

THURSDAY
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Newspapers

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Chef cooks up feasts of fish - Food & Wine, B10

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AROUND TOWN

UAW comes to the rescue

A group of United Auto Workers from the Wayne Assembly Plant has raised \$20,335 to help the Westland Goodfellows, a charity group that raises money year-round to meet an ever-increasing need for children who might otherwise lack gifts during the Christmas season.

Westland City Councilman Bill Johnson, plant chairman for UAW Local 900, along with UAW representatives Dwayne Walker, Mike Smith and Don Conger, handed over a check to Westland Fire Capt. John Adams, a Goodfellows coordinator, during Tuesday's council meeting.



The UAW leaders read from a long list of contributors who helped them raise the money. Local 900 has routinely helped the Goodfellows with their fund drives in recent years, as demand from needy families has increased amid an economic recession.

In need of heat

The Lighthouse Home Mission, which operates a warming center for the homeless, is in need of some heat itself.

Actually, it needs \$9,000 to have a new furnace installed in the center, according to Thelma Ivey, outreach coordinator.

"We have an urgent need," the Garden City resident said. "The furnace is 20 years old and works sometimes. If it goes out, we'll have to close down."

Housed in a building at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland, the center provides overnight accommodations for 45 homeless men and women. It also operates soup kitchen there Monday through Friday and clothing and food bank which also would be affected.

"We have to raise the money, or may be the right person will hear and put one in for us," Ivey said.

Donations can be sent to the Lighthouse Home Mission at 34033 Palmer, Westland, MI 48186. For more information, call (734) 326-3885 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays.

City hopes to cash in with lobbyist

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After compiling a \$41.6 million list of shovel-ready, job-creating projects, Westland city leaders have hired a lobbyist firm to aggressively pursue federal stimulus dollars and any other government aid that might be up for grabs.

Mayor William Wild, who proposed the idea, was handed a narrow victory Tuesday by a divided Westland City Council that voted 4-3 to hire Novi-based Advanced Strategies Group to scrounge the halls of Washington, D.C., and Lansing for money.

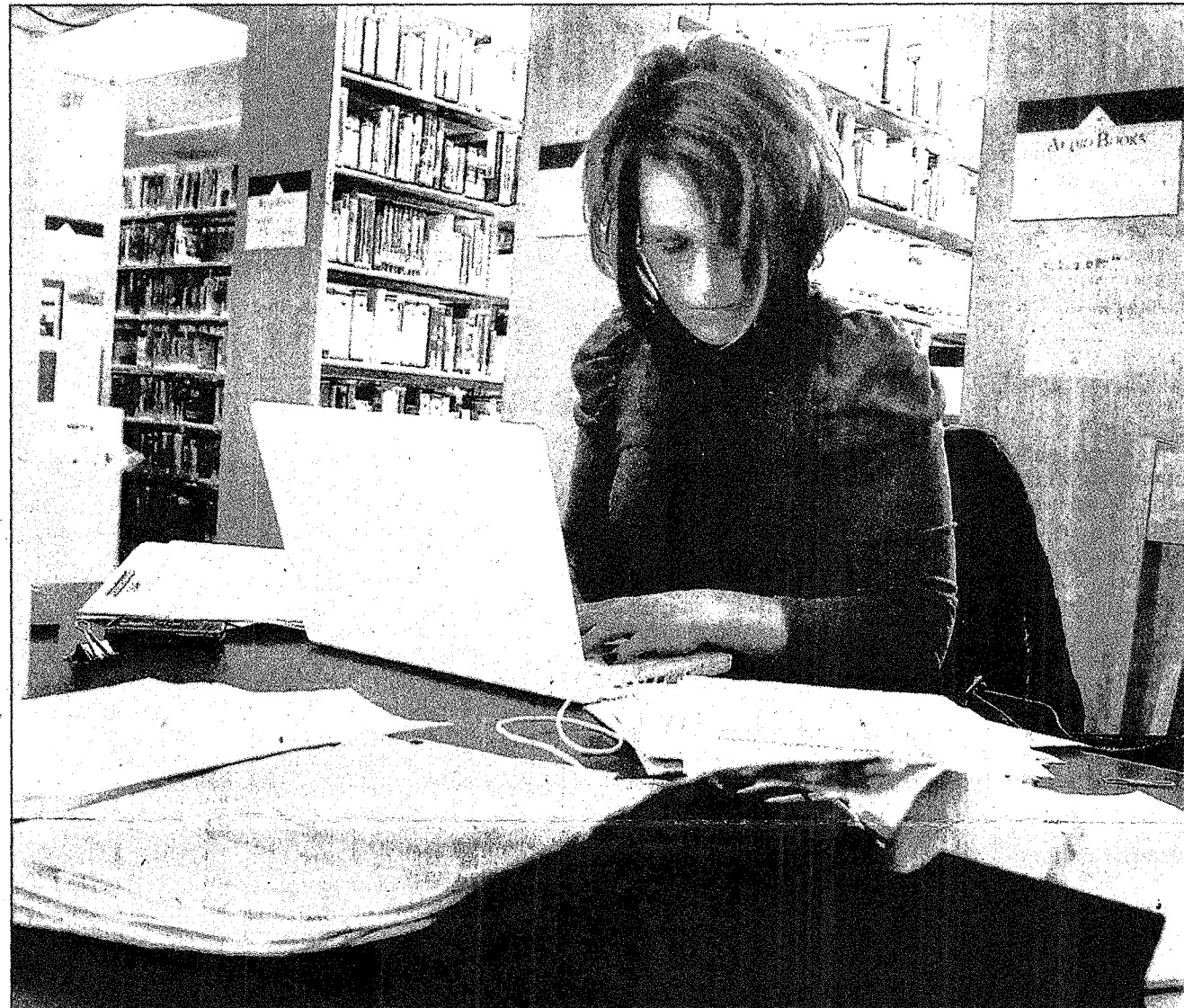
"We have to look for alternative sources of revenue," council President

James Godbout said, "or we're going to have to cut services."

The decision to spend as much as \$60,000 to hire a lobbying firm for a year comes as the city struggles to find ways to offset sagging revenues fueled by falling property taxes, foreclosed homes, shuttered businesses and an economic recession that continues to pummel the nation.

Wild defended the decision to hire ASG, amid hopes the city will recoup the \$60,000 and reel in potentially large amounts of money for wish-list proposals to improve roads, hire more police officers, repair aging water-sewer lines and fix portions of lead-contaminated Central City Park.

Please see **LOBBYIST, A2**



Tracy Armstrong of Westland, a third-grade teacher at Estabrook Elementary in Ypsilanti, uses the Westland Public Library's free Internet access to work on her online report cards. "We just received these laptops this year. It is great that I can work on the Internet away from other distractions," she said.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Price is right

People sign up
for library's free
Internet service

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's public library has found a way to keep budget-conscious patrons linked to the World Wide Web.

It involves dial-up Internet access, which isn't as fast and convenient as higher-speed services, but it's free and it comes amid an economic recession that has forced many computer users to rein in their home budgets.

"We're so grateful to be able to offer such a great program," library Director Cheryl Napsha said.

About 500 people have started using the service since the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, named after the late state senator, rolled out the plan a year ago.

Please see **INTERNET, A2**

Wayne-Westland trustees, recall group join forces

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The group of residents and the two Wayne-Westland school board members they had hoped to recall have decided to set aside their differences and work for the betterment of students.

School board President Martha Pitsenbarger and Vice President Skip Monit met with recall organizer Shawn Maxwell after her group "collectively decided to put the recall aside."

"The best thing for the kids is for us to work together collectively to make things better," said Maxwell. "Skip and Martha agreed to help."

"We've come to an amicable agreement with the recall committee, our goal is to work together for the betterment of the community," Monit said. "It was a joint decision that going forward with the recall would not be good for the district, so we decided to put our efforts toward positive action."

The meeting came a week after the school board approved a settlement agreement with the Wayne-Westland Education Association. The vote brought to an end a contentious round of contract negotiations that included a four-day strike by teachers in October and the threatened recall after the school board approved the drawing up of procedures to discipline teachers.

Residents angered by the strike launched the recall effort in November and were able to collect more than 5,000 signatures before calling it quits. Maxwell said that during that time her group received many calls from parents who had concerns and didn't know how to get answers.

"We will be able to call them when we have concerns or ideas," Maxwell said. "We've put contacts in place where we can work one-on-one to get help for people who call us."

Monit acknowledged that school board members are in office because of the community and that they must "address the community's concerns."

"I think this will be positive, I'm very optimistic about this," he said. "Martha and I have made a commitment to work with them."

He added that it's important to let the community know that the two sides want to put the recall behind them.

"There's no animosity," he added. Maxwell added that she is relieved the recall effort is at an end, noting that she always said "a recall isn't pretty, it's not a positive thing."

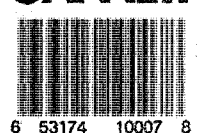
"We're going to have to work together as a group," she said. "Our goal is to get problems solved and keep the district strong."

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

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Police: 2 men sought in Dollar General holdup

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two masked men with a semiautomatic handgun robbed a Dollar General store Saturday evening on Westland's north side, escaping with cash, forcing two employees into a restroom and seizing their cell phones, police said.

The incident marked the second robbery of a local Dollar Store since Jan. 31.

The latest holdup happened about 7:35 p.m. when a 25-year-old female employee was approached by the two men while she was smoking a cigarette outside the discount store on Merriman north of Ann Arbor Trail.

The armed bandits

approached the woman on foot and ordered her to go inside the store, where they found a 44-year-old worker stocking shelves, according to police reports. The suspects took an undisclosed amount of money, ordered the employees into a bathroom and fled out the back door.

The workers described both suspects as black males, about 20 years old, with Afro hairstyles. One was reportedly about 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, the other about 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds.

Both men wore black hooded sweat shirts, blue jeans, gym shoes and black masks, according to police reports. Anyone who has information about

the robbery is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

The holdup came 15 days after another Dollar General store was robbed at gunpoint on Glenwood east of Newburgh.

During the earlier robbery, a lone gunman robbed an employee and two customers just before 7:45 p.m. Jan. 31. That suspect was described as a black male, 25-35 years old, nearly 6 feet tall and weighing 200-250 pounds. He wore blue jeans, a black hooded sweat shirt, a black coat and a black cloth or mask that partially covered his face.

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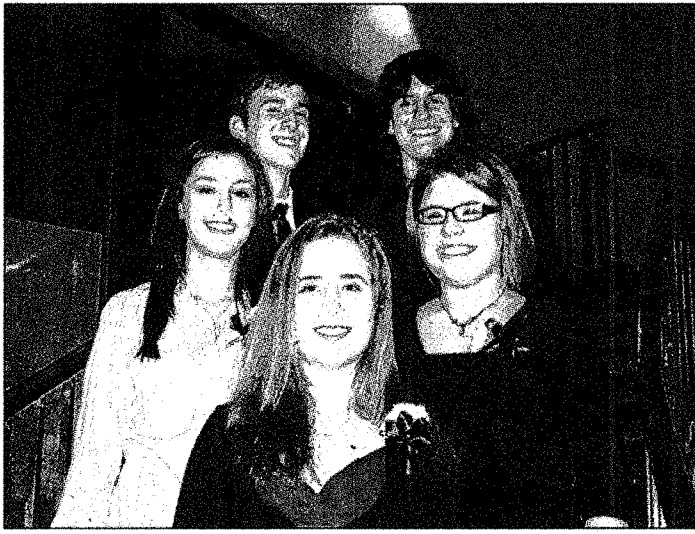
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PTSA Council recognizes 15 seniors as 'Outstanding Youth'

Fifteen "Outstanding Youth" — five graduating seniors from each of the Livonia school district's three high schools — were honored at the recent Livonia PTSA Council's 55th annual Founders' Day Celebration at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

"These are some truly exceptional young people who represent a diversity of talents and accomplishments in academics, athletics, the performing arts and community service," said Garrett Wheat, second vice president of the Livonia PTSA Council and chair of the event. "These students really serve to showcase the depth of quality available in the Livonia Public Schools."

Honored from Franklin High School were: Amy Afonso, Travis Gonyou, Alexandra Gortat, Eric James and Emily Wisniewski. From Stevenson High School: Kristin Turbiak, Brian Klemczak, Michelle Bodnar,



Honored from Franklin High School were (front row) Amy Afonso, (middle row left to right) Alexandra Gortat, Emily Wisniewski, (back row left to right) Travis Gonyou and Eric James.

Alexandria Bean and Kristin Beharry. And from Churchill High School: Kyle Mireles, Alyssa Mira, William Guerin, Matthew Charnley and Loric Avanesian.

The youth were nominated

by faculty and parents at their school. "We ask that students represent a diversity of interests and involvement in their school," Wheat said.

Nominated students must have a strong academic record,



Outstanding Youth from Churchill are (front row left to right) Loric Avanesian, Alyssa Mira, (back row left to right) William Guerin, Matthew Charnley and Kyle Mireles.

demonstrated leadership, group and solo successes, hold the respect of their peers and teachers, show an array of attributes and values to which other students might relate and seek to emulate, participate in

a variety of activities, and overall characterize an outstanding Livonia Public Schools high school experience, Wheat said.

Each Outstanding Youth selected three teachers who they felt had the greatest

influence on their education to share in their honor. Also recognized by the Livonia PTSA Council were the Livonia Public Schools Teachers of the Year, Lori Charochak of Hoover Elementary School and Karla Halvangis of Churchill High School.

With more than 8,700 members, the Livonia PTSA Council is the largest PTA Council in Michigan and one of the largest in the nation. The members of the council and of local PTA/PTSA units throughout Livonia Public Schools help to support students, teachers and families through a wide range of programs, advocacy and fund-raising activities.

Each year at its annual Founders' Day Celebration, the Livonia PTSA Council joins PTA organizations across the country in celebrating the founding of the national PTA, the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States.

Three candidates file for two seats on school board

Three candidates have filed for two seats on the Livonia school board. The election is May 5.

The candidates are newcomers Roger Spence and Colleen Burton and 12-year incumbent Daniel Lessard.

Incumbent Cynthia

Markarian, president of the board, is not seeking re-election to the seat she has held for five years because of family commitments.

Spence is a self-employed attorney with two daughters, one in kindergarten and one in third

grade. This is his first run for public office.

"I want to become an active participant in solving the numerous issues facing the Livonia Public Schools district, financial and otherwise, while balancing the obligation of the district to

continue to provide a quality education for our children," he said.

Spence was president of Citizens for Livonia's Future II, a position from which he resigned to run for school board.

Burton, a longtime school vol-

unteer and mother of two children in the district, said she has wanted to run for school board for many years, but couldn't because she was busy with her children's activities on Monday nights when the board meets. Now her children's schedules

have changed.

Burton works as a part-time sales assistant in her family's business.

Lessard, who retired from Michigan Bell after 32 years, said he is running again because he still has something to offer.

AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti Dinner

The Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner 5-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the lodge, 37137 Palmer, east of Newburgh, Westland. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under age 10. Babies eat free. For more information, call (734) 721-7950.

Relay kick-off

Westland is gearing up for the official kickoff of the 2009 Relay For Life with a program 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. The 24-hour Westland Relay for Life will be held May 30-31 at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter. For more information, contact Holly Soranno, Westland's community representative, at (248) 663-3452 or by e-mail at Holly.Soranno@cancer.org.

Nursery Olympics

Westland Parks and Recreation will present its Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, at the Bailey Recreational Center, behind City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road.

Bring your toddlers ages 18 months to 5 years and cheer them on to victory as they compete in games especially designed for them. Each child will receive a certificate of participation.

Cost is \$4 per child/athlete, free for parents/spectators. Preregistration at (734) 722-

7620 is encouraged but not required.

The event is presented by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department along with the Westland Civitans, Westland Junior Civitans, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and Westland Jaycees.

Scrapbooking

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

Coffee Hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City Monday, Feb. 23. He will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington, Livonia, 9-10 a.m., then move to Garden City for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with

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

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

Gebhardt represents the 12th District, which includes the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia. Citizens can contact Gebhardt's office directly with any questions or concerns by 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

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

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.

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LOBBYIST

FROM PAGE A1

among other projects. Wild's plan was favored by Godbout and council members Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Dewey Reeves, but it triggered opposition

votes from three of their colleagues — Cheryl Graunstadt, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer.

Pickering said the money spent for a lobbying firm could be better spent saving one city job. Moreover, he suggested that city administration officials and state legislators, including Sen. Glenn Anderson and Rep. Richard LeBlanc, both Westland Democrats, could mount efforts to secure more money.

Graunstadt said she pondered Wild's proposal to hire lobbyists but couldn't reconcile using taxpayer money to go after taxpayer money.

"It didn't sit well with me,"

she said, adding later, "I'm not convinced it is money well spent."

Graunstadt suggested that federal legislators could — and should — lobby on behalf of communities like Westland.

Voicing his support for hiring ASG, Kehrer said Westland will continue to lose out on money and new projects until it adopts a "progressive" attitude like Canton Township, Troy, Auburn Hills and other communities that he said have benefited from hiring lobbyists.

"They get the extras because they have people like this working for them," he said, citing Canton's IKEA store as an

example.

Wild said cities with populations similar to Westland's nearly 86,000 people have made strides to fix roads and hire more police officers by hiring lobbyists. He cited places like Trenton, N.J., and Miami Beach, Fla.

"If we can bring in cop grant money, that's going to keep our police officers on the street," the mayor said.

Reeves noted that Westland can opt out of the \$5,000-a-month contract with ASG after 60 days, if city officials decide the effort isn't bringing results.

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INTERNET

FROM PAGE A1

"I think that's more people than we thought we would ever get," Mayor William Wild said. "For a lot of our seniors, we've found that they don't download video games, movies and things that need high speed. Just for things like e-mail, it's an option for these folks to let a bill go and free up some money. I think the response has been tremendous."

The library also offers free wireless access, allowing patrons to use their laptop computers inside the facility on Central City Parkway

between Ford and Warren.

Wild approached the library about the free dial-up program after he learned from a local senior citizen that an area company had technology left over from a time when the older, dial-up service was more popular.

"Now that most people are going to high-speed," Napsha said, "they had hardware that was unused. We're the conduit."

After signing up at the library, users need a land-based telephone line, and they are given a local dial-up number based on where they live, Napsha said.

Dial-up users are given written instructions based on the

operating system they use on their home computers.

"Dial-up service isn't as fast," Napsha said. "But we have definitely had people who gave up their for-pay access and came in to get the free service. We've got people who have never had Internet access, and we have people who have given it up as an expense."

Dial-up users don't have to be card-holders at the library to sign up. They just need to visit the reference desk.

People of all ages have signed up, Napsha said. "It's all over the map."

For more on library services, call (734) 326-6123.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

City workers dodge gunfire

Police reported a shot, possibly from a BB gun, being fired at a city of Westland pickup truck around 4:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, while it was parked at Berville Court and Grand Traverse, in a Norwayne neighborhood south of Palmer between Venoy and Wildwood.

A water department worker told police he heard something hit the driver's side rear cab window of the GMC Sierra and shatter the window. No one was hurt, and workers, who had been repairing a broken water main, fled the area to a safe spot. Officers talked with residents of the area, but no one admitted knowing anything about the incident.

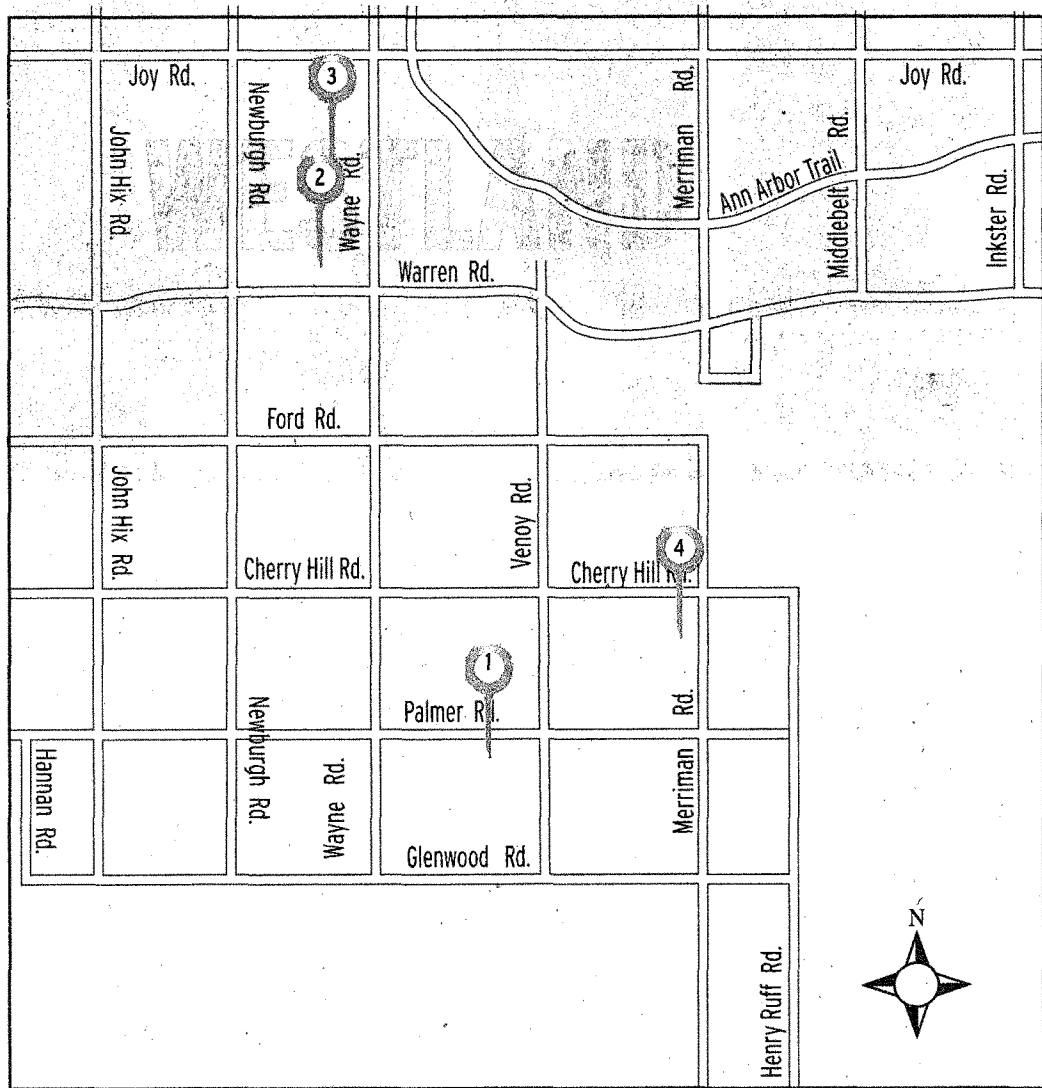
Laptop taken in break-in

A 50-year-old woman told police someone broke into her home on Eagle Court, southeast of Palmer and Wildwood, while she was away from home attending church between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday. She said the intruder took video games and accessories and her laptop computer.

The woman told police the doors to her home were locked and that the intruder may have entered through a window.

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of the area, but no one admitted knowing anything about the incident.

Purse stolen

A 58-year-old woman reported that her purse was stolen while she was in a second-floor restroom of the Macy's store at Westland Shopping Center, on the northwest corner of Warren and Wayne, shortly before 3 p.m. Saturday.

The victim told police she had gone into a stall and that she couldn't remember whether she had placed her purse on the floor in front of her or on a door hanger. She said she noticed it was missing when she started to leave the room. She also reported that her cell phone was in the

purse.

Attempted break-in

A 23-year-old woman told police that someone had tried to break into her Woodcrest Villa apartment, on Wayne Road south of Joy, sometime between Feb. 13 and Feb. 15, while she was away. Authorities found that the door jam and lock had been damaged, but the dead bolt was still in place. Nonetheless, police noted that the door had been weakened from the attempted break-in.

Food taken from store

Two loss prevention employees of the Kroger store on the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Merriman reported seeing

a woman walk briskly from the store with items in a hand basket that she hadn't paid for, according to police. The incident happened just before 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9.

The woman, driving a Lincoln Town Car, was confronted by the employees, but she tossed the groceries in a trunk, got in the passenger seat and rode off with a male driver. The getaway vehicle narrowly missed the two workers and backed into one of the employee's Grand Prix, causing minor damage.

The loss prevention employees managed to get a license plate number that they turned over to Westland police for investigation.

—By Darrell Clem

Westland's Percin receives Life Saver Award from MADD

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Police Officer Kenneth Percin is accumulating awards almost as fast as he can arrest law-breakers.

Well, not quite. After catching 94 drunken drivers last year, Percin will receive a Life Saver award Friday during a Mothers Against Drunk Drivers ceremony in Lansing.

"The importance of ensuring that drunk drivers are captured and remain off the road cannot be measured — it's invaluable," Mayor William Wild said. "We commend Officer Percin for going above and beyond to keep the streets of Westland safe."

Percin, 41, has earned numerous awards over the years from the southeast Michigan MADD affiliate, which honors officers across the state who make the most drunken driving arrests.

Percin also has won past honors as Westland Police Officer of the Year, and just recently he and Officer David Hochstein received a special department commendation for thwarting a domestic dispute last year that erupted in gunfire, slightly wounding Percin and leaving one suspect dead.

Percin, who also has been honored by the Michigan Police Officers Association and the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs for his crime-fighting efforts, summed up his work ethic simply during an earlier interview with the *Observer*. "It's fun catching the bad



Westland Police Officer Kenneth Percin is being honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for his working in arresting drunken drivers.

