals, patients expect doctors to be leading experts. And right here — I work with some of the best. We're a team of more than **360 physicians in nearly every specialty**. I'm very proud of our advanced expertise — and the personal attention we give our patients.

That's why I choose Garden City Hospital.
Discover more reasons for you to choose Garden City Hospital.

gchosp.org | 877-717-WELL

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL
Good Health. Generations to Generations.

AWARDS

FROM PAGE A1

for fighting crime and making the city safer.

Officers David Hochstein and Kenneth Percin earned departmental citations for thwarting a domestic dispute that escalated when a man pulled a gun, struggled with Percin and fired a shot that grazed Percin's hand before Hochstein, fearing his partner had been shot, returned fire. The gunman later died.

Police Chief James Ridener praised the efforts of officers like Humphrey, Hochstein and Percin, whose wounds also brought him the Police Heart award.

"Their actions go above and beyond," Ridener said. "It's truly a testament to the type of officers that we have at our department."

"It could have been any of our officers. They were in the right place at the right time, and it was their time to step up," Ridener said. "It's a testament to their ability to function at a very high level."

Humphrey was hired in



Officers David Hochstein (left) and Kenneth Percin (second from right) accept their awards from Police Chief James Ridener (right). Watching is Mayor William Wild.

1997 and has served in the department's patrol division. He is a field training officer who has earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Hochstein and Percin also have received awards from the Michigan Police Officers Association and were issued Medals of Valor by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

During the local awards ceremony, the city's top brass also lauded the work

of officers from the Special Investigations Unit and the multi-agency Metro Street Enforcement Team for an investigation that put two prostitution ringleaders in prison for three to 20 years for arranging for a 16-year-old runaway girl to have sex for pay with older men.

For their efforts on the prostitution case, those receiving Certificates of Merit were Lt. Robert Swope, Sgt. Scott Murray,

Officers Randy Thivierge, Darin Keir, James Francisco and Burke Lange, and Wayne County Sheriff Deputy Kevin Reed.

In other honors, the Special Investigations Unit was lauded for setting new records in 2008 for executing 107 search warrants and seizing more than \$550,000 in cash and property from drug dealers. The unit also confiscated stolen guns, stolen prescription drugs, hundreds of pounds of marijuana, jewelry and other items.

Finally, dozens of sworn officers from Chief Ridener all the way down to patrol officers were commended for their response to a botched drug deal that erupted in a gunfight last August between five would-be robbers and undercover Romulus police outside the former Bob's of Canton-Westland store at Warren and Merriman. The incident ended without any injury to innocent bystanders, but one suspect was killed and four others have been sent to prison for lengthy terms.

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

SLOT CAR

FROM PAGE A1

friends."

The store is attracting people from around the area as well as some racers from Flint and "a guy who drives two hours from Ohio on a Friday night to drag race," Shawn Cummins said.

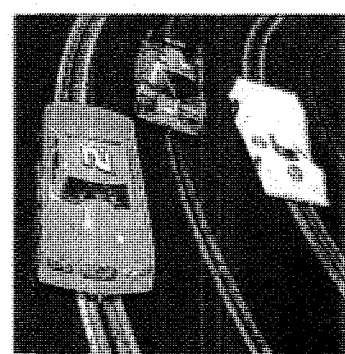
One of the racers who comes in is Eric Lagana. The former Garden City resident sees a lot of camaraderie and a lot of fun at the store.

"I like that," he said. "I've been coming here since a week after it opened. I have a really good time here."

Lagana is one of those people who had slot cars before. He started slot care racing in 1983 and did it at Jay 500 on Cherry Hill at Merriman until it closed. He moved over to Hot Slots on Ford in Garden City in the 1990s and raced there until it closed.

"This is filling the gap," he said. "People who raced before with groups come in and other people come in to learn from them," he said.

By the spring, the Cummins hope to add truck and tractor pulls to the offerings at the store.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bring your own slot car or use one provided by the store. The choices include NASCAR and Formula 1 models.

According to Paul Cummins, the pulls are just like full-sized competition. The scaled down versions can't be found anywhere in Michigan, he said.

"It would be just like you'd see on TV," he said.

Shawn Cummins sees the store as fulfilling a need in these tough economic times.

"People still need to do something at an affordable price," he said. "For a family of four, this is cheaper than going to a movie. And when you have a track with eight kids around it, you can't replace what they're experiencing with a video game."

TAXFASTER
www.taxfaster.com

- Private, confidential business accounting, payroll and bookkeeping services
- Quarterly reports • Profit/Loss statements • CPA's on staff
- Our preparers will do a thorough evaluation to ensure you are using all available deductions • 15 years of tax preparation experience

Home of the **CASHFASTER Refund** (Refund Anticipation Loan)

\$50 OFF
Any Income Tax Preparation Service
With this coupon • Expires 4-15-09

Accounting & Bookkeeping With Free Private Consultation & the 1st Month's Service is... **FREE**
With this coupon • Expires 4-15-09

For **SAME DAY** Service Please Call: **734-405-6555**

Located at 38950 Cherry Hill on the corner of John Hix Road in Westland

We get your dentures fitting right the first time!
We guarantee it!

- Same Day DENTURES w/Extractions
- CROWNS-\$200 OFF
- FLEXIBLE SOFT PARTIALS

Full Set of Dentures From **\$599**
Offer Good til April 30, 2009

AMERICAN MADE RIGHT HERE IN LIVONIA!

APPLE DENTURE CENTER & MORE, L.L.C.
28200 West 7 Mile Rd. • Suite 126 • Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 777-7547

Dr. Michael Blume, D.D.S. Ronald DeLuca, D.D.S.

Vicki Lawrence and Mama

A Two Woman Show

Friday, February 27, 2009 8pm

Tickets
Range in price from **\$17-\$59**

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue

For tickets call 313-943-2354 or order anytime on-line at www.dearbornfordcenter.com

A SAVINGS CHOICE

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

2.50% APY*
12-MONTH

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

3.50% APY*
60-MONTH

THE CHOICE IS YOURS. Whether it's a short- or long-term CD, you're maximizing your returns with these high-yield rates. If you're saving with Citizens Bank, you already have made a wise decision.

TO OPEN A CD ONLINE OR FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU, VISIT CITIZENSBANKING.COM OR CALL 800-444-6989.

* The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is valid as of 2/15/09. \$1,000 minimum deposit required to open either account. CD's valid only on new accounts. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. May vary by institution with each certificate of deposit offer.

CITIZENS BANK

EDUCATION

Technology lets students discover black history

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In the past, youngsters found information for reports in books. These days they're using technology not only to research but create reports.

That's what's been happening in classrooms at Hamilton Elementary School in Westland where youngsters are using today's technology to look at 19th century slavery.

"We're doing a report on life as a slave, we found information on Google and in books from the library," said fifth-grader Breanna Korenc whose working with Caleb Denton and Miranda Crummey on a Powerpoint presentation for Black History Month.

"We have stuff about the slave trade, what slaves were worth and some of the things they did to escape, how they were captured and treated," added Caleb. "We're just about done."

"They're not afraid to use technology. They've created slide shows either about the life of a slave or a popular slave like Harriet Tubman," said teacher Dana Chapman.

The students have been working on their reports for about three days. When they're done, they'll present them to the class and then print them out to display for others to read.

Breanna and Caleb have produced a seven-page report that goes beyond black and white.



Hamilton Elementary fifth-graders Caleb Denton (from left), Miranda Crummey and Breanna Kolenc work on their PowerPoint on "The Life of a Slave" as part of their Black History Month lesson.

They've used their computer skills to provide a colored background for their written statements and merged old photographs they found on the Internet.

Some of the students have gone one step further, adding music and even recording their own voices, reading their reports.

"We had to memorize the whole thing because the record-

er covered the words," said Tony Sample. "I did the recording because I'm the loudest in the class."

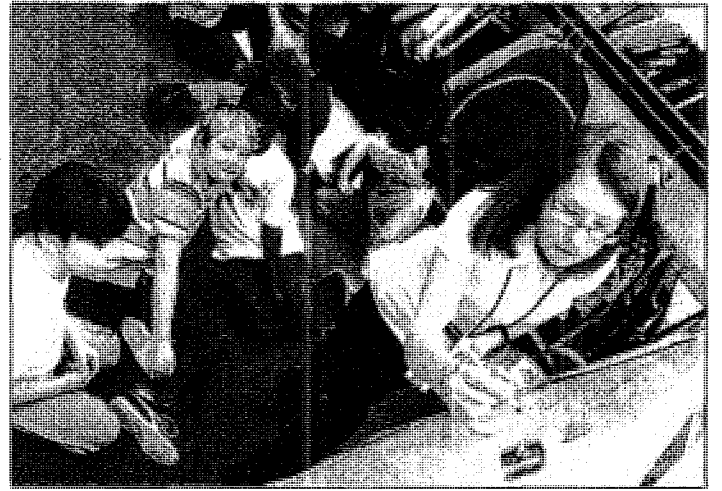
His partners, Rachel Ditmore and Tyler Morris selected the backgrounds to suit the subject. So far they've selected rainbow, housing and even a sunset.

"So far we have six pages, maybe we'll do one more and try to put in some pictures," Tyler said.

Down the hall, Jennifer Chambers third-graders are taking a more traditional way of learning about black history.

So far they created mobiles that play off of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream." Portions of the mobile contain their dreams for their community, country and world.

They also spent time listening to student teacher Angela Flis read *The Story of Ruby*



Hamilton Elementary student teacher Angela Flis works with third-graders on words they can use for their biography poem about Ruby Bridges, first African American to attend an all-white school in New Orleans.

Bridges, a children's book about the young girl who was the first black student to enter the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in November 1960.

After hearing the story, the youngsters brainstormed with Flis about words to describe Ruby, words that they used to create a biographical poem.

"They'll use adjectives to describe how it feels, what she needs and end up with a poem," Chambers said.

The poem looks for three adjectives to describe Ruby as well as three words to describe how she feels, what she needs, what she fears, what she can give and what she would like to see happen.

According to Rebecca Trail, Ruby was "a happy person and a brave person."

"She went into a school, she was brave to go into an all-white school and she wasn't afraid to go back," she said. "It would feel kind of weird to me, if I had to go to an all-black school and someone watched me. Usually, the only person who watches me in school in my teacher."

Nathan Lamanen agreed that the experience would be scary, adding that what Ruby needed "was some friends."

"She needed some happiness because there was no one there but her teacher," he said.

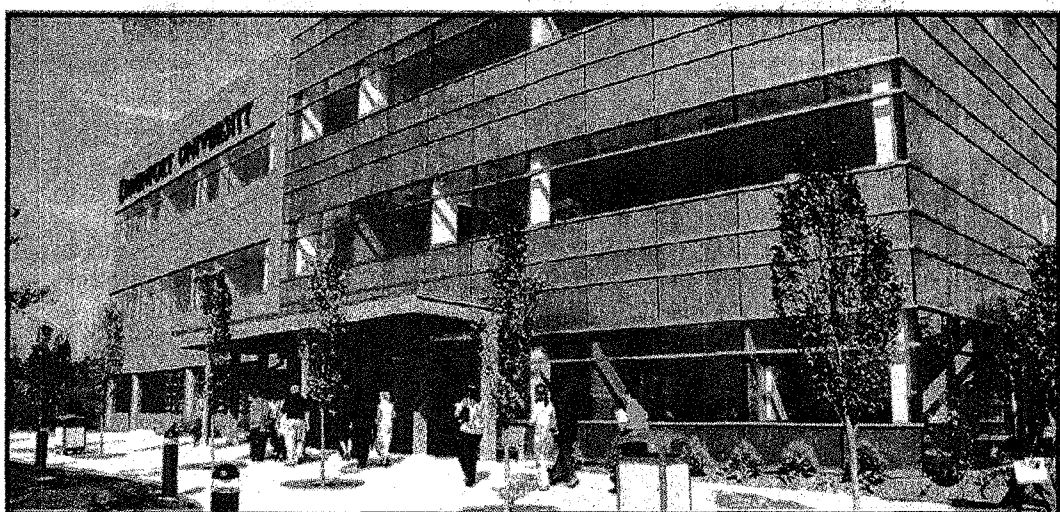
smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Got Game?

Yep, got scores, too.

Check today's

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

- In-seat and online programs
- Day, evening and weekend classes
- Personal attention through small class sizes (15-student average)
- Only MBA with five career concentrations
- Faculty with real world experience
- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

TOP IN-DEMAND DEGREES

- New Executive MBA
- Master of Science in Information Assurance
- Accounting Fraud Investigation
- Computer Information Systems
- Health Services Administration
- Network Security

Visit www.davenport.edu/programs for a complete list of programs.

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

BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | HEALTH
www.davenport.edu | 1-800-636-1500

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Name: Holly Hinken, 17
Grade, School: Senior at John Glenn High School/William D. Ford Career Technical Center
Parents: Lorie and Randy Hinken
Nominated by: Chef Tony Paquette
Why is she being nominated: Holly is a dedicated student striving to be in the culinary field. She is persistent, always goes a step above to assist with the many catering events we do and

Hinken

never misses class. Holly has been a good student in all of her classes and a 4.0 grade point average in culinary arts for two years.

What do you want to be when you grow up: "A chef, in the hot foods area."

What do you like about school?: "My Career-Tech Culinary Arts Class is both fun and a challenging."

What is your favorite subject: "History is very interesting."

Who are your role models? Why?: "My parents are my role models. They are always supportive and help build my confidence."

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.

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

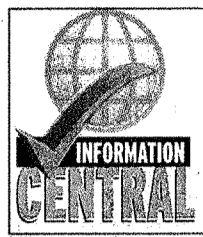
734-604-CASH

Our professionals use the latest high tech testing equipment

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

How well do you sleep?

Does it really matter if you get enough sleep? Not only does the quantity of your sleep matter, but



the quality of your sleep is important as well. People whose sleep is interrupted a lot or is cut short might not get enough

of certain stages of sleep. How well rested you are and how well you function the next day depend on your total sleep time and how much of the various stages of sleep you get each night.

At the Westland library, you can learn about the importance of quality sleep with "Sleep: a Groundbreaking Guide to the Mysteries, the Problems and the Solutions" by Carlos Schenck or "Sleep to Save Your Life: The Complete Guide to Living Longer and Healthier through Restorative Sleep" by Gerard T. Lombardo.

What about all the different sleep disorders that affect the lives of millions of people? For those who snore we have "Don't Snore Anymore: Your Complete Guide to a Quiet Night's Sleep" by Jeffrey N. Hausfield or for those who live with someone who snores there is "Snore No More!: How to Help Your Mate or Family Member Stop Snoring and Live Longer and Healthier!" by James L. Mosley.

Insomnia is another very common sleep disorder that interferes with your ability to fall asleep or stay asleep. If you're having trouble sleeping check out "Say Good Night to Insomnia" by Gregg D. Jacobs, "Insomniac" by Gayle Greene or "Sleep Demons: An Insomniac's Memoir" by Bill Hayes.

Whether you're interested in learning more about sleep or any other topic, the Westland library is here to help. You can give us a call at (734) 326-6123 or visit us online at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Feb. 17

Join us as we discuss "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. This atmospheric tale is based on actual circus stories and is documented with historical circus photographs. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

African American Film Series: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18

Teens and adults. Join poet, playwright, and actor Victor Walker in viewing "The Pact," a film about three young African American doctors who are devoted to inspiring African Americans to reach their

goals. An introduction and post-movie discussion will be lead by Walker.

20s/30s Book Club: 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at Bigby Coffee, 37644 Ford, west of Newburgh

Join us as we discuss "Black Swan Green" by David Mitchell. Set against the background of the Margaret Thatcher era in England when war is being waged in the Falklands, Jason Taylor relates, month by month, the events of his

13th year, when he enters that period of adolescent cruelty. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

Open Mic: 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 19, teens and adults. This is an after-hours library program.

Need a spot to let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style? Join other local artists at this after hours event as they read, rap, sing, act, dance and soliloquy for the betterment of your senses. Poets, writers, musicians and performers are

encouraged to show us what you've got! Singer-songwriter John Latini emcees. All audience members welcome.

Navigating Turbulent Economic Times: 7 p.m. Feb. 23

Join Andrew Gagne, associate financial advisor, as he discusses common sense methods for making it through tough markets in a fourth-quarter market review. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. All wel-

come. Call (734) 326-6123 for more information.

Computer Classes: 11 a.m. Feb. 16, Powerpoint for the Beginner, 2 p.m. Feb. 16, Introduction to E-mail, 7 p.m. Feb. 16 Introduction to Microsoft Word, 2 p.m. Feb. 18 File Management.

Stop by the library for a complete description and requirements for all classes. All computer classes are hands-on. Space is limited. Register in advance at the Reference Desk or

call (734) 326-6123

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening
Everyone welcome.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian and Web master Kristy Cooper. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

verizon wireless

Introducing Friends & Family.®

Unlimited calling to any 10 numbers. Anywhere in America. Anytime.

Get the best value in wireless.

Choose 10 numbers to share on any Nationwide Basic Family SharePlan® \$89.99 or higher.

Choose 5 numbers on any Nationwide Basic Plan \$59.99 or higher.

Activation fees, taxes & other charges apply.*

Choose any numbers on any network. Even landlines.
Change your numbers online anytime!

100% amazing. 50% off!

Our best Samsung phones.