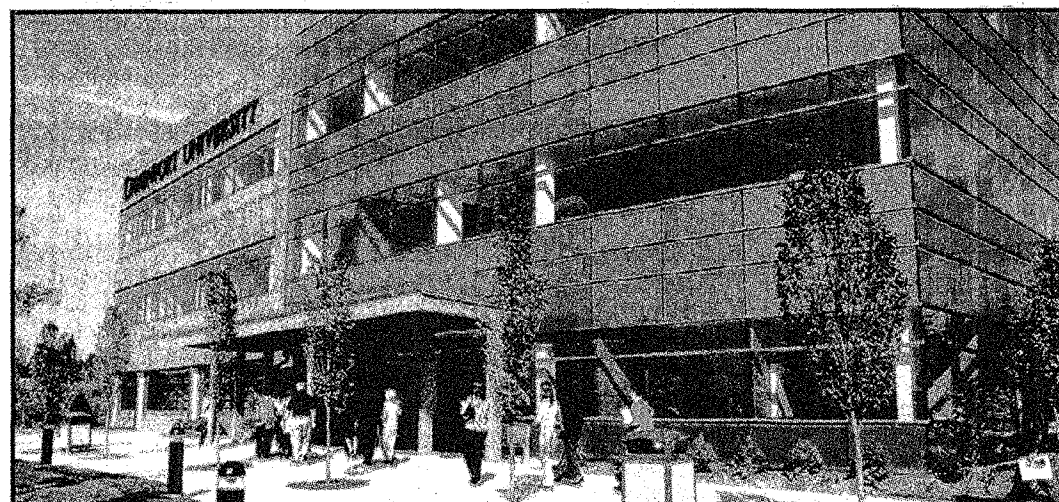
guys," he said.

Percin made the most drunken driving arrests in Westland last year as he worked in a special alcohol-enforcement program. A local officer since September 1992, he is assigned to the night shift and has been a leader in catching inebriated motorists for several years.

Richard Rondeau, executive director for MADD's southeast Michigan affiliate, commended Percin and the entire Westland department "for their assistance in keeping our roads safe."

MADD's Life Saver awards luncheon will be held Friday at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. Westland Police Chief James Ridener described the local department as "extremely proud of Officer Percin's contribution to public safety, and we feel that he is most deserving of the MADD Life Saver award."

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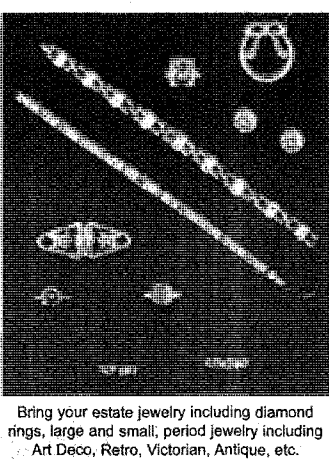
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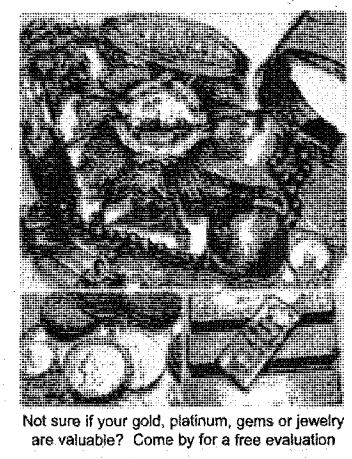
Gold-n-Platinum Buying Saturdays at Joseph DuMouchelle
This Saturday, February 21st from 11am to 5pm
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BBB warns buyers on acai-berry product ads

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to be wary of online ads to sell acai-berry-related weight loss products. The ads rely on celebrity endorsements.

BBB has received thousands of complaints from Michigan consumers, including those in Plymouth, Westland, Livonia and Northville. The consumers thought they were signing up for a free trial offer of products supposedly endorsed by Oprah Winfrey, Rachael Ray and other celebrities; instead, the consumers ended up paying month after month.

The BBB can't evaluate health benefits of the products, according to Tim Burns, public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, based in Southfield. "They're taking this generic endorsement and using it," he said of companies. "It may or may not be the same product she (Oprah) used."

Burns, a Clawson resident and Oakland County commissioner, noted there have also been Oakland County complaints including Berkley, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, West Bloomfield, Pontiac, Troy, Waterford, Auburn Hills and Oakland Township.

Marketing claims about the acai include that it fights cancer and aging, as well as promoting dietary health and weight loss. According to the BBB, sales of acai products approached \$15 billion last year, up from \$500,000 in earlier years. Product producers use ads on the Internet and on social networking sites like Facebook.

Burns noted people are getting locked into fee payments for the products. "We're just trying to let people know what's going on." You should be leery of giving a credit card number for shipping or

handling; that amount may be minimal, but consumers have been stuck with monthly billings of \$40-\$80.

"That free trial gets to be very expensive," he said. Burns, an attorney, also urged that people know the difference between a credit card and debit card, with the latter offering less consumer protection.

"A credit card, you do have some resources to dispute charges," he said. Burns cited two companies representative of dozens of others selling acai-related products with a similar sales model:

■ FX Supplements.com, a Web site selling products such as Acai Berry Maxx and Maxx Slim Hoodia. Although the company offers a risk-free trial of products for cost of shipping/handling, consumers who do not cancel within the trial period are sent additional bottles every month and billed \$85.90. Complaints indicate the trial period fluctuates between 10-14 days from when the consumer requested the free trial, not from when the product was received.

Complaints included difficulty canceling either by phone or e-mail. Several customers reported that they were forced to close bank accounts and cancel credit cards to stop recurring charges.

■ Central Coast Nutraceuticals, for which the BBB has received more than 1,400 complaints in the last 12 months. The company operates several Web sites selling acai, hoodia and male enhancement products. It uses Oprah endorsements of the acai berry in ads for weight loss, and offers a free trial of acai-related products such as supplements and tea.

Due to the company's negative option, if, after the free trial, the consumer no longer wishes to receive a monthly

supply, he or she must cancel the subscription or be billed \$40 monthly.

Also reported were difficulties contacting the company and canceling subscriptions, including 75 minutes on hold. There were complaints of unauthorized charges on credit cards or bank accounts for products not ordered. Central Coast Nutraceuticals earned an F grade from the BBB for a large volume of unanswered and unresolved complaints.

Katie Walker of Plymouth Township filed a complaint with the BBB over Central Coast Nutraceuticals after she signed up for what was advertised as a free risk-free trial offer.

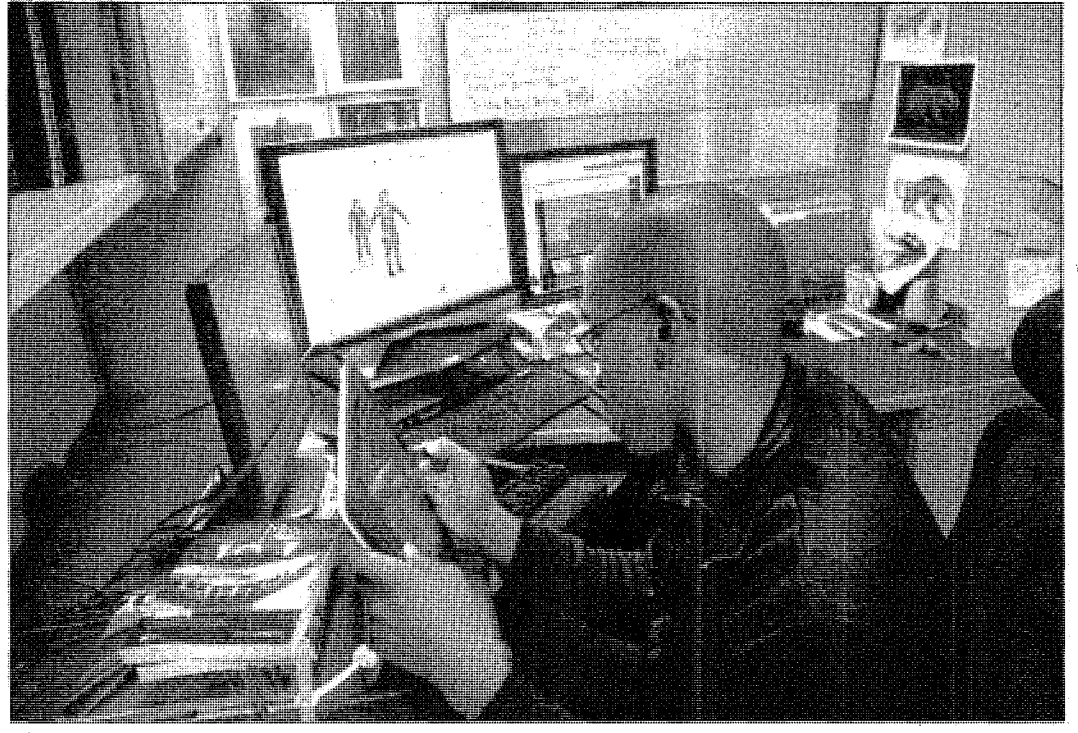
"I tried to call to cancel it and they don't have a real number," said Walker, a 27-year-old Eastern Michigan University student with a daughter, 13 months. She found the pills weren't working, and her dad urged Walker to throw them away.

She heard from a friend the offer wasn't really free. When Walker tried to call, she got a message about heavy call volumes and long waits.

She had no address to send the pills back; Walker went online and learned a lot of people were unhappy with the products and advertising. "All these people wrote it's definitely a scam," she said. Walker ended up canceling her credit card and getting a new one to avoid the unauthorized charges.

The BBB's Burns recommends using the BBB Web site at www.bbb.org to check out companies ahead of time. You need to read fine print, he said, as you could be obligated to certain charges.

You need to determine who the company is and where it's located, he noted. "Just make sure you do your homework and understand what you're getting into."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Akil Dawkins of Canton works on a game at Stardock in Plymouth Township, which is spending \$1.5 million on expansion.

Game on!

Despite recession, township software developer expanding

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth Township software company is bucking the recessionary trend of layoffs, building shutdowns and corporate bankruptcies.

Stardock Corp., with the help of tax incentives, is in the midst of enlarging its headquarters on Beck Road and creating new jobs — an estimated 50 in the next three to four years. The company develops software for personal computers and has a growing computer-game division.

"It's great to see a small company expanding. It just shows that innovation and technology can help drive this economy, help create jobs," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Stardock was recently granted a state tax credit worth an estimated \$1.2 million over 10 years, and township officials are planning to act soon on its application for a property tax abatement for the expansion.

"Our biggest limitation has just been space," said Stardock founder and chief executive

officer Brad Wardell of Canton Township. He said Stardock should have 60 employees by the end of the month.

The company occupied part of its current building when it moved there from Livonia in 2004, and now owns the whole thing. Part of the expansion within the building was just completed, and the second phase, which will include a new game development studio, is soon to get under way. Wardell estimated the total cost of the expansion at \$1.5 million.

Stardock will be hiring software developers, artists and animators to work in the new studio, where a new role-playing game is to be developed, he said.

"The state coming in and relieving some of the tax burden accelerates our ability to bring in people," he said.

Wardell credited state and local officials for helping Stardock win the tax break; he singled out Turkia Mullin in Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's office, who, Wardell said, lined up the political players and offered advice.

"None of this would've happened without her, and we'd probably be looking at moving to Seattle," he said.

Wardell founded Stardock when he was in college in the early 1990s. He said he chose Plymouth Township for the 2004 relocation because it was near his home and close to downtown Plymouth, which he enjoys. He said Stardock is the only computer game developer of any size in the state.

The company's business, he said, is roughly half game development and half non-gaming software applications.

"The last couple years, the games have been taking off more and more," he said.

Stardock's expansion was mentioned recently by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in her State of the State address.

"This is great news for Plymouth Township and the many talented workers we have in our community," said state Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville. "With commitments like this, I know that we will continue to create jobs, strengthen our economy and come out of these tough times stronger than ever."

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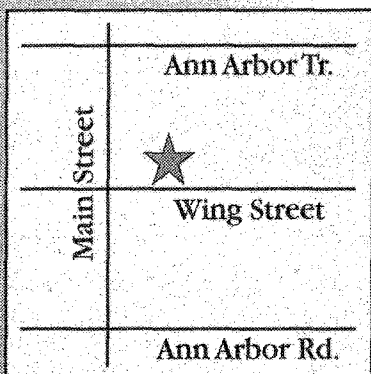
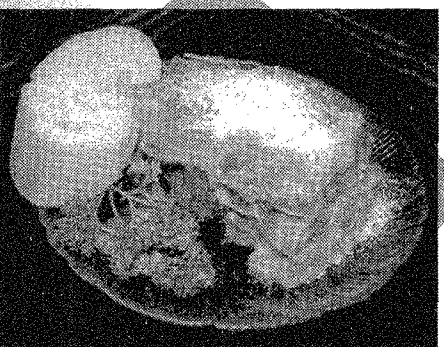
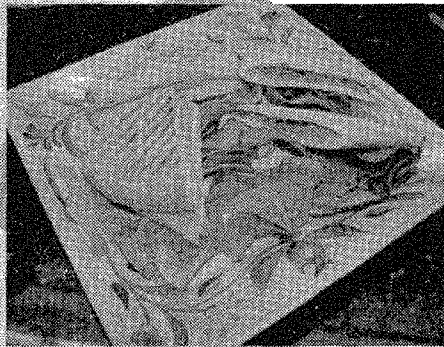
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McCotter: GM, Chrysler did what they had to do

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The new restructuring proposed by General Motors and Chrysler to obtain additional federal loans is as painful as expected, said U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, who serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

"It will save some workers' jobs and there will be others they can't save," he said Wednesday in a phone interview.

On Tuesday, General Motors and Chrysler came back to Congress with extensive cost-cutting proposals and requests for \$21.6 billion in loans, in addition to the \$17.4 billion loaned to the companies in December. GM proposes closing 14 plants, cutting 47,000 workers, eliminating several

brands including Hummer and Saturn and reducing its number of suppliers. Chrysler is proposing cutting 3,000 jobs, eliminating some brands including the popular PT Cruiser and reducing production capacity by 100,000 vehicles.

McCotter has complained that the auto industry has been treated unfairly in Congress compared to the no-questions-asked \$300 billion plus bailout for the banking industry.

"If you tell them no after this, you say that the people who didn't restructure and got more money were in the right," he said. "They did what they had to do."

President Barack Obama has created a task force led by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Lawrence Summers, chair of the National Economics Council,

"It should have been a relatively easy bipartisan vote. I don't blame the president. It doesn't matter what the president wants when he's jammed up by the old bulls."

THADDEUS MCCOTTER, R-Livonia

to replace a "car czar" as originally proposed by the Bush Administration.

"The task force will have to do due diligence," McCotter said.

He said he wants to see if someone with experience in the auto industry will be on the task force. He said he believes that someone other than Geithner or Summers will be the point person for handling the next loans and that the terms will actually be worked out between the auto companies and the president's task force.

While supportive of the bridge loans for auto compa-

nies, McCotter joined the other Republican members of the House of Representatives in opposing the economic stimulus package signed into law by Obama on Tuesday.

"I was open to do it, seen from Michigan's point of view," McCotter said.

He said an amendment by Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland, would have been good for Michigan. The amendment in the original Senate bill would have given a tax break to car buyers, allowing them to deduct loan interest and state sales taxes on purchases of new vehicles. McCotter said that was replaced in the end by

a high-speed rail proposal by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada.

McCotter called the stimulus package "a post-manufacturing" bill with more emphasis on government programs than on helping businesses. He also said the bill could lead to the "stagflation" problems of the late 1970s, making Michigan's situation worse. Stagflation is when the economy remains sluggish but prices continue to rise.

"The auto industry is still hanging. It doesn't matter what you do if our industry fails," he said.

But he said more could have been done to win over Republican votes with more emphasis on shovel ready public works projects.

"It should have been a relatively easy bipartisan vote," he said. "I don't blame the presi-

dent. It doesn't matter what the president wants when he's jammed up by the old bulls."

The White House issued a projection that the stimulus package would create or save 7,800 jobs in McCotter's 11th District. He said he didn't know how they could project how many jobs would be "saved."

"In the end people will make a determination whether it helped them or not," McCotter said.

He said he wanted to see more tax help for small businesses and more proposals like Mikulski's. He said there was a "myriad of things" that could have been done to improve the bill.

"All along, we supported a shovel-ready stimulus. A lot of Republicans in the Midwest and Northeast were supportive," he said.

Trifecta: St. Dunstan students win in spelling, geography and writing

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Spelling, geography and writing — St. Dunstan School has students who will be showing their skills in all three subjects in regional competitions.

Sixth-grader Brennan Schilling, 11, is the school spelling bee champion and will move on to the next level of competition in Detroit later this month. The competition culminates in the Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

"I won on pageant. I beat my older brother, he went out on mezzanine. He's an eighth-grader," said Brennan, a Westland resident. "I was a little surprised to win. I've been in a lot of spelling bees since fourth grade and I was either in first or second place."

Spelling isn't a separate subject these days — it's incorporated into other parts of the curriculum — and Brennan said he does well in all of the subjects he studies. The top four finishers in the state competition to be held in Lansing

will go on the national finals.

"Some of the words will be really hard but I think I will do pretty good," Brennan said.

Winner of the Geography Bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, was Zachary Smith, also an 11-year-old sixth-grader. That competition involved a written test.

"There were hard questions on empires, rivers and stuff like that," said Zachary, who lives in Westland. "Geography and science are probably my best subjects. It was kind of hard but I might move on the

next level."

Eighth-grader Hannah Schultz, 14, is a local winner of the 40th annual America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. Hannah's essay will move on to the state level competition where the top 10 winners will each receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and a \$500 cash award.

The essay contest is open to all Michigan eighth-grade students but Hannah submitted the only entry at St. Dunstan.

"I hoped some of my friends

would enter so I wouldn't be so alone in this," said Hannah, a Livonia resident who plans to attend Divine Child High School next year.

In her essay, Hannah wrote about Tammy Hill of the YMCA's Camp Storer near Jackson.

"I go there each year. She is fun to be around and has taught me so much about horses and other stuff," said Hannah, who like to get a degree from the Center for Creative Studies and eventually work for the YMCA.

St. Dunstan hasn't held the spelling and geography contests previously, but Principal Don Lipinski, who joined the school 18 months ago, and his staff decided it would be a good thing to start.

"We decided it was a good idea to be in competition with other schools and challenge ourselves outside of here," Lipinski said. "I was at principals meetings and was asked why we didn't do these contests."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

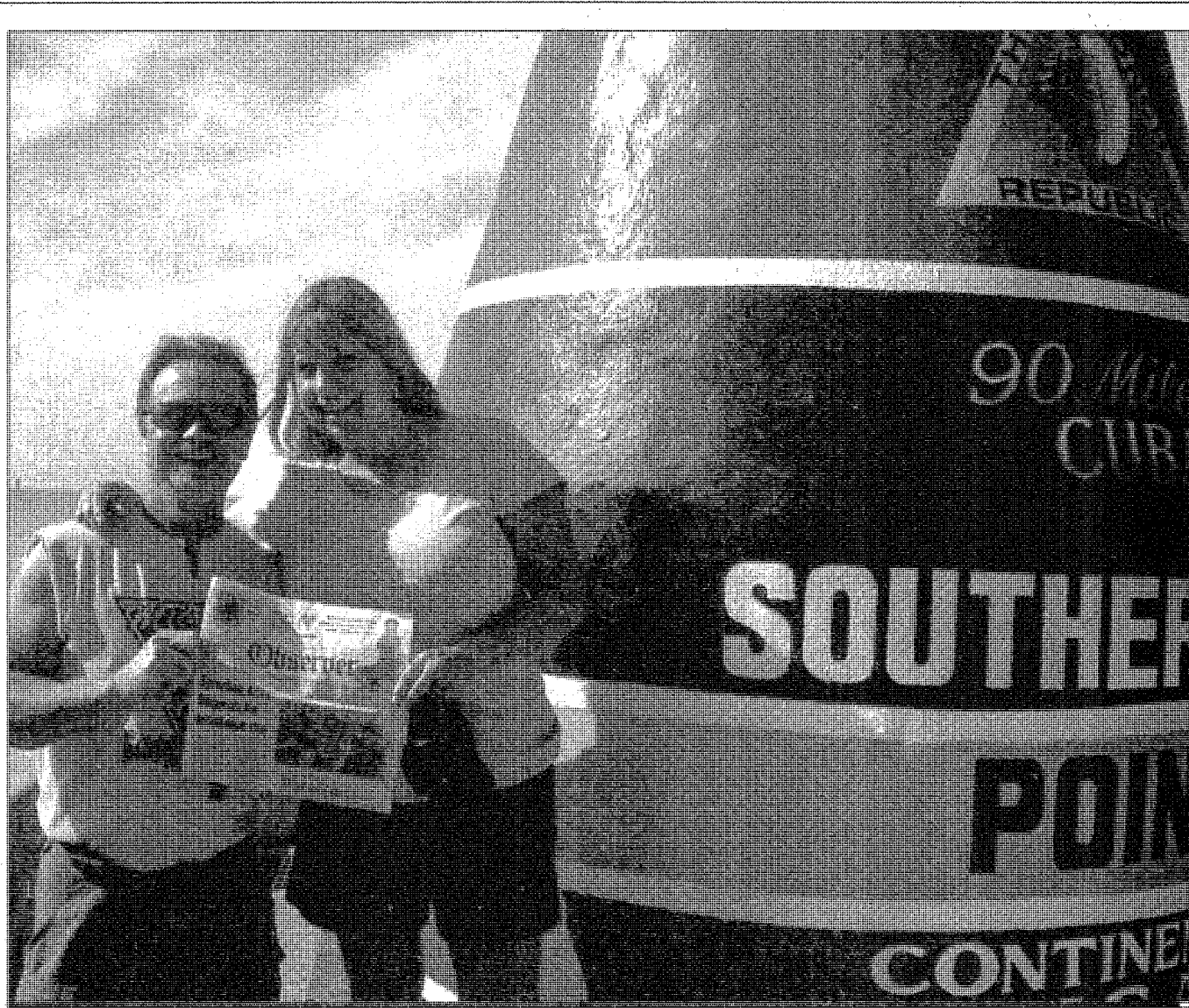
Open Houses
 McKinley Co-op Preschool will hold an open house 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, at the school, 6500 Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. The preschool is now enrolling for the fall 2009-2010 school year for 2-5-year-olds. McKinley Co-op offers morning and afternoon sessions in a fun and comfortable learning environment, affordable tuition and a teacher with more than 25 years experience. For more information, go online to www.mckinleypreschool.org or call (734) 729-7222.
 Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, will hold an open house 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 5, for the 2009-2010 school year. The 3-year-old program is 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and the 4-year-old program runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Potty training is not required. Low cost tuition. For more information, go online to www.academicpathwayspreschool.com or call (734) 844-8147.

Mom to Mom
 Spaces are still available for a Mom-to-Mom Sale Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lathers Elementary School, 28351 Marquette, Garden City. Admission is \$1. The sale is sponsored by Lathers Elementary PTA. Rent is \$20 for an 8-foot space. People interested in renting a space can call Dawn at 73 513-8767 or by e-mail at dwnsignorelli@yahoo.com to get a contract to sign and return with payment.

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

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

Card Party
 St. Sebastian Catholic Church's St. Anne Altar Society will hold a Spring Card Party 2-5 p.m. March 22 in the St. Sebastian Activity Center, 20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. There will be door prizes, raffles and much more.



Wish you were here

Every time Doug and Lauren Miller of Garden City go some place they talk about taking along their Observer. The finally remembered too when they rang in the New Year in Key West, Fla. They chose the southern most point of the continental United States to say wish you were here. Doug Miller also said he wished he could have brought back some of the warm weather. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

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

Class reunion
 Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gch-s1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Fry
 St. Sebastian Catholic Church will have all-you-can-eat fish fries 4-7 p.m. Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.75 for children under age 10. Dinner includes fish, potatoes, spaghetti, mac and cheese, green beans, coleslaw, roll and butter, dessert,

coffee and milk. St. Sebastian Catholic Church is located at 20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. All dinners served in the Activity Center.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
 Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

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

CRAFT SHOW

St. Sebastian
 St. Sebastian Catholic School will host a Spring Craft Boutique 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the school,

20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. Crafters and vendors welcome. For table rental information, call Michelle at (313) 561-2835.

VOLUNTEERS

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

First Step
 First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers
 Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five

Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

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

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

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

Heartland Hospice
 Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light house-keeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITY OF WESTLAND RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL 2009 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

Monday, March 9	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 10	1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Wednesday, March 11	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Thursday, March 12	1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CITYOFWESTLAND.COM
 <<http://www.cityofwestland.com/>> & GO TO ASSESSMENT. IF NEEDED, CALL (734) 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

Board of Review Meetings will be held at Westland City Hall 2nd Floor - Council Chambers 36601 Ford Road Westland, MI 48185

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 12, 2009

Publish: February 19 & March 5, 2009

020804447 - 2/4

FORECLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below. **MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Lawrence E Cyr, A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as nominee for Crevecoeur Mortgage Inc., Mortgagee, dated July 28, 2005 and recorded August 10, 2005 in Liber 43278 Page 1919 Wayne County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned to: HSBC Mortgage Services Inc, by assignment dated March 26, 2007 and recorded March 30, 2007 in Liber 46130, Page 981, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Dollars and Eighty-Two Cents (\$170,004.82) including interest 9.99% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Wayne County at 1:00PM on March 19, 2009 Said premises are situated in City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 7 and 8, except the East 54 feet thereof, Westgate Courts Subdivision, as recorded in Liber 76, Page 72 of Plats, Wayne County Records. Commonly known as 31158 Windsor St, Westland MI 48185 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: FEBRUARY 11, 2009 HSBC Mortgage Services' Inc Assignee of Mortgage Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd, Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-05524 ASAP# 2995511 02/19/2009, 02/26/2009, 03/05/2009, 03/12/2009

Publish: February 19, 26, March 3 & 12, 2009

0208044712 - 2/4.5

CITY OF WESTLAND - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM Public Service Announcement

The City of Westland anticipates receiving an estimated \$1,057,158 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$331,137 of HOME funds for the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010) and is preparing an "Annual Action Plan" covering the program period. The Annual Action Plan details how the City proposes to utilize the 2009 CDBG entitlement grant.