Samsung Alias™

Now \$49.99 only

\$99.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

Samsung Sway™

Now \$29.99 only

\$79.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

Samsung Omnia™

Now \$99.99 only

\$169.99 2-yr. price - \$70 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation on voice plan with email feature, or email plan.

Switch to America's Largest and Most Reliable Wireless Network.

Call **1.877.2BUY.VZW** Click **verizonwireless.com** Visit any store

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>ALLEN PARK 3128 Fairlane Dr. 313-271-9255 ★</p> <p>AUBURN HILLS Great Lakes Crossing Mall 248-253-1799</p> <p>BRIGHTON 8159 Challis, Ste. C 810-225-4789</p> <p>CANTON 42447 Ford Rd. 734-844-0481</p> <p>CLINTON TOWNSHIP NEW! 17370 Hall Rd. 586-228-4977</p> <p>DEARBORN 24417 Ford Rd. 313-278-4491 ★ Fairlane Mall 313-441-0168</p> <p>DETROIT 14126 Woodward 313-869-7392 300 Renaissance Center 313-567-4055</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS 31011 Orchard Lake Rd. 248-538-9900</p> <p>FENTON 17245 Silver Pkwy. 810-629-2733</p> <p>FT. GRATIOT 4129 24th Ave. 810-385-1231</p> <p>LAKE ORION 2531 S. Lapeer Rd. 248-393-6800</p> <p>LIVONIA 29523 Plymouth Rd. 734-513-9077</p> <p>MONROE 2161 Mall Rd. 734-241-4099</p> <p>NORTHVILLE 20580 Haggerty Rd. 734-779-0148</p> <p>NOVI 43025 12 Mile Rd. 248-305-6600 Twelve Oaks Mall 248-735-3973</p> <p>PONTIAC/WATERFORD 454 Telegraph Rd. 248-335-9900</p> <p>ROCHESTER HILLS 3035 S. Rochester Rd. 248-853-0550</p> <p>ROYAL OAK 31941 Woodward Ave. 248-549-4177</p> <p>ST. CLAIR SHORES 26401 Harper Ave. 586-777-4010</p> <p>SOUTHFIELD 28117 Telegraph Rd. 248-358-3700</p> <p>STERLING HEIGHTS 45111 Park Ave. 586-997-6500 Lakeside Mall 586-247-7286</p> <p>TAYLOR 23495 Eureka Rd. 734-287-1770</p> <p>TROY 1913 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-526-0040 Oakland Mall 248-588-9507</p> <p>WARREN 5745 Twelve Mile Rd. 586-578-0955</p> <p>WESTLAND 35105 Warren Rd. 734-722-7330</p> | <p>AUTHORIZED RETAILERS Equipment prices, models & return policy vary by location. Authorized Retailers may impose additional equipment-related charges, including cancellation fees.</p> <p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS Wireless Network 248-593-3400</p> <p>CANTON Cellular and More 734-404-0191, 734-981-7440</p> <p>CLARKSTON Cellular Technologies 248-625-1201</p> <p>CLAWSON Communications USA 248-280-6390</p> <p>COMMERCE Cellular Source 248-360-9400 Wireless Tomorrow 248-669-1200</p> <p>DAVISON Wireless USA 248-395-2222</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Cellular City 248-848-8800 Wireless USA 248-395-2222</p> <p>FT. GRATIOT Wireless Solutions 810-385-3400</p> <p>GROSSE POINTE Wireless Zone 313-417-1000</p> <p>MACOMB Wireless Zone 586-566-8555</p> <p>MARYSVILLE Fusion Communications 810-326-1931</p> <p>MILFORD Mobile2Mobile Wireless 248-529-6647</p> <p>MONROE 2B Mobile 734-240-0388 Cellular Central 734-384-9691 Herkimer Radio 734-242-0806 Herkimer Too 734-384-7001</p> <p>MT CLEMENS Wireless Zone 586-486-7300</p> |
|---|--|

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS
1-800-899-4249

★ **HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL**

In Collaboration with

SPOTLIGHT ON:

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

A BETTER SMILE

When crooked, overlapping, or chipped teeth detract from a smile, it may only take a few subtle alterations to the teeth to improve how the whole smile looks. Tooth contouring and reshaping are cosmetic techniques that can make a big difference while only requiring a single visit to the dentist. With a few deft touches, the dentist can change the shape, length, or position of teeth with minimal (if any) discomfort to the patient. A sanding drill or laser may be utilized to remove small amounts of surface enamel gradually, after which abrasive strips are slid back and forth between the teeth to shape their surfaces. Finally, teeth are smoothed and polished to yield the final results.

The many faces of cosmetic dentistry all work toward the same goal - providing patients with more reasons than ever to break into a smile. Chipped teeth, crooked teeth, teeth with decay on visible surfaces, as well as discolored and unattractive teeth can all be dealt with through the various cosmetic procedures available today, including reshaping & contouring, composite fillings, bonding, porcelain laminates, whitening, and other smile enhancements. Maximize your options for a dazzling smile - call us at **734-453-9413**. We're located at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**.

P.S. Tooth contouring and reshaping may be combined with bonding to build up areas of the teeth.

CE08642654

*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 9.5% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 85¢ Administrative/line/mo. & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 9%–33% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee, up to 40¢/min after allowance & add'l charges apply for data sent or received (incl. Mobile Web ads). Friends & Family: Only domestic landline or wireless numbers (other than directory assistance, 900 numbers or customer's own wireless or Voice Mail access numbers) may be added; all qualifying lines on an account share the same Friends & Family numbers, up to account's eligibility limits; My Verizon required to set up and manage Friends & Family numbers. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Network details & coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 weeks & expires in 12 months.

© 2009 Verizon Wireless. IFFM

Anderson concerned over proposed cuts to school funding

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Anderson

The devil is always in the details. After giving a broad outline of her priorities in the State of the State address, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm Thursday presented state legislators with the grim details Thursday. The governor is proposing cutting \$670 million from the state budget including cutting the K-12 per pupil funding

by \$599 to a \$7,255 minimum; cutting university funding by \$100 million and cutting before and after school programs by \$5 million. Her budget would also include a potential cut of 1,500 state jobs, mostly in corrections. Other proposed cuts would come in grants to arts and cultural organizations, the

Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the state fairs in Detroit and Escanaba. State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, whose district includes Redford, Westland, Garden City and Livonia, said these are tough times and the cuts were expected. "I'm not too pleased with some of the areas being cut," he said Friday. "I expect we'll do what we can to shift cuts around." Anderson is especially unhappy with the cuts to school

foundation grants. He said districts like Wayne-Westland and Livonia would be particularly hard hit. "That may be something that some schools can absorb, but cuts in the categoricals will push some schools over the edge," he said. Categoricals are money specifically designated for particular programs. Anderson is on the Senate Appropriations Committee. He said the governor's budget proposal is just a first step and that changes will be made. He said

that money appropriated for smaller schools, proposed by the governor last year, hadn't been expended and could be shifted toward school budgets. He said it was important to continue working on government reform measures in an effort to deal with Michigan's historical structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures. He suggested reductions in the state legislative budget as one way of saving some money. "We need to address our structural problems. We need

to right the ship and get things sorted out. There will be changes," he said. Anderson commended the governor for not replying too much on the federal stimulus package currently working its way through the U.S. Congress. "I am glad they did not attempt to use stimulus dollars to create new programs that cannot be sustained when the stimulus money runs out," he said.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8730

WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUES

Registration Deadline: 2/27
League: March 1-May 31
10 Games + Playoffs

Adult Team Fee: \$550
Or, Free Agent Fee: \$85
(Referee fees are NOT included.)
Youth Team Fee: \$850
Or, Free Agent Fee: \$100
(ALL fees included.)

(734) HV-SPORT 46245 Michigan Ave. hvsports.com

He's a pro at Pick the Pros

A Livonia resident proved he was a real pro when it comes to football and picked enough winners to take first place in the *Observer & Eccentric's* Pick the Pros contest.

Bruce Lambert, a self-employed television producer and director, scored 193 points to take first place out of 573 contestants. Season scores were the sum of the best 17 out of 21 weeks, with the worst four thrown out.

Lambert won a room and golf package for two at the Garland Resort in Lewiston. Lambert came on strong during the NFL playoffs, picking all four wild card game winners, then three of four victors in the conference playoffs and both winners of the conference championships along with the eventual champion Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

Contestants earned one point for each accurate pick during the regular season, four for playoff games, eight for the conference championships and 16 for the Super Bowl.

Lambert has played Pick the Pros for four years. On picking winners, Lambert said: "It's just a gut feeling. I just started picking them right and left." (Translation: He guessed.) Lambert said he was "pleasantly surprised" at the news of his win. "Some weeks I got all 16 points," he said. "It was fun."

LAST CHANCE TO SEE TOPOL

THE STAR OF THE MOTION PICTURE

FAREWELL TOUR

TOPOL

Fiddler on the Roof

HEAR the rousing, heartwarming score that includes the classics "Tradition," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset."

RELIEVE the glorious tradition of the musical theatre!

Detroit Opera House • March 3-8 • Tickets at Fisher Theatre box office & all ticketmaster outlets incl. Macy's ticketmaster.com • 800-982-2787 • Info 313-872-1000 BroadwayInDetroit.com • Groups (12+): 313-871-1132 or groupsales@meridianerdetroit.com

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

Thinking of Buying or Refinancing? NOW is the Time!!

4.88% APR
30-YEAR FIXED
Plus
\$500 OFF Closing Costs

Can't Refinance? We can modify your current loan even if you owe more than it is worth.

\$500 off offer expires 4-15-09

EAGLE NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE CO. 38950 Cherry Hill Rd. Westland, MI 48185
A Subsidiary of Eagle National Bank

www.applyeagle.com 734-405-6600

NOW OPEN

that's cool

Cool Stuff consignments!

treasures, antiques & Furniture...

28243 Plymouth Road
Located in the Mathison Bldg.
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 522-5638
M-F 9-6; SAT 9-4; SUN 11-3

An exceptional home-like setting for Active/Alert, Memory Impaired, Frail/Recovering and Alzheimer's residents.

Crystal Creek

Assisted Living

STATE LICENSED

- 24 Hour Professional Staffing
- Private/Semi Private/Barrier Free
- 3 Home Cooked Meals A Day
- On Call Nurse Practitioner
- Planned Activities
- Wander Secured/Enclosed Courtyard
- Medication Management
- Daily Housekeeping & Laundry
- Incontinence Management
- Beauty & Barber Shop

CANTON
(734) 453-3203
8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads

THINKING ABOUT... A NEW FURNACE?

LENNOX

FREE ESTIMATES
(734) 525-1930

Our 35th Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA
www.unitedtemperatureservices.com

Why Does My Back Hurt More When It's Cold?

Scientists ponder this very question!

Dr. Thomas J. Gerou
Canton Doctor of Chiropractic

Have you ever noticed your back hurts more when it's cold out? And, it's probably not just your back. Joints all over your body stiffen up and things seem to hurt "all over."

If that describes you, then you are not alone. Many people seem to suffer more from back and joint pain related conditions as soon as the temperature starts to dip.

Many people with back pain, joint pain, headaches and fibromyalgia attest to the correlation of cold weather and worsening of their symptoms.

So what can you do? Since you can't change the weather (although living in a warm, sunny place might help!) Chiropractic care may dramatically minimize its effects on your back pain.

So if you haven't tried Chiropractic for your back pain, give Canton chiropractor Dr. Thomas Gerou a call. Like all doctors' offices, care may vary from office to office. But if you are looking for a Chiropractor who offers short term, affordable back pain care, or if you have questions, call Dr. Gerou's friendly and caring office at 556-1717. You can be seen immediately...and here's the best part, no obligation to extensive treatment plans! 02884451

GET HIGH-DEFINITION EARNINGS AND AN HDTV TOO.



Flagstar offers not just a great selection of CDs and terms at highly competitive rates. Now when you open a 12- to 17-month CD with a minimum deposit of \$35,000, you also get a free 15" HDTV — delivered right to your home!

Open a 12- to 17-month CD at
2.50% APY*
with Loyalty Checking
Get an HDTV FREE**

Individual accounts now
FDIC-insured up to \$250,000†

Flagstar
The new wave in banking

Member FDIC | (800) 642-0039 | www.flagstar.com

Fisher Funeral Home

Family Owned and Operated

Cremation
- Affordable Alternative -

Basic Cremation
\$695* inclusive of all fees & services
* \$200 additional for Memorial Services

Traditional Service with Cremation
\$2195 includes Casket, facade, viewing & service

Affordable traditional funerals tailored for any budget

24501 Five Mile Road • Redford
313-535-3030
www.fisherfuneralandcremation.com

*Stated Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 2/11/2009. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$35,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Account fees could reduce earnings. A penalty of 180 days of interest on the amount withdrawn may be imposed for withdrawals before maturity. In addition, an early withdrawal penalty in the amount of \$200 will be assessed for the cost of the TV. Not available for public units. Customers must maintain their primary checking account at Flagstar Bank and conduct an average of 15 monthly transactions or at least \$250 in recurring ACH transactions per month to qualify for the Loyalty rate. "Loyalty checking account" rate offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers. Rate is effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. **For a limited time, open a 12- to 17-month CD and we'll ship a 15" Sony LCD HDTV digital TV/monitor to your home. See your Flagstar representative for more details. Flagstar will issue a 1099 for the value of the TV. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. †FDIC coverage is available until December 31, 2009, limited to \$100,000 thereafter.

Changes ahead for estate inheritance taxes

Dear Rick: If the stepped-up basis for inherited assets is canceled in 2010, do you anticipate its reinstatement in 2011?

Yes. The stepped-up basis will be back in 2011, although the estate tax exemption will be much lower than it is today. The exemption in 2011 is scheduled to be \$1 million. Today it's \$2.5 million.

It is important to explain what is happening with estate tax laws. Presently, there is a \$2.5 million exemption for estate taxes.

That means upon your death, the first \$2.5 million — above and beyond money going to a charity and/or a spouse — in assets is estate tax free. Remember it is not the beneficiaries who are subject to the estate tax, rather, the estate

itself. Basically, upon death your assets are valued at fair market value. After deductions for charitable contributions and/or what a spouse inherits, the first \$2.5 million is estate tax free. Then and only then does the estate pay federal estate taxes.

Over the last several years, the exemption amount has grown dramatically. It wasn't too long ago that the exemption was only \$600,000. The problem arises because of quirks in the estate tax law. In 2010, there will be no estate taxes. Basically, if someone passes away in 2010 their estate is not subject to any estate tax. However, in 2011 the law reverts back to an older version of the estate tax law and the exemption drops to \$1 million. The other quirk in this law deals with stepped-up basis.

When someone inherits money from an estate, that money is not subject to estate taxes. In addition, the beneficiary receives what is known as a stepped-up basis in the assets that they are inheriting.

For example, if you inherited ABC Stock and at the time of inheritance the stock was selling for \$10 a share but the decedent had only paid two dollars a share, your cost basis would be \$10 a share. That means if you sell stock for \$11 a share, only one dollar is subject to income tax.

If you inherit money in 2010, you receive a transfer-cost basis as opposed to a stepped-up basis. In the example above, if you sold the stock for \$11 a share your transfer cost basis is only two dollars a share, thus you would pay taxes on \$9 per share. The quirk in the law only deals with 2010. In 2011, the stepped-up basis rules are reinstated.

What makes this issue a little more complex is there probably will be some estate tax reform this year that will have an impact on 2010 and beyond. We don't know what the changes will be and when they will take effect.

When it comes to estate planning, many believe it's necessary if you have a large estate. Although reducing and

eliminating estate tax is one goal of planning, it is only one factor. As far as I am concerned, every adult needs some sort of estate planning.

Estate planning also deals with how to handle family emergencies when you are alive. I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier life is. The Medical Durable Power of Attorney and Michigan Patient Advocate Form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney, is available at public libraries or download one at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

The main reason for estate planning is not to save on taxes or to avoid probate but because you love your family.

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



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Our Doors Are Open To You



Brookfield Academy Montessori Schools are carefully planned environments where children learn at their own pace, become independent lifelong learners, and aspire to achieve academic excellence.

- New Campus Opening in Livonia: Attend our information session to learn more about our school
- Now Accepting:
 - Registrations for our infant and toddler program
 - Registrations for our summer camp program (ages 3-12 years)
 - Preprimary through elementary applications for the 2009-2010 academic year

LIVONIA CAMPUS. OPENING SUMMER 2009*

Parent Information Sessions:
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
For more information, call 734-464-2789.

Information sessions held at:
Grand Traverse Pie Company
41640 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Brookfield Academy - Livonia Campus
38945 Ann Arbor Road
Livonia, MI 48150
734-464-2789

www.brookfieldacademy.net



Focus:HOPE celebrates 40th anniversary with ball

Focus: HOPE will conclude its 40th anniversary year with a Rubies of HOPE Ball on March 7 at which several key supporters will be recognized for their contributions to Focus: HOPE's civil rights mission.

"As we embark on our next decade, we want to truly celebrate all that Focus: HOPE has accomplished over the last 40 years," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO. "We are taking this opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and the impact our food and education programs have had on hundreds of thousands in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to address current and future challenges with renewed commitment, passion and energy."

The event is expected to raise \$250,000 for scholarships for students in Focus: HOPE's education and training programs. The theme for the evening recognizes Rubies, the gems appropriate for a 40th anniversary, and HOPE, for optimism for the future.

Co-founders Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997) and Eleanor M. Josaitis will be honored for starting an organization that addressed the social and economic problems that led to the 1967 Detroit riots. In 40 years, the organization has worked to bridge the racial divide and dedi-

cated itself to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice."

Rubies of HOPE awards also will be presented to:

- The Honorable Damon J. Keith, chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals and a nationally-recognized jurist, for his outstanding leadership on civil rights issues.

- United States Senator Carl Levin, an ardent supporter of Focus: HOPE throughout his career, for his leadership in government and for facilitating government partnerships with Focus: HOPE.

- Lloyd E. Reuss, who upon retiring as president of General Motors came to Focus: HOPE as a volunteer to lead its innovative engineering program in the Center for Advanced Technologies. He also chairs the Focus: HOPE Advisory Board.

- Neal Shine (1930-2007), a journalist and eventual publisher of the Detroit Free Press, for his leadership and commitment to the City of Detroit and the Focus: HOPE mission.

- Noel M. Tichy, Ph.D., professor and author, at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, for his leadership in education and for engaging business leaders and business students in the work of Focus: HOPE. He has profiled Focus:

HOPE in several books.

- William S. White, president and CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, for his longstanding support of Focus: HOPE's education and training programs.

The anniversary event is hosted by Jill and Steve Miller, chairman and CEO of Delphi. It will be held at the Detroit Marriott in the Renaissance Center and will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., then dancing to Mel Ball and Colours. The black-tie preferred event is the first formal celebration held by Focus: HOPE in its 40 years.

"I hope everyone who appreciates the impact Focus: HOPE has had on our community, will join us March 7 to pay tribute to its co-founders and supporters," said Jill Miller. "In particular, I hope people will join Steve and me in showing our appreciation to Eleanor Josaitis for her leadership and commitment to civil rights."

Honorary co-chairs of the 40th anniversary gala/celebration include Retired General Colin L. Powell, who attended the opening of Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies in 1993, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, former Detroit Mayor Dennis

Archer, Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally, Chrysler Chairman and CEO Robert Nardelli, and General Motors Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner.

Tickets are \$250 each, or \$2,500 for tables of 10. Tickets may be reserved by calling 313-494-4371 or via the web site at www.focushope.edu.

Dow Chemical is the presenting sponsor for the evening. Other sponsors Chrysler LLC and Chrysler Financial, Bank of America, Comerica, Delphi Corporation, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation.

Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE developed numerous programs in its efforts to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. It offers a food program, which assists 42,000 seniors, mothers and children each month; career training programs in machining, engineering and information technology; a child care center, a community arts program targeted to high school students, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus: HOPE, thousands of individuals — especially women and minorities — have become financially independent. www.focushope.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on February 26, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit H03, Beck, Furn./boxes; Unit B31, Lapp, Furn./ boxes; Unit C115, Saifuddin, Furn./boxes; Unit G05, Foster, Misc. HHG; Unit I11, Farris, Furn. /boxes; Unit B15, May, Furn./boxes; Unit I35, Hancock, HHG; Unit E32, Withers, HHG; Unit B06, Howard, HHG; Unit J30, Grayes, HHG; Unit E24, Glazer, HHG.

Publish: February 8 & 15, 2009

080843725-2x2.5

KITCHEN REFACING



\$500 Countertop*
Includes Installation
50% SAVINGS OR MORE!

FREE ESTIMATES

cabinet clinic

The Leader in Cabinet Refacing
West 734-421-8151
North-East 586-751-1848

www.cabinetclinic.com

Joe Gannon
We're recommended by Joe Gannon

*Limited time offer-50 sq.ft. max. with refacing installation

GREAT LAKES DERMATOLOGY

MICHAEL R. COHEN, D.O.
Board Certified Dermatologist

Specializing in Diseases of the Skin, Hair & Nails

Invites you to visit and receive the care you deserve.

- Skin Cancer
- Moles
- Psoriasis
- Acne
- Botox
- Eczema
- Warts
- Hair Loss
- Much More

Accepting New Patients • All Ages

Call for Appointment 248-324-2222 Evenings appts. available

Lewis Medical Office Centre, 39475 Lewis Drive,
Suite 150, Novi, Michigan 48377
greatlakesderm@yahoo.com



0E08637322

SPINAL STENOSIS

Severe back, sciatica and leg pain guide that you should know about ... available free



Have you tried pills, injections, therapy, surgery or massage? Shane L. Stanley, DC, is offering *The Severe Back, Sciatica, And Disc Pain Guide* for local residents suffering from severe back, sciatica, and leg pain. Discover why your treatments have failed and a possible new solution that most doctors have not heard of.

Call 1-800-469-3618 (24-hour recorded message) or go to www.midischerniation.com

0E0844082

Meadow Brook Theatre

A Professional Theatre

Located on the Campus of Oakland University

EXTENDEDSTAYHOTELS® presents

CINDY WILLIAMS AND EDDIE MEKKA

STARRING IN

KONG'S NIGHT OUT

A NEW COMEDY by Jack Neary

February 11 - March 8



Tickets range from \$24 - \$39

Sponsored by



NEW Assisted Listening Devices provided by



Open 7 Days

207 Wilson Hall, Rochester, MI 48309

Box Office: (248) 377-3300

Group Sales: (248) 370-3316

www.mbtheatre.com [ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster.com) (248) 645-6666

Mike's Marketplace

OPEN MON.-SAT. 9-9
SUN. 9-7

38000 Ann Arbor Rd. Livonia (734) 464-0330

Your Meat & Deli Supermarket



Mike's Fantastic SAVINGS!

SALE VALID FEBRUARY 16-22

Grade A Fresh ONLY

WHOLE FRYER CHICKEN 79¢ lb.

Boneless Skinless CHICKEN BREAST \$1.99 lb. Family Pack

Boneless Tender CHUCK ROAST \$2.99 lb.

Boneless Rib Eye DELMONICO STEAKS \$6.99 lb.

Fresh Ground Beef GROUND SIRLOIN \$2.79 lb. Family Pack

Tender Juicy DELMONICO PORK ROAST \$2.99 lb.

Boneless SIRLOIN TIP ROAST \$3.49 lb.

Tender Juicy PORK TENDERLOIN \$2.99 lb. 2 Piece Family Pack

Fresh Ground Beef GROUND CHUCK \$2.39 lb. Family Pack

Fresh Sliced from the Deli

Kowalski **HARD SALAMI** \$3.99 lb.

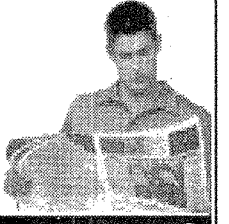
Check our website for additional specials! Mikes-marketplace.com



Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

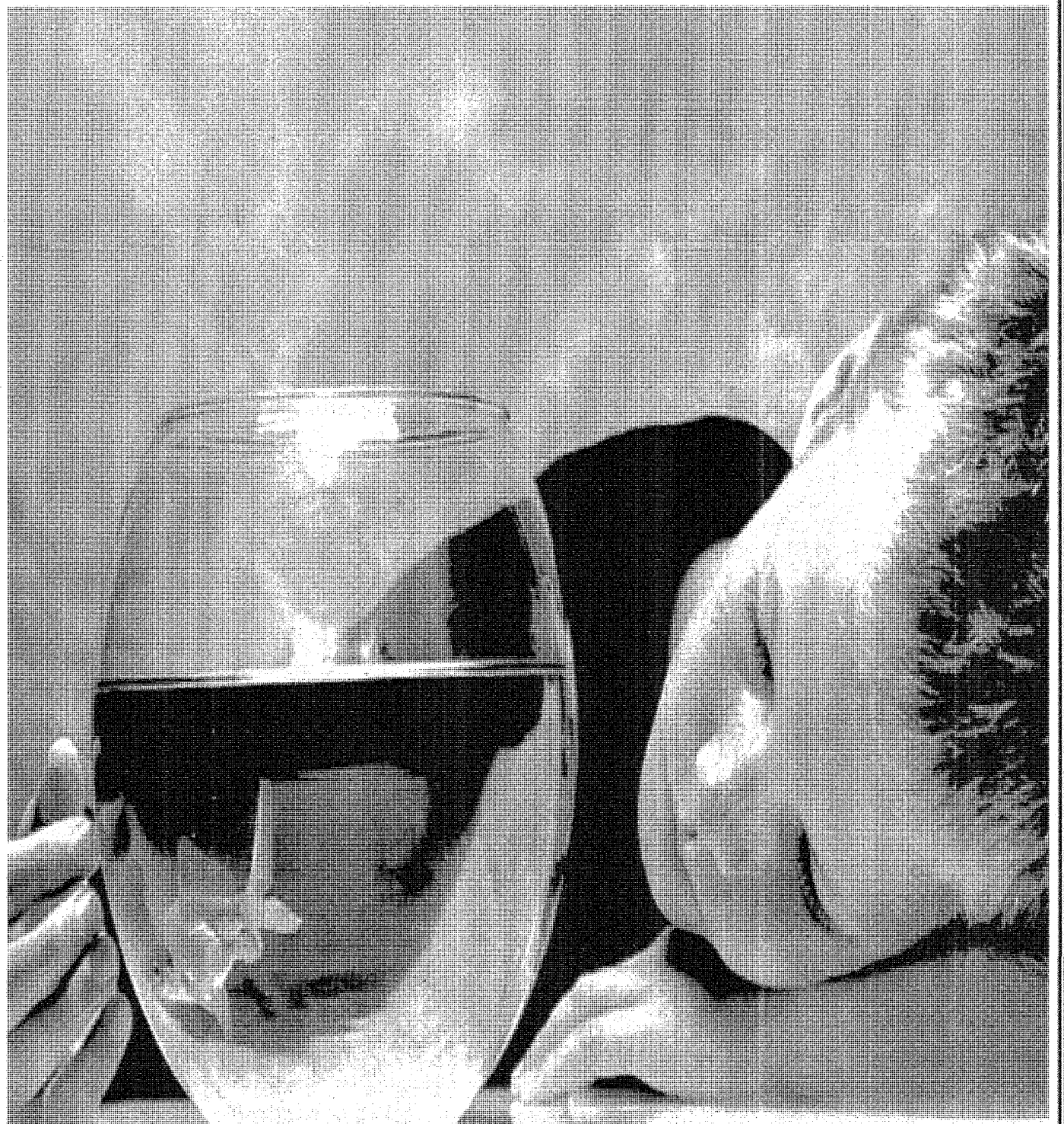
To place your ad here contact us at
careers@oe.homeoomm.net
or call 1-800-579-7355



| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>5000-5980 Employment Instructional Services</p> <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>APPOINTMENT SETTER Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572</p> | <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>DIRECT CARE WORKER: must be fully trained. Background check required. Immediate openings. (313) 220-4577</p> <p>Driver 55 New Driver Trainees Needed in Michigan! Learn to drive for Covenant Transport \$750+ per week CDL in 3 weeks! No experience needed to start! Covenant may cover costs if training at Nu-Way! 1-800-736-1912</p> | <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>OFFICE HELP. Part-Time Payroll, bookkeeping, etc. 15-20/hr. \$13/hr. to start. Must have exp. Plymouth/Canton area. 734-459-2447</p> <p>Office manager/Bookkeeper Needed for mid size general contractor in the Brighton area. Candidates should have experience with Foundation Accounting Software. Position is Part-Time, but could lead to F/T. Please fax resumes with refs: 313 871 3901 or e-mail: Resumes.OfficeMgr@gmail.com</p> | <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>CMU CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY</p> <p>Receptionist Off Campus Programs; Position located in Troy; Required: HS or equiv., 2 yrs of exp.; see www.jobs.cmich.edu for complete list of requirements. Screening begins immediately. Applicants must apply on-line at www.jobs.cmich.edu. CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly & actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo/).</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Quality oriented Livonia Specialty office is looking for a full-time assistant. Exc. hrs. & competitive wages. If you are enthusiastic, friendly & dependable with some 4-hand-dental assisting experience. Call Ann: 734-427-6181</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040</p> <p>MEDICAL/DENTAL RECRUITMENT</p> <p>• RNs • LPNs • EMTs • Case Managers • Receptionists • Dental Assistants • Respiratory Therapist • Medical Assistants • Nurse Managers • Psychologists • Medical Biller • And more!</p> <p>If you are looking to place an ad for any of the above positions, ask about our: MEDICAL/DENTAL RECRUITMENT SECTION</p> <p>You can place your ad for only \$55/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical/Dental Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, February 22nd. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Thursday, February 19th at noon. Contact one of our Representative for more information, or to reserve your space: 1-800-579-7355 or email: oeads@hometownlife.com @Observer & Eccentric</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT/EMT Medical house call practice in Southfield seeks medical assistant or EMT with good phlebotomy and patient care experience. Great salary & benefits. Fax resume to 248-352-8800</p> <p>MEDICAL BILLER & CREDENTIALING SPECIALIST Full-Time for Southfield podiatry billing company. Position includes enrolling physicians in insurance plans, billing, payment posting, claim status/follow-up and general accounting. Knowledge of insurance billing, coding and credentialing preferred. Fax resume: 734-676-2434</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>Registered Nurses & Physical Therapists Full-Time/Per Diem -SIGN-ON BONUSES For Full-Time Professionals-Heartland Home Care is searching for qualified professionals to join our team caring for clients in Canton, Plymouth & Ann Arbor. We offer a warm work environment with competitive compensation, mileage reimbursement & more! Contact Kim at: 810-923-4562 email: kirevas@hcr-manorcare.com fax: 517-913-5902 or apply online at: www.hcr-manorcare.com</p> <p>Heartland Enriching Life. EOE Drug Free</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>GREAT OPPORTUNITY for Professionals, Homemakers, Students, & Retirees TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME! Weed Man Lawn Care is looking for outgoing, competitive people to join our sales staff. We believe in an honest and professional environment, and with our training and your attitude you will excel in phone sales. Base pay is \$9/hour + 4% commission and bonuses. Hours are Mon-Thurs 6pm-9pm, and Sat 9am-1pm. Call us today and join our team! 248-477-4880</p> <p>Weed Man</p> |
| <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>CAREGIVERS Part-Time & 24 hr. Shifts Experience preferred. Plymouth, Canton, Westland. Comfort Keepers (734) 771-7404</p> | <p>Drivers: Owner Ops 24' Straight Truck. Local/Regional, Home Nightly, 99% No Touch, Plate, FSC Program, No Haz Mat. Very competitive compensation. 888-857-4546 www.express-1.com</p> | <p>Police Cadet Program City of Southfield Police Department</p> <p>The Police Cadet program is a training program and is also used as an applicant pool for regular positions as full-time Police Officers.</p> <p>To apply, must be a U.S. citizen, 18 yrs. or older and must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. at the time of application.</p> <p>Apply by 5:00 p.m. on 3/6/09 to: City of Southfield HR Dept. 26000 Evergreen Road Southfield, MI</p> <p>Applications may be downloaded from the City's website at: www.cityofsouthfield.com</p> | <p>WAREHOUSE-Plymouth Shipping/Receiving. Requires standing & repetitive lifting up to 70 lbs. Lift truck certification required. Full-time days, Mon-Fri. Email resume to: hrjobs@pacelink.com or fax to: (734) 453-5320</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>Sales Assistant Plymouth financial advisor's office looking for experienced sales assistant. Full-time temporarily - possibly working into permanent position. Competitive compensation. Fax resume to 734-451-5660</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE Dental specialty practice seeks well spoken, well organized, pleasant person to join top notch front desk staff. Dental experience preferred. Call: 248-357-3100</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated classes beginning in Feb. & Mar. 10-4pm. Garden City, \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080</p> <p>Line Cook Nights & Weekends 3 years experience. No phone calls. Apply within. 44282 Warren Rd., Canton Tuesday & Wednesday between 1-3pm</p> | <p>Oh Yeah! Make your life easier... find it in your classifieds! Education/Instruction 5000</p> |
| <p>Circle Me \$14.25 Base-Appt Growing USA Company, flex hours, great for students, second income, homemakers, we train. Call Today: 248-426-0636/ 517-333-1700</p> | <p>MAINTENANCE TECH F.T. exp. for Apt. Complex's in Westland. Electrical, plumbing & HVAC experience. Fax resume to: 734-326-5912</p> | <p>Southfield EOE/Drug Free Workplace</p> | <p>SECRETARIAL Full-time. Good benefits & pay. Must have office experience, computer, filing, accounting. Apply in person: Brose Electric 37400 W 7 Mile, Livonia. (734) 464-2211</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>Observer & Eccentric Classifieds 1-800-579-SELL</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>NURSE Exp. needed for busy Oncology Clinic. Fax resume: 313-277-1140</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>PATIENT CARE COORDINATOR Medical practice in Southfield seeks experienced coordinator with scheduling and triage experience. LPN preferred Mon-Fri. No nights, weekends or holidays. Competitive salary and benefits package. Fax resume to 248-352-8800.</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>DOOR TO DOOR APPOINTMENT SETTERS Michigan's fastest growing window & siding co. has openings in the Canvassing Dept. Westland area. Clean-cut, responsible, motivated individuals. Full-Time only. Base + commission. Only serious applicants apply. Steve Garnette: 734-334-0544 Brian Brooks: 734-748-9790</p> | <p>LEARN TODAY.. EARN TOMORROW! Short term career programs in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology and Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs begin soon at New Horizons CLC-Livonia Call 1-866-307-1436 Financing options and Job Placement assistance available-Grants accepted. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.</p> |
| <p>DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT Assist persons we serve in residential settings. Feel good about your work. \$7.65 total plus good benefits. Livonia: 734-762-0338 734-326-4394, 734-326-5320</p> | <p>Maintenance/Pool Service Part-Time possible full-time for growing pool & spa co. Exp'd preferred. 734-414-5433</p> | <p>Processor For title co. Must be exp'd. Fax resume: (734) 453-9031</p> | <p>Medical Assistant/Receptionist Immediate opportunity for busy oncology practice. Experience necessary including venipuncture. Excellent benefits. Email: deborahm@cancerdox.com</p> | <p>Medical/Dental Recruitment Section You can place your ad for only \$55/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical/Dental Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, February 22nd. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Thursday, February 19th at noon. Contact one of our Representative for more information, or to reserve your space: 1-800-579-7355 or email: oeads@hometownlife.com @Observer & Eccentric</p> | <p>Medical Assistant Part-Time. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300</p> | <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated classes beginning in Feb. & Mar. 10-4pm. Garden City, \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857</p> | <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated classes beginning in Feb. & Mar. 10-4pm. Garden City, \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857</p> | <p>LEARN TODAY.. EARN TOMORROW! Short term career programs in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology and Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs begin soon at New Horizons CLC-Livonia Call 1-866-307-1436 Financing options and Job Placement assistance available-Grants accepted. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.</p> |
| <p>DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT Assist persons we serve in residential settings. Feel good about your work. \$7.65 total plus good benefits. Livonia: 734-762-0338 734-326-4394, 734-326-5320</p> | <p>Manager - Logistics needed in Auburn Hills, MI. Send Resume to Ms. Heather Pastori, HR Manager, Goertz +Schiele Corporation, 1750 Summit Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326 REF # 1001. PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS.</p> | <p>Medical Assistant/Receptionist Immediate opportunity for busy oncology practice. Experience necessary including venipuncture. Excellent benefits. Email: deborahm@cancerdox.com</p> | <p>Medical Assistant/Receptionist Immediate opportunity for busy oncology practice. Experience necessary including venipuncture. Excellent benefits. Email: deborahm@cancerdox.com</p> | <p>Medical/Dental Recruitment Section You can place your ad for only \$55/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical/Dental Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, February 22nd. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Thursday, February 19th at noon. Contact one of our Representative for more information, or to reserve your space: 1-800-579-7355 or email: oeads@hometownlife.com @Observer & Eccentric</p> | <p>Medical Assistant Part-Time. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300</p> | <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated classes beginning in Feb. & Mar. 10-4pm. Garden City, \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857</p> | <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated classes beginning in Feb. & Mar. 10-4pm. Garden City, \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857</p> | <p>LEARN TODAY.. EARN TOMORROW! Short term career programs in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology and Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs begin soon at New Horizons CLC-Livonia Call 1-866-307-1436 Financing options and Job Placement assistance available-Grants accepted. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.</p> |