2009/2010 PROPOSED USE OF CDBG AND HOME FUNDS 2009 Fiscal Year CDBG Program funds (\$1,057,158 + \$30,000 in Program Income):

- Housing Rehabilitation Program - \$95,005
- City Projects - \$100,000
- Fire Station Loan Repayment - \$72,520
- Code Enforcement - \$165,000
- Various Public Service Activities: - \$256,000
 - Senior Programs
 - Youth Assistance
 - Community Policing
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Domestic Violence Program
 - Library Programs
- Grant Administration - \$398,633
- Commodity Food Program
- Fair Housing Initiative
- Improvements to Dorsey Center
- After School Recreation Program

2009 Fiscal Year HOME Program funds (\$331,137 + \$10,000 in Program Income):

- Housing Acquisition & Rehabilitation - \$226,137
- Rental Rehabilitation Program - \$115,000

Other Programs

- Administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Administration of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Provide referrals to the homeless and persons with special needs for shelter and other available services.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - One-Year Action Plan for fiscal year 2009/2010

Public Hearings: March 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., Westland Housing Commission; April 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westland City Council. Submit written comments to the Department of Housing and Community Development at 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186, until March 19, 2009. Copies of the Consolidated Plan and Proposed 2009 Annual Action Plan are available for review at the Department of Housing and Community Development during normal business hours.

William R. Wild, Mayor, City of Westland

Publish: February 19, 2009

0208044521 - 2/7.5



CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 3, 2009	9:00 a.m.
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The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 09, 2009	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 10, 2009	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 11, 2009	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Thursday	March 12, 2009	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 13, 2009	9:00am -5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 09, 2009.

Tentative ratios for the 2009 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO
Commercial	50.14%
Industrial	52.68 %
Residential	58.42%
Personal Property	49.94%

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 4.4% for 2009. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 4.4% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2009 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 19, 22, & 26, 2009

020804408_2/7



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mother of the groom Margaret Collinash snaps a photo of newlyweds Erin and Justin Collinash.

Couple's luck turns good on Friday the 13th

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Flo Harden believes that people with bad luck have good luck on Friday the 13th.

So when one of her waitresses at George Murphy's at the Creek in Livonia told her how her sister had to cancel her wedding plans for Dec. 18 because her soldier fiancé was being sent back to Iraq, Harden agreed to host an impromptu wedding reception for the couple at the restaurant on Friday, Feb. 13.

"Bad luck must be their lucky day," Harden said of Erin and Justin Collinash, whose wedding and reception went off without a hitch.

"Even the church was available," she said, adding most couples probably avoid scheduling a wedding for that date. "It was meant to be."

Harden said the mothers of the bride and groom and bridesmaids all ran out to buy dresses without consulting each other on the color. As it turned out, they all picked

black and white as if it had been planned.

"It was just beautiful," Harden said of the reception, adding the staff went all out, decorating the restaurant with lights on the bushes, votives on the tables and wedding balloons everywhere. Even a disc jockey was there. "We really managed to turn it into a little wedding celebration," she said.

Kelly McHenry said her sister and brother-in-law didn't expect him to be called back by the Army. He had already served four years and was going to school and working in security in Arizona, where her sister teaches first grade. He was told about three weeks ago to report for training on Feb. 22 and to expect to be in Iraq for about a year.

"He'd been out of the military for a year and a half," she said. "They can call you back for up to four years."

Erin, 24, a graduate of Ladywood High School in Livonia, and Justin, 26, a graduate of Thurston High School in Redford, planned a wed-

ding for Dec. 18 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Redford with a reception at One Under in Livonia.

The couple decided to get married right away rather than postponing their wedding indefinitely.

McHenry said Friday, Feb. 13, was their only option since the church wasn't available on Saturday, but the couple didn't mind. "It kind of just went along with their story," McHenry said.

The 120 guests filled the restaurant to near capacity. Some regular customers were disappointed they couldn't get a table, but once they learned why, they were happy to oblige the couple, Harden said.

Harden, who manages the restaurant, said owner Mike George agreed to let the couple use the restaurant, even if it meant losing some business for one night.

"We wanted to make this something they'll remember because this is it," Harden said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

Auto thefts are down, but other auto-related crimes are up

Livonia-based H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) responded Tuesday to statistics released by the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority that indicate a decrease in the number of vehicles stolen in Michigan in 2007.

"H.E.A.T. is pleased to see an overall decrease in vehicle thefts across the state; however, our work is far from over," said Terri Miller, H.E.A.T. director. "While reported auto thefts may be down, auto theft investigators are busier than ever."

"Insurance fraud, carjacking, component thefts and larceny from a vehicle are on the rise."

Most vehicle manufacturers have made improvements in anti-theft technologies, making vehicles on the street harder to

steal, Miller said.

Also, early in 2007, Detroit Police started to require that citizens report auto thefts in person rather than over the phone, which has helped weed out many false reports and assisted in decreasing auto thefts.

According to the report:

■ Auto thefts in Michigan decreased by 16.5 percent from 2006. In 2007, 41,510 vehicles were reported stolen in Michigan, compared with 49,709 in 2006.

■ From 1986 to 2007, Michigan auto thefts declined 42 percent, compared with a decrease in auto thefts nationally of 11 percent. Michigan ranked as the sixth highest state in the nation for total

motor vehicle thefts in 2007.

■ In 2007, the 2000 Dodge Intrepid was Michigan's most stolen vehicle. Thieves' top color preferences for vehicles stolen were once again black, white and blue.

■ The months with the highest auto theft figures were August, July and June, and the top three days of the week were Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

■ Though the city of Detroit saw auto thefts decrease by 14.2 percent, from 22,918 in 2006 to 19,655 in 2007, it is still the highest-ranking city in Michigan for auto thefts.

The 2008 ATPA report highlights data from 2007. Data for 2008 calendar year will be available in February 2010.

Ex-ATF investigator explains bureau's job

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

These days, Westland resident Isaac Hood is occupied with his new business as a Space Walk owner, providing inflatables for kids' parties and other events. He retired in July 2008 after some 20 years as an investigator for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

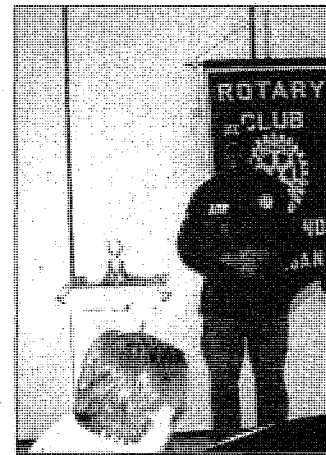
Hood has a background in human resources and chose to go on the investigative side of the federal agency. Agents at the ATF have a different role.

"They carry the side-arm," Hood told members and guests of the Westland Rotary. "They're the ones you see on television most of the time."

These days, you're likely to hear about the ATF related to arsons, firearms and explosives, Hood said.

Hood, whose wife teaches grade school in the Ypsilanti system, gave a brief history of his former employer. Its origins date to 1933 and the end of Prohibition when it was the alcohol tax unit.

"They wanted to make



Isaac Hood of Westland, a retired investigator with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, shares his knowledge with the Westland Rotary.

sure they were able to collect taxes," he said.

A familiar name, Eliot Ness of "The Untouchables" fame, came up early in ATF history. In 1968, the agency began looking at firearms with the Gun Control Act of that year.

"We had a lot of automatic weapons that were out there, illegal guns," he said.

As a result, a national registry for guns was established.

In 2002, ATF went under the Justice Department, with a new bureau created for the alcohol side. "E" was added for explosives investigations.

The agency has some 5,000 staffers nationwide, about 2,000 of them agents. Hood was one of two recruiters for Michigan, visiting universities and career fairs.

His work included making sure business owners complied with the law. Hood described the National Tracing Center which traces firearms used in crimes.

"It's in place to protect the public by reducing violent crime," he said.

Detroit-based agents were at the Super Bowl, baseball All-Star Game and other well-attended events. Bomb-sniffing dogs go through arenas and stadiums "to make sure they're safe for the public."

Agents generally retire after 20 years, with longer terms for investigators. Hood and colleagues were proud of outreach efforts like Project Neighborhood, visits to talk to students about firearms.

"We try to talk to the business owners as well," he said.

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3. Record a voicemail greeting

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

HONEST & DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, honorable, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. **2295421**

TAKE A CHANCE
SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown/blue, ND, NS, no children, enjoys drama films, shooting pool, playing cards, sports, movies, long drives, more. Seeking SM, 45-55, who enjoys the same. **2295396**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT
Outgoing, laid-back SWF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. **2295510**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. **2297624**

GODD SEND OF HUNDMOR?
WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, NS, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dating out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. **2296581**

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, 5'2", 160lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, ND, NS, enjoys movies, books, dining, plays, outdoors, reading. Seeking SM, 35-51. **2294388**

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **2298947**

CURVACEOUS
SWF, 47, 5'7", 160lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys life music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. **2298605**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH
SBF, 37, 5'5", 125lbs, enjoys nice walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball games. Seeking SM, 30-43. **2299111**

ARE WE A MATCH?
SBF, 38, very shapely, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shooting pool, dining. Seeking SM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **2299793**

I'M UNIQUE.
complex with a good sense of humor, good listener and great talker, God-fearing, enjoys movies, music, books and more. Searching for a male companion with the same or similar qualities. 35-50. **2291099**

HOPING WE CLICK!
SBF, 23, 5'1", 102lbs, wants to meet SM, 30-38, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk. **2297259**

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 65-75. **2291247**

ARE YOU LONELY?
Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 65-75. **2291247**

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!
WVWF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, NS, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. **2297614**

SEEKING FRIEND
DWCF, 71, looks much younger, 5'2", long dark brown hair, good eyes, positive attitude, seeks faithful SM for LTR. **2296264**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Good looking SBF, 40, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7", 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, being who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **2297058**

TAKE A CHANCE
SBPF, looking for SM, 45-57, with no children at home, who likes to have a good time, I enjoy going to movies, dining out, the park, outdoor and indoor activities. Let's develop a friendship first, possibly leading to more. **2296228**

VERY ATTRACTIVE
SBPF, 37, mother, looking for attractive, sexy, tall, dark-complexioned, employed, intelligent SM, 33-50, for friendship possibly leading to LTR. **2292115**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, NS, mother, seeks out-of-control BM, 20-40, NS, homebody, to explore all life has to offer! I enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. **2294519**

BEAUTIFUL

SBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BF, 25-40, nice open, DID like, HW preferable. You must be confident with who you are. **2297180**

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'8", average built, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active BM, 30-42, 6', smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **2296442**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!
Petite SBF, 36, 150lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **2291372**

GREAT-LOOKING BF...
35, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me, you won't be disappointed! **2293581**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...
37, seeks SM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, may lead to more. **2297180**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT
SBF, 47, 5'7", full-figured, NS, likes roller skating, canoeing, exercise, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2297305**

A POLISHED DIAMOND
Attractive, active BF, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **2292707**

A NEW BEGINNING
SBF, 47, 5'4", like action movies, swimming, dancing, plays, outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship or more. **2298151**

PETITE AND CUTE
SBF, 35, great sense of humor, very friendly, would like to meet a SM, 36-45, who will love me for me. **2294943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE
SBF, 33, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, in search of adventures, travel. Seeking a companion, 45-70, who is healthy, loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2295028**

SEEKING STRONG BM
Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, laid-back SM, 38-45, for possible relationship. **2295028**

MUSICAL GIRL
Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church, and travel. Seeking a companion, who enjoys the same things. **2292258**

ACTIVE WOMAN
SWF, dark hair and eyes, NS, social drinker, likes bowling, long garage sales, funny movies and more. If you would like to meet for coffee, let me know. **22962181**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter! I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, funny and pretty. Only Jewish men please. **2292317**

CLASSY LADY
I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/blonde, I enjoy dining out, shopping, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. **2296205**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME
PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. **2298002**

SEEKING A MATURE MAN
Attractive SBPF, 35, NS, ND/Drugs, would like to meet respectable, happy SBPM, 25-50, to enjoy life together. **2292940**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, sunny, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind, intelligent man, who is looking for commitment, love and laughter. **2296694**

HONESTY A MUST
BF, 42, 5'4", 180lbs, shapely, brown/blonde, seeking an honest man, 40-50, ND/Drugs, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dining, dining out, good company and working out. **2295608**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...
White Knight! Spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventures, travel. Seeking attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor. I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. **2296202**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Sexy SBF, 40, NS, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-60, for friendship first, maybe more. **2297012**

LOVELY VIRGO
SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for SF, 30-55, with same interests. **2295076**

SEEKING SM COMPANION

I'm short and cute, brown eyes, black hair, honest, funny, good cook, very sincere. I hope to find a friend/companion to enjoy things with. Preferably 55-75. Life is too short - have fun with me. **22962311**

SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?
SBPF, 25, 5'4", interested in developing new friendships, maybe more. Seeks energetic, NS SM, 40-65, that loves reading, midnight picnics, walking and seeing conversations. Must have good SOF and soft-wor. **2292618**

PLUS-SIZED LADY...
34, 200lbs, sexy single mom, looking for SM, 37+, for friendship and dating leading to LTR. Is this you? Call me! **2297224**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 51, 5'5", 120lbs, blond/brown, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SM, 45-57, 6'1", 220lbs, good sense of humor, energetic, travel, outdoorsman, adventurous, mainly gentleman. **2292548**

STILL SEEKING
Very cute SBF, 57, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good looking, confident male, 40-50, NS, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **2291318**

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open, attractive, enjoys life, active, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, NS. Possible LTR. **22963769**

TAKING A PEAK
Looking SWF, 21 years old, loves to be outdoors and have fun. enjoys clubs, movies, relaxing at home, ISO male who likes the same, and wishes for friendship, maybe more. **2295474**

IT'S WHO YOU CALL
SBF, 20, 5'3", 250lbs, hardworking, student, no kids, seeking a cool guy, to chill with, get to know, have outdoors. Seeking a SM, 23-40, for companionship. **2295979**

GORGEOUS SMILE!
SBF, 28, 5'9", 130lbs, slim build, smoker, DID like, seeks BF, 18-40, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. I enjoy movies, dining, television, outdoor. **2297889**

FUN & OUTGOING
SBF, 18, 190lbs, brown eyes, loves walks on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. **2295793**

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'2", 130lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, DID, NS. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **22912901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 60, looks younger in search of a SM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **22971085**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, being outdoors. Seeking a SM, 23-40, for companionship. **2292578**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SBF, 54, 5'8", NS, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SBWM, 49-62, NS, for friendship or more. **2292844**

OUTGOING
BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **2292940**

PRETTY EYES
SBF, 33, voluptuous in all the right places, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-65, similar interests. **2296970**

CLASSY LADY
SWF, 70 years young, 5'6", NS, average height, brown/blonde, enjoys fishing, movies, travel. Seeking fit, honest SM, 70-75, NS, who is not beautiful, but is well-read. Send me of your e-mail. Life is a one-way street and I don't have time to be up. **2290734**

WORTH A LOOK
SBF, 30, 5'7", 165lb, music, loves music, trying new things and just having fun. Seeking for good-hearted, open-minded man to share the good times in life. Friendship and maybe more. **2295894**

I NEED LOVE
Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SBWM, 18-30, who shares my love for life. **2290116**

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-69, NS, good sense of humor and good values/morals. **2290724**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Asian woman, 5'2", 110lbs, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome WM, 47-56, NS, clean-shaven, HW proportionate, for friendship first. **2291229**

ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS
SBF, 55', 150lbs, likes cooking, listening to music, camping and more. Would like to meet a man to enjoy life with. **2294315**

ZOOMER SEEKS ADDED ZIP
SWF, 55, passionate about life, enjoys the outdoors, good political discussions, dancing, more. Would love to meet a man engaged in life. 53-70. **2294371**

SINCERE AND HONEST
Happy SF, loves country music, dancing. Looking for honest, sincere SBWM, 30-60, christian ok, for friendship first. **2294552**

MATURE MAN WANTED
SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses, seeking tall, muscular SM, 45-50, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining, water. **2297856**

KEEP COOL
SBF, 19, 5'3", looking for cool, down-to-earth, attractive SBMM, 18-25, who keeps it real. **2297958**

WARM SMILE
SBF, 21, NS, looking for cool, down-to-earth, attractive SBMM, 18-25, who keeps it real. **2297958**

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD
SWF, 21, red hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 160lbs, military bodybuild, looking for a really handsome man, 20-30, nice open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. **2292913**

GET TO KNOW ME
BF, 57', full-figured, brown eyes, NS, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. **2296759**

OUR VIEWS

City projects fit stimulus criteria

Cities, townships and villages around the state have been busy the past few weeks putting together projects in hopes of landing some of the federal government economic stimulus money.

Everyone wants a piece of the pie, including the City of Westland which didn't wait until the last minute to come up with its wish list. It had one in the works even before Barack Obama took the oath of office. The list is impressive as is the \$41 million price tag, but if the city gets what it wants, at least 1,100 jobs would be created, which is pretty good.

One of the projects is an obvious one — the clean-up of Central City Park. It was closed in November 2006 because of contamination problems and since then the city and Wayne County have been working with the state Department of Environmental Quality to develop a remediation plan.

The park was the crown jewel of the city's park system and needs to be cleaned up and reopened to the public. It's a costly endeavor at best and if the city can get stimulus money to do it, it could mean a cleanup done in a year or so rather than done piecemeal and stretched out over many years.

Two other projects are perfect fits with improving the country's infrastructure. One project on the city's list is a \$10.2 million plan to pave gravel roads throughout the city, which could create as many as 292 jobs. Likewise, a plan to fix sanitary sewer system problems has a \$14 million price tag and represents 400 jobs. There's also a proposal to hire 20 more police officers.

We know there is only so much money to go around, and that every municipality in the state has needs, but these are projects that we believe go to the heart of the stimulus package — creating jobs and repairing aging infrastructure, not to mention improving the quality of life in the community.

Westland isn't in dire financial straits because it has been careful in how it spends its money. It has some money in the bank, but nothing that would come close to paying for these improvements. Mayor William Wild has said his goal is to get the city its fair share, and we hope he will get help from our state lawmakers in that endeavor.

That said, all we can do is wait and see what will happen ... and keep our fingers crossed.

ONLINE
VOICES & VIEWS

■ **Police do amazing job**

One of my cousins attended that awards ceremony and she said she was stunned by a lot of the stories that came out. She said it was amazing what some of these guys did - and that there is so much crime happening around the area that you don't realize. Congrats to all who were awarded!

JustaNumber

■ **Thanks for speaking out**

Thank you, Mr. Trempler for speaking out! For too long this "MERRY BAND OF MISFITS" has attempted (without success) to discredit good people for doing good works in our community. Their tactics are indeed "libelous and malicious," and you are right on point. For some time (about four weeks back in 2004) I too was concerned that the misdirected comments coming out of this group could hinder efforts to restore the Civic League to its prominence. This of course didn't happen, quite simply because these individuals have no influence what so ever. We continue, as you and so many others to direct our collective energies in the best interests and future of Westland.

vbarra

Join the discussion

What do you think about ...?

What impact will the stimulus bill have on the economy?

- Make it better
- Make it worse
- No change
- Unsure

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.



LETTERS

Auto industry is America

I have some thoughts about the stimulus package I would like to share. The government's stimulus package is not a stimulus package. Our country has one cash flow generator which can light the fire for all other revenue generators, it is the American automobile industry. Once stimulated, this industry will generate cash flow into all other business avenues.

How to put Americans back to work and stimulate the economy:

THINK ...

What built our country's wealth over the last 100 years and spawned incredible growth and numerous other industries? More importantly, when our world stopped after 09/11/2001, how did we reignite the fire?

The American automotive industry. Proposal:

Offer five million Americans \$5,000 for any American brand vehicle which is \$29,999 or less. Offer five million Americans \$10,000 for any American brand vehicle which is \$30,000 or more. Vehicle financing must be immediately accessible to the dealer network.

This proposal would not only put \$75 billion of the \$819 billion stimulus package into the hands of the American public, but also into the greatest cash flow generator in our country, the American automotive industry.

Each consumer would negotiate the best possible vehicle purchase price. Once the transaction was completed, the dealer would send in a copy of the transaction

What do you think?

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

along with the government stimulus token for payment.

Revitalizing the GM, Ford and Chrysler dealer network will jump start not only the manufacturers, but the supplier and the overall materials base. It will immediately spawn growth throughout every sector and industry nationwide.

"Buy American" is not a union issue. Of the 6.6 million American jobs which are automotive-related, there are only 464,910 UAW workers. When "buy American" is mentioned, most want to make an issue of the unions. We must focus on what will revitalize our United States economy.

The United States, Japan, China, Germany and South Korea are the top five automobile manufacturing nations throughout the world. The United States of America is the world's largest producer and consumer of motor vehicles and automobiles accounting for 6.6 million direct and spin-off jobs and represents nearly 10 percent of the \$10 trillion U.S. economy. The automobile is one of the important industries in the world, which provides employment to 25 million people in the world (as stated on the American Export Tariff Web site).

Thomas Sundberg
Westland

Thank you, Ashlee Baracy

Dear Ashlee,

Just a few words on how all of us at Marvaso's are so proud of how well you represented the City of Westland and the entire State of Michigan. You must have felt the earth shake on that night each time it was announced that you were moving forward there was a thunderous sound at Marvaso's as if it was a touchdown on Super Bowl Sunday.

We assume you must have felt going in (the timing) presented a huge challenge considering the fact that Miss Michigan had won last year's event. It was clear you were up to the challenge as your smile, stage presence and determination remained steadfast.

Your parents should be proud of their efforts to raise you and your will to maintain the Baracy name, yet passion is a gift from God that comes from within. There is a line from the musical *Chess* that goes, "You taught me, baby, how the few who win acquire what their hearts desire. It ain't practice, it ain't skill. They will help you, but not as much as wanting will."

Replay the tape and see that gift manifest itself when you were selected to move on while sitting in the middle of two other contestants.

Maintain your work ethics, your faith and this world will be yours to be had.

George and Mary Marvaso
on behalf of the entire Marvaso staff

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think is the future of the U.S. auto industry?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Garden City post office.



"Bleak. Right now it's not good, but if they're smart, they'll do it with electric batteries and do it good again."

Marlene Fiddymont
Wayne



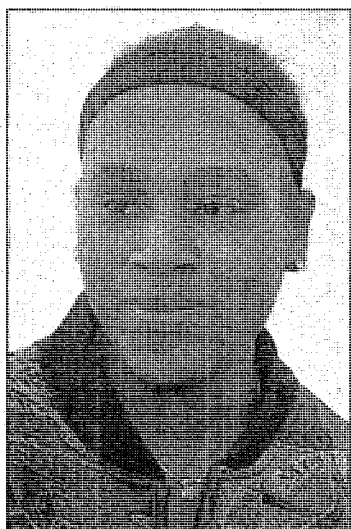
"I hope it's good. I think it's going to be awhile before it gets as good as it was, but I'm hopeful."

Joyce Wade
Inkster



"I hope that they look toward the future with greener alternatives that bring the industry back to Detroit. I'm an optimist, but I know they've made mistakes."

Andy Benes
Garden City



"I have no idea. I hope it gets better than it is now. I hope the new president will help them."