Local news.

You don't have to fish for it.
It's right here, from the front to the back of your



Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

TOTALLY LOCAL COVERAGE!

To subscribe call 866-88-PAPER

Nominations sought for Above & Beyond Honor

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is accepting for nominations for its Above & Beyond Citizen Honors through Friday, Feb. 20.

Above & Beyond Citizen Honors recipients represent the values of courage, sacrifice and selfless service. Anyone can make a nomination. The nominee must be a U.S. civilian who has clearly demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice for others whether through a single act of extraordinary heroism at risk to one's life or through a prolonged series of selfless acts. The nominee's actions must epitomize the concept of "service above self" and must be performed "above and beyond" one's professional area of responsibility or conduct.

A panel of judges, consisting of Medal of Honor recipients, will consider all nominations and select a finalist from every state, plus the District of Columbia. Profiles for each of the 51 finalists will be available on the Above & Beyond Web site and each finalist will receive an embossed Citizen Honors certificate signed by the President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

From among the State finalists, three individuals will be selected to receive Citizen Honors and will be announced on Monday, March 9, and honored at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 25, in conjunction with National Medal of Honor Day near the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Ficano accentuates the positive in State of the County

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County may be at the center of the United States' economic woes, but on Thursday County Executive Robert Ficano chose to accentuate the positive in his seventh annual State of the County address, including touting several development projects for western Wayne County.

"I am determined to lead the county through tough times," Ficano told an overflow invited audience at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township. "Our assets far outweigh our challenges. We have a diverse county that looks like the rest of the world. We have a skilled workforce, first-class universities, an international border, a world-class airport and a resolve to succeed."

Ficano hit on some themes he has been promoting for years including the development of an "aerotropolis" around the two Wayne County airports, expanding business contacts with China and promoting a more diverse economic base. He also touted his administration's cost-cutting efforts that have included downsizing the size of the executive branch, which he said has 1,500 fewer employees than during the previous administration.

He was pointedly critical of Sheriff Warren Evans for suing the administration over budget cuts.

But the heart of the speech was the announcement of several economic initiatives:

■ **A Life Science Innovation Center** will be built in Plymouth Township on property formerly occupied by Pfizer. The Innovation Center is being developed by Dr. Roger Newton, a former Pfizer executive and co-founder of



County Executive Bob Ficano.

the drug Lipitor. Ficano said the county is partnering with Washtenaw County, the state, Ann Arbor SPARK and others to develop the center.

■ **A Stem Cell Commercialization Center** will be created at Wayne State University's Tech Town. The center will build on the recently based state legislation that allows embryonic stem cell research. Ficano said the center will be the first of its kind in Michigan.

"We are creating a new biotechnology industry that will attract new companies, new jobs and alliances with researchers around the world," he said.

■ **The county is working with AT&T to build a fiber optic infrastructure to connect key business hubs throughout**

the region, including the airport development areas.

■ **County government will move into the Guardian building this year, which Ficano said would save the county millions of dollars in rent. The county purchased the historic skyscraper for \$14 million.**

Ficano took note of the county's hard economic situation, including a county government deficit that could reach \$100 billion.

"Unprecedented cuts in the auto industry and a struggling economy have ravaged this region," he said. "Many of you have lost jobs. Some of you have lost your homes. All of you, in some way, have been affected by the pain."

As an example, Ficano introduced Jacqueline Madden of Redford Township.



The audience applauds Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's speech.

Madden, a single mother with a teenage son, had lost her job at Ford Motor Co. and was facing foreclosure on her house. Ficano said county foreclosure counselors were able to work out a short-term reduced payment program to help give Madden time to renegotiate her mortgage and stay in her home.

Ficano touted the county's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program as a "national model" that has helped more than 600 county residents resolve their mortgage problems.

But it was Ficano's upbeat assessment that seemed to draw the best response, including loud applause when he said that groundwork be broken this year on the controversial expansion of Cobo

Hall.

"It's always good in these economic times to have something that's uplifting," said Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor. "It makes you proud when you think about what's going on in the county. We have to believe in ourselves and the future."

Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said she is looking forward to "building a good relationship" with the county.

"We're looking for some parks money, that we think was set aside last year," she said. "We're looking for about \$245,000 for that. Also, we're looking to partner on some stimulus projects, especially as it relates to the sewer project and that will be millions of dollars. ... It feels good."

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

CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties, the Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at: www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: January 18, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 2/27/2009 at: 11:00 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Jeremy Turner | 1014 | boxes, dresser, chair |
| Talis Dugas | 2051 | boxes, bags, sofa |
| Mark Hendrix | 2069 | dresser, truck cap, boxes |
| Antoine Turner | 3031 | tv, bags, totes |
| Erma Austin | 3042 | boxes, dresser, chair |
| Sarah Phelan | 3073 | dresser, box, totes |
| Justin Proch | 4027 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Patrick Knight | 4043 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Edwin Omev | 5003 | snow blower, boxes, dresser |
| Patricia Kowalski | 5030 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Jeannine Hayhow | 5034 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Carl Hicks | 5069 | boxes, washer, dryer |
| Julie Pyle | 5083 | mattress, tv, totes |
| Clearance Miles | 5101 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Ashley Morey-Gallagher | 6042 | chair, table, totes |
| Michael Shepherd | 6049 | tires, boxes, totes |
| Nancy Emmons | 6091 | totes, bags, vacuum |
| Steven Williams | 6107 | boxes, bags, mattress |
| Kristie Hartman | 7003 | totes, boxes, dresser |
| Nicole Blanchard | 7054 | bags, sofa, table |
| Jeffrey Stonciper | 7082 | totes, dresser, boxes |
| Jeremy Hammonds | 7084 | chair, table, dresser |
| Brian Murphy | 7118 | totes, tool box, boxes |
| United States Steel Corp. | 7131 | table, boxes, totes |
| Deborah Kennedy | 9022 | bags |
| Larry Maddox | 9078 | boxes, bags, totes |

Publish: February 8 and 15, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 2/27/2009 at 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Robert Jackson | B074 | bags, boxes, vacuum |
| Linda Carter | B129 | boxes, totes, treadmill |
| Ruth Jones | B189 | boxes, bag, totes |
| Stacie Van Tuyl | B233 | bike, bags, boxes |
| Petrice Johnson | B257 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Rodney Uersery | B261 | fish tank, boxes, sofa |
| Dale Marie Griffin | B267 | boxes, bags, record player |
| Derek Odell | B269 | boxes, bags, table |
| Samieyra Spicer | B387 | dresser, mattress, toys |
| Connie Volpe | C009 | restaurant equipment |
| Lola Yonko | C025 | table, boxes, lamp |
| Stephen Mitchell | C034 | bags, toys, crib |
| Carlette McKenzie | D025 | boxes, bags, suitcase |
| Richard Surma Jr. | D033 | lawn mower, sofa, saw |
| Linder Magwood | D042 | fish tank, boxes, ac unit |

Publish: February 8 and 15, 2009

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 3 - 2/2/09

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer

19 - Appr. of 1/20/09 minutes
- Rescind the req. of a spec. audit for Peoples Comm. Hope for Homes
- Intro. of Budget Amend. 2009-09: Housing Rehab Fund \$2,061,722.00
- Intro. of Ord. 192-C-1, to reg. the disposal of abandoned pers. prop.
20 - Intro. of Ord. 167-A-5-1 to elim. breed spec. designations for vicious & dangerous dogs & to allow microchipping
22 - App. Of Water Contract w. City of Detroit
23 - Adopt. prep. res. authorizing 3 ballot questions on 11-3-09 ballot to allow a \$100 filing fee for candidates and to chg. filing deadline to 12 Tues. before Prim.
24 - App. 1 yr. site plan extension for comm. cntr.; parc. 0423-01-0020-000, s. side Ford, e. of Wayne
25 - Conf. re-app't. of M. Diehl to EDC/TIFA Bd. for 4 yr. term to exp. 11-15-12
26 - Conf. app't. of C. Rutz to EDC/TIFA Bd. for 4 yr term to exp. 2-2-13
27 - Appr. Checklist: \$871,685.53 & Prepaid: \$6,092,516.66. Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout Council President
Eileen DeHart, CMC City Clerk

Publish: February 12, 2009

HIGH VELOCITY SPORTS

W3 INDOOR SOCCER

UNDER 9--OVER 30
Free Agent Fee: \$100
Team Fee: \$950
8 Games

UNDER 6--UNDER 8
Free Agent Fee: \$80
Team Fee: \$600
8 Games

All participants must be members at HVS.

W3 Season: Mar. 2--Apr. 28 Reg. Deadline: 2/20
(734) HV-SPORT 46245 Michigan Ave. hvsports.com

LIBERTY TAX SERVICE

2 Garden City Locations to Serve You:

29540 Ford Road Garden City (in front of Kmart) 734-425-4620

235 Inkster Road Garden City (NW corner of Cherry Hill) 734-425-4993

- ★ Quality Income Tax Preparation Services
- ★ Loan on Refund in 1 Day or Less (in most cases)
- ★ Business Returns ★ Fast, Friendly & Accurate
- ★ Year Round Support ★ Free Electronic Filing
- ★ Money-Back Guarantee ★ Free Consultation
- ★ Notary ★ IRS Audit Representation

\$55⁰⁰ OFF Any Tax Preparation
With this coupon • Exp. 4-1-09 • We accept competitors coupons

www.libertytax.com 1-866-871-1040

SELECT MONEY MARKET™

2.55% APY
BALANCES OF \$50,000 OR HIGHER

A great choice. Whichever one you make.

24-MONTH CD

2.75% APY
\$1,000 MINIMUM & CIRCLE GOLD BANKING™

Charter One

Member FDIC. Accounts subject to approval. Offers valid in MI only. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of publication date. CD: 2.75% APY applies to the 24-month term. Limited-time offer may be withdrawn without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other CD offer. Other rates and terms available. Penalty for early withdrawal. Select Money Market: APY may change before or after account opening. 2.55% APY on balances in tiers \$50,000 to \$99,999; \$100,000 to \$249,999; \$250,000 to \$499,999; and \$500,000 to \$5,000,000; 2.05% APY on balances \$10,000 to \$49,999; and 0% APY on balances below \$10,000. Personal accounts only. \$5,000,000 maximum deposit per customer. Fees may reduce earnings. Charter One is a division of RBS Citizens, N.A.

BIG

GET NICE WOOD FLOORING

In a tough economy, customers need to save money, but not sacrifice quality! With over 1000 stores worldwide, only Carpet One can make this kind of buy and pass the savings on to you. Come in and see this richly embossed, textured laminate flooring available at an unheard of price. **WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

FIRST QUALITY!

8 mm PLANK LAMINATE

2 colors Oak or Brazilian Cherry Realistic look!

Installation Available!
25 Year Warranty

\$1.79

SQ.FT. • MATERIAL ONLY

IN STOCK CARPET

5 Year Warranty
Stylish & Practical

2 styles-48 colors to choose from Wales II-Bronze Textured and Expert II-Bronze Saxony

Immediate Installation! Installed price with 6 lb. pad \$1.99 sq.ft

99¢

SQ.FT. MATERIAL ONLY

PREMIUM CARPET LABOR PACKAGE

\$189

We'll install your carpet, remove & replace furniture and remove your existing carpet for

ONE LOW PRICE!!!



Plus... NO PAYMENTS,
NO INTEREST for 1 YEAR*

PLEASE MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE MEASURE!
Hurry Offer ends soon!

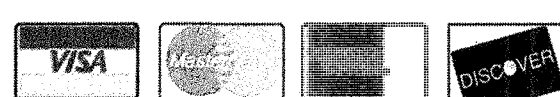
INDEPENDENT CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

The ONE store for your perfect floor.® | www.carpetonewestland.com

1400 N. WAYNE ROAD, WESTLAND | 734.729.6200

STORE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM-8 PM; SATURDAY 9 AM-6 PM
SUNDAY NOON- 4 PM

3 EASY WAYS TO SHOP



At participating stores only, not all products available at all locations. Photos for illustrative purposes only. Not responsible for typographical errors. Offers cannot be combined with other discounts or promotional offers and are not valid on previous purchases. ©Carpet One Floor and Home 2008 *On approved credit. Financing provided by Citifinancial Retail Services. Finance Charges will not accrue on the purchase during the credit promotional period if the required minimum payment is made each billing cycle during the credit promotional period when due. The purchase price is divided by the number of months in the credit promotional period to determine equal monthly payments to be made during the credit promotional period. Credit promotional period may be terminated if you default under your account agreement. Minimum down payment and/or minimum purchase may apply. Available for a limited time only at participating stores. See store for details. †See actual warranty at store for details.

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME
cares

HARDWOOD | CARPET | LAMINATE | TILE | VINYL | AND MORE

SUNDAY

February 15
2009

SECTION B
(LW)

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

For the latest in area college hoops, visit hometownlife.com

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE

Mercy plays spoiler role against rival Ladywood

BY DAN O'NEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy was playing for pride Wednesday night, and coach Gary Morris was extremely proud of his basketball team when the game was done.

The Marlins, who failed to make the Catholic League

playoffs, won their final Central Division game by defeating host Livonia Ladywood in an overtime thriller, 53-50.

"We haven't had what we called a marquee win," Morris said. "We had nice wins over Salem and Divine Child. We thought, if we could beat our arch-rival, it would be the kind

GIRLS HOOPS

of win we were looking for.

"We challenged the kids to be mentally tough, to not back down. We focused on mental toughness. I was real proud of the way the kids stepped up tonight."

Mercy, which improved to

10-7 overall, finished 2-6 and Ladywood 3-5 in the division. The Blazers were 7-9 going into a Saturday semifinal playoff game with Dearborn Divine Child.

The Marlins were led by senior Danica Verderbar, who came off the bench to make six three-point field goals and scored a team-best 18 points.

Senior guard Jordan Mueller added 13 points, which included 7-of-8 free throw shooting in the second half and overtime, and played a solid floor game for the Marlins.

"(Verderbar) missed the first six games and has been working hard to get back," Morris

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

GAME WRAPS

KLAA boys hoop wrap

WAYNE 62, FRANKLIN 61 (2 OTS): KLAA South Division leader Wayne Memorial (10-4, 7-1) rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit Friday to beat visiting Livonia Franklin in double-overtime.

Jimmel Bennett orchestrated the comeback by scoring all 19 of his points in the second half, including the game-winner with eight seconds left.

It was 50-all at the end of regulation and 54-54 after 36 minutes. Daniel Hill and Robert Woodson talked 15 and 10, respectively, for the Zebras.

"We had to battle to get back in it," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "They really outplayed us the first half."

Jeff Poole led the Patriots with 25 points. Connor Leidal added 15 and Mike Gadsby contributed 13.