Loretta Wiggins
Westland

WESTLAND
OBSERVER



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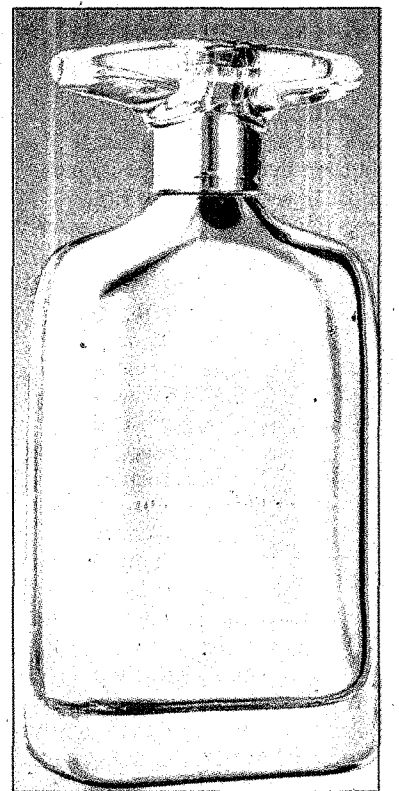
Jeannie Parent
Senior Director
of Sales &
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pink

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

pink picks

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Hear It!
Chasing Pavements by Adele

See It!
All the Academy Award-nominated movies Saturday, Feb. 21, at the AMC Best Picture Showcase

DVR It!
The Academy Awards on Feb. 22

DVD It!
The Duchess

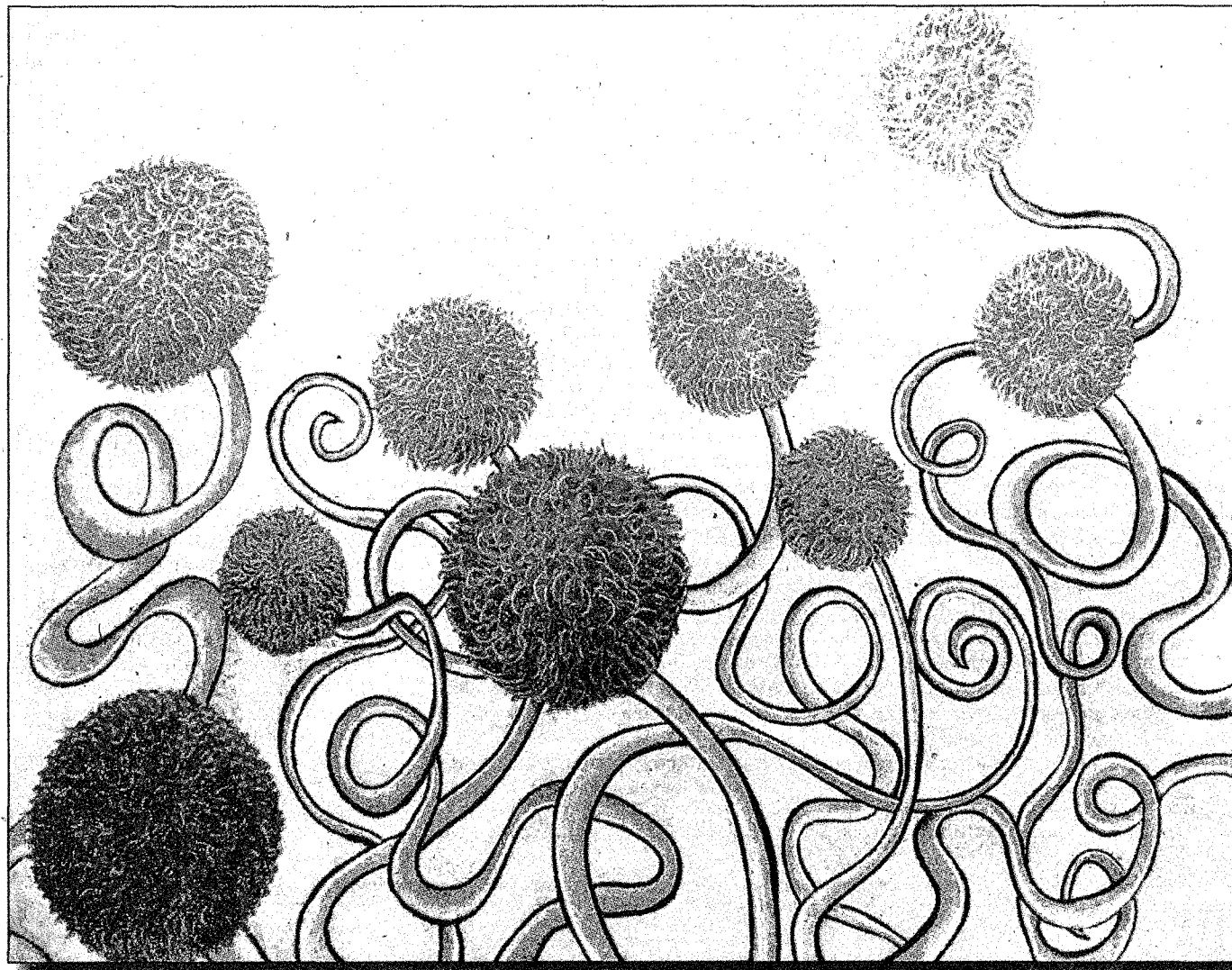
Mane It!
Miss Jessie's Super Slip Sudsy Shampoo

Eat It!
Veggie Scramble, don't forget the Swat Sauce, at The Fly Trap in Ferndale

Drink It!
Chambord, the official drink of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in NYC

Do It!
Cirque de Monaco Masked Ball Feb. 28 at The Roosertail

Experience It!
Star Trek: The Exhibit, at the Detroit Science Center



"Globe Thistle," pastels on cotton paper, by Heather Williams.

Art and beauty converge at salon gallery

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

Once a month, Birmingham's Beauty (SALON) morphs into an art gallery. It takes on the alias b.gallery, and becomes the site of swanky opening receptions to christen new art on the walls.

This weekend, Beauty (SALON) receptionist Heather Williams assumes her alter ego of artist and debuts her own artwork in the exhibit "Bloom."

"Our clients had been asking me when I was putting up my own work for quite some time and with the weather being so dreary and all, I thought it was about time for another show," she said.

Williams, of Bloomfield Hills, attended Mercy High School, then graduated from College for Creative Studies in May with a B.A. in Fine Arts. She has worked for Beauty (SALON) since it opened in 2005, and also acts as curator for its b.gallery concept. Normally, she invites CCS students to display their work at the salon's monthly exhibits.

This time, she'll hang her own pastel illustrations, featuring large swirling flowers and bright organic patterns.

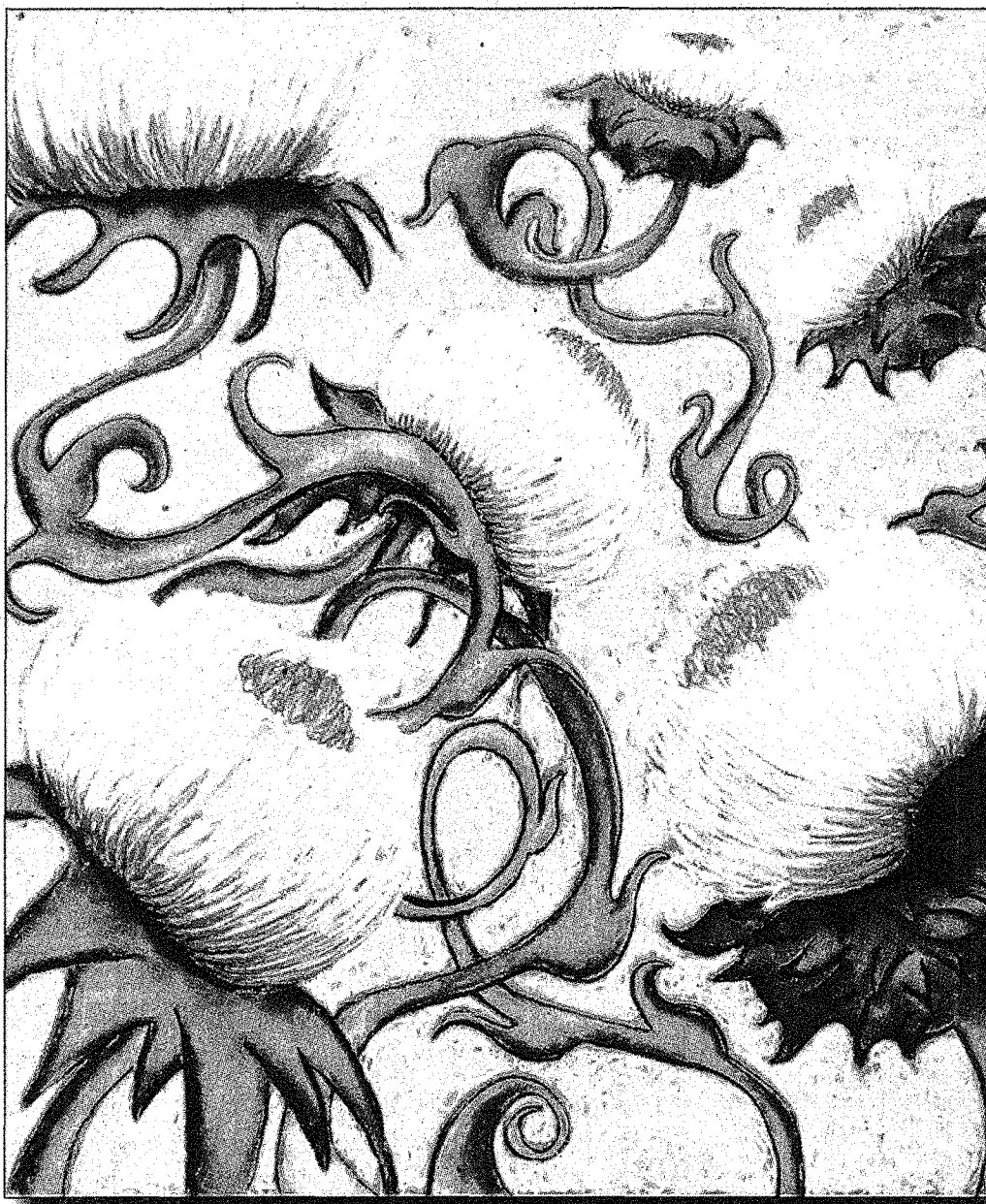
"I start with the brightest and grossest colors in my set with the intention of making the final color a little more this or a little more that," Williams said. "The result is usually toned down quite a bit."

Williams said her preferred medium is printmaking, and her long-term goal is to track down traditional printmaking equipment of her own.

In the meantime, she uses CCS. "I actually snuck into the print studio and I'm making three etchings that I'm finishing off with pastel," she said. Those prints, along with paintings and drawings by Williams, will be for sale. Works range from \$50-\$3,200, but the wine and conversation at the salon-turned-gallery are free.

"People generally like to turn out," she said. "It's a good party and everyone's got their witty stories and it's a good time."

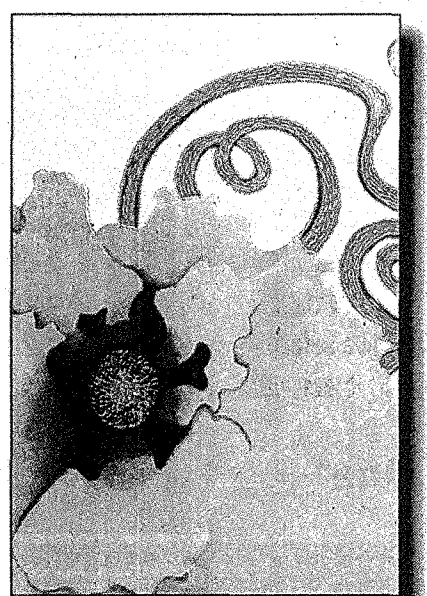
Bloom will be on display through March.



"Milk Thistle," pastels on cotton paper, by Heather Williams.

BLOOM
What: New Pastel Works by Heather Williams
When: Opening reception, 7-10 p.m. Feb. 21
Where: b.Gallery, Beauty (SALON), 235 Willits Ave., Birmingham
Call: (248) 540-0046 or visit www.hwilliamscreative.wordpress.com

"Bloom: Pastels by Heather Williams" opens at Beauty (SALON) in Birmingham on Feb. 21.



MALLS & MAIN STREETS

JOURNALIST SIGNS BOOKS AT MACY'S

TROY — Photojournalist Scout Tufankjian, the only independent photographer to cover the Obama campaign from start to finish, will sign copies of his new book "Yes, We Can: Barack Obama's History Making Presidential Campaign" (\$29.95) while supplies last, 6 p.m. Feb. 20, at Macy's Somerset, 2752 West Big Beaver Road.

FASHION UNLEASHED AT ORCHARD MALL

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Detroit-area teenagers will model spring fashions for a cause at Fashion Unleashed 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at the Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield. Fashion Unleashed, a benefit for Michigan Region B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, will feature great clothes from The Shirt Box, Guys N' Gals and Moosejaw.

Tickets are \$10, students; \$15, general admission; \$250 with pre-glow (wine and hors d'oeuvres at Tapper's) and prime seats. Michigan Region B'BYO is a nonprofit that provides leadership training, educational, social, athletic and community service programs for Jewish teenagers from all backgrounds. Call B'BYO at (248) 788-0700.

ADELE WECHSLER PERSONAL APPEARANCE

TROY — The Bridal Salon at Macy's Somerset will host couture wedding gown designer Adele Wechsler as she takes appointments during her trunk show, Feb. 27-March 1. Wechsler is known for timeless gowns, emphasized by sheer overlays which flirt with light and move-

ment. Call (248) 816-4270 or visit the store, 2752 West Big Beaver Road, Troy.

PAMPER THE BRIDE AND BEYOND

SOUTHFIELD — Silver Garden of Southfield will host the third annual "Pamper the Bride & Beyond" Bridal Expo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. This event will feature interactive workshops, live music, exclusive exhibitors, giveaways, pamper services, a Spotlight Fashion Showcase and a "Grooms Lounge." Call (248) 809-2117 or visit www.pamperthebrideexpo.com.

PARISIAN HOSTS COMMUNITY DAY

LIVONIA — Parisian locations, including Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Village of Rochester Hills, will host Community Day on Feb. 28. Purchase a \$5 booklet stuffed with coupons good exclusively on Community Day, and all proceeds go back to local non-profit organizations.

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc., parent company of Parisian, recently announced that Community Day raised over \$10 million nationwide last year. There's still time for non-profits to join the event. Call (734) 953-7500.

SHOP CHANEL AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

TROY — Saks Fifth Avenue will preview the CHANEL Spring 2009 Ready-to-Wear and Accessories Collections, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, with informal modeling 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Ready-to-Wear Boutique on Two (248) 614-3302 and Accessories Boutique on One (248) 643-9000 ext. 5404.

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An ancient world is revealed in Hatching the Past

My trek of nature exploration in Michigan has been long. Thousands of school children and adults have joined me on the trails that led to wilder sides of suburban living. That trek includes almost 15 years of nature ramblings for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Yesterday, my ever-evolving journey of mixing profession with outdoor passions sent me back to Cranbrook where it all began over three decades ago. Back then — after migrating west from Buffalo — I did not know Michigan was a mitten and some Michiganders lived in the thumb.



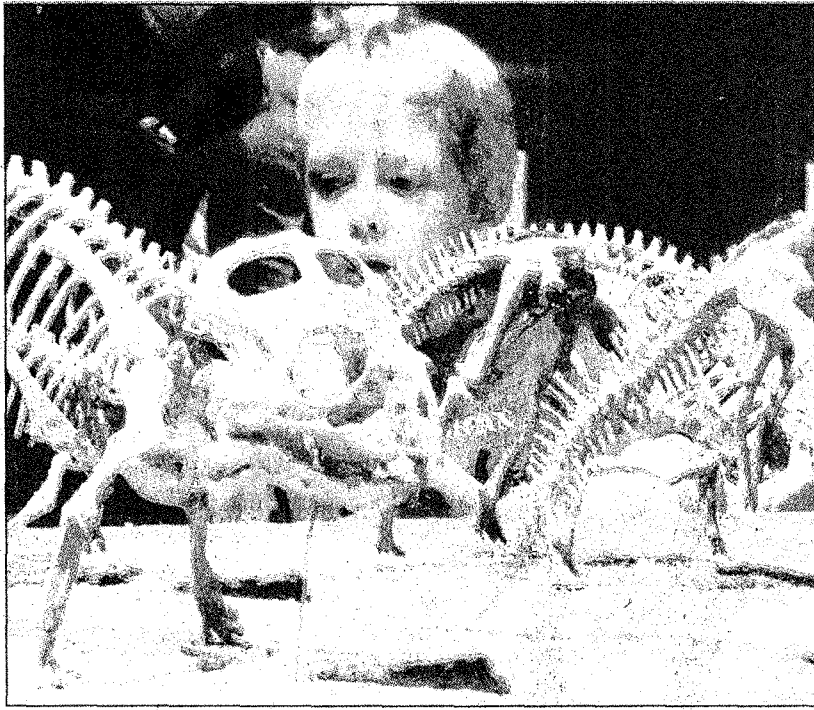
Nature's way

Jonathan Schechter

Hatching the Past is what this ramble is about. And it's also the name of the newly

opened exhibit at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of their current staff and the generosity of Michael and Barbara Sincak, dinosaurs roam the lower level of the Institute. The Sincaks' gifted fossil casts valued at over \$80,000 have been infused into a new exhibit that takes you on a journey back in time millions of years — a journey well worth taking.

John Zawiskie, geologist and paleontologist at the institute, summed up what's in store perfectly with one sentence: "This exhibit reveals some of the remarkable new discoveries that have allowed us to better understand the reproduction, growth, behavior and



evolution of dinosaurs, related reptiles and birds."

During the member's night preview, I had close encounters with a young Psittacosaurus (suh-tack-oh-SORE-us), the eggs of a Gigantoraptor (JI-gant-oh-RAP-tor), a feathery Sinornithosaurus (SIGH-nor-ni-tho-SORE-us), the gliding four winged Microraptor (My-crow-rap-tore) and Confuciusornis (con-FEW-shus-OR-nis), the first primitive bird with a beak and a reduced tail. Of course there was the expected T-Rex skull. But it was a glass encased eye level display of skeletal juvenile Protoceratops that pulled in wide-eyed children and me. When I knelt for a closer look, my mind morphed into that

"wonder mode" of a bare-footed 6-year-old, a time when my dreams, reality and science were all the same. It's still often that way today. And it's the passion of exploring nature, be it in a museum or a woodland swamp of Oakland County that fuels the spirit of this graying naturalist.

Hatching The Past provides an intimate look at all the major plant and meat eating dinosaur groups that trooped about Earth. Some exhibits are interactive. Others are dramatic in their stark presentation: A flock of a dozen young protoceratops buried alive when a sudden catastrophic event preserved them in action.

And then there is the Paleo Cold Case

Files that allows you to decide whether or not the dinosaur Coelophys (see-LOH-fye-siss) cannibalized their young. Want the answer? Go see it! Hatching the Past is free with museum admission and left me musing about modern-day dinosaurs: great blue herons and snapping turtles.

But Hatching The Past was more than a dynamic exhibit for me. There is a footnote. Here's the rest of the story: While Cranbrook was putting final touches on its rare glimpse of dinosaur life I was incubating a plan with Cranbrook to join their science camp staff this summer, bringing my nature writer's trek through Michigan full circle. My Urban Naturalist Explorer camp egg hatches this summer and will join Cranbrook's expanded Summer Explorer camp series that includes their ever-popular Ecology, Science and Crime Scene Explorer Camps. Urban Naturalist Explorer runs the week of June 22-26 and is for children entering fifth, sixth or seventh grade (pre-registration required). Perhaps your young naturalist will join me in exploring, photographing and writing about nature's way on the Cranbrook Campus. A field trip to a glacially created bog, home to meat-eating plants, is included. For information on Hatching The Past and to explore all of Cranbrook's exciting science camps call the Cranbrook Institute of Science at (248) 645-3210 or check out the newly revised Web site: www.science.cranbrook.edu.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Visit him at oaknature@aol.com.

Zoo fountain in new film

The Detroit Zoo's Horace H. Rackham Memorial Fountain makes several appearances in the new stop-motion animated 3-D adventure, *Coraline*, which opened in theaters nationwide on Feb. 6.

Featuring the voices of Dakota Fanning as Coraline and Teri Hatcher as the Other Mother, the film tells the tale of a young girl who moves from Michigan to Oregon and discovers a secret door in her new home that leads to a bizarre fantasy world.

In one scene, Coraline reflectively picks up a snow globe holding a replica of the iconic Detroit Zoo fountain as a joyful reminder of her favorite place back home. The snow globe figures prominently in a pivotal scene later in the film. Sharp-eyed moviegoers will also spot a photograph of Coraline and her parents in front of the fountain.

The Horace H. Rackham Memorial Fountain features two 10-foot-tall bronze bears in a 75,000-gallon pool with life-sized sea lions, turtles and frogs. The fountain is a favorite meeting place at the Detroit Zoo and one of the zoo's most-photographed attractions.

Since *Coraline* premiered, the zoo has been receiving inquiries regarding a snow globe similar to the one seen in the film. The item is in production and will be available at Zoofari Market in the spring. To order a snow globe, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3274.

Good time to refinance your mortgage, but know your options

Mortgage rates have plummeted recently and homeowners are finding that refinancing makes sense. In today's economic environment, if homeowners can take advantage of lower interest rates and reduce their monthly payments, the question is why not? People shouldn't just



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

rush out and refinance, but in certain situations it does make sense. Most people want to know what is the best mortgage. There is no one answer. The real issue is what is the best mortgage for your situation. In the past few years, too many people obtained mortgages they didn't understand and were great for the mortgage company but not good for their individual situation. Before you refinance, it is important to review some of the basics.

Know exactly what a new mortgage will cost. Contrary to what some companies would like you to believe, all mortgages have fees and costs. That doesn't necessarily mean when you obtain the mortgage you write a check to the company for fees and costs. Many times, the mortgage company will roll the costs into the mortgage. For example, if your present mortgage is \$100,000 you may refinance the mortgage and find the new mortgage is \$102,000.

Just looking at what your new monthly payment is can be a mistake. After all, if five years ago you obtained a 30-year mortgage and you refinance and lower your

monthly payment, you must factor into the equation you will pay that mortgage for 30 more years, not the 25 under the old mortgage. Just because your monthly mortgage payment goes down doesn't mean it makes sense to refinance. Factor in the years on the loan.

I generally recommend a fixed-rate mortgage. In some situations I recommend some sort of adjustable rate mortgage, but that is not the norm. The problem I have with adjustable rate and other types of exotic mortgages is they can be difficult to understand. Many people find that after they've paid their mortgage for five years, they owe more money than when they initially obtained the mortgage. They didn't know that they had a negative amortization mortgage.

Before you sign on the dotted line, understand the ins and outs of the mortgage. Know if your mortgage interest rate can adjust and how your loan is amortized. Most people are familiar with traditional fixed-rate mortgages where so much of your monthly payment goes to interest and some goes to the debt you owe. However, not all mortgages are like this. There are some that are for interest only, which means that 100 percent of your money pays the interest and nothing goes to the retirement of the debt.

Mortgage documents are difficult to understand. That is why it is important to deal with an individual you trust to work in your best interest. Deal with a professional — someone who understands the mortgage market and who can explain the terms to you.

Who should refinance in today's environment? It's difficult to say. However, in general

if you could lower your interest rate by at least 1 percent, it probably makes sense to consider refinancing. In addition, if you have been in your home for a number of years and your initial mortgage included paying private mortgage insurance (PMI), and you now have 20 percent equity in your home, you can consider refinancing and removing that PMI cost.

An important issue when it comes to refinancing is how long you plan to be in your home. For those who plan to stay in their home for another year or two, it doesn't make sense to refinance because you won't recoup your costs in that short period of time.

There is no single mortgage that is the best mortgage for everyone. I believe in the great majority of situations, the traditional 30-year, fixed-rate is the best mortgage for most people. I find this mortgage offers the greatest flexibility and helps plan finances. You never know down the road what your monthly payment will be with some of the gimmicky mortgages or the adjustable mortgages. Fixed-rate mortgages offer more certainty and that is why I generally recommend 30-year fixed.

No matter what type of mortgage you obtain, the adage "let the buyer beware" certainly rings true. There has been a lot of mortgage fraud perpetuated on the American people over the last few years, and it is important to be careful.

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.

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THURSDAY
February 19
2009

SECTION B
(LW)

Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6851
bemonson@hometownlife.com

Check out listings of great events and destinations in Filter, B8-9

HOMETOWN LIFE

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

Rocket grapplers blast off, win Kensington crown

Lower weights fuel triumph

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the do-or-die state tournament just around the corner, Westland John Glenn refueled its tank with some high-performance momentum at Saturday's inaugural KLAAs Kensington Conference individual wrestling tournament at Salem.

The Rockets blasted off the launching pad with a fiery fury by winning three of the first four weight classes — 103, 119 and 125 pounds — and capped their championship afternoon with 256.5 points, 29.5 more than runner-up Canton.

"It was nice to win (Saturday) because we finished in a three-way tie in our division with Canton and Franklin during the regular season, so it was nice to know we had the best team on Saturday," Glenn coach Bill Polk said.

Northville finished third with 204.5 points, just ahead of the host Rocks (193.5). Fifth-place Livonia Franklin earned 186 points, but there was a severe dropoff to sixth and beyond.

Overall, Glenn crowned six champions, including 160-pound Zaid Ammari, who improved to 39-10 with a 4-0 day, ended with a dramatic 9-8 triumph over South Lyon's Joe Powell in the title tilt.

"I was confident today, but I still had a few butterflies," Ammari said. "This means a lot, to place first in the first conference tournament. Now, hopefully, I can win districts, regionals and go to the state meet."

Also turning in gold-medal efforts for the Rockets were 103-pounder Steve Wakeford,

who defeated Franklin's Paul Hanni, 8-5, in the final; Josh Austin, who edged Canton's Carl Lucke by the same score in the 119 title match; 125-pounder Mark Thompson, who edged South Lyon's Joe Johnson, 6-4, for first; 140-pounder Jimmy Mann, who defeated Livonia Stevenson's Raz Markosian, 10-6; and heavyweight Dustin Gajowiak, who dethroned Franklin's Mike Modes, 5-3, in the final match.

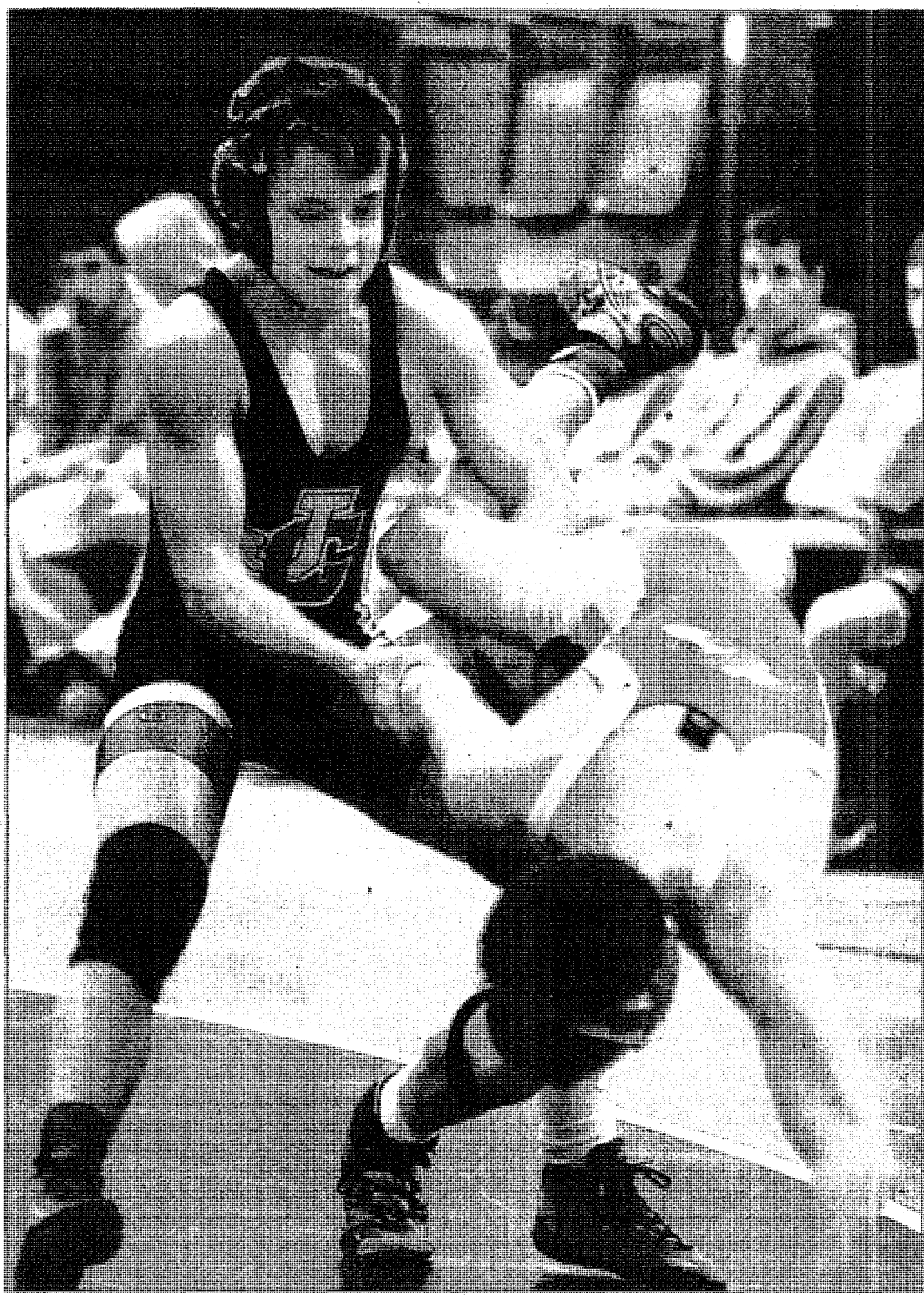
"Josh's win over Carl Lucke was big because Lucke beat Josh earlier in the season," Polk said. "And Steve's win at 103 was impressive. We knew the Franklin kid was going to be tough because he dropped down a weight class or two. And Mark Thompson seems to be peaking at the right time."

Canton's runner-up finish was highlighted by a quartet of first-place finishers. Junior 112-pounder Waleed Faraj ignited the Chiefs' trips to the top step of the podium by defeating South Lyon's Brooks O'Brien, 6-3, in the final match.

Less than a half hour later, senior Jeremy Filippelli registered an emphatic 59-second pin against Livonia Churchill's Jonny Bannoura in the 130-pound championship.

A pair of Canton juniors — Donnie Watkins and Brent Winekoff — continued their season-long dominance by winning at 135 and 145, respectively. Watkins crushed Glenn's Jared Stephens, 14-2, while Winekoff earned an 18-3 technical fall triumph over Northville's Jon Nelson.

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**



John Glenn's Steve Wakeford (top), shown in an earlier match this season, captured the 103-pound title in Saturday's Kensington Conference meet.

GAME WRAPS

Women's college hoops

SCHOOLCRAFT 61, DELTA CC 49: For a change, the No. 2-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team got challenged Saturday, but the Lady Ocelots wrapped up their third straight outright MCCAAs Eastern Conference championship with a win at Delta Community College.

Schoolcraft, winners of 25 straight conference games and 57 of its last 59, improved to 23-2 overall and 16-0 in the conference.

Schoolcraft led only 31-27 at halftime and shot a season low 34.1 percent from the field (21-of-61), but still had enough for the victory.

Angela Burrell's 14 points paced Schoolcraft, while teammates Taylor Langham (Salem) and April Goins each added 11.

Goins also grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds as the Lady Ocelots held a 47-38 advantage overall on the boards.

Rhonda Gusa and Kayla Kneiper tallied 13 and 11, respectively, for Delta (13-9, 11-5).

MADONNA 75, CONCORDIA 57: Plymouth High's Kim Olech's 18 points propelled the Madonna University (13-15, 8-4) to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph Saturday over visiting Concordia University (7-20, 1-10).

Katie Mount chipped in with 16 points, while Alyssa Guerin and Tabatha Wydryck added 10 each. Wydryck also dished out seven assists for the Crusaders, who shot 47.4 percent from the field (27-of-57).

Concordia got 14 points from Krystyna Rickett and 11 from Betsy Barlow.

The Cardinals shot only 32.6 percent from the floor (15-of-46).

Men's college hoops

MADONNA 75, CONCORDIA 72: The Madonna University men's basketball team overcame a two-point halftime deficit Saturday to beat host Concordia University in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference game.

Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) led a balanced scoring attack with 17 points as MU improves to 11-17 overall and 5-7 in the WHAC.

Tyler Coker chipped in with 15 points, while Noah Williams contributed 10 for the Crusaders, who shot 25-for-63 from the field (39.7 percent). Bryant Slaughter also scored nine points and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds.

Marquis Turley led Concordia (9-18, 1-10) with 13 points. Jeremy Simmons added 11, while Dennis Meany and Scott Spencer added 10 each. Meany also grabbed a game-high nine rebounds.

DELTA CC 95, SCHOOLCRAFT 82: Greg Leavell's 30 points were not enough Saturday as Schoolcraft College (7-20, 4-12) fell to host Delta Community College (7-17, 3-12) in an MCCAAs Eastern Conference game.

Ryan Praski, who was 5-of-8 from three-point range, led Delta with 29 points. Dan Spyhalski, who was 10-of-18 from the floor, added 20 points and 13 boards.

Others in double figures included Derico Sanders (14), Jemond Patrick (13) and Jason Knieper (12).

Martez Abney (Wayne Memorial) and Ryan Matthews each contributed 17 points for the Ocelots, who trailed 60-33 at intermission. Bruce Watson also scored 12. Matthews grabbed a team-best eight rebounds.

Schoolcraft, currently in eighth place, has been mathematically eliminated from the seven-team MCCAAs playoffs.

Clarenceville cagers roll to ninth straight victory

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS BASKETBALL

With March Madness rapidly approaching, the Livonia Clarenceville boys basketball team appears to be finding its mojo again.

The Trojans, who have already locked up the top seed for the upcoming Metro Conference tourney, made it nine straight victories Tuesday with a convincing 75-49 win at Lutheran High Westland.

Clarenceville, now 10-6 overall, hasn't lost since Jan. 13.

Senior swingman Jamie Stewart scored game-high 29 points, including 21 in the opening half as the Trojans built a comfortable 44-18 advantage.

Nathan Clark, a 6-1 senior, added 20 for the Trojans, who shot 53.4 percent from the floor (31-of-58).

"The first half we moved the ball pretty well," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said. "We've worked on being more unselfish in transition. The ball is starting to move better for us. We have to continue to stay focused both mentally and physically, just get better each game."

The 6-4 Stewart, being courted by several Division I programs, made 8-of-10 shots in the first half and was 12-of-16 for the game.

"Jamie is just a flat-out scorer, don't classify him as just a shooter," McKendry said. "He's playing at a high level right now, and if he continues to make his teammates better, we'll go however far he takes us."

"And I thought Nate (Clark) also gave us a good game. When teams overplay Jamie, he can make them pay."

Lutheran Westland played the Trojans even in the second half (31-all), but the damage had been done during the first 16 minutes of action.

"We knew he (Stewart) be good coming in," Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekius said. "We wanted to pack it in with our defense, limit and neutralize their drives to the basket, box out and rebound the best we can."

"But he (Stewart) came out and shot the ball well. And (Clark) is also playing well for them."

Ryan Rakovalis and Eric Shoats each scored nine for the Warriors, who slipped to 9-6 overall and 3-4 in the Metro.

Clarenceville, which went only 2-6 during a challenging non-conference schedule, gets a chance to gauge itself again when it plays University of Detroit-Jesuit High

beginning at 1:30 p.m. Saturday as part of the Catholic League's A-B Division triple-header at the U-D Mercy's Calihan Hall.

"From here on out, every game is a huge game," McKendry said. "I told them this was our last game to have fun because we came in having already clinched the top seed. Saturday's game will be a good barometer as far as where we're at."

"It's either win or go home in the Metro Conference playoffs, then it's the districts, and we're excited."

Michigan Independent

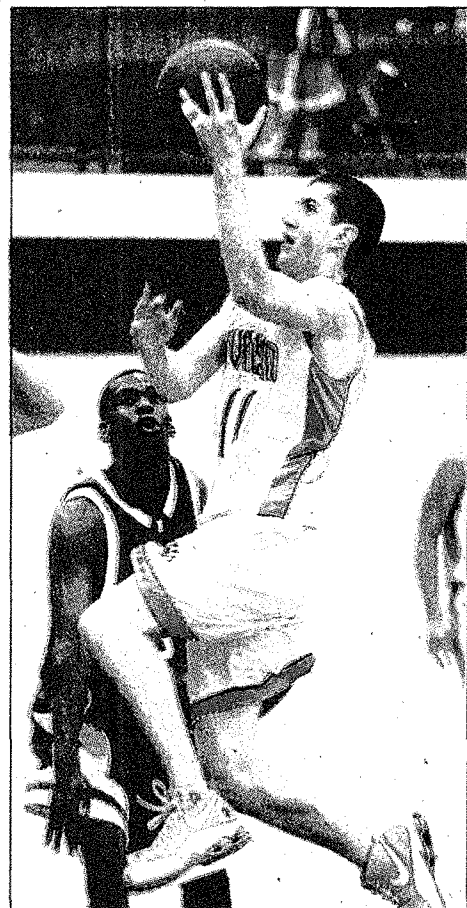
BAPTIST PARK 66, HURON VALLEY 48: Josh Rooker poured in 22 points Tuesday as Taylor Baptist Park Christian (11-4, 7-2) rolled past host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (9-6, 6-3) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division encounter.

Chris Stewart added 12 points for the victorious Wildcats, who led 30-22 at halftime before putting it away with a 21-11 run in the final period.

Bryan Gruenewald paced the Hawks with 17 points. Kyle Tacia contributed 14.

Baptist Park outrebounded Huron Valley, 31-26.

The Hawks were 8-of-14 from the foul line, while Baptist Park was 6-of-18.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scorers' mentality

Stevenson's Bobby Naubert drives to the hoop for two points during Tuesday's KLAAs Central Division clash against Novi. Naubert had a team-high 15 points, but it wasn't enough as the Spartans fell, 58-41. See KLAAs boys hoop roundup on page B2.

Track coaches hail Warriors' Unger

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to the sport of track and field, there's nobody quite like Mike Unger.

Entering his 37th year of coaching, the Lutheran High Westland athletic director and boys coach was honored Saturday in Lansing by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association with the Sweeney Award.

The 58-year-old Unger was recognized for not only his outstanding service to the sport of track and

field, but also for his dedication to his school, the community and MITCA.

He also received a lifetime membership to MITCA.

Longtime Lutheran Westland assistant coach and friend Dave Ruth presented Unger with the award. Ironically, Unger was the presenter back in 1980 to the third Sweeney recipient, the late Erv Ruth (Dave's father).

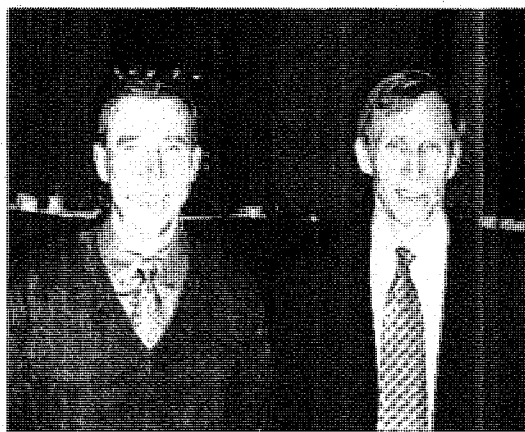
Unger began his coaching career under Ruth at Detroit Lutheran West H.S. and has won four state championships, eight regionals and

21 conference titles in his 28 years as a head coach.

Last May, Lutheran High Westland's new track was dedicated in Unger's name.

"I talked about Erv, and how really important he was to me," Unger said. "I felt really appreciative, and it was nice that all of my family was there."

Among those in attendance were his wife Andrea, son Daniel and his three daughters — Elizabeth (Radcliffe), Sarah and Deborah — along with J.R. Radcliffe, Glenn Davis and Alli Unger.



Lutheran High Westland athletic director Mike Unger (right) was presented Saturday in Lansing the Sweeney Award by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association. His presenter was longtime Warriors track assistant Dave Ruth (left).

Warriors, C'ville matmen go 2-3

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

According to Livonia Clarenceville varsity wrestling coach Anthony Saliccioli, it's been a challenging season with a number of injuries, illnesses and other setbacks.

And he can't help but wonder if Saturday's Metro Conference Tournament at Harper Woods might have turned out differently had mainstays Brent Gilman, Jake Ruth and Cody Sillanpaa competed.

The Trojans still managed a good showing, however, finishing third with 98 points behind tourney and league champion Macomb Lutheran North (201) and Lutheran High Westland (99.5).

To be fair to the Warriors, they also were without key wrestlers Steven Kemp and Craig Kowalski. Kemp, as a tribute to an excellent prep

career, still was presented with the Upper Weights MVP trophy.

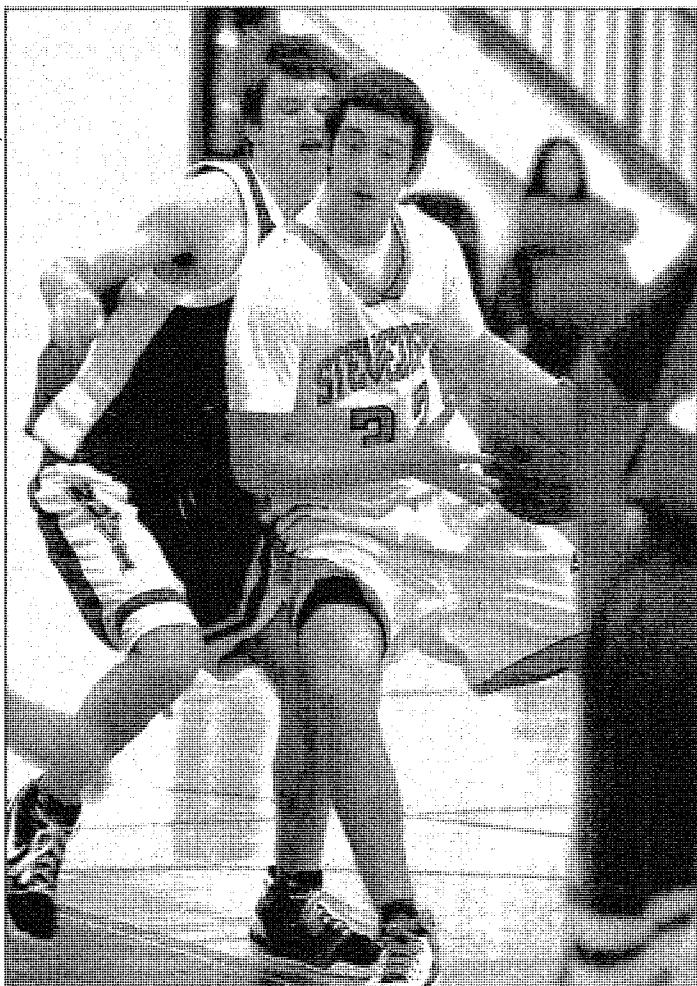
Another Lutheran Westland wrestler, Brad LaRose (the individual winner at 119) earned honors as MVP of the lower weights.

Clarenceville came away with four individual winners in Patrick Walker (140), Derek Robbins (171), Andrew Jasmer (189) and Joseph Haapala (215).

Collecting the victory at 125 for Lutheran Westland was Laith Francis.

Lutheran North's winners were Kyle Hudson (103), John Sanders (135), Ryan Schwark (152) and Scott Wiegand (160).

Rounding out the individual winners were the following: Hamtramck's Ahmed Fadhel (112), Harper Woods' Kyle Morgan (145) and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest heavyweight Nate Tapling.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevensons Brian Rowe tries to get offensive position near the basket while being guarded by Novi's Nick Regnier during Tuesday's 58-41 KLAAs Central setback.

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

Winekoff's day was spectacular as the No. 1-ranked 145-pounder in the state netted two pins and two tech falls.

"It's just the result of working hard and staying motivated," Winekoff said when asked for

the key to his 47-1 record heading into Wednesday's Division 1 team district tournament.

Other local grapplers who earned gold medals included Salem's Sam Lepper, who upended Franklin's Cody Hay, 9-5, in the 215-pound final; and the Patriots' Garrett Hay, who earned the 189-pound title with a hard-fought 3-2 decision over Salem's Austin Root.

Zebras clinch KLAAs South title; Glenn's Anderson lights up Pats

Things can get any better these days in Zebraland as Wayne Memorial wrapped up the KLAAs South Division boys basketball title Tuesday night with a 70-58 triumph at Canton.

Senior point-guard Robert Woodson and junior forward Daniel Hill each tallied 19 points for the victorious Zebras, who improved to 11-4 overall and 8-1 in the division.

Jimmel Bennett chipped in with 14 points as Wayne led 19-8 after one quarter, 32-21 at the half and 50-35 with eight minutes to play.

Marlan Glenn paced the Chiefs (8-7, 5-4) with 18 points, while Kiere Daniels contributed 13 points and six rebounds. Sophomore Dietrich Lever added eight points.

"We got off to a slow start, which you can't afford to do against a skilled team like Wayne," Canton coach Dan Colligan said. "Every time we made a run, they responded. They're probably the quickest team in the league, which hurts us because we rely a lot on dribble penetration."

Canton was 7-of-10 from the free-throw line, while the Zebras canned 7-of-11.

Wayne will open the KLAAs Kensington Conference playoffs Tuesday, March 3 on the road against the Central Division champ, which will be determined Friday when Novi travels to South Lyon.

JOHN GLENN 71, FRANKLIN 52: Senior guard Austin Anderson was on fire Tuesday, scoring a career-high 34 points to lead Westland John Glenn (8-6, 4-5) to a KLAAs South Division triumph over host Livonia Franklin (5-10, 3-6).

Anderson, who connected on 5 three-pointers, also dished out 10 assists as the Rockets pulled away in

BOYS BASKETBALL

the final period with a 25-13 run. Senior center Dorian Prather also tallied a career-high 22 points.

Seniors Jeff Poole and Connor Leidal scored 23 and 11, respectively, for the Patriots, who made only 8-of-21 free throws.

Franklin is 24-for-54 during its last two games from the foul stripe.

"We're on winter break and we were extremely sluggish," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "Free throws got us again. We'll go back in the gym and continue to work on it."

Glenn, avenging an earlier setback to Franklin, was 9-of-11 from the line. **CHURCHILL 70, PLYMOUTH 46:** Junior Adam Bedell and senior Ryan Woods each tallied 16 points Tuesday, leading host Livonia Churchill (7-8, 3-6) to KLAAs South Division win over the Wildcats (8-7, 4-5), who dropped their third straight.

Junior guard Tony Frezzell added 15 points and four steals, while Scott Senczynski contributed 11 points.

The Chargers also got a boost off the bench from senior Chris Barnard, who added six points, four rebounds and two steals when 6-foot-7 senior center Cameron Norscia got into foul trouble.

"Our guards played well both offensively and defensively, they set the tone" said Churchill coach Jim Solak, whose team outscored Plymouth 37-22 in the second half. "On defense they really got after it and they applied tough pressure."

Justin Moss led the Wildcats with 18 points, while Brennan Beyer added 10.

NOVI 58, STEVENSON 41: Chris Bellamy scored a game-high 21 points and Brandon Bryant added 10 to spark KLAAs Central Division co-leader Novi (13-2, 8-1) past host Livonia Stevenson (9-5, 5-4).

Novi led by only five at intermission, 26-21, but went on a 24-10 third-quarter run to put the game away.

Junior Bobby Naubert paced the Spartans with 15 points, while Brian Rowe contributed 10.

Heartbreaker

Liggett's last-second shot sinks Warriors, 45-43

A valiant effort fell short Tuesday by the Lutheran High Westland girls basketball team as host Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett advanced to the semifinals of the Metro Conference playoffs with a 45-43 win.

Megan Micucci's 15-foot baseline shot with only one second remaining in regulation gave the Knights the victory.

Micucci scored six of her 10 points in the final period. "I give their coach Adam Beck credit," Lutheran Westland coach Bill Strang said. "They put her in position to make the shot."

Freshman guard Madison Ristovski led Liggett, now 10-6 overall, with 17 points.

Senior guard Allyson Yanke paced the Warriors (6-8) with a game-high 21 on 10-of-14 shooting from the floor. She also grabbed 12 rebounds.

Rachel Storck chipped in with 11 points and seven rebounds, while Lauren Gieschen, who tied the game with less than 20 seconds remaining at 43-all, finished with eight points on 4-of-5 shooting.

The Warriors, who jumped out to a 20-8 first-quarter lead, lost despite shooting 49 percent overall from the field (20-of-41).

LUTH. NORTH 67, CLARENCEVILLE 26: In the Metro Conference tournament opener Monday, Livonia Clarenceville (3-14) hung in there for awhile Monday, but stumbled badly after intermission as Macomb Lutheran North (13-3) pulled away

GIRLS BASKETBALL

for the victory. Clarenceville trailed 34-21 at halftime before the Mustangs outscored the Trojans 33-5 over the final two frames.

Gabrielle DeSano (14 points) and Allyson Kuppe (nine points) led the way offensively for North.

Jenna Burgess and Aneta Elliott tallied seven and five points, respectively, for the Trojans.

"Across the board, individually and as a team, we did not play well tonight," Clarenceville coach Julie Patterson said. "We made a lot of mental errors - bad passes, missed defensive assignments, tons of turnovers."

BAPTIST PARK 60, HURON VALLEY 40: On Tuesday, Jamie Janiec scored a game-high 24 points to lead Taylor Baptist Park (11-6, 9-1) to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division triumph over visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-13, 3-7).

Katie Nell tallied 13 points and had four steals for the Hawks, who trailed 31-20 at halftime and 47-28 after three quarters.

"Turnovers killed us tonight, we had 35, most of which were in the second and third quarter," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said. "We also let them have too many second-chance shots without boxing out."

DIVINE CHILD 56, LADYWOOD 52: In the Catholic League A-B Division playoffs Saturday, Lauren Malinowski scored 21 points to lead host Divine Child (12-6) past Livonia Ladywood (7-10) in a game played at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Kelsey Dallas and Rosanna Reynolds added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for the victorious Falcons.

Senior forward Caitlin Szczypka scored a game-high 22 points for Ladywood.

Taylor twins team up for 15th Franklin win

Livonia Franklin's seniors Brittany and Brianna Taylor proved to be double trouble Tuesday for the Westland John Glenn girls basketball team.

The 5-foot-9 identical twins combined for 34 points, scoring 19 and 15, respectively, to lead the Patriots to a 54-34 triumph.

Franklin, now 15-2 overall, remains tied for first in the KLAAs South Division with Canton at 8-1. The Patriots can clinch the division's top seed based on a tiebreaker format with a victory Friday at Livonia Churchill.

Chanel Payne scored a team-high 13 points as the Rockets dropped to 7-10 overall and 3-6 in the South.

"We played a decent game for first three quarters," said Glenn coach Mike Schuette, whose team trailed 26-17 at halftime and 38-29 after three quarters. "We played hard on defense, but we had trouble putting the ball in the basket, especially the fourth quarter. Franklin played well in the fourth quarter when it counted."

Franklin made 11-of-14 free throws, while Glenn hit 6-of-10.

PLYMOUTH 55, CHURCHILL 42: Guard Kelsi Robinson tallied eight of her 18 points in the decisive fourth quarter Tuesday to propel the host Wildcats (7-10, 4-5) to the KLAAs South Division triumph over Livonia Churchill (9-8, 4-5).

Senior center Shaakira Haywood contributed 15 points for Plymouth,

KLAAs GIRLS BASKETBALL

which outscored Churchill 16-7 over the final eight minutes.

Senior Alysa Boldizar paced the Chargers with 15 points.

Plymouth was 16-of-23 from the foul line, while Churchill hit 3-of-5. **NOVI 53, STEVENSON 35:** Caroline Johnson led a balanced scoring attack with 10 points Tuesday to power the host Wildcats (12-5, 7-2) to a KLAAs Central Division victory over Livonia Stevenson (6-11, 2-7).

Point-guard Chantel Hill added eight points for Novi, which led 20-5 after one quarter and 34-10 at halftime.

"We came out bringing good energy, but they were knocking down outside shots and they beat us in transition," Stevenson first-year coach Paul Tripp said of the Wildcats.