Wayne made 12-of-17 free throws, while Franklin hit only 16-of-33.

"We controlled the game and we felt like it was our game, but free throws obviously were the tell-tale sign," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "Our guys played an outstanding game."

JOHN GLENN 55, CHURCHILL 53: Senior guard Austin Anderson, 8-of-9 from the foul line, scored a game-high 22 points and Brandyn Jenkins came up with a key block in the final seconds Friday to give host Westland John Glenn (7-6, 3-5) the KLAA South Division triumph over Livonia Churchill (6-8, 2-6).

Dorian Prather and Jeremy Langford chipped in with 13 and 11, respectively, for the Rockets.

Junior forward Adam Bedell led Churchill with 20 points, while Ryan Woods, who hit a three-pointer with only five seconds remaining to draw the Chargers to within two, added 10.

Churchill was 8-of-12 from the foul line, while Glenn was 12-of-18.

STEVENSON 61, LYON EAST 54: In a KLAA Central Division game Friday, visiting Livonia Stevenson (9-4, 5-3) held off stubborn South Lyon East (0-14, 0-8) thanks to Bobby Naubert's team-high 20 points.

Mark Grisa added 12 points for the Spartans, while Brian Rowe chipped in with eight.

Stevenson made only 16-of-37 free throws on the night.

"We'll be one-and-done in March if we play like we did tonight with a total lack of focus," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said.

Ben Kil led the Cougars, who made 18-of-26 free throws, with 20 points.

CHURCHILL 52, S. LYON EAST 35: On Thursday, Scott Senczynszyn poured in a game-high 21 points to propel Livonia Churchill (6-7) past host South Lyon East (0-13) in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

"Scott was really steady, it was his best game of the year and possibly his career," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "He hit some early threes."

Adam Bedell added nine points and 13 rebounds for the Chargers, who led 28-17 at halftime before putting it away with a 15-5 fourth-quarter run.

"Our bench made a huge difference, all 11 played in the first half and all contributed, especially Tony Frezzell and Raynar Allen," Solak said. "It was a good all-around team effort, especially on the road."

Juniors Ben Kil and Colin Wedesky tallied 10 and seven points, respectively, for the Cougars.

SOUTH LYON 78, FRANKLIN 59: Despite senior forward Jeff Poole's game-high 29 points Wednesday night, Livonia Franklin (5-8) ventured into South Lyon's jungle and fell to the host Lions (10-3) in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

Senior Chance Bennett led South Lyon with 18 points, while Mike Fenner and Eric Wedesky added 11 each. Ben Rhoad and A.J. Thweatt chipped in with 10 apiece.

Connor Leidal added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Patriots. Mike Gadsby contributed seven points.



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Southfield High transfer Sydni Clark, who recently signed with Michigan State on a track scholarship, hopes to bring a strong presence to the track at Livonia Clarenceville.

New kid on block MSU-bound Clark transfers to C'ville

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan State University is calling Sydni Clark's name.

But first, the 17-year-old track and field stalwart is going to say hello to Clarenceville, having transferred from Southfield in January.

But when she's running with the Trojans, she'll be thinking about being a Spartan.

"I look forward to basically proving myself (at Clarenceville)," Clark said. "I want to (then) stay in shape over the summer so I can just be ready to step forth on the Michigan State track and be able to do something - and dominate."

All of the high school's records in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes could be in jeopardy from the moment the senior steps out onto the track. She also likely will be the anchor on the 4 x 400 relay.

"The times they set here at Clarenceville I ran those a long time ago," said Clark, with a quiet-but-confident tone in her voice.

Clarenceville was the setting Feb. 4 when Clark signed her national letter of intent to run track for MSU. Parents Kenneth and Monica and 6-year-old brother Melvin soaked in the moment; they recently moved from Southfield to a home in the Farmington Hills portion of Clarenceville.

"It was basically a blessing. I couldn't believe it," said Clark about signing for the track and field scholarship. "Sometimes you've been running for so long that you get sick of it."

"But just knowing that God gave me the talent to do something, espe-

cially to help pay for college, just do it. Michigan State was the school that showed me more than other schools did."

BUMPS ALONG THE WAY

It hasn't been a smooth ride for Clark, who qualified for the Division 1 state meet in ninth grade while at Southfield. At the 2006 state meet, she ran in the 100 and 200 dashes, posting times of 12.2 and 25 seconds.

During the winter months of her sophomore year, however, while competing with her Detroit Police Athletic League indoor team, she suffered shin splints in both legs. It pretty much cost her the 2007 prep season. "They were pretty bad."

In 2008 with the Bluejays, she only ran part-time while working with a new training coach to get her physical condition up to where it needed to be to take a crack at a college scholarship. Clark still qualified for the state meet, competing in the 200 dash but not advancing to the preliminaries.

"My junior year I was getting ready to just train and get back on my feet," said Clark, who holds a 3.3 grade-point average. "But then when I met coach (Fermion) Tate, my Swift coach, and he got me back running again."

The efforts of Detroit-based training coach Eric Thompson also helped Sydni get back on the beam.

GETTING NOTICED

During last summer and into the autumn, she left Detroit PAL (the organization she ran in since age 8) and put all her energies into competing with the Swift Amateur Athletic

Please see **CLARK, B2**

Lady Ocelots clinch, 101-29

Schoolcraft College gained at least a share of its third straight MCCA Eastern Conference women's basketball title Wednesday with a resounding 101-29 victory over visiting Wayne County Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II national poll, won their 32nd straight home game and 24th straight conference encounter to improve to 22-2 overall and 15-0.

Six players scored in double figures for the Lady Ocelots, who led 52-12 at halftime, led by Salem High grad Tayler Langham, who scored a game-high 20 points.

Other contributions came from Jasmine Brown (15 points), Shera Brown (14 points, 11 rebounds), Amber

COLLEGE HOOPS

Avery (12 points), Antania Shepherd (11 points, eight assists) and Brittany Collins (11 points, seven assists).

Schoolcraft shot 54.1 percent from the field (39-of-72).

Wayne County (3-20, 2-15) committed more turnovers (38) than it scored points.

Tornisha Jones scored 19 in a losing cause.

Crusaders upset Aquinas

Madonna University moved into fourth place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference standings Wednesday night with a 52-43 upset victory over host Aquinas College, ranked No. 23 in the latest NAIA Division II national poll. The Crusaders, now 12-

15 overall and 7-4 in the WHAC, got 15 points and 13 rebounds from Plymouth High's Kim Olech.

Salem's Alyssa Guerin added 12, while Tabatha Wydryck chipped in with 10 for the Crusaders, who led 21-13 at halftime.

MU made all 12 free throw attempts and shot 46.2 percent from the field (18-of-39).

Aquinas (16-8, 8-3) had a dismal shooting night going 13-of-63 from the floor (19.1 percent).

Carrie Abdo led the Saints and all scorers with 23 points, but shot only 8-of-23 from the floor. She also had 11 rebounds.

Aquinas' shooting woes were compounded by Joslyn Narber, who finished with just two free throws after going 0-of-13 from the floor.

White enters guilty plea

BY KEVIN GRASHA
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Former Livonia Stevenson High quarterback and Michigan State University walk-on football player Mitchell White pleaded guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery in connection with a fight last year that seriously injured an MSU hockey player.

White, 18, a walk-on wide receiver, entered the plea Wednesday in 54B District Court before Judge David Jordan, a court official said. White's sentencing is scheduled for March 16. He faces up to 93 days in jail.

A.J. Sturges, a hockey player, suffered a head injury in the incident and was briefly hospitalized.

Another football player, Glenn Winston, is charged in connection with the Oct.

19 fight off campus that also involved MSU hockey players. Winston will stand trial in district court on three counts of misdemeanor aggravated assault charges.

Jury selection in Winston's trial is scheduled for March 10. If convicted, Winston faces up to one year in jail. Winston played in one game after Oct. 19.

According to a report in the *Detroit Free Press*, Michigan State officials declined to comment on the players' status with the team. White, who as a senior helped Stevenson to the Division 1 state championship game in 2007, wasn't listed on roster toward the end of last season.

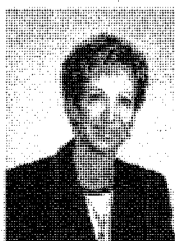
White continues to be a member of MSU's track and field squad as a high jumper with a team best indoor leap of 6 feet, 9 inches. He competed Feb. 8 at the Meyo Invitational held in East Lansing.

OUR STAND

IT'S TIME THERE WAS A
SEMI-ANNUAL SALE
FOR SAFE DRIVERS LIKE YOU.

YOUR CHOICE AUTO

Safe Driving Bonus. Get up to 5% toward your renewal bill for every 6 months of good driving, on top of any discounts.



Cheryl Bowker Agency
(734) 525-9610

31221 Five Mile Road
Livonia
cherylbowker@allstate.com



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Feature is optional and subject to terms and conditions. Available in select states now and in most states by 1/31/06 (subject to regulatory approval where required). Deductible Rewards apply to collision coverage. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. © 2009 Allstate Insurance Company

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Baptist Park at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Feb. 16
 (Metro Conference Playoffs)
 Clarenceville at Lutheran North, 7 p.m.
 Harper Woods at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Huron Valley at Det. Urban, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Ladywood vs. Grosse Pointe North
 at Plymouth's Arctic Edge, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 18

Stevenson at Novi (Ice Rink), 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Clarkston,
 Franklin vs. Taylor Unified
 at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 KLAAs crossovers, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Catholic League Girls Finals
 at O.L. St. Mary's, 2:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 (Division 1 Team Districts)
 Garden City, Franklin, Churchill
 at Dearborn Fordson, TBA.
 Stevenson, Farmington, Redford Union
 at Southfield High, TBA.
 Dearborn, Edsel Ford, John Glenn
 at Wayne Memorial, TBA.

(Division 3 Team District)
 Clarenceville, Clawson, M.H. Madison
 at Madison Hts. Lamphere, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 (Division 4 Team Districts)
 Harper Woods, Cesar Chavez, Bishop Foley
 at Lutheran High Westland, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Division 1 at Stevenson, TBA.
 Division 1 at Temperance Bedford, TBA.
 Division 3 at Richmond, TBA.
 Division 4 at Lutheran N'west, TBA.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Livonia Red vs. Canton
 at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Livonia Blue vs. Northville

at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Sunday, Feb. 15
 Utica Eisenhower Doubles
 at Sterling Lanes, 8 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 16
 Ladywood vs. Marian
 at Woodland Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Clarenceville vs. Taylor Truman
 at Country Lanes, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Catholic League Championships
 at Westland's Oak Lanes, 9 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Division 2 at Airport, 10 a.m.

Division 3 at Columbia Central, 10 a.m.
 Division 1 at Wayne, 11 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Davenport at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
 Oakland CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Madonna at UM-Dearborn, 3 p.m.
 Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Oakland CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
 Madonna at Davenport, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 1 p.m.
 Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1
 said. "It was great to see her have that kind of game, and I thought it was the best game Jordan has played in a while, too."
 Consecutive threes by junior Mary Fitzgerald and freshman Cara Miller gave Ladywood an early, 8-3 lead, but Verderbar got Mercy rolling when she entered the game.
 She hit threes to end the first quarter and start the second, creating an 11-all tie, and

her third of the first half gave Mercy a 19-14 lead.
 "We didn't key on her at all, because she scored two points on us the last time we played," Ladywood coach Patrick Cannon said. "Once we started face-guarding her, she didn't hit another field goal, but the six she hit were huge."
 "When she's hitting field goals like that, you have to take her out of the game. But we didn't do that till later on, and they did a nice job getting her open."
 Verderbar made back-to-back threes to start the fourth quarter and put Mercy on

top, 39-33. Mueller sank four straight free throws later for a 44-40 lead with half a minute left, but the Blazers refused to fold.
 Junior Molly Gacioch scored on a putback with 11.6 seconds remaining to make it 44-43. She rebounded a missed Mercy foul shot, was fouled and sank the second of two free throws with 3.0 on the clock to knot the score at 44.
 The Blazers forced a turnover at midcourt, but Fitzgerald launched a three attempt just after time expired.
 Mueller hit a three to start

the overtime, and Mercy never trailed after that. However, the extra four minutes also went down to the final seconds.
 The Marlins had a 51-47 lead in the last minute, but Ladywood senior Courtney LaValley made a three with 13 seconds left to keep the suspense going.
 Mercy senior Tori Posa sank two free throws for the final points, and another three attempt by LaValley went off the glass as time ran out.
 "We seemed to be in good shape," Morris said. "We probably weren't working hard enough to get rebounds. Then LaValley hits a three, and it's nail-biting time again. Fortunately, we made both free throws and put them in a position to have to hit a three

to tie it.
 "We haven't been in too many of these games. It's the first time since (the first Divine Child) game we've had a lead down the stretch and were trying to close out the game. In the second time through the league, we've been in every game or been right there."
 "Once we got eliminated mathematically from Catholic League playoffs, we focused on Ladywood, and now we'll focus on the district tournament."
 Mercy's nine threes was a single-game season high and was one more than the eight it made against Salem. Senior Bridget Hickey and Posa added seven and six points, respectively. The Marlins made 16 of 24 free throws.

Fitzgerald matched Verderbar's total with 18 points for the Blazers, who were 14-of-26 at the foul line. Senior Caitlin Szczypka added six points and Miller, junior Jennifer Kelley and Gacioch five apiece.
 "I was really happy with our effort and intensity," Cannon said. "We came out and played with fire. I was proud of the girls tonight; they battled hard."
 "Mary Fitzgerald had a fabulous game. We put her on their toughest player (Mueller), and she held her to two field goals.
 "It hurt us when Szczypka fouled out in regulation. She's a key part of our offense. LaValley - she's a senior, too, and a very strong role player for us; she did her job tonight."



FREE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

Keith J. Pierce, MD
 Internal Medicine
 38525 Eight Mile Road
 Livonia, MI 48152
 248.321.6612
 Call for Directions!

NEW PATIENTS

CLARK

FROM PAGE B1
 Union team. There, Tate helped MSU sprints coach Randy Gillon duly note the hard-working girl with plenty of potential.
 "Michigan State saw me through coach Tate," Clark said. "He basically made it so a lot of schools could see me during the summer. ... I started working out and running 600s constantly, constantly."

Gillon immediately liked the talent and effort he saw from Clark.
 "He started coming to my practices and he told my coach (Tate), 'I'll sign her right now,'" said Clark, with a laugh.
 First, the joke will be on other Metro Conference teams who have to deal with Clarenceville's newest athlete.
 From there, Clark will bring it to the Big Ten. She expects to do well at Michigan State, not only with the track and field team but in academics (she would like to major in

communications).
 Being able to overcome so much already just to get a college scholarship is something Clark knows will help her down the road in whatever she decides to do.
 "Track is mostly a mental thing, especially the 400," Clark said. "You've got to be strong-minded to step on a track. There are so many things going on in your head saying to 'Stop, quit.' But you've got to keep going."

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

Allstate BILLIARDS • PATIOS • HOT TUBS • KITCHEN & BAR STOOLS • FIREPLACES • POOLS

This Week ONLY!
 Ends Sunday!

WALL TO WALL SELL-OFF!

During this Major Restructuring Sale the Entire inventory is being sold off at **DRAMATIC SAVINGS!** Inventory from our warehouse has been shipped to the store for this Major Savings Event! Many items are marked **At, Near and Below Cost!** Plus, we need to make room for Above Ground Pools and Pool Supplies arriving daily!

1000's of Items Must Be Sold Immediately!

Plus - Your Choice

1. 'TIL NO INTEREST • NO DOWN PAYMENT
 *With approved credit.

2. Pays Your 6% Sales Tax
 When you pay with cash.

3. FREE TRIP to MEXICO with Airfare for Two
 While they last. Minimum \$1000 Purchase.

8 ft. Slate Pool Table
WAS \$1999 SAVE 55%!
\$888

GAME TABLES
\$849
WAS \$1699 SAVE 50%!

BAR STOOLS
SAVE up to 80%

FIREPLACE ACCESSORIES
up to 1/2 OFF!

ALL ACCESSORIES
 • Darts up to 1/2 OFF!
 • Dartboards
 • Pool Cues
 • Billiard Lights
MSRP

PATIO LIQUIDATION!
FREE LAYAWAY SPRING!
SAVE ON
 Wicker • Teak • Brown Jordan
 Rockwood • East Classics • Panama
 Liva • Planters • Banana Winds
SAVINGS up to 70%

All Fun... All the Time!

Allstate
NOVI
 26159 Novi Rd.
 248.468.2400

LIVONIA-OUTLET
 30650 Plymouth Rd.
 734.838.6555

www.shopallstate.com

© 2009 Knorr Marketing ALLS 1142 2/09

Stoney Creek, Rocks topple Churchill icers

Rochester Stoney Creek held off Livonia Churchill in Thursday's opening day of the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League's Showcase, 2-1, at Trenton.

Stoney Creek is 13-5-2 overall, while Churchill falls to 6-9-4.

Churchill's Robert Louwers opened the scoring on a power-play goal 2:16 into the first period off assists from Mike Woynick and Adam Wiegand.

Stoney Creek's Ryan Zuke answered with a power-play goal from Matt Grubba and Harris Richardson at 9:24 of the same period.

Nick Pollom scored what proved to be the game-winner at 6:41 of the second period from Richardson and Kelly Markaity.

Stoney Creek netminder Dane Gill stopped 20-of-21 shots, while Churchill's Adrian Motta had 23 saves.

"We played pretty solid - I was happy with the effort," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We had some chances, but we unable to find the back of the net. Stoney Creek is an aggressive and fast team. It was a good game up-and-down."

SALEM 4, CHURCHILL 0: They made start calling him Super Mario, too, after the Rocks' Mario Macari notched a hat trick Wednesday night as Salem (11-7-3, 4-1-2) took a giant step in clinching the KLAAs South Division crown with win over Livonia Churchill (6-8-4, 5-2-1).

The Rocks can earn the KLAAs South title outright with a victory Friday at Edgar Arena against winless Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7).

After a scoreless opening period, Macari scored at 1:27 of the second period from Kurt Driscoll and Josh Jarvela.

Shawn Lyons made it 2-0 just 67 seconds later off assists from Patrick Patin and Kyle Powell.

Macari's second of the night from Jarvela increased the Salem lead to 3-0 at 11:20 of the same period.

Macari closed out at the scoring at the 46-second mark of the third with an assist from Driscoll.

Salem netminder Adam Powers stopped all 24 shots to post the shutout. Aaron Crouse had 12 saves for the Chargers.

"We had our chances, but our power play was ineffective," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Powers played well and Salem capitalized on its chances. They deserved the 'W.'"

CANTON 8, FRANKLIN 0: Nick Tomilenko scored twice Wednesday as the host Chiefs (15-5-1, 3-3-1) invoked the eight-

goal mercy rule in the final period to beat Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7) in a KLAAs South Division game at Arctic Edge.

Mark Barath, Trent Taylor, Andrew Juback, Anthony Bonnett, Donnie Barlow and Ryan Lash also scored for Canton, which led 4-0 after one period and 6-0 after 13 minutes.

Jimmy Lafontaine contributed three assists.

Franklin, coming off losses to Walled Lake Northern (8-0) and Livonia Churchill (9-1), used two goaltenders starting Brandon Hawkins, who played the opening period. He was relieved by Travis Ferrier.

LADYWOOD 7, PLY-CANTON-SALEM 1: Shelby Kucharski scored five goals, raising her season total to 41, propelling Livonia Ladywood (9-7-1, 7-7-1) to a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win Tuesday over host Plymouth-Canton-Salem (3-15, 2-14) at the Arctic Edge.

Jennifer Fedon scored the game's first goal off an assist from Emily Bullock before Kucharski responded with four straight as the Blazers led 6-1 after two periods.

Lane Kolpacke and Rana Freij each added a goal and assist for Ladywood, while Emann Freij and Kaitlin Gaule collected three and two assists, respectively.

Other assists for the Blazers came from goaltender Jessica Pavela (13 saves), Brittany Galvin, Julie Bushart, Katie Folk, Katie Yelick and Kelsey Campbell.

Michelle Shaffer was in net for PCS.

Stevenson skates to 2-2 tie with No. 1 Northville

Top-ranked Northville got what it needed Wednesday night at Edgar Arena, skating to a 2-2 draw with host Livonia Stevenson to win the KLAAs Central Division boys hockey title outright.

The Mustangs, ranked No. 1 in Division 1, improved to 15-1-3 overall and finishes the KLAAs Central with 13 points at 5-0-3.

Stevenson, ranked No. 7 in the latest statewide coaches poll in Division 1, fell to 10-5-4 overall and 4-1-2 in the division (10 points) with one KLAAs Central game remaining.

The Mustangs led 1-0 after one period on the first of Matt Dembicki's two power-play goals, this one coming at 6:52.

Stevenson's R.J. Kierdorf scored his sixth of the year from Nolan Wilson at 3:36 of the second period before Dembicki answered with his second of the night at 10:26.

BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson's Cole Rochowick tallied the game-tying goal at 10:51 of the final period, a power-play from Trevor Baruzzini and John Vella.

"There was a good pace to the game - both ways," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It was a good up-and-down hockey game

and it was a good effort for us. It was nice to score that goal to tie (in the third period)."

Stevenson netminder Richie Dunphy made 19 saves, while Northville's Ted Keranen had 17 stops.

G.P. NORTH 5, STEVENSON 2: Justin Kovacs had two goals and two assists to lead Grosse Pointe North (11-6-1) to a victory Friday over Livonia Stevenson (10-6-4) in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase Friday at

Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

Justin Shureb notched his 16th of the season in the second period for the Spartans, who trailed only 2-1 after 30 minutes.

North, ranked No. 6 in Division 1, outscored Stevenson 3-1 in the decisive third period as John Strauch added his sixth of the year for the Spartans.

Stevenson, No. 7 in Division 1, was outshot by the Norsemen, 28-26.

Spartan goalie Danny Sager made 23 saves.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

SUPERIOR SAVINGS RATES.

TCF PREMIER SAVINGS

3.00% APY

on collected balances of \$225,000+

2.75% APY

on collected balances of \$100,000 - \$224,999.99

Saving for tomorrow? Start out right at TCF Bank today. Give your savings the edge by earning high interest. Watch your money grow.

We are open on Presidents' Day!

Stop by any TCF Bank location, call 1-800-TCF-BANK or visit www.tcfbank.com.



©2009 TCF National Bank. Member FDIC. The following TCF Premier Savings Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are effective as of 02/13/09: \$225,000+ = 3.00% APY; \$100,000-\$224,999.99 = 2.75% APY; \$50,000-\$99,999.99 = 1.00% APY; \$10,000-\$49,999.99 = 0.75% APY; \$2,500-\$9,999.99 = 0.50% APY; \$0-\$2,499.99 = 0.00% APY. Minimum balance to open a TCF Premier Savings account is \$50. Rates are subject to change. Fees may reduce earnings. www.tcfbank.com.

HIGH VELOCITY SPORTS

Fun Days!

Drop off the kids & pay only \$5/hour!
7:30 am - 5:30 pm

New! Supervised stations including sports and non-sport activities. Check-in and Check-out are required and children will be monitored at all times. Stations will rotate every 30 minutes. Kids may play soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, make crafts, play video games, watch movies, play board games, etc.

Basketball Camp
Weekly Rate: \$125
10 am-12 pm

Soccer Camp
Weekly Rate: \$125
1 pm-3 pm

Craft Camp
Weekly Rate: \$135
9 am-12 pm

Lunch: 12-1 pm
Bring a sack lunch or buy 2 pieces of pizza & pop for \$4.
Additional snacks & drinks available.
Available for ALL school break dates.

2009 SCHOOL BREAK DATES
February 23-27
April 10
April 13-17
Available February 23-27 & April 13-17.

Kick the Winter Blues with the

Friday, February 20, 2009

7:35 pm at Compuware Arena

14900 Beck Road in Plymouth

First 1,000 people will receive a 2008-09 team photo!

Call 888-436-GOAL or visit www.detroitignition.com today!

Saturday, February 28 is Scout Night! Kick it with the Ignition and earn a merit badge!

DMC HANTZGROUP

PISTONS

POWERED BY National City

TWO-DAY ALL-STAR TICKET DEAL

TOMORROW AND TUESDAY ONLY

9AM MONDAY THROUGH 6PM TUESDAY

SAVE UP TO 50%

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING GAMES

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| February | March |
| Tue 17 Milwaukee 7:30pm | Sun 15 Memphis 1:00pm |
| Thu 19 San Antonio 8:00pm | Fri 20 LA Clippers 8:00pm |
| March | Sun 22 Miami 1:00pm |
| Tue 03 Denver 7:30pm | Sun 29 Philadelphia 8:00pm |
| Fri 06 Golden State 8:00pm | April |
| Mon 09 Orlando 7:30pm | Sun 05 Charlotte 6:00pm |
| Wed 11 New York 7:30pm | Fri 10 New Jersey 8:00pm |
| | Mon 13 Chicago 7:30pm |

CALL EARLY FOR BEST SEATS AT 248-377-0100 OR LOG ON TO PISTONS.COM/DEAL

NEIGHBORS

Marching for life

Local youth join together to stop abortion

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Curtis Schuelke is only 15 but he's already fired up about abortion. As a young person he's not alone. High school and college students made up at least half of the hundreds of thousands of pro-life marchers in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

Schuelke was one of the teens from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church who took part in the event. Youth groups from St. Michael in Livonia and St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington joined together to travel to the 36th annual March for Life that marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which in 1973 gave women the right to choose. They recently spoke about the trip that left St. Gerald with every bus seat filled.

"Abortion isn't really talked about," said Schuelke, a 10th-grade student at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. "We need to start publicizing what abortion is. The march is one of the ways to do it."

Patrick Cummings not only demonstrates annually in Washington, but is out on the streets every Saturday morning counseling women on their way in to abortion clinics. The Westland man is one of the Guadalupe Partners, a nonprofit organization that will present a Life Fair on March 1 along with St. Michael's Gospel of Life Committee, which sponsored their youth group at the march. The March 1 event is an opportunity to learn about right-to-life activism in the community. In

LIFE FAIR

What: An afternoon to learn about opportunities for right-to-life activism in the community
When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 1
Where: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard at Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org or www.guadalupepartners.org.

addition to sidewalk counseling, Guadalupe Partners supports mothers emotionally and materially by delivering food and furniture and helping them get assistance, a GED or job training.

"Guadalupe Partners tries to support them to have their children," said Cummings. "The first time a mom decides not to go in you know you've saved a life. It changes you forever. More people would be against abortion if they knew the truth about how far the baby was along."

TEEN ACTIVISTS

The sea of young people attending the march gave Cummings hope for the future. It was his 16-year-old daughter, Alex Cummings, who enlightened Mike Shesterkin, her best friend's father, about abortion and the belief that life begins at conception. The Livonia man even voted against Barack Obama after he learned about his pro-choice stand.

"It was important to be counted among the many who were there," said Shesterkin,



PHOTO BY PATRICK CUMMINGS

Megan Doulette, Mike Shesterkin, Alex Cummings, and Hillary Shesterkin took part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. They are all members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia.

whose daughter, Hillary, goes to Ladywood High School with Alex. "My daughter was touched and inspired. It was an inspiring experience for me as well. I was inspired to see a number of legislators there who continue to fight for life. They're not giving up."

Launa Wakenhut is just happy to see the focus being put on the unborn babies.

"In years past, it was on the woman's life and the thinking was her life should come first," said Wakenhut. "Over the years, a set of language has developed that talks about the life being taken."

BEYOND CATHOLICISM

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan says it's not only Catholics who

feel strongly about abortion.

"It's an ecumenical movement," said Sister Madigan, assistant youth minister at St. Michael, where she teaches seventh-grade catechism. "Last year, we were out there about seven hours but we were there for a good cause."

This was the second year Amanda Posh, 17, and her mother, Annemarie, made the trip. Not even the memory of freezing cold and rain last year could keep them away. Amanda could have gone with classmates at Divine Child High School but wanted to share the experience with her mother and students in the St. Michael youth group.

"Life is probably the most precious gift God has given us and I wanted to be there to protest," Amanda said. "I talked to my friend about it and she came with us. After I told other friends about the march and they want to go next year. There are a lot of people at school against abortion."

Annemarie Posh sees abortion as a "cop out."

"I feel adoption is so courageous to give life to people who want a baby so bad," she said.

The big sign in front of St. Gerald lets women know help is available. The church's pro-life



PHOTO BY PATTY BREEN

Members of St. Gerald Catholic Church's Youth Group on their way to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Pictured are Candace Majewski (left standing), Caitlin McInnis, (clockwise), Mary Taffe, and Carly Burke (left front).

Gabriel Project is holding a baby shower March 7-8 to collect donations of strollers, cribs, diapers, and formulas. For information, call (248) 477-7470.

Patty Breen can't imagine a woman having an abortion. The 23-year old Livonia resident is coordinator of youth ministry at St. Gerald.

"It was good for them to see hundreds of thousands of people

who value the gift of life from God," said Breen. "I remember my mom telling me what abortion was, I thought why would someone want to do that. Years later I think it's weird to think about who might be missing — your neighbor, your sibling, your cousin — if there had been an abortion."

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

Stop Dieting. Start Living!

WeightWatchers NEW **momentum** Program Lose weight without feeling hungry.

FREE Registration

Weekly meeting fees apply. Offer ends soon in participating areas only (franchises 20 & 70). Not valid with At Work or Community Meetings, or online subscription products.

OR

FREE Gift Card

with a 16-Week Season Pass. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

HAP

Special Rate for Eligible HAP Members

Join the 18,000 HAP members who've lost over 176,000 pounds on Weight Watchers! Call for details.

A Note from Florine

President's Day celebrates the leadership of America's two most respected presidents. This year, be your own Lincoln or Washington and take charge of your health. I can't say enough how important it is to work exercise into your life. Whether its 10 minutes a day of walking outdoors, or "window shopping" around the mall for 30 minutes, remaining active and raising your metabolism will make you feel better and burn calories.

Florine Mark

WeightWatchers

888-3-FLORINE | 888-3-florine.com

©2009 Weight Watchers International, Inc., owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS registered trademark. All rights reserved.

HIGH VELOCITY SPORTS

W3 VOLLEYBALL & DODGE BALL

VOLLEYBALL

Season: Mar. 1–May 31 Reg. by: Feb. 27
Team Fee: \$510 or Free Agent Fee: \$100
10 Games + Playoffs
Ask about our Volleyball Clinics!

DODGE BALL

Season: March 2–April 29
Reg. Deadline: Feb. 20
Team Fee: \$450
6 Games + Tournament

(734) HV-SPORT 46245 Michigan Ave. hvsports.com

More features. More possibilities. More moms.

Log on to momslikeme.com today and you'll find a community of moms just like you!

momslikeme.com

where Detroit moms meet

Finding cures. Saving children.

Memorial & Honor Dept.
501 St. Jude Place
Memphis, TN 38105
1.800.873.6983
www.stjude.org/tribute

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
ALSC - Overy, Thomas, Founder

Devine Stella Devine

written by *Eddie McPherson*

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Services, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

Feb. 20, 21, 27, 28
Mar. 1*, 6, 7, 8*

Fri & Sat: 8pm Sun: 2pm

Tickets: \$15-\$18
www.spotlightplayers.net
734-994-2420 40000 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48105
The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48127

MILESTONES

Sutton-Devlin

John and Wendy Sutton of Garden City wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sandra Jane, to Anthony Joseph of Livonia, on Oct. 4, 2008.

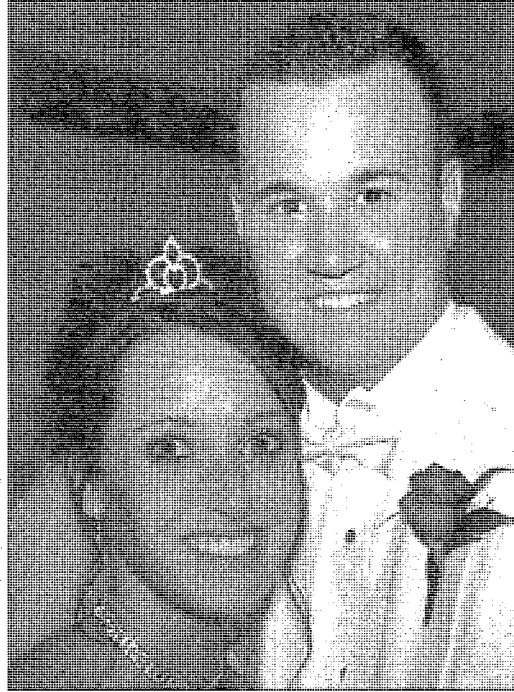
The bride graduated in 2005 from Garden City High School. She obtained her medical certification certificate from Schoolcraft College and is currently working in an urgent care clinic in Tucson, Ariz., and attending school to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

The groom, son of Linda and Joseph Devlin of Livonia, graduated from Livonia Churchill High School in 2004. He attended Schoolcraft College before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, where he is a C-130 crew chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

The Rev. Kevin Brown of Metro South Church of Trenton officiated the ceremony.

The bride was attended by maid of honor Rachel Telfer, and bridesmaids Amy Brehmer, Becky Pakos, Amber Devlin, Katie Ferrell and Kala Jackson. The groom was attended by best man Dan Rais, and groomsmen Jason Sutton, Tyler Tagami, Marc Couillais, Nick Davio and Brandon Genette.

Their two 'flower dudes,' who carried top hats with rose petals, were Benjerman Ferrell, 8, and Joseph Ferrell, 6. The ring bearer was Logan



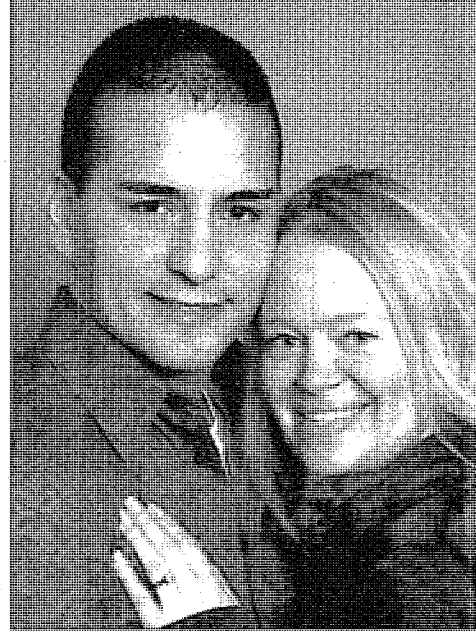
Ferrell, 3. The reception was held at Joy Manor. The couple plans to reside in Arizona until Tony's tour of duty ends.