Stevenson senior center Kaylee McGrath scored all 10 of her points in the second half, going 5-for-5 from the floor. She also grabbed 14 rebounds to go along with three assists and two steals.

Freshman guard Jordyn York tallied nine points.

Novi was only 4-of-12 from the free throw stripe, while Stevenson was 9-of-18.

CANTON 52, WAYNE 8: On Tuesday, KLAAs South Division co-leader Canton (15-2, 8-1) rolled to a 31-6 halftime lead and went on a 20-0 third-quarter run to spoil senior night for host Wayne Memorial (2-15, 0-9).

Carolann Sexauer paced the victorious Chiefs with 13 points. Teammate Kari Schmitt added 10.

Crystal Hughes scored four for the Zebras, who were 2-of-6 from the foul stripe.

Canton was 15-of-28 from the line.

Spartan tankers impress at MISCA

In a preview of next month's Division 1 state finals, the Livonia Stevenson boys made a strong showing in Saturday's Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Meet held at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

The Spartans, ranked No. 6 in Division 1, placed in the top five in three relay events led by the foursome of Kellen Schoff, Joey Wingett, Mike Cruce and Jereme Pesta, who finished second in the 200-yard medley in 1:40.04.

The quartet of Pesta, Aaren Marecki, Cruce and Chris Behler added a third in the

200 freestyle relay (1:28.35), while Schoff, Behler, Cruce and Marecki took fifth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:18.1).

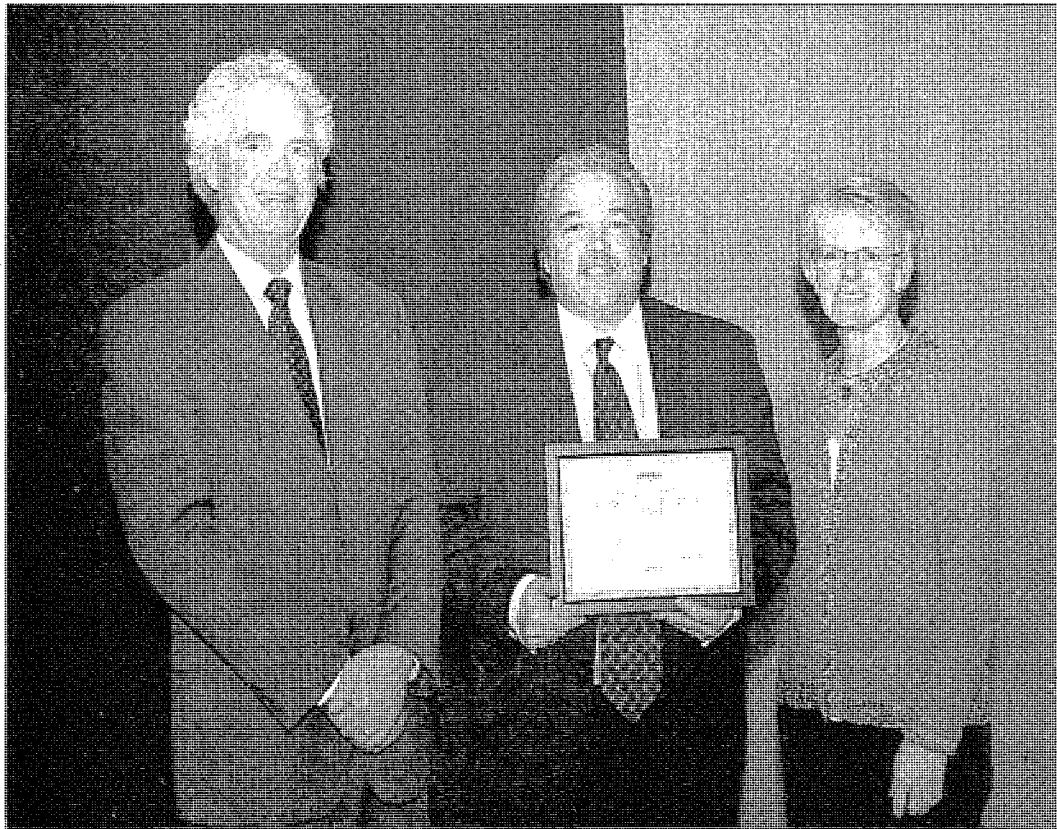
Top individual finishers included Schoff, ninth, 100 backstroke (56.66); 13th, 200 individual medley (2:03.16); Marecki, ninth, 100 freestyle (49.33); Pesta, ninth, 100 butterfly (54.36); Wingett, 10th, 100 breaststroke (1:01.62); 14th, 500 freestyle (4:58.66); Behler, 12th, 50 freestyle (22.55); 17th, 100 freestyle (50.12); Cruce, 13th, 100 butterfly (54.95); and Bryan Bielicki, 19th, 100 backstroke (58.04).

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Youth Coach of Year

Livonia resident Barney Knorp (middle) was recently named Youth Sports Coach of the Year during the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's annual Community Service Awards ceremony. Knorp was nominated by Barb Gamber of Livonia Parks and Recreation. He was cited for his enthusiasm, knowledge, dedication and passion for making a difference in his community and the lives of his youth participants. Knorp has coached for the T-Ball, Coach Pitch and girls slow-pitch softball leagues in Livonia for six years. Knorp has also coached for the Livonia Junior Athletic League and the Livonia Storm (girls softball) in recent years. He also coached two soccer teams through the Livonia City Soccer Club and is active in fund raising and behind-the-scenes activities. Presenting the award to Knorp is MRPA Executive Director Dennis Schornack (left) and Karen Kapchonick of Livonia Parks and Recreation.

Spartans, Chargers garner victories in MIHL Showcase

After going scoreless the first two periods, Livonia Stevenson rallied to beat Wyandotte Roosevelt, 2-1, in a battle of state-ranked teams Saturday in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase at Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

Stevenson, ranked No. 7 in Division 1, is 11-6-4 overall, while Wyandotte, No. 5 in Division 2, is 15-5-1.

Jake Poynter's first goal of the season with only 2:39 left in the final period proved to be the game-winner off assists from John Vella and Evan Malick.

R.J. Kierdorf's goal from Kierdorf and Justin Shureb 1:14 into the final period evened the score at 1-1 after the Bears' Tony Galati scored at 7:20 of the opening period.

"It was a gutsy win after being down 2-0," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We showed a lot of heart and I'm happy with the effort."

Stevenson goaltender Richie Dunphy stopped 15-of-16 Wyandotte shots. The Spartans had a total of 20 shots on goal.

CHURCHILL 5, ANCHOR BAY 3: In the MIHL Showcase Saturday morning at Trenton, Livonia Churchill (7-9-4) defeated Fair Haven Anchor Bay (6-11-2).

BOYS HOCKEY

"It was a good comeback," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team earned a split in the Showcase. "We needed one of them badly. I thought we played pretty well over the weekend."

The Tars jumped out to a 2-0 lead on goals by James Mackey (at 2:04) and Ryan Teal (at 10:21).

But Churchill's Alec Smythe answered from Ryan Cioch and Drew Carlson at 10:21 followed by Cioch's power-play goal from Mike Woynick at 10:58.

In the second period, Anchor Bay's Mike Wyszczelski scored at 1:44, but Churchill stormed back with three unanswered goals.

Drew Sieber tied it at 3-all at 2:28 of the same period from Woynick and Drew Carlson.

In the final period, Christo Papaionnou scored the game-winning goal from Scott Hamill and Stefan Kubus at 8:33. Smythe notched his second with only 2:48 left from Sieber and Kody Strong on a power-play effort.

DEXTER 6, FRANKLIN 2: Matt Sterling notched a hat trick and Mike Clutterbuck added a pair of goals and one assist Saturday

as the host Dreadnaughts (5-12-2) stopped Livonia Franklin (0-20).

Chris Carender chipped in with a goal and assist for Dexter, which outshot the Patriots, 25-18.

Cyle Slinder staked Franklin to a 1-0 lead on assists from Tyler Barnes and Kevin Webb, but the Patriots did not score again until the third when Jacob Wirgau found the net from Robbie Ringe and Tyler Barnes.

SALEM 9, FRANKLIN 1: Kyle Powers notched a hat trick and one assist, while Patrick Patin collected three assists Friday as the Rocks (12-7-3, 5-1-2) clinched the KLAAs South Division title with a mercy-rule win Friday over host Livonia Franklin (0-19, 0-8) at Edgar Arena.

Nick Hayes and Garrett Berg each added a goal and assist for the Rocks, who outshot the Patriots 36-18.

Other Salem goal scorers included Michael Hochkins, David Russell, Nick Gennety and Wesley Carr.

Robbie Ringe scored from Cyle Slinder for the Patriots, who trailed 3-1 after one period and 7-1 after 30 minutes before Salem put it away with two goals to end the game with 12:46 left in the final period.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

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.
Saturday, Feb. 21
Clarenceville vs. U-D Jesuit at UD Mercy's Callahan Hall, 1:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Feb. 20
Churchill vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
Catholic League Girls Finals at O.L. St. Mary's, 2:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Feb. 19
Livonia Blue vs. Northville at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Feb. 19
Huron Valley at Det. Urban, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 7 p.m.
Hamtramck at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
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 BOWLING
Thursday, Feb. 19
Clarenceville vs. Truman at Country Lanes, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
Catholic League Championships at Westland's Oak Lanes, 9 a.m.
PREP WRESTLING
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, 9:30 a.m.
Division 1 at Temperance Bedford, TBA.
Division 3 at Richmond, TBA.
Division 4 at Lutheran N'west, TBA.
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.
Division 4 at Bishop Foley, 4 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 21
U-M-Dearborn at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 21
U-M-Dearborn at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 97 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 89 Feb. 10 at Churchill
200-yard medley relay: 1. Churchill (Jacob Rimatzki, David Vincetini, Richard Scully, Brandon Guild), 1:56.53.
200 freestyle: 1. Ben Baumgarten (WLC), 2:02.49; 2. Greg Van Gorp (LC), 2:03.91; 3. Alex Lamerand (LC), 2:08.88.
200 individual medley: 1. Artur Stepanov (WLC), 2:20.94; 2. Rimatzki (LC), 2:30.75; 3. Jeffrey Stevens (LC), 2:38.14.
50 freestyle: 1. Garrett Leidich (WLC), 24.76; 2. Nate Larsen (LC), 24.85; 3. Guild (LC), 25.89.
1-meter diving: 1. Tyler Esmacher (WLC), 215.30 points; 2. Andrew Richards (LC), 201.30; 3. Travis Holt (LC), 195.35.
100 butterfly: 1. Vicentini (LC), 1:04.03.
100 freestyle: 1. Baumgarten (WLC), 52.7; 3. Mikhail Burshteyn (LC), 57.5.
500 freestyle: 1. Mac Drees (WLC), 5:40.12; 2. Lamerand (LC), 5:40.18.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Central (Stepanov, Mac Drees, Leidich, Baumgarten), 1:40.26; 2. Churchill, 1:41.89.
100 backstroke: 1. Stepanov (WLC), 1:05.44; 2. Vicentini (LC), 1:05.78; 3. Stevens (LC), 1:12.94.
100 breaststroke: 1. John Molnar (WLC), 1:14.36; 3. Van Gorp (LC), 1:19.25.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Churchill (Larsen, Rimatzki, Vincetini, Van Gorp), 3:54.17; 3. Churchill, 4:17.79.

Blazer skaters drop pair of decisions

Livonia Ladywood has had trouble putting the biscuit in the basket while suffering a pair of losses in the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League.

On Tuesday, Alexa Quinlan notched a hat trick and assist to lead Grosse Pointe North to a 6-1 victory over the Blazers at Canton's Arctic Edge.

Kailey Sickmiller, Lauren Walsh and Megan Bergeron all scored first-period goals

GIRLS HOCKEY

to stake the Norsemen, now 12-6 overall and 11-5 in the league, to a 3-0 lead.

Shelby Kucharski scored her 43rd goal of the season for Blazers, who fall to 9-9-1 overall and 7-9-1 in the league.

Ladywood goalie Jessica Pavela made 28 saves.

On Saturday, Syd Sakwa had two goals and one assist

to pace host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood to a 5-1 triumph over Ladywood.

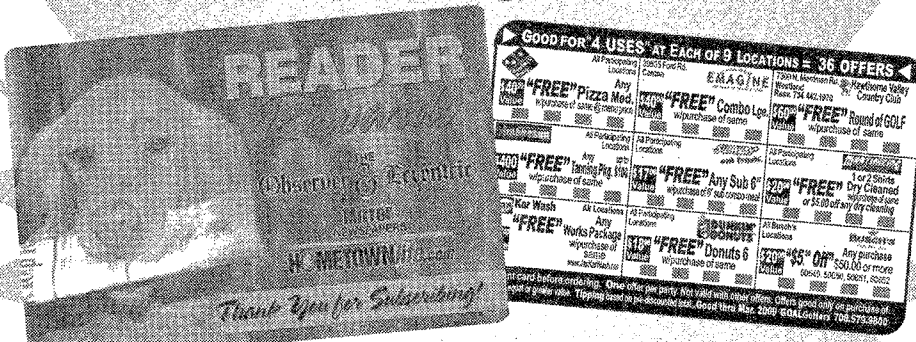
Caley Chelios added a goal and assist, while Amanda Schimpke and Jeannie Wonders also scored for the Cranes (11-7, 9-7).

Kucharski tallied her 42 goal of the year from Emann Freij to make it 1-1 after one period.

Pavela made 34 saves, while Kingswood's L.C. Smith had 12 saves.

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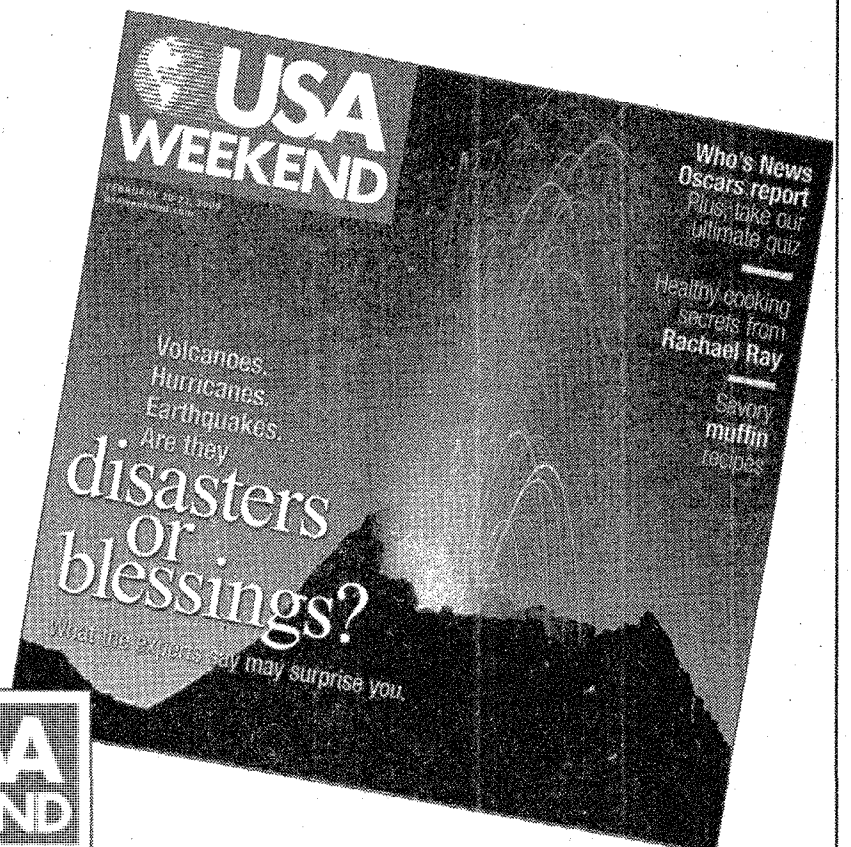
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Reader Rewards

Special Report:

The good side of disasters

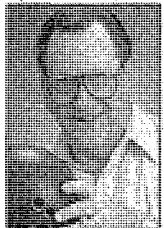
Experts shed light on how natural disasters can actually help our Earth.



This Sunday in... OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS & MIRROR NEWSPAPER

Think pink - Metro USBC event to aid breast cancer awareness

Bowl for the Cure. That short sentence says it all, and there are a reported 200,000 new cases of breast cancer detected each year. The U.S. Bowling Congress has declared February as Bowl for the Cure month. The local bowling community will collectively bowl in a fund-raiser to help wipe out breast cancer. Hosted by the Metro Detroit USBC, the event will start at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Fairlanes Bowl in Madison Heights. (Check-in is at noon.) This will be a fun-filled day for the participants with a program of 9-pin no-tap bowling, pizza, shoe rentals, 50-50 drawings and raffles.



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

There's a donation is \$25 at the door, or \$20 if you pay and register by Feb. 23. Entry forms are now available on the counters at all area bowling centers. Checks must be made out to MDUSBC Bowl for the Cure. You can mail or deliver checks to Fairlanes at 29600 Stephenson Highway, Madison Heights, MI 48071. For more information, call Aileen Hnidz at Fairlanes Bowl (248) 548-9333. So think pink this month. In my previous Ten Pin Alley,

I made mention of the upcoming USBC Town Hall Meeting, which will be from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at the Clarion Inn in Romulus. It is free and open to any USBC bowler. Key officers of the USBC will be on hand to deliver their message as part of a coast-to-coast blitz. The program will also include a question-and-answer session, so it's up to you, I and everyone to be heard through our own organizations for the betterment of bowling now and in the future. John Nolen, 29, of Waterford, captured the United States Bowling Congress Masters title on Sunday for his first PBA Tour title, beating Danny Wiseman, 202-193, in the finals televised on ESPN.

He won \$60,000 and a two-year PBA Tour exemption. Nolen was the top qualifier going into match-play in the USBC Masters in Las Vegas, Nev. and led the field of 452 of the best pro and amateur bowlers in the world. He compiled 15-game pin total of 3,420, while averaging 228. It's good to see one of our local area talented bowlers enjoy success of the pro tour. Every year at this time, the Bowling Writers Association of America (BWAA) selects a male and female Bowler of the Year where a vote is conducted by mail and e-mail to determine the winners. On the strength of an unprecedented streak of three consecutive

PBA Majors titles, Norm Duke of Clermont, Fla., has been elected BWAA Male Bowler of the Year for 2008. Likewise, Lynda Barnes of Double Oak, Tex. has earned Female Bowler of the Year honors after winning back-to-back titles and \$80,000 in prize money in the USBC Queens and USBC Clash of Champions. Barnes' husband, Chris, was runner-up among the men. It would have been a most unusual family sweep had it happened. Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, and a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by e-mail at: tenpinalley10@yahoo.com.



District champions

On Feb. 8, the Livonia Midget B Flames captured the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association District 4 championship with 5-2 over the Farmington Shamrocks in the finals held at Farmington Hills Ice Arena. Members of the Flames include: Nate Armbruster, Derek Berk, Antonio Cosenza, Travis Cox, Matthew Cusin, Phillip DeSantis, Zach Donbrook, Jacob Huhta, Coty Kazmierczuk, Tommy Kreitzer, Matt Kurdziel, Scott Martinelli, Tony Mifsud, Justin Osborn, Matt Parker, Brandon Paulus, Jake Reed and Anthony Vendittelli. The coaching staff includes Jim Reed, Mark Paulus, Dennis DeSantis and Chuck Williams. The team manager is Sheryl Huhta.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CCHA lauds goalie Lerg

Michigan State senior Jeff Lerg (Livonia) is Central Collegiate Hockey Association goaltender of the week. He stopped 69 of 71 shots in two victories over Ohio State, including a shoot-out.

Laker swimmer excels

Grand Valley State University's Jeff Pauza (Livonia Stevenson) helped the Grand Valley State University in the men's swimming and

diving team to a runner-up finish, Feb. 11-14, in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships held Feb. 11-14 at Jenison High School. Pauza placed seventh in the 1,650-yard freestyle (16:26.9), along with a pair of 10ths in both the 500 freestyle (4:39.65) and 200 backstroke (1:55.69). Wayne State placed first in the team standings with 900 points and Grand Valley was second with 834.5.

Churchill Hall of Fame

The seventh annual Livonia Churchill Patrons and Athletics Hall of Fame induction dinner will be Thursday, March 10, at the One Under restaurant, located at 35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar starts at 6 p.m. followed by welcome and introductions at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m. and the program will run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets, if purchased by March 1, are \$35 per person (\$40 after March 1). Tickets are on sale at Churchill High School Athletic Office; or can be purchased by mail with a check made payable to CAP; C/O: Pete Charnley, CAP Treasurer, 16867 Fairway, Livonia, MI. 48154. For more information, call Dan Andaloro at (734) 4523; or e-mail dandaloro@aol.com.

Franklin baseball camp

Livonia Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier and his staff will stage its third annual Future Stars Spring Baseball Camp for boys and girls in grades 3-6 on Saturday, March 7, at the high school fieldhouse. Session I will be from 9-11:30 a.m. for hitting and base hitting skills; lunch followed from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Metro-West Steelheaders

Jim Fitkewicz, the charter captain of Marble Eyes, with 17 years of experience fishing for walleye on Saginaw Bay, will be the featured speaker at a meeting for the Metro-West Steelheaders beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads. He will discuss the use of his Hot 'n' Tots (crawler harnesses and spoons). Fitkewicz is also the designer of the new Eyelimiter lures. Spring and summer walleye fishing will also be the focus of Fitkewicz's presentation, which will also cover how to obtain your charter captains' license. For more information, call Bill King at (734) 420-4481.

Stevenson softball clinics

The Livonia Stevenson coaches and players will offer a pair of softball clinics for girls in grades 4-8 including defensive (fundamentals) skills from 9 a.m.-to-11 a.m.; followed by offensive skills (hitting, bunting, base running) from noon to 2 p.m., both on Saturday, March 14, at the high school fieldhouse. The cost is \$30 for each clinic (if postmarked by March 1). The cost is \$40 for each clinic at the door. Checks, along with a registration form and signed release, should be made payable to: Stevenson H.S. Athletic Department, Rob Witherspoon, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152. For more information, call Witherspoon at (734) 732-5883; or e-mail rwithers@livonia.k12.mi.us.

Sportfishing club

The Huron Valley Sportfishing Club's next monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday Feb. 19, at American Legion Post 200, 11800 Michael St. Taylor (take Brest Road west of Telegraph to the hall). Visitors are welcome and club members will demonstrate making crawler harnesses, stinger hooks, jigs and jigging, Dipsy Diver and planar board techniques, along with trolling with bottom bouncers. For more information, e-mail Rich Montre at rmontre@juno.com.

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 1200 sq. ft. guest quarter, incl. heat, no smoking, no animals. \$950/mo. 517-927-9627

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Updated 4 bdrm colonial, finished bsmt. \$1795/mo. (possible land contract sale) Call: 248-641-1887

CANTON 44144 Saltz - 3 bdrm - Open House Sunday, 3-5pm or call for appt 734-658-7738

FARMINGTON HILLS 10 Mile/Middlebelt, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, remodeled in 2007, no bsmt, no garage, \$700/mo + utilities. Call: (248) 672-2200

FARMINGTON HILLS 12 Mile & Drake. Executive 4 bdrm Colonial, two fireplaces. \$1750/mo. 248-650-9098

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, 2 full bath, 1000 sq. ft., appliances, garage, lg. backyard. \$950/mo. (248) 342-0314

GARDEN CITY 28933 JAMES - Clean 3 bdrm updated home, finished basement w/laundry room, all appliances, 2.5 car garage, fenced yard. \$1100. 734-674-1764

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

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

PLYMOUTH 289 E. PEARL ST. - Old Town - 3 Bdrms, bath, basement. New carpet; fenced yard. No pets! Ed Hines Park. Water included. \$765/ month. 248-207-8805

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

REDFORD SOUTH Charming 3 bdrm, many updates, sec 8 okay, \$900 + sec. 866-250-2497 ext. 4005.

SHELBY TWP Executive home, 4 bdrm, neutral colors, inground pool. \$2100/mo. 248-650-9098

SOUTHFIELD 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt., immed. occupancy, lease w/ option, easy terms. \$1,200. 718-253-0106

WESTLAND 3 bdrm, 2.5 car, newly updated, nice neighborhood. \$750/mo + \$1200 sec. Sec. 8 ok. 313-815-7226.

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Westland-Garden City

Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

For your princess

To celebrate the introduction of the new line of Disney youth bedroom furniture, Art Van Furniture is hosting a special Princess event at its Westland store at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Little girls will be treated like a princess for a morning - complete with gowns and tiaras! The morning will feature breakfast, story telling and party favors. Tickets are \$5. Seating is limited, so to reserve a spot call (888) 619-2199. The Westland store is on Wayne Road, north of Warren Road.

Give a pint

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

Winterfest Bowling

If you have never participated in the Westland Chamber of

Commerce's annual Winterfest Bowling event, this is the year to start. Planned for Saturday, Feb. 21, the fun-filled afternoon at Westland Bowl provides participants with a great networking opportunity, great contests and a fabulous buffet dinner at Marvso's Italian Grille. Partial proceeds to the Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund. Registration is at 12:30 p.m., with event hours 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Register online at www.westlandchamber.com or at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. For more information, call, (734) 326-7222.

ONGOING

It's a tradition

It's known for its pizza and pizza rolls, but Villa Bakery in Garden City also has been preparing handmade breads, cookies, pastries and holiday items since 1964. All of the recipes are original Villa Bakery creations and are prepared daily to give the products that special fresh homemade taste. You'll also find a

wide assortment of premium, top quality domestic and imported (Italian) deli meats and cheeses. Villa Bakery is a family owned and operated business and its goal is to provide its customers with prompt, friendly service and the highest quality foods. Villa Bakery is at 6237 Middlebelt, north of Ford, in Garden City. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday. For more information or to place an order during business hours, call (734) 425-6245.