Walters-Albrecht

Mr. and Mrs. John Albrecht of Westland announce the engagement of their son Jeffrey Bryant Albrecht to Elizabeth Ann Walthers of Essixville.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Dominique and Tammy Walters. She is a graduate of Northwood University and currently employed at Delphi.

Jeffrey is a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland and has a teaching degree from Olivet College. Jeffrey is a math teacher at



Riverside Academy. A July wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Essixville.



Reid baby

Francine Moore, who works for the Farmington Hills Police Department, and Don Reid, of Redford Township, announce the birth of their son, Spencer Ronald Reid. The 6-pound, 8-ounce Spencer measured 19- 1/2 inches at his birth, at 7:56 a.m. on Aug. 4, 2008 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is the grandson of Delores Moore and half-brother of Donnie Reid and Danielle McNamara.

Kain-LaMontagne

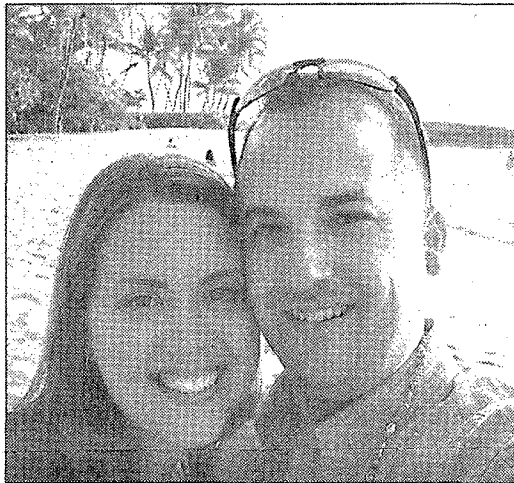
Ellen and Robert Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory A. Kain to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland, son of Lynne and John LaMontagne of Livonia

The couple were wed Nov. 8, 2008 at Christ Church in Redford by Pastor Mark Einem. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom's attendants were Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich. Following the ceremony, the couple received guests at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills and enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. They plan to reside in Westland.



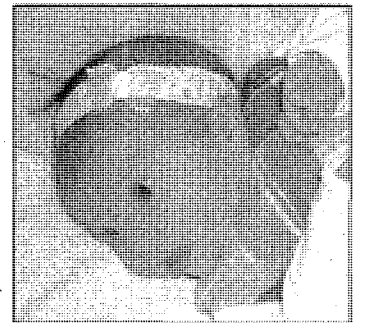
Brown-Kramer

Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Rose Brown, to Joel Douglas Kramer, son of Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2003 graduate of Madonna University in Livonia. She works in corporate communications at Valassis. The groom graduated in 1994 from Bishop Foley High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in 2003 from Lawrence Technological University. He works as a structural engineer at SSOE, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. The couple plans to wed in October at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills.



Wysocki-Kenyon

Randolph and Cathy Wysocki of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Melissa, to Robert Shawn Kenyon, son of Doris Kenyon of Wayne and Robert Lee Kenyon of Plymouth. The bride-to-be graduated from Garden City High School and now owns Hair FX Studio in Canton where she is a hair stylist. The groom graduated from John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. He is a police officer for the city of Westland. Their wedding is planned for March.



Derouin baby

Melissa Lanier and Nik Derouin of Plymouth announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey Leeza Derouin. She was born Dec. 16, 2008 at University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandparents are John and Anne Lanier of Canton and Bill and Mary Derouin of Fowlerville and Canton. Her great-grandparents are Larue Lanier of Waxahachie, Texas; and the late Clyde Lanier, Jean Dutton, David and Liza David, and Don and Ann Humphrey.

make your legs beautiful again.

Advanced Vein Therapies uses the latest technology to provide you safe, non-invasive, painless and effective varicose and spider vein care with *no stripping* and *no scarring*

All procedures are in-office, and most are covered by insurance. You'll be up and walking immediately, with relief that allows you to get back to your life. Please visit our web site to see how we've helped others at

www.AVtherapies.com



ADVANCED VEIN THERAPIES

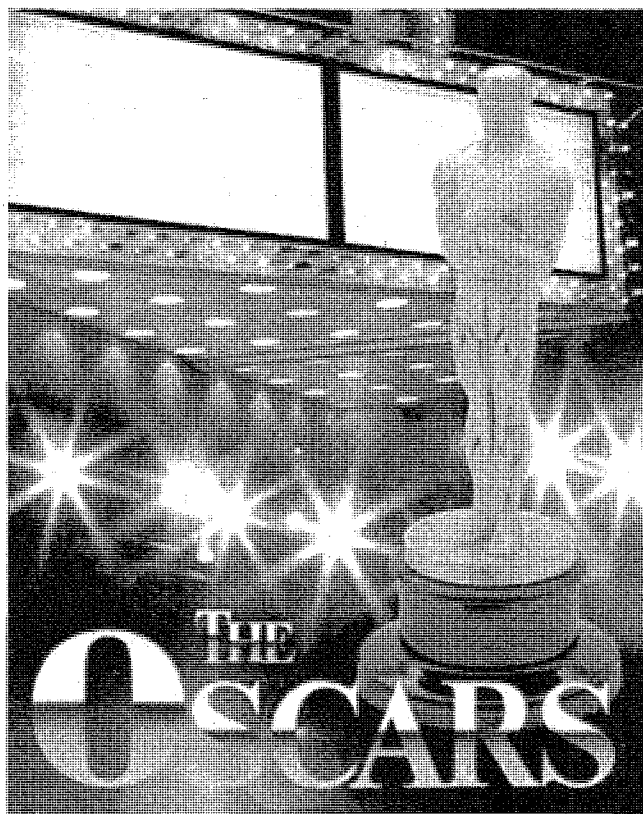
JEFFREY H. MILLER, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

248.344.9110 | www.AVtherapies.com

46325 W. 12 MILE ROAD | SUITE 335 | NOVI | West of Novi Road near I-96

As seen in the Yellow Pages

Think you know who will win an OSCAR this year?



Go to www.hometownlife.com see the contest entry instructions and the complete list of nominees. If your picks are correct you would win a one year unlimited movie pass gift certificate for you and guest to Emagine Theater.

Correctly Identify the Top 6 Categories.

The person with the most correct answers wins the prize.

- Best Picture
- Actor in a Leading Role
- Actress in a Leading Role
- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role

(In the event of a tie a tie breaker will be used.)

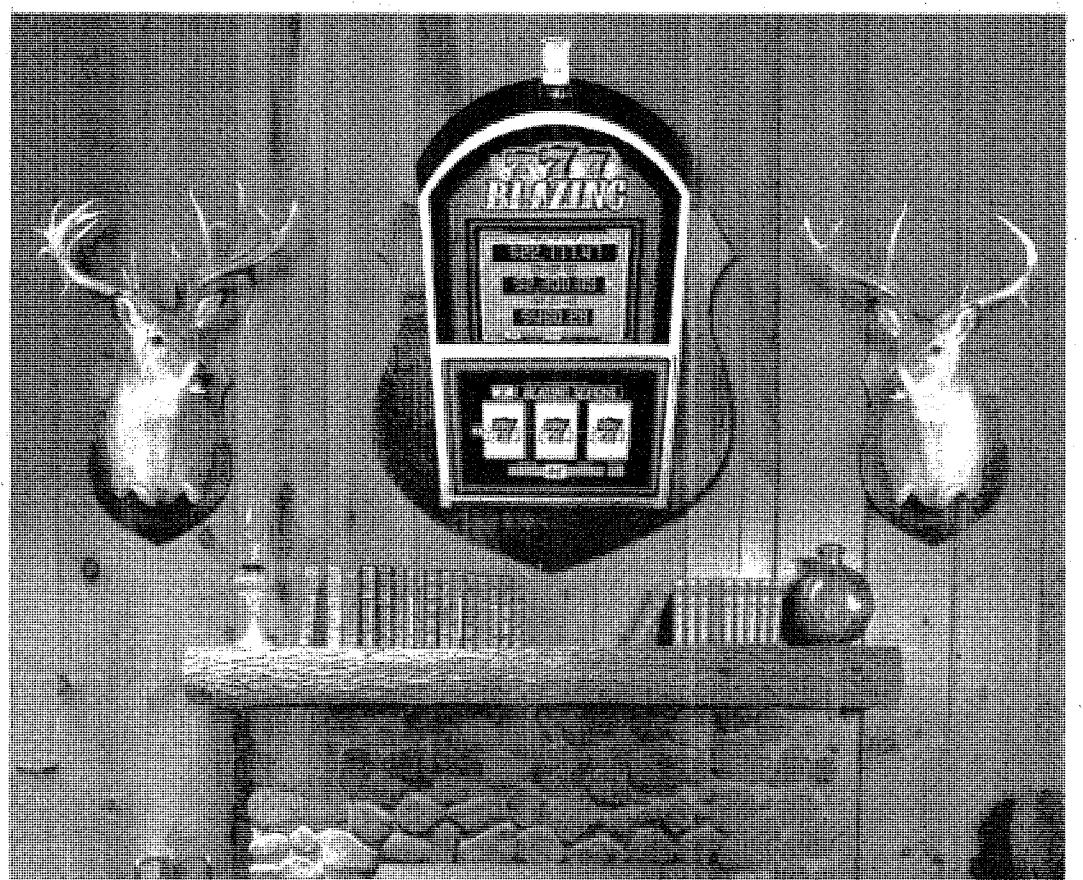
Tie Breaker(s):

- Directing
- Music (Score)
- Cinematography
- Documentary Feature

(In the event that there is a tie, a name will be randomly selected)

All entries must be received by Friday, February 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered.

Sponsored by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Mirror Newspaper, Hometown Newspapers and Emagine Theater (www.emagine-entertainment.com)



Bag a big jackpot.

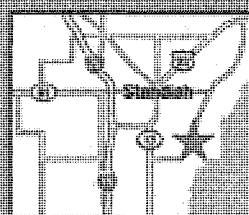
Looking for big game action? With over 300 thrilling slots and a variety of electronic table games, jackpots are always in season. Our comfortable and convenient casino, located in Standish, is the natural choice for fun and games. Just take I-25 exit 188 to M-13 South, then left on Worth Road.

Sagamoye
Fogles Landing
Casino

Winning Comes Naturally.

2490 Worth Road, Standish, MI 48177-6411

SagamoyeCasino.com



Partners of the
Signature Chipmunk Lodge
Tree of Mystery

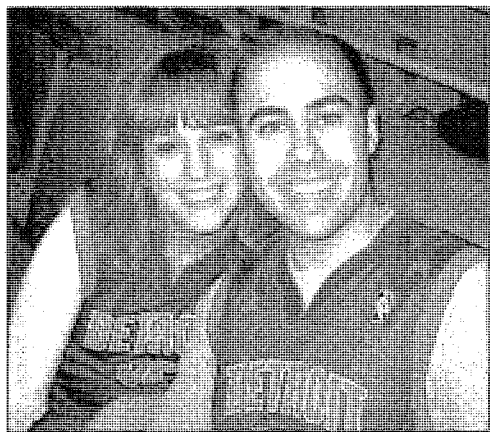
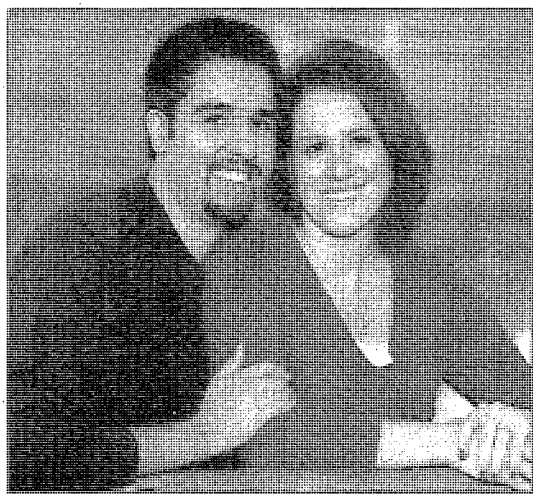
Sagamoye
Fogles Landing
Casino

Sagamoye Eagle Inn
Sagamoye Eagle Inn

MILESTONES

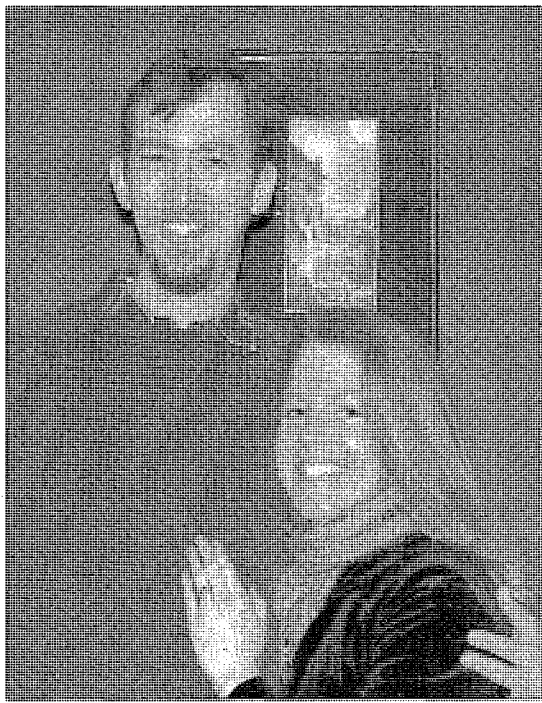
Baringhaus-Edwin

James and Charlene Baringhaus of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Baringhaus to David Edwin, son of Samuel and Kim Edwin of Troy. The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia in 2002, and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Wayne State University in 2008. She works as a pharmacy resident at the University of Michigan. The groom graduated from Troy Athens High School in 2002, and earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University. He works as a quality engineer at Terumo Medical Corporation. The couple plan to wed in May at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia.



Miller-Haglund

Steve and Sandi Miller of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Miller to Lars Valdor Haglund, son of Valdor and Iora Haglund of Farmington Hills. The couple plan to wed in September 2010 in Michigan.



Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

INFORMATION AND THE INTERNET

The Internet is a valuable source of information on arthritis. The following sites allow you to quickly find the arthritis topic of your interest and the information they provide is clear:

- www.healthfinder.gov
- www.mediclineplus.gov
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/arthritis
- mayoclinic.com

For information on Southeast Michigan programs in arthritis education, on activities for people with arthritis and a physician directory or area rheumatologists, go to the Michigan Arthritis Foundation home page:
www.arthritis.org/chapters/michigan

If you want more information, go to Google and use key phrases to find what you seek. For more technical and medical information, I would not go to PubMed, the traditional site, but to Google Scholar-advanced search.

I cannot provide a source that accurately rates physicians. Going to your health insurance site, will only give you the physicians in that health insurance company's network of providers. The methods the insurance companies use to rate their doctors is difficult to determine, but are not the ways that physicians assess their colleagues.

If you need a physician referral, the old ways are still the best ways: ask a doctor whom you know, or inquire from friends and relatives for a physician they would recommend.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

Sieg-Oelkers

David and Molly Sieg of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Annette Sieg, of Philadelphia, to Peter Oelkers, son of Irmgard and the late Kenneth Oelkers of Montvale, Pa. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Redford Union High School and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She is currently a graduate student at Drexel University. The groom is a 1987 graduate of Pascack Hills High School and a 1991 graduate of the College of William and Mary. He is a biology professor at Arcadia University. The couple have a July wedding planned in Lancaster, Pa.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

FIRST STEP BENEFITS

Several long-time supporters are holding fund-raising events for First Step in the coming months.

The 19th annual Charity Dance presented by Brian Duggan takes place 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Visit www.firststepcharitydance.com for ticket and sponsorship information.

Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi's Stepping Out in Style Event happens 6:30-9 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Parisian, Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Enjoy an evening of shopping, food, fashion, and fun while supporting First Step. Visit www.zontafarmingtonnovi.org for ticket and sponsorship information. Tickets \$20.

For more information, visit www.firststep-mi.org.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

On Saturday Feb 21, at 1:30 p.m. the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present programs on "Using Legacy Family Tree and Family Tree Maker 2006 and 2009" at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. Brenda Halseth demonstrate Legacy Family Tree, an easy-to-use genealogy software program that will help track, organize, print, and share family history. Bill and Margaret O'Neill provide an in-depth look at Family Tree Maker - Version 2009 and discuss Version 2006, including a demonstration on how to use some of the tools within the programs. The program is open to the public and there is no charge. For information, call Liam Neary at (734) 464-4645.

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday Feb. 23, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The main speaker following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting will be Carmen Collins on "Adoption Research" and her quest on her adoption. At 6:30

p.m. Brenda Halseth will present "705 New Books on CD coming to the Livonia Library." She will show how to use this upcoming wealth of information. Meetings open to the public. Guests welcome. For information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwecgs/.

FROG SURVEYORS NEEDED

In as little as one month, the skies will fill with the calls of amorous amphibians. If you are interested in learning more about why and where frogs call, sign up for Friends of the Rouge's annual frog and toad survey.

"You need no prior experience, just some interest in the local environment. We provide all the information and materials needed to do the survey at our training workshops," said Sally Petrella, Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager for Friends of the Rouge and manager of the annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey.

Volunteers attend one of four Frog & Toad Survey Training Workshops in February or March to learn about seven frogs and one toad found in the Rouge River Watershed, the 466-square-mile area drained by the Rouge River. Attendees go home with an assignment to learn eight calls from a CD they are provided.