Pizza and ribs

If you're fan of Hickory BBQ & Grill's barbecued ribs, you can now get them at Toarmina's Piizza stores. Toarmina's is selling Hickory's award-winning spare ribs along with its award-winning Soul (BBQ) Sauce at its 12 area locations. You'll find a Toarmina's at 32785 Cherry Hill, Westland, call (734) 728-0060; 8006 N. Wayne Road, Westland, call (734) 522-7900, and at 1311 S. Wayne Road, Westland, call (734) 729-4460. Or find other locations online at www.toarmi-

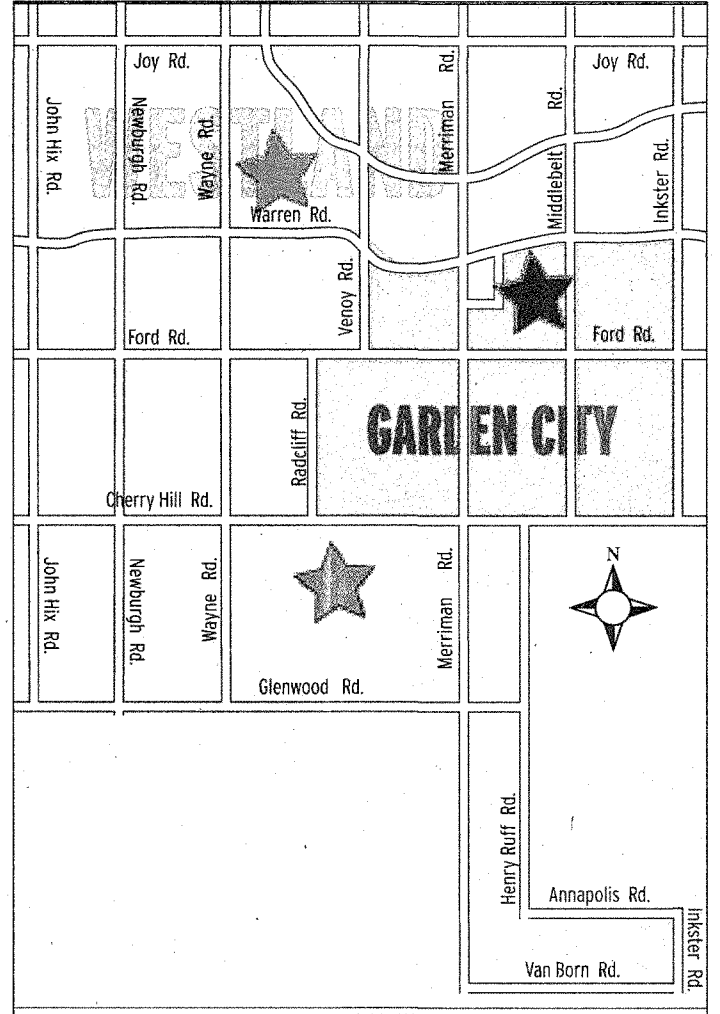
nas.com/loc.htm. And don't forget to join Hickory BBQ & Grill's e-mail club at www.hickorybbq.net to get coupons.

Not gone yet

There's an opportunity to find a deal at the Circuit City store on Warren Road, west of Wayne Road in Westland. The electronics giant has been liquidating its stores after failing to find a buyer, and the going-out-of-business sale should last through March, after which the store will be closed.

SEND IT

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



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dario's Italian Eatery is a family affair, with Mary Hauk (foreground, left), mother Lillian Hauk, children Mary (from left), Rachel and Andrew Churilla and employees Ryan Sznry, Jim Corbitt and Suz Hurst working there.

Dario's - It's a family affair

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

We are a family owned and run restaurant as well as having some awesome employees. My three older children Mary Churilla, 21, Andrew Churilla, 20, and Rachel Churilla, 19, are all active in the restaurant as well as the farm and farm market we work and run in Canton, at the corner of Ford and Beck. Dominic, 6, is happy to eat, but his training is still ongoing.

We have very strong ties to Garden City, previously Nankin Township. The road John Hauk is named after my great uncle. My grandparents' farms were originally at Ford and Merriman, also Ford and Middlebelt. They were forced out with the urban sprawl and settled in Canton Township in 1919 where I currently still live. It only seems fitting to have a business back were it started and next to my uncle's road.

We are still actively farming, so when produce is in season you will find it here at the restaurant along with some custom homemade dishes from our family and my employees families.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Our specialty is homemade food - Italian and American. We like to prepare many different

DARIO'S ITALIAN EATERY

Business name: Dario's Italian Eatery

Address: 32293 Ford, Garden City

Name and Title: Mary A. Hauk of Canton, owner

Business Opened: The location on Ford Road opened July 2005.

The previous location was on Cherry Hill and Henry Ruff, which had been there for 26 years.

Hours: We have winter hours Monday through Thursday and Sunday noon-9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Summer hours begin in April are Monday through Thursday and Sunday noon-9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Number of Employees: We employ 30-50 people depending on the time of the year.

Business phone and Web site: Our Web site is dariositalianeatery.com or contact us by e-mail at dariosrestaurant@wowway.com. The phone is (734) 422-9320, fax (734) 422-9485.

dishes some you definitely would not call Italian, we call those our hillbilly Italian dishes. An example is our fried green tomatoes covered with our sauce and parmed, which are a big hit.

The restaurant has a full banquet menu which is different from our regular menu. Our private banquet room holds up to 60 people and is decorated

in traditional colors and style, which is bright and classic. You can have prime rib to herb crusted chicken to a pizza and pasta party. Wakes, showers, birthdays, Christmas parties or business meetings ... we can do it all.

We have a full line of liquor, beer, and Wines, and we carry many Michigan wines.

All of our red sauces are homemade, our soups made daily, along with breads and pizza dough. Pizzas and bread are cooked in our stone ovens which give a unique flavor to everything. On Wednesdays from 4-9 p.m. kids can come in and make their own pizza.

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

I have been in business since I was able to drive. When I asked my father if I could rent 10 acres to grow hard squash and wholesale it out, he was willing to give me the chance. That only fostered an independent and self-supporting attitude. I could only imagine being my own boss. We currently still continue to sell our fresh picked produce downtown at the eastern market. **Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?**

I have always enjoyed being a small business owner. It comes with many headache and risk but has allowed me to be around my kids and family.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

AT&T adds new cell

The activation of a new cell site in Westland will enhance AT&T wireless coverage in Wayne County. The new site is part of AT&T's ongoing commitment to expand its 3G wireless broadband network, which is the nation's fastest 3G network, according to recent data compiled by leading independent wireless research firms.

The new site will strengthen coverage along Merriman and Van Born roads and offer consumers and businesses broadband-like speed and access to the latest interactive voice, video and data applications. AT&T's 3G network, combined with an expanding lineup of 3G devices, provides customers the best in mobile communications.

"Wireless technology is vital

to keep our Michigan residents, businesses, students and communities on the cutting edge with access to increased broadband speeds no matter where they are," said Gail Torreano, president of AT&T Michigan. "Over our 130-year history, AT&T has been committed to putting new technology in the hands of consumers and this announcement continues that pledge."

In the past two years, AT&T has added more than 60 cell sites across Michigan, upgraded more than 500 sites with dual banding and 3G technology and seamlessly integrated the Dobson network in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula to expand coverage and enhance voice quality and data speed.

"Continuous enhancement of our network across Michigan

will ensure that our customers have the very best wireless experience possible — which means exceptional coverage and quality of service," said Brian Ducharme, vice president and general manager for AT&T Mobility in Michigan. "The Westland cell site demonstrates our ongoing commitment to provide our customers with unmatched wireless coverage each and every time they use their AT&T device."

AT&T's network is based on GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) technology, the most open and widely used wireless network platform in the world. The AT&T 3G network is now available in nearly 350 U.S. major metropolitan areas, including metro Detroit. For more information, go online to www.att.com.

CHAMBER CHAT

GARDEN CITY CHAMBER

Did you know "THIS" about Garden City Chamber of Commerce membership investment:

Through an affiliation with the Detroit Chamber, your Garden City Chamber membership offers group and individual coverage options in health insurance. Some plans available to include: Community Blue, a PPO; Blue Care Network, an HMO; Healthy Blue Living, an HMO with wellness incentives; Flexible Blue, a consumer-directed plan; MyBlue, an individual-billed coverage, as well

as dental, vision and prescription drugs.

Also, as a chamber member you can access a robust COBRA administration program for employers with more than 20 employees. Here's one: Just by showing your Blue ID Card, through a variety of Blue programs, employees can save on injury-prevention equipment and complementary health services, such as acupuncture and wellness and fitness centers.

Your chamber membership also provides you with the best cost-saving programs. Our exclusive member savings program saves members

money on products they use everyday like office products and cell phones and services. Your membership gives you a savings of up to 65 percent on every order with free next day delivery at Office Depot. You can also enjoy a 5-13 percent discount on new activations and renewals with Verizon Wireless.

Also for Garden City Chamber members is our chamber member marketing coupons with the *Observer* & *Eccentric Newspapers* that is good for \$50 off your advertisement with them.

Amelia Oliverio
executive director

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Orthodox church council launches Web site

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit has launched its first Web site at www.coccdetroit.com/.

The site features information about the COCC and Orthodox Christianity, directories of Orthodox parishes and monasteries in southeastern Michigan, and a calendar of events sponsored by the COCC, Orthodox parishes, and other Orthodox organizations in the metropolitan area.

"Throughout our 52-year history, our clergy and laity have devoted their energies to fulfilling our mission of promoting Orthodoxy within our community," COCC President Richard Shebib said. "Our newly designed Web site is today's vehicle for helping us reach our goals."

Haitham Fakhouri of iKonic Creations (www.beikonic.com) developed the site and will serve as webmaster.

The COCC is a 52-year-old clergy

and lay association that represents various canonical Orthodox churches in metro Detroit. Its mission is to promote Orthodox Christianity throughout the area through worship, fellowship, and charitable, educational and outreach programs.

For more information on the COCC or the Web site, contact Shebib at (734) 422-0278 or paschabooks@sbcglobal.net, or visit www.coccdetroit.com/.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY

Diversity event

You can make a difference. Recognition, Reconciliation and Renewal Initiative, a community wide meeting for all Plymouth-Canton residents. Join us in exploring our history and creating an inclusive future 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Plymouth Township Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty. Visit www.mirroundtable.org for information about efforts to create change in Plymouth-Canton. This is an effort supported by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and the Ford Foundation. RSVP to Stacy Stevens (248) 331-7036, sstevens@mirroundtable.org or to Nikol Atkins at natkins@mirroundtable.org

Open house

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

Lecture on St. Paul

During this year of honoring St. Paul, St. Priscilla Church welcomes Rev. Richard J. Cassidy as presenter of a program on the life of St. Paul 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. Cassidy is a professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Seminary and has authored many articles and books on the New Testament. For information, call Mary Rice at (734) 522-1095.

VBS preview

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

Bethany singles

Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479.

Saturday, Feb. 28, Annual Chili-Cook-Off and Uno tournament will be held 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Mel's Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster Rd., Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$5 or a pot of chili including the recipe; cash prize for winner of Cook-Off and tournament. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479 or Judy (734) 261-5630. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian-faiths.

Catholic date night

St. Michael the Archangel Marriage and Family Life Committee invites you to Catholic Date Night 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Box Bar, 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, to enjoy an evening of fellowship with other Catholic couples. The meeting is open to any couple (dating, engaged, married) who has an interest in forming, building or enhancing a strong, faith-based marriage. St. Michael's Pastoral Associate, Sharon Williams, speaks about God's plan for marriage and what it is meant to be. No charge. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207 or visit www.livoniastmi-chael.org.

Sunday night lights

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

Rush concert series

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

Midweek Lenten services

Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have midweek Lenten services on Wednesday evenings beginning 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. Pastor Gregory Gibbons preaches on the theme Father, Forgive Them. The church will have a free Ash Wednesday Soup and Sandwich Supper beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

Ash Wednesday service

7:30 p.m. Feb. 25, in Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard

at West Chicago, Livonia. Communion will be served and the mark of the ashes will be given.

A spaghetti dinner hosted by members of the Young Adult Fellowship Group will be held 6-7 p.m. Tickets \$5 adults, \$3 ages 3-12, and available at the church as well as at the door. Proceeds benefit the Young Adult Mission trip in June to Iowa. Call (734) 422-0494, or visit www.rosedalegardens.org

Lenten services

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the chapel at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Lenten Services 7 p.m. every Wednesday through April 1. Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. April 9. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

Wednesday Lenten Service Hosanna-Tabor offers a mid-week Lenten Service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Laverne, Redford. The Lenten Series will be "Places of the Passion" with the focus not on the physical locations of our Lord's passion but on the spiritual wonders of his work. A free will offering dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. prior to the service each week through April 1. For information, call (313) 937-2233. Lenten services

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Families in action workshops

The National Association for Mental Illnesses 10-week educational program begins 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills. The program is for people with a loved one diagnosed with a serious mental illness. The workshop meets every Wednesday or Thursday evening

and ends on April 29/30. The goal is to help families better understand mental illness, how it affects the family and what they can do to help. A nominal fee of \$20 per person or \$30 per couple will be charged at the time of registration. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. For information or to register, call Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197. Space is limited, so pre-registration required.

All you can eat fish fry

Mark your calendars for the return of St. Michael the Archangel Parish's "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Dinners beginning 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, and continuing March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3, in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia. Dinners feature a choice of hand-dipped fresh Alaskan cod, fried or baked, along with a large assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children ages 3-11, and free for age 3 and under. Carryout orders available at \$7 each. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200.

Free movie night

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (14175 Farmington Rd., north of I-96, Livonia) will be showing the movie "FireProof" 7 p.m. Friday, February 27, doors open at 6:30 p.m. Register at www.christoursavior.org. "FireProof" touched the hearts and impacted the marriages of millions of moviegoers. Over the span of just a few weeks, this movie showed in top box-office charts. At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never Leave Your Partner Behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb must face his toughest job ever... rescuing his wife's heart.

Blood drive

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

Clothing bank

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

Fish fry

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

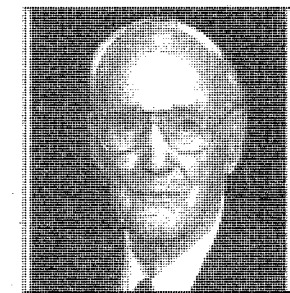


Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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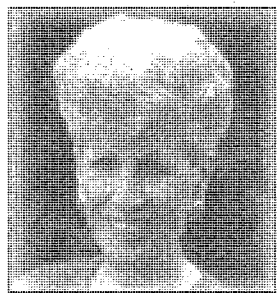
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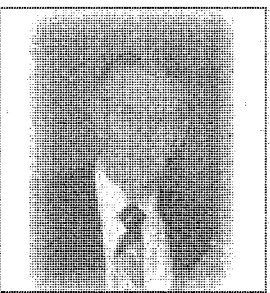
JOHN C. AKERLEY

Age 96. Went home to heaven February 12, 2009. Born November 28, 1912 in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada. He moved to Birmingham, Michigan in 1926. At 27, he met and married his first love, Lela and lived the American dream for 61 years. They were members of the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan for over fifty years. He worked for General Motors, Corp. for forty years and was retired for thirty-five years. John spent many hours restoring furniture and caning chairs. He was the loving father to Daniel Akerley (Nancy) and Judith Kortyck (Wilbert). Grandfather to Christine DeGrendel (Grant), Linda DuCharme (Steven), Karen Todd (Alan), Terrance and Alyssa Akerley. Great-grandfather of ten who he said made him great. He is survived by his beloved wife, Edna, for eight years in sunny Florida. His extended family consist of Beverly and Ed Bohlin, Jim and Diane Reiter, Bonnie and Ron Graham. Seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Largo, Florida for many years. His life has touched so many and we will love and miss him always. Memorial Service at a later date. Local arrangements by Potere-Modetz Funeral Home. On-line guestbook www.modetzfuneralhome.com



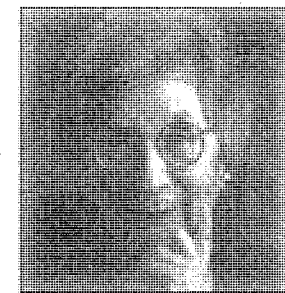
SHIRLEY IRENE CEASER

January 30, 1928 - February 14, 2009. Born in Detroit, Michigan and resided in Canton. Shirley will be reunited with her parents Willard and Helen Aho, sister Phyllis Wilson, beloved daughter Diane Kroll and grandson Craig Kroll. Survived by husband Michael Ceaser, brother Ed Aho of Arizona, sister-in-law Barbara Bain of White Lake, daughter Janice May (Gary) of Brighton, daughter Debbie Wilkinson (Ed) of Westland, son-in-law Greg Kroll of Livonia, stepson Michael Ceaser Jr. (Mihoko) of Riverview, and stepdaughter Diane Reszetar (John) of Saline. 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren also survive Shirley. Shirley was employed with General Motors in several positions and retired in 1979 from the Human Resources department. Shirley will be deeply missed and always remembered by her loving family and friends. May she live eternally in peace with God's love. A Memorial service will be held Friday, February 20, 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas A'becket, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton, MI 48188. Family requests memorial contributions be sent in Shirley's name to the American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago IL 60674 or www.honor.americanheart.org. Please sign Shirley's online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com.



ROBERT E. ELLISON

Age 84, February 15, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Bernadine. Loving father of Jean (Paul) Kurily, Joan (Larry) Witko, Carol Ellison and Cathy (Mark) Schneider. Very proud grandpa of Bryan, Kristen, Paul, Kelly, Jenny, Shaelyn and Robert. Brother of Gordon (Joyce). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Bob was always honorable and did everything with a high degree of integrity. His friends were numerous. He will be missed by all who knew him. Visitation at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia Friday from 10 a.m. until time of Memorial Service at 1 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to American Cancer Society or Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com



ARDEMIS KALOUSDIAN

Age 91, of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Died on February 10, 2009, after a heart attack. She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Sona Kalousdian (Dr. Ira D. (Don) Lawrence); son, Raffi Kalousdian (Kathleen M. Hennessey); and granddaughter, Ani Kalousdian. She was married to Diran Kalousdian until his passing in 1992. Mrs. Kalousdian was the only child of Harry G. and Zabel Kouzian. She is also survived by her cousins: Armen Topouzian and family; Armand Krimian and family; Carol (Stan) Edwards; and Lucy Ardash and family. Mrs. Kalousdian received both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her long career included serving as field coordinator for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics during World War II. She was also the Capitol District Director for the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University; University Editor at the University of Detroit; and the founding Executive Director of Project Transition, a program sponsored by the League of Catholic Women of Detroit. A great proponent of volunteerism and a vocal advocate for seniors, Mrs. Kalousdian served as Chair, Advisory Council, Area Agency on Aging-1B; Executive Board member, League of Catholic Women; Trustee, Village Women's Club Foundation; and Treasurer and Board Member, Women's Economic Club of Detroit. Friends and family will be notified about a memorial service to be held in the Spring. Individuals may make contributions in Mrs. Kalousdian's memory to the Area Agency on Aging-1B, Drawer # 1141, P.O. Box 79001, Detroit, MI 48279-1141.

REX H. "SANTA" BIRD

Age 65, of Westland, February 12, 2009. Loving husband of 25 years to Gail Bird, father to Rex A. Bird, Julie Dreon, Dawn Mayer, Jennifer West (Donny Jr.), Gary Mayer (Jaime), and 13 grandchildren. Sister Nonni (Joe) Karriman, brothers Ronald Byrd, and Leonard Bird. Along with many loving family and friends. Preceded in death by mother Bessie Konjak, John Konjak, and Marlene Byrd. Rex retired from GM 1985, after which he enjoyed driving limousines and being Santa for the neighborhood events. Family and friends are welcome to celebrate his wonderful life on February 28, 2009 at the UAW Local 163, 450 S. Merriman Rd., Westland, Michigan from 2-7pm.

WILLIAM "BILL" DEWEY

Born in Flint, Michigan, on July 19, 1918, died in San Antonio, Texas on February 5, 2009, at the age of 90. Bill grew up in Flint where he earned his Eagle Scout Badge and graduated from Flint Central High School in 1936. He graduated from Michigan State University, where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, in 1940, with a degree in Accounting. Bill served in the United States Army from August, 1941, until he was honorably discharged as a Captain in January, 1946. On February 15, 1941, he married Ruth Kittredge, who bore him four daughters. They divorced in 1975. Bill earned his CPA accreditation in 1951. He worked for Chrysler Corporation from 1951 until he retired from his position as Comptroller of the Defense Division in 1979. Bill was instrumental in the founding of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, having been an active member from the time the church was a mission of Christ Church Cranbrook. In 1989, Bill married Dorothy Walker. They had only eighteen months together before she passed away. He spent the last ten years of his life in San Antonio, Texas, near his daughter, Linda, and her children and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Henry Dewey, his brother, Jack Dewey, and his daughter Janet. He is survived by his three daughters Barb Dewey and husband Mike Hussey, Linda Shimmick and husband Jay, Patti Osborn and husband Dan, ten grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on March 7, 2009, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 5500 N. Adams Road, Troy, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Memory of Bill.

DOROTHY S. HILTY

February 12, 2009, age 94. Retired teacher with the Birmingham Schools, and longtime Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills resident. Beloved wife of the late John Carl Hilty. Dearest mother of Susan Hilty and the late John Carl Hilty, Jr. Grandmother of Carl and Daniel Zimring. Sister-in-law of Evelyn Schwarze. Also many nieces and nephews. Daughter of the late Herman and Clara Schwarze. Sister of the late Carl, Bruce, Herman, Ralph, and Fred Schwarze. Inurnment will be at White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial Tributes to Hospice of Michigan. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

BARBARA M. KETCHERSIDE

Passed away February 14, 2009. Age 78. Beloved wife of the late Charles. Dearest mother of Roxan Micol-Szymanski, Christine McKinnon, Robin Melow, Charles and Lee Ketcherside. Also leaves nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Sister of Norma Van Dyke and John Van Dyke. Services were held on Wednesday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

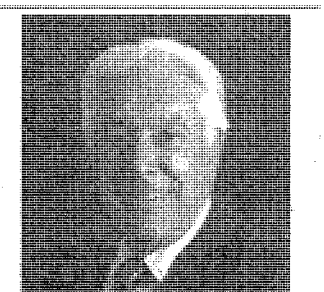
JANE CAROL MacKINNON

February 17, 2009. After a courageous 20 year battle with cancer. Age 76, of Beverly Hills. Jane was a member of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center for over 40 years where she enjoyed water color and acrylic painting. Beloved wife of Donald "Ted". Dear mother of Brad (Kristyn) and Scott. Grandmother of Emily and Robert. Aunt of Nancy Brys (Dan), Charles MacKinnon (Leslie) and Pam MacKenzie (Scott). Cousin of Ted Beatty (Patty). Also survived by many friends in Presque Isle, MI. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), Friday 3 p.m. until memorial service 6 p.m. Memorial tributes to the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RETA D. MOSSHAMER

Age 92. Of Farmington, MI. February 12, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

May You
Find
Comfort in
Family &
Friends



JAMES S. BONADEO

Age 92, of Plymouth, February 14, 2009. Beloved husband of Earlene. Loving father of Carol (David Kera) Matthews, Nancy Bonadeo, and Mark J. Bonadeo. Dear brother of Baldo Bonadeo and Lee Allegrina. Doting grandfather of Siri (Brian) Compton, Tansy Matthews, and Maia Matthews; and loving great-grandfather of Eric, Celia, Lily and Justin Compton. Builder and land developer in SE Michigan since 1947. Three term President and Lifetime President Emeritus of the Building Industries Association of Michigan. Generous Philanthropist and member of the Board of Trustees of Madonna University. The family will gather with friends Thursday 2-9 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Memorial service to be held Friday 10:30 a.m. at the Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Kidney Fund, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital or American Heart Association. To leave a message of condolence, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

Paying
Tribute
to the
Life of
Your
Loved One

Variety show spotlights church's 175-year history

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Barbara Erickson jokes that it was a little tricky to choose music to reflect the early years of Newburg United Methodist Church since she wasn't alive then. Spotlighting the journey is another story. Ever since the 175th anniversary committee decided to put on The Variety Show to celebrate the special year Erickson's been studying the history from the time the place of worship was established in 1834.

She's not only written the narration for the production but directs the nearly 75 cast members when the curtain goes up 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the church in Livonia.

Erickson directs three handbell choirs at the church, but don't expect to hear any hymns. Popular music documents each of the decades of the church's existence including Elvis in the 1950s. A quartet of barbershop singers bring back the Roaring '20s with "Down By the Old Mill Stream."

"It's a fun element of this 175th anniversary," said Erickson of Livonia. "We have a senior citizen group for the kitchen band and they'll probably steal the show. We have the kitchen band playing the Charleston, flappers to dance, a barbershop quartet for the 1890s, and the Not Ready for Prime Time Dancers in a black light number where all you see is their hands moving and their feet. We promised these ladies we wouldn't show



Gary Fry (left to right), Ken Klein, Jeff Everett, and Don Lobb sing "Down By the Old Mill Stream" as part of The Variety Show celebrating the Roaring '20s era in the 175-year history of Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia.

their faces. Almost every group in the church is doing something, the children's chorus, adult Chancel Choir. We want to celebrate the 175th anniversary in a fun way with popcorn and pop. Just bring your family and friends and come."