Once spring comes, they will be expected to venture out to a nearby wetland after dark and determine what type of frogs and toads are calling. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in teams, and children over 5 are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Register for one of the following workshops by calling (313) 792-9621 or e-mailing monitoring@therouge.org.

■ 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.

RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Art Is In Market is having a Grand Re-Opening to celebrate its move into a larger space

at Laurel Park Place mall, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia with a wine and cheese reception 3-9 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The gallery offers hand crafted art objects, jewelry, clothing, baskets, glass, floral items, photography, and paintings by Southeast Michigan artists. Paul Adams will reveal his latest print for sale, "Old Main," of Wayne State University and will offer some of his original works for sale.

Many of the other artists will be on hand for the meet and greet and will demonstrate aspects of their art. While there, check out the gallery's schedule of events and sign up for a class or demonstration to be offered later in the year. The store also has a Blog, <http://artismarket.blogspot.com>, with links to individual artist's websites.

DONATIONS HELP FEED HUNGRY

During the holiday season, which had many people worrying about the struggling economy and paying their bills, customers at Westborn Market helped the less fortunate by donating to Forgotten Harvest, www.forgottenharvest.org, a mobile food rescue organization in metro Detroit.

For the past several years the independent gourmet grocer has requested donations from customers to support Forgotten Harvest's mission to feed the hungry.

In less than three weeks in December customers of Westborn's three stores, including Livonia, contributed nearly \$5,000. The money will enable Forgotten Harvest to rescue and deliver more than 28,000 meals.

THANK YOU

The community of Harding Elementary School in Detroit would like to say "THANK YOU" to Livonia Franklin High School students and staff who work so hard to make life just a little brighter despite a time of economic difficulty.

The men, women, children, and young adults of the school work hard to provide clothes, toys, art projects and snacks which are often distributed throughout Harding Elementary, a school located in Northwest Detroit's Brightmoor area every month.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

Call For Our New Earlier Times STARTING AT 6 a.m.!

CORE Rhythms

NOW AT Arthur Murray!

FIRM UP FAST

Losing inches has never been so fast... and so much fun! The passion and technique of World Champion Rhythm & Latin dancers, packed into the perfect fitness system. You'll love it and *anyone can do it.*

TRIM DOWN NOW

Core Rhythms is the revolutionary exercise concept that uses *sexy Latin dance moves* to raise your heart rate, while toning and tightening your entire core. You'll be swept away while getting a 360° total core workout.

CALL TODAY

Certified Core Rhythm instructors are ready, exclusively at **Arthur Murray Dance Studios**. Call today and schedule your first session.

Core Rhythms Creators
Julia Powers
12 time U.S. Champion
&
Joanna Kilnitz
10 time International Champion

DanceSport FITNESS

Franchised Dance Studios

NO Contracts! NO Monthly Payments! NO Membership Fees!

Pay only for the sessions you use! Call now to schedule your FREE introductory workout!

Learn to Dance

Ballroom • Latin • Social

Certified Instructors
& Private Lessons

Franchised Dance Studios

42000 Six Mile Rd., Suite 250
Northville
(between Northville Rd. & Haggerty)
248.349.1133

1926 South Telegraph Rd.
Bloomfield
(next to Carl's Golfland)
248.338.6390

Find yourself at the

Y LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA

75% off

The Joining Fee

— and —

75% off

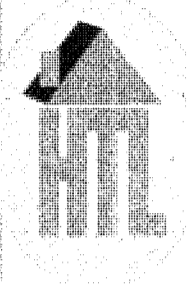
any class offered in the winter program session

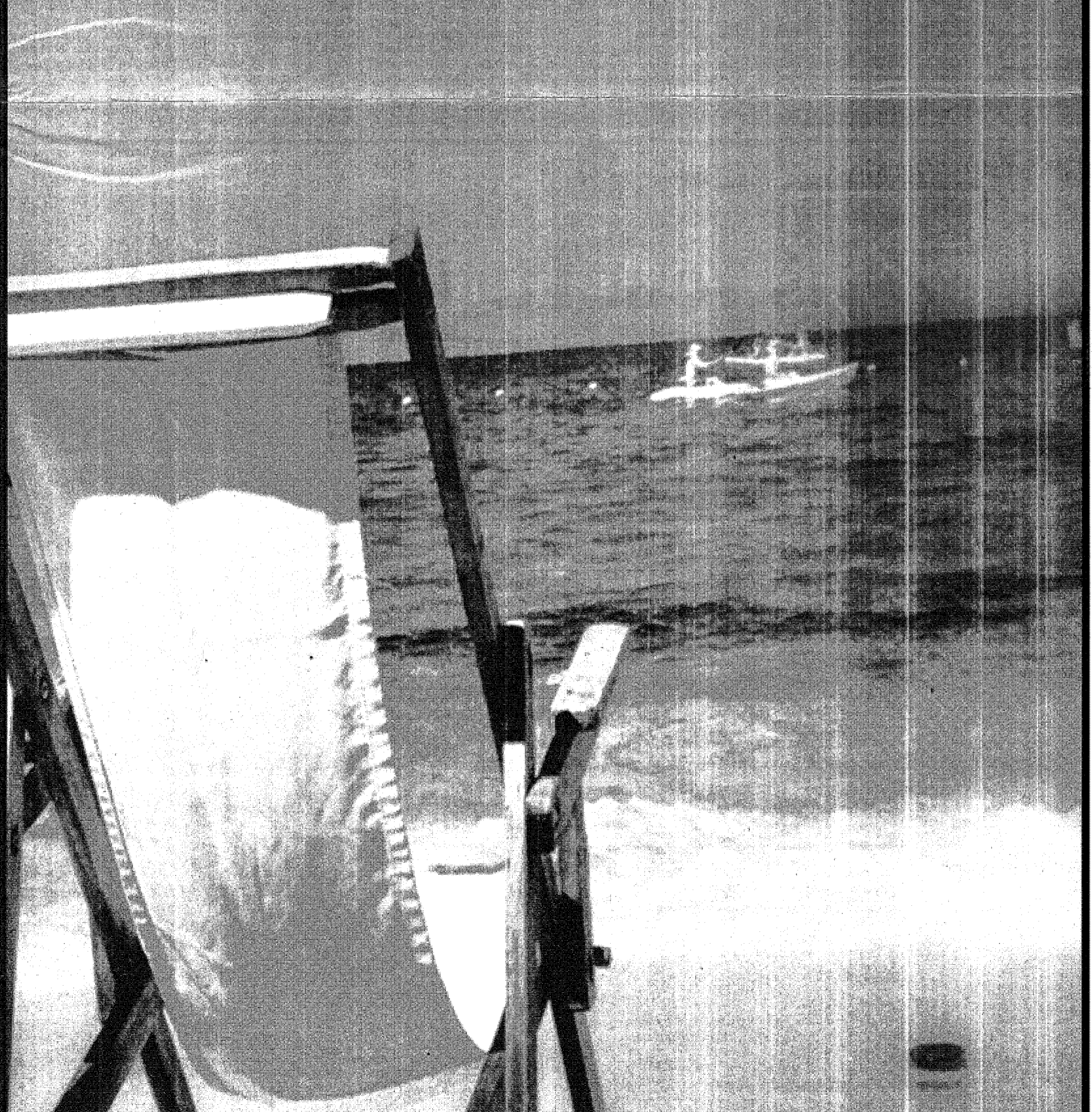
for all new full facility family members

14255 Stark Road • Livonia • 734-261-2161

www.ymcadetroit.org

...THE ONLY THING
MISSING IS YOU!

 **HOMETOWN** *life.com*



HEALTH & FITNESS



Heidi Scheer holds son Gannon who stopped speaking and faded into his own world at age 15 months. Scheer is one of the speakers at the first international conference presented by the American Medical Autism Board Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Conference covers alternative therapies

The American Medical Autism Board (AMAB) presents speakers on the controversial biomedical treatment options for disorders ranging from autism to AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and OCD Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Register online at www.asdboards.com. Credits available for physicians toward AMAB certification.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FEBRUARY

Healthy relationships conference

Wayne County Head Start hosts its Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationships Conference Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Dearborn Inn, 23031 Oakwood Blvd. The conference is free for all current or former Wayne County Head Start parents. It begins at 12:30 p.m. and features workshops on marriage, raising a family, and relationships. For details, call 866-534-KIDS (5437).

Climbing for a cause



Rick Braun of Rochester at Climb Detroit last year.

CLIMB DETROIT

What: A stair climb to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan
When: Sunday, March 8.
Registration at 9 a.m., first step at 10 a.m.

Where: Detroit Marriott tower of the Renaissance Center, 629 East Jefferson

Register: Online at www.ClimbDetroit.org. For information, call Jessica Jimenez, (248) 784-2018.

Steps lead to research, education, advocacy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Laura Bertalan's 58-year-old mother died from lung cancer in 2007, she felt she had to do something. She packed up and came home to Troy leaving her job as part of the producing team for The Ellen DeGeneris Show in Los Angeles.

Along with being closer to her family Bertalan wanted to work to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. At 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, she'll be one of hundreds climbing 70 floors of steps at the Detroit Marriot tower of the Renaissance Center to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan (ALAM) where she became marketing director in April. She's taking on the challenging 1,035 steps in honor of her mother Georgena Bertalan.

"I just felt I had to take action," said Bertalan, 32. "She was coughing and asthmatic and would have to go to the ER. They did a scan and found lesions. They tried radiation then chemotherapy, but it was stage 4. It was very aggressive. She died in three months."

Georgena was not a smoker but inhaled second-hand smoke that's why it's important for Bertalan to support ALAM's work in research, education and advocacy. ALAM is part of a campaign for smoke-free air. The national ALA grades each state on the quality of air in its State of Tobacco Control Report. Michigan received an F in 2008.

"All of the money stays in Michigan for research on lung cancer, COPD, asthma education in schools and for adults, and the campaign in Lansing," said Bertalan. "Mom was a bowler. You can't go to a bowling alley without breathing in second hand smoke."

Many of the climbers have family members who died from lung disease. Rick Braun lost his grandmother to COPD weeks before the first climb three years ago. He trains by running up almost 200 stairs in Bloomer Park near his Rochester home.

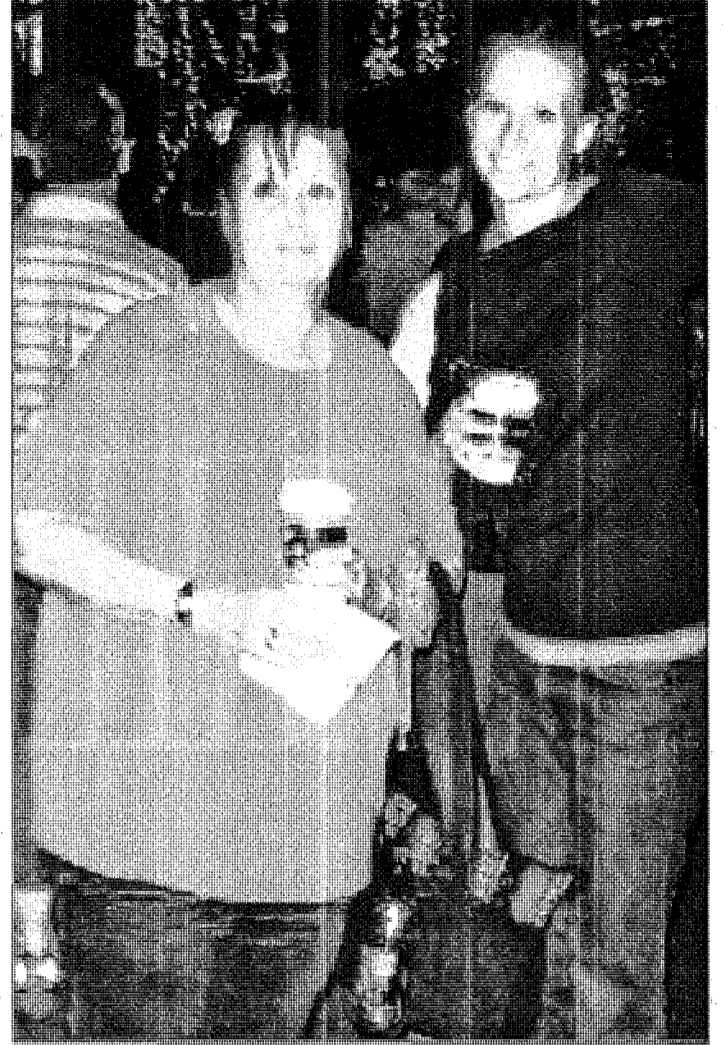
"We'd be out and she had to sit down and catch her breath," said Braun. "One of the hardest parts is watching. You are so powerless. I'd hate for anybody to have to go through

that and to watch people go through that if I can help. Even though I'm not a scientist I can do something just to get the word out. I'm a runner. It's perfect for others who like to run and compete. I'm trying to talk to as many people as possible, work my network of runners and those who are active."

Patty Brehler won't be running up the stairs this year. She'll have to walk because of her asthma. The manner in which she reaches the top doesn't matter though. For years Brehler was able to compete in long distance bicycle races, stair climbs and running marathons until being diagnosed with asthma. Maybe someday research will make it possible for medication to completely control the respiratory disease.

"People are put off by maybe how hard it can be but if you approach it as for a good cause and a fun day," said Brehler, 52. "If you train I think anybody can do it if you pace yourself and take a little break. I'm trying to get permission to walk up with the Leader Dog puppy I'm raising."

Brehler is still looking for climbers to join her team,



Laura Bertalan shared many happy times with her mother before Georgena died of lung cancer in 2007.

Patty's Pack. Like Braun, she trains on the stairs in Bloomer Park.

Participants without a plan can visit climbdetroit.org for a program designed by a personal trainer who's completed the climb. Jessica Jimenez thinks it's a great way to keep a new year's resolution to get in shape. Last year 521 people participated in the climb that attracts ages 12 to 80. About 400 have signed up so far. The cost to register is \$50 until March 4 plus \$100 to participate. Registration closes March 6.

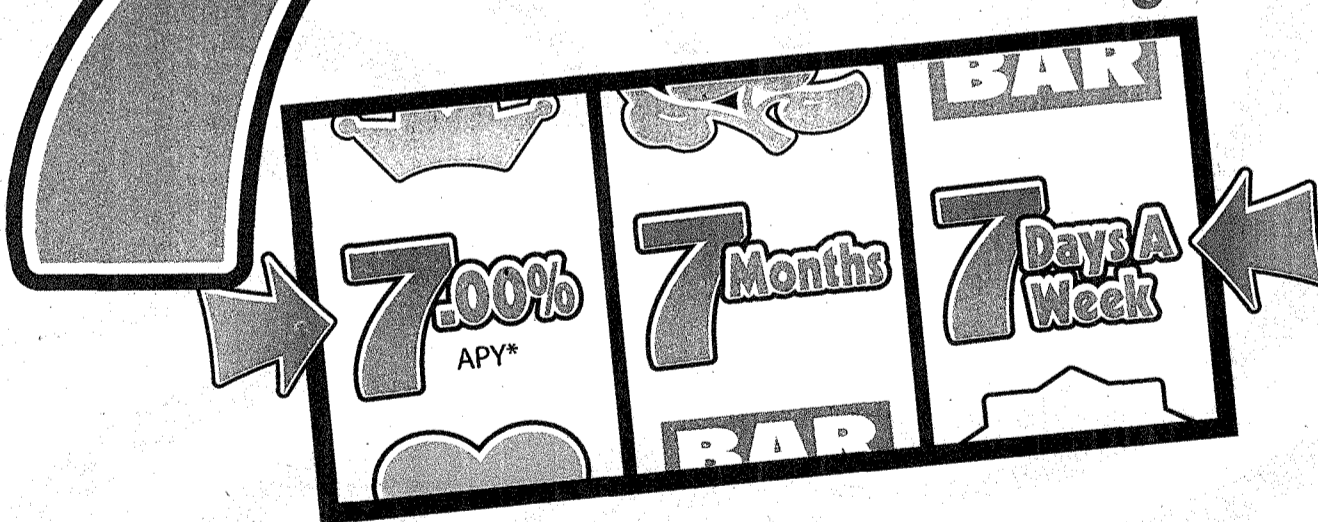
"A lot of people do walks. This is a little bit more of a challenge," said Jimenez, ALAM development manager. "It's for people who do very

little exercising to those who do marathons. It depends on how intense you make it. You can do all 70 floors or 40. Propelling your body up 70 sets of stairs is a much more intense workout than cycling or running. It's a timed event and takes 12 to 24 minutes to finish. There's a post climb celebration in the GM Wintergarden where visitors can come for \$5 for food and beverages to congratulate participants."

For details, visit www.climbdetroit.org. For information about the American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org.

lchomin@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2241

7 Is Your Lucky Number



At Community Alliance Credit Union

7% APY* Certificate of Deposit for 7 Months

When you open an Interest Checking Account, you qualify for our 7% APY* Certificate of Deposit with a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$2,000 for 7 months.

Interest Checking: Minimum balance of \$2,500. As your balance increases, your rate increases.

Open 7 Days
in Livonia



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
EST. 1966
CREDIT UNION

Your Guide To Financial Success

Dearborn Office
1 Auto Club Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126
313.336.1534
800.287.0046

Livonia Branch
37401 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150
734.464.8079

communityalliancecu.org



*APY = Annual Percentage Yield, subject to change without notice. Penalty for early withdrawal. Interest is paid at maturity. Fees may reduce earnings. Other bonus offers not eligible with this program.