The church has definitely come a long way since Marcus Swift, the first circuit rider, rode in on horseback to preach to the congregation

at the site on Ann Arbor Trail, east of Newburgh Road, across from Union Cemetery (now Newburg Cemetery). Early on the Methodists joined with the Congregationalists in the area to share the church built in 1848 by the Congregationalists. In 1915 the Methodists moved the church to the corner of Newburgh and Ann Arbor Trail. This structure still exists today at Greenmead

Historical Park but is restored to the 1915 era. The present day Newburg United Methodist Church was built in 1962 on Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Today 600 members from Livonia, Westland and Plymouth and the townships of Redford, Canton and Plymouth worship at the church where Rev. Marsha Woolley is pastor. This year a number of

THE VARIETY SHOW

What: Variety show spotlights 175 years of Newburg United Methodist Church history
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
Where: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne, Livonia
Details: No charge. For information, call (734) 422-0149

events highlight the 175-year history including a closing ceremony in December.

"I think we've always been on the Trail," said Erickson. "The church and parsonage moved in 1977 to Greenmead and we still use the church for Easter Sunrise Service. There's a lot of history for this particular congregation. We didn't have a permanent minister until 1924."

Ken Klein's been attending services at the church since 1964 when members knew him as the secretary's son. While Cecelia typed away in the office, he started singing in the children's choir as a soprano and eventually worked his way down to baritone in the Chancel Choir. The four parts of the barbershop quartet performing in The Variety Show all sing in the adult choir.

"There's the sense of community from the people there," said Klein. "I've been in choir a long time. There's a connection there with people."

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

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 29319 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional Child Care Provided At All Services Youth Groups - Adult Small Groups</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Meriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church 35144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class - 8am Worship Service-English-9:30 am Bible Studies English & Spanish (All ages) 11:00 am Wednesdays Prayer Meeting-7 pm</p>	<p>"More than Sunday Services" Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>	<p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Meriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and doughs after the service</p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRD-AM 580 The WNUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Meriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth • (734) 453-5252 Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Wednesday Lenten Worship 7 pm Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>
<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia • Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25390 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7790 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicap Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com</p>		

FILTER

Cozy up with community theater

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Beat the winter blahs by escaping to a warmer world through community theatre.

This weekend, two local troupes will raise the curtain on their latest plays, just as a third wraps up production. All three shows are comedies with reasonable ticket prices, sure to bring relief from both the weather and the economic climate.

DIVINE STELLA DEVINE

Spotlight Players of Canton will present "Divine Stella Devine," Feb. 20-March 7. It's the story of an aging actress preparing for a new play, as Ginger, a "sweet Southern belle," visits rehearsal to watch her favorite star up close — and steal her role.

"It's silly, it's just silly," said Barbara Bloom, who plays Stella Devine. "There's no deep message. It's just an enjoyable and light-hearted evening."

Bloom, who lives in Novi and serves as president of Spotlight Players, discovered the play and brought it to the script reading committee. She said it was chosen because it's 'audience friendly,' and suitable for all ages.

"It's sort of a satirical look at 'Gone With the Wind' and 'All About Eve' combined with a lot of crazy characters thrown in," she said.

And since the show depicts an acting troupe in rehearsals, sets are minimal.

"We generally try to do one show a year that isn't set heavy," Bloom said.

The Spotlight Players, formerly the Plymouth Theatre Guild, is based in Canton, but draws actors and crew from throughout the region. The group presents four plays each season, two of them musicals.

Auditions are underway now



Barbara Bloom of Novi as Stella, and Meg daPonte of Canton as Ginger in "Divine Stella Devine," Feb. 20-March 8 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

for the last show of the 2008-09 season, "Pajama Game," coming in April. The 2009-10 season will add a cabaret show and a murder mystery. For now, the players are immersed in "Divine Stella Devine."

"With this one being so over the top, it's just been a lot of fun to participate in," Bloom said.

SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR

Barefoot Productions of Plymouth will present "Same Time, Next Year" tonight through March 1. The romantic comedy,

written by Bernard Slade and directed by Craig A. Hane, tells the story of Doris and George, who meet on the same weekend every year to be with each other — and away from their spouses.

The play was a Broadway hit in the '70s and a classic film in the '80s. The local production stars Betty Berryman of Canton as Doris and Benjamin Karl of Redford as George.

NOT BROADWAY, BUT IT'S CLOSE

Westland's Inspire Theatre continues its production of "It Ain't

Broadway, But It's Close" Feb. 20-21 at Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church.

The musical revue brings to life favorite show tunes like "Give My Regards to Broadway," "No Business Like Show Business," and "Singing in the Rain."

It also includes a children's chorus, which revisits songs from "Sound of Music."

The Broadway hits are strung together by a farcical plot that has a national theatre company clashing with a local troupe. The result is pure, family-friendly fun.

WINTER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Divine Stella Devine
Who: Spotlight Players, Canton
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 20-21, Feb. 27-28, and March 6-7; and 2 p.m. March 1 and 8
Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Tickets: \$13 online at www.spotlight-players.net; \$15-\$18 at the door
Call: (734) 394-5300

Same Time, Next Year
Who: Barefoot Productions, Plymouth
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 26-28; 2 p.m. Feb. 22 and March 1
Where: 240 N. Main St., Plymouth, in the Walker/Buzenberg Furniture building
Tickets: \$15 general; \$10 students/seniors 60+; (734) 560-1493, www.Ticketleap.com, or www.justgobarefoot.com

It Ain't Broadway, But It's Close
Who: Inspire Theatre, Westland
When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20-21
Where: Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland
Tickets: \$11, call (734) 751-7057.



Benjamin Karl of Redford and Betty Berryman of Canton star as Barefoot Productions of Plymouth presents "Same Time, Next Year" Feb. 19-March 1.

THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

presents the 2nd annual

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an afternoon of music, fun and games
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Sunday, February 22, 2009

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Southfield Pavilion & Sports Arena
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Free Ice Skating

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

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

The event will feature musical performances by:

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

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

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HAPPENINGS

PLYMOUTH HOSTS MARDI GRAS FUN

PLYMOUTH — Starting at Noon, Main Street will come alive with the 1st Annual Downtown Plymouth Mardi Gras Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21. Enjoy the artful Mardi Gras displays of Plymouth Canton High School Art students painted on the windows of 20 Downtown Stores. Collect beads from Downtown Merchants, win prizes, join in kid-friendly activities in the park and then rock the town with Steve King & the Ditties in a free concert in Kellogg Park at 5 p.m. The party continues into the night at any of over 30 shops, bars and restaurants, many offering a wide variety of festive foods. Call (734) 455-1453 or e-mail dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

DIA-FJC PRESENTS CIRQUE MASKED BALL

DETROIT — The Founders Junior Council of the Detroit Institute of Arts will present Cirque de Monaco Masked Ball, 7 p.m.-midnight, Feb. 28 at The Roosertail, 100 Marquette, Detroit. The event includes live DJs, '60s jazz, hand rolled cigars, a red carpet photo shoot with showgirls, signature 'Grace' cocktails, Monte Carlo-style casino games, and an after party at the Rattlesnake Club, 300 River Place Dr., Detroit. Attire is '60s chic, with masks. Tickets, \$75-\$150, benefit FJC. Call (313) 833-4005, or visit www.foundersjuniorcouncil.org.

Please see **HAPPENINGS, B9**

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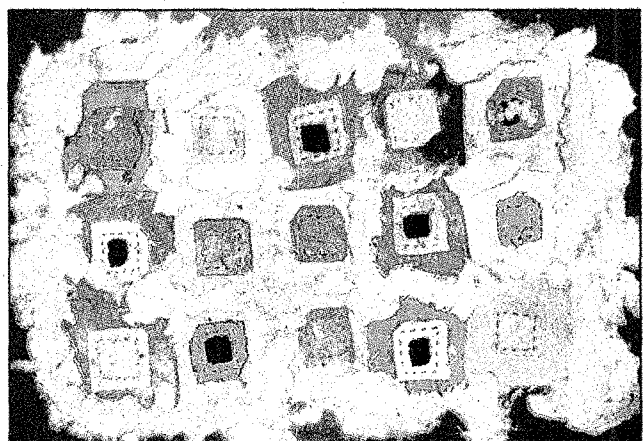
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GET OUT



Art In Stitches

Deconstruction I by Joan Potter Thomas is among works by nine Michigan artists on display during "Art in Stitches, A Fiber Arts Exhibition" at the Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady St., through Feb. 22. The exhibit features traditional to non-traditional techniques using cloths, fibers and mixed media, by Thomas, Ann Avery, Boisali Biswas, Juliana Cerra, Anne Hjemstra, Sidney Savage Inch, Lynn Krawczyk, Jackie Lams and Linda Larsen. Northville Art House is located at 215 W. Cady St. Call (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org.

ART
555: A Good Bye to the 555 "The 5 Senses," 8 p.m.-midnight Feb. 21, 4884 Grand River, Detroit, \$15 will call at www.555arts.org, \$20 at the door, proceeds benefit new location for 555, masquerade attire.
Art is in Market: Grand re-opening wine and cheese reception, 3-9 p.m., March 7, new location in Laurel Park Place, 37642 Six Mile Road, Livonia, http://artismarket.blogspot.com.
Christine's Cuisine: Gwen Joy's Red Headed Vixen, Feb. 21-March 21, opening reception, 9 p.m. Feb. 21, 729 East Nine mile Road in Ferndale, (248) 584-3384, www.gwenjoy.com.
Crop Gallery: "Conformity Exhibition: Live Conformists/Dead Troublemakers," through March, opening reception, 7-11 p.m., March 7, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9901, wcpop.com.
DEM Art Studio: Painting classes for all ages, free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.demartstudio.com.
Lotus Arts Gallery: Local Artist Exhibit, March 3-26, artists reception: 6-9 p.m., March 6; Palette and Brush Club Exhibit, March 31-April 5, artist reception, April 4; Kathleen Graf Exhibit, May 1-27, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.
Plymouth Community Arts Council: Winter Break Art Camp for Kids, Feb. 23-27, \$50 a day per child, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
Susanne Hillyery Gallery: Works by Zak Prekop, Elena Pankova, Ryan McLaughlin, Michael Wetzel, Matt Connors and Paul Bloodgood, through Feb. 7, at 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehillyerygallery.com.

BENEFITS
Newport Furnishings: Comfy Couch Concert series, Bill Bynum & Co., 8 p.m. Feb. 21, w/7 p.m. potluck, \$10-\$15 (\$3 off with donation of toothpaste, child-sized toothbrushes and warm socks), benefits Sweet Dreamzzz, 29240 Lyon Oaks Drive, Wixom, (248) 910-4941, www.comfy-couchconcerts.com.
The Roosterbait: Cirque de Monaco Masked Ball, 7 p.m.-midnight, Feb. 28, 60s chic attire with masks, \$75-\$150, benefiting FJC, Detroit Institute of Arts, (313) 833-4005, www.founder-sjnrncouncil.org.
CHAMBER MUSIC
Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.
CHORAL
Rackham Choir: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CLASSICAL
Max M. Fisher Music Center: Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22; The Music of Billy Joel & More by Michael Cavanaugh, April 16-19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5311 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.
Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m., March 14, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m., April 24, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org.
Schoolcraft College: Avolon String Quartet, March 20; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VisiTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.

COMEDY
Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14; Spring Comedy Jam with Mike Epps, Teddy Carpenter, Dominique Witten, March 21, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: Tommy Johnigan w/ Paul Piziks and MC Jason Hagle, Feb. 19-21; Rocky LaPorte w/ Dwayne Gill and MC Gary George, Feb. 26-28, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com.
The Second City: "Kwame A River: The Chronicles of Detroit's Hip Hop Mayor," through May, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.

CONCERTS
Clutch Cargo: Jesse McCartney, Feb 19, 65 E.

Huron, Pontiac, (248) 645-6666.
The Fillmore: Flooding Molly, Feb. 19; Dropkick Murphys, March 3, 2115 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
The Fox Theatre: Celtic Woman: Isle of Hope, Feb. 20, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.
Joe Louis Arena: Nickelback, Feb. 28, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com.
Michigan Theatre: John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett, Feb. 20, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (248) 645-6666.
The Palace of Auburn Hills: Fleetwood Mac, March 8, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palaceneel.com.
Royal Oak Music Theatre: MMA: Xtreme Cagefighting Championships, March 6, 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.
St. Andrew's Hall: Ben Kweller with The Watson Twins, Feb. 19, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

DANCE
Detroit Institute of Arts: The Kusun Ensemble, African music and dance, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Feb. 27, 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org.
Detroit Opera House: "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28; "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org.
FAMILY
Canton Cinema: Free matinees 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456.
Detroit Institute of Arts: Target Family Sundays - Performance, Good Mischievous Gemini, March 1; Storytelling, True Beauty, March 8, American Family, March 15 and 22, and A Mind of Her Own, March 29, all at 2 p.m., free with admission, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org.
Fox Theatre: Thomas & Friends Live! On Stage, A Circus Comes to Town, June 13-14, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.
Marquis Theatre: "Little Mermaid," March 14-April 17; "Rumpelstiltskin," Aug. 8-Sept. 20; "Pinky the Flying Ghost," Oct. 17-25; "Pinochio," Nov. 14-Jan. 24, 2010, tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up, 135 E. Main, Northville, (248) 349-8110, www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.
Penn Theatre: Saturdays @ The Penn, old fashioned variety show, March 7 featuring Nan Washburn, Conductor, Plymouth Symphony Orchestra; doors, 11:15 a.m.; music, noon; \$3 per child and adult; 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 371-0914, www.plymoutharts.com.
The Lyon Theatre: "Queen Cinderella," March 6-15, \$8 adults, \$6, children 12 and under, 125 E. Lake Street, South Lyon, www.liontheatre.org.

FILM
AMC Best Picture Showcase: See all "The Oscar Best Picture" nominees, "The Reader," "Milk," "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Frost/

Token Lounge: Parade with Marv Won, Danny Brown, Street Justice and Chief, with MTV filming "Made," March 13, 21 and older, 28949 Joy Road, Westland, (734) 513-5030.
Trinity House Theatre: Susan O'Rourke and Zig Zeitler w/ Tim Thompson, Feb. 21; Mike Mangione w/ The Mean Reds, Feb. 27; Dave Boutette and Chris Buhalis, Feb. 28; Susan Werner, March 1, 38840 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org.

MUSEUMS
Detroit Institute of Arts: "American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell," March 8-May 31; "Learning by Line: The Role and Purpose of Drawing in the 18th Century," through June 15; "Master Pieces: Chess Sets from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" through March 22, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, Call (313) 833-7900.
Plymouth Historical Museum: "In the Presence of Lincoln," through Nov. 4, 155 S. Main St. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission, \$5; \$2 for students 6-17; \$10 for families. Tour groups can be accommodated, (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org.

THEATER - COMMUNITY
The Farmington Players: "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," Feb. 20 to March 7; "Sweet Charity," April 24 to May 16; 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 553-2955, www.farmingtonplayers.org.
Destination Theatre: Canton Follies: One Hit Wonders, March 12-14, \$15, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, (734) 394-5460.
Jewish Ensemble Theatre: "Halpen and Johnson," through March 15; "Deathtrap," April 21 to May 17, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 788-2900, www.jettheatre.org.
Planet Art Theatre: "Red Light Winter," Feb. 27 to March 21, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck, (313) 365-4948.
The Village Players of Birmingham: "Pack of Lies," March 27 to April 5; "Sunday in the Park," May 29 to June 14, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham, \$15, (248) 644-2075.
Who Wants Cake: "Fuddy Meers," Feb. 20-March 16, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 556-8581.

SOUTHFIELD THROWS WINTER FUN FEST
SOUTHFIELD - The City of Southfield will present its 2nd Annual Winter Fun Fest, 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Southfield Pavilion & Sports Arena, 26000 Evergreen Road. The free afternoon of music, fun and games for the whole family includes children's arts and crafts, a petting farm, airbrush face painting, s'mores, marshmallow roast, hayrides, ice sculpture carving demonstrations, Wii gaming, a moonwalk and more. Free ice skating at the Southfield Sports Arena will be open 3-6 p.m. Music includes Paul Miles, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and Skye Island, 5-6 p.m. Call (248) 796-5130.

THEATER - PROFESSIONAL
Detroit Opera House: "Rent," through Feb. 22; "Fiddler on the Roof," March 3-8, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Fox Theatre: "Jesus Christ Superstar," 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 1, tickets \$30-\$69; "Movin' Out," March 27-29, tickets \$30-\$57; "Riverdance: Farewell Performances," April 8-12, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com, (248) 433-1515.
Gem Theatre: "Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," through March 29, 333 Madison Ave, (313) 963-9800, www.gemtheatre.com.
Meadow Brook Theatre: "Kong's Night Out," through March 8; "The Trip to Bountiful," March 18 to April 12; "By Jeeves," April 22 to May 17; "Nunsense 2: The Second Coming," May 27 to June 14, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbtheatre.com.

HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE B8

STEWART FRANCKE PERFORMS AT BORDERS

BIRMINGHAM - Stewart Francke will perform songs from his newest CD, "Alive and Unplugged at the Ark" (Blue Boundary Records and Burnside Distribution) at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 at Borders Birmingham, 34300 Woodward Ave., and 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27 at Borders Novi, 43075 Crescent Boulevard. Francke, a Huntington Woods resident, has earned awards and accolades as a solo singer/songwriter, and has also toured in support of many famous musicians, including Sheryl Crow, Warren Zevon, Chris Isaak, Robert Cray, Hall & Oates and Michael McDonald. A leukemia and bone marrow transplant survivor of 10 years, Francke often plays benefit concerts and donates his time to cancer support efforts. Call Borders Birmingham, (248) 203-0005; or Borders Novi, (248) 347-0780; or visit www.stewart-francke.com.

SOUTHFIELD THROWS WINTER FUN FEST

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DISNEY ON ICE SKATES INTO PALACE

AUBURN HILLS - Four magical worlds converge in one ice spectacular when Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Fantasy Feb. 25-March 1 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

The show features Tinker Bell and her fairy friends, Lightning McQueen, Mater and the "Cars" crew, and scenes inspired by "The Lion King" and "The Little Mermaid." Free with ticket purchase, the Disney Princess Pre-Show features an exclusive collection of enchanting ball gowns and mementos from the Disney Princess stories.

Tickets for Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Fantasy are available at the Palace of Auburn Hills Box Office, all Ticketmaster locations, The Palace Locker Room Stores and www.ticketmaster.com. To order tickets by phone, call (248) 645-6666. For information and show times, visit www.disneyonice.com.

FLIGHT OF THE CONCORDS LAND AT FOX THEATRE

DETROIT - The Grammy Award-winning Flight of the Conchords, featuring New Zealand comedy folk duo Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie, are set to perform at the Fox Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday, April 24.

Flight of the Conchords' comedy and acoustic folk music became the basis of a BBC radio series and then an American television series on HBO in 2007, also called Flight of the Conchords.

Tickets (\$38.50) may be purchased at OlympiaEntertainment.com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices, Hockleytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com.

To charge tickets by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

For additional information, call (313) 471-6611.

MORE MUSIC
Eclypse Lounge: OJ Graffitti, 10 p.m. Feb. 27, free, 21 and over, inside the Greektown Casino-Hotel, Detroit.
Magic Bag: Pat McGee Band, Feb. 26, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.
Mardi Gras in Downtown Plymouth: Steve King & the Ditties, noon-8 p.m. Feb. 21, Kellogg Park; nightlife following in restaurants and bars throughout town, (734) 455-1453.
Metro Times Blowout: One of the largest local music festivals in the U.S., 200 bands at 15 Hamtramck bars, March 4-7; pre-party March 4 at the Majestic Theater, Detroit, metrotimes.com/blowout.
Rockstar Karaoke Bar: Dirty Americans w/ Brian Schram, 8 p.m., April 11, \$5, 21 and older, 33729 Ford Road, Garden City.

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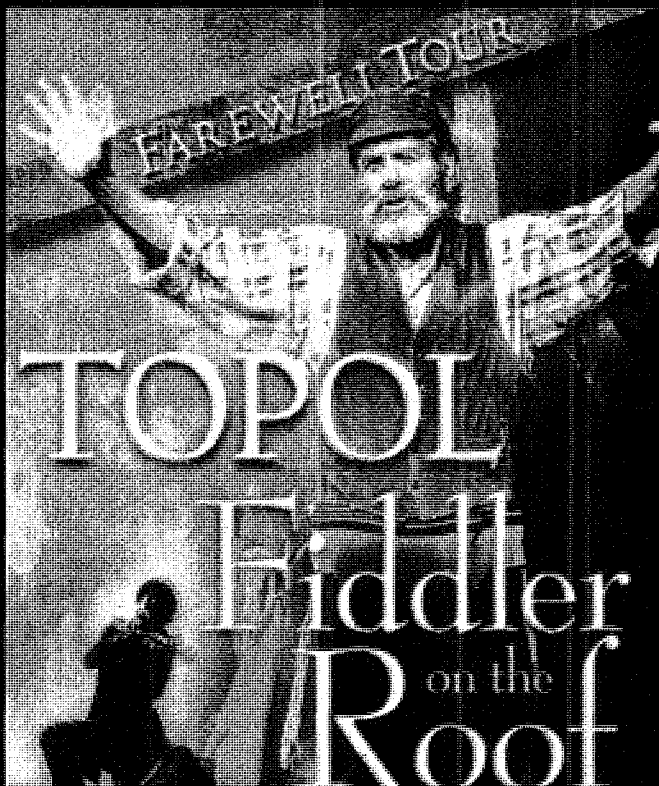
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Divine Stella Devine

written by Eddie McPherson

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FOOD & WINE



Country Nicoise Salad.

Hiller's chef hosts fish Fridays



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Whether you observe Lent or not, Hiller's Fish Fridays will inspire you to add fish to your menu.

Hiller's Markets will host Fish Fridays noon-2 p.m. every Friday for seven consecutive weeks starting Feb. 27.

Hiller's Executive Chef Peter Julian will cook up exclusive fish dishes on site, and share samples with guests.

He'll also pass out recipes and demonstrate how to prepare several kinds of fish.

One of Julian's featured recipes is Baked Wild Sockeye Salmon Patties.

Many types of salmon, from farm raised to wild, can be used in his recipe, he said. One of the more exotic

FISH FRIDAYS

Learn how to prepare dozens of kinds of fish and sample exclusive dishes made by Hiller's Executive Chef Peter Julian, noon-2 p.m., starting Feb. 27. Recipes included.

- Feb. 27, Plymouth
 - March 6, Northville
 - March 13, Ann Arbor
 - March 20, Union Lake
 - March 27, Commerce Township
 - April 3, West Bloomfield
 - April 10, Berkley
- Visit www.hillers.com for more information.

varieties Hiller's carries is Black Pearl Salmon, flown overnight direct from Scotland.

"The big to-do about the Black Pearl Salmon is that it's definitely organic food and raised on an organic diet," Julian said. "It's very popular now."

As for Julian, he uses them all.

"What's nice about the salmon patty recipe is you can buy a nice piece of salmon, have it for dinner, and if you have leftover

salmon turn it into a totally different meal," he said.

Hiller's has seven stores located in Ann Arbor, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Commerce Township, Union Lake, Northville and Plymouth.

Visit www.hillers.com.

Hiller's Executive Chef Peter Julian displays Baked Wild Sockeye Salmon Patties and Country Nicoise Salad during a recent Healthy Cooking Demonstration at Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield.

CITY BITES

FRESH PACZKIS FOR FAT TUESDAY

LIVONIA — Celebrate Fat Tuesday with traditional Paczkis at Polanka Market, 28905 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The market will mark Mardi Gras by cooking up fresh paczkis filled with mixed marmalades or plum, on Tuesday, Feb. 24. They're 99 cents each, and the bakery opens at 10 a.m. Call (734) 466-9725 or visit <http://polankamkt.com/>.

OAKLAND YWCA HOSTS ETHNIC MEAL

CLAWSON — The YWCA Oakland Branch, 839 S. Crooks Road, Clawson, is having an Albanian Dinner 5-7 p.m. Feb. 21. The menu will consist of traditional home cooked Albanian food. Tickets must be purchased in advance, \$15 for adults; \$8 for children under 10. The YWCA is located at 839 Crooks Road. Call (248) 435-9100.

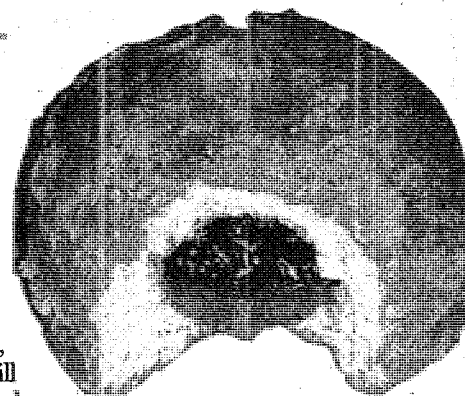
FREE 'BUY AMERICAN' COFFEE AT AJS

FERNDALE — AJ's Music Cafe, 240 W. Nine Mile Road, is offering free cups of coffee to customers who sign a promise that they will buy an American-made car as part of the national campaign IPromiseAmerica.com.

Sign The Promise online, print it out and turn it in for a free cup. <http://IPromiseAmerica.com> also includes a sign-up for other coffeehouses.

ZOUP! OPENS AT OAKLAND U

ROCHESTER — Zoup! has entered the college campus market with its new outlet at Oakland University. Zoup! is known for its changing menu of six daily soup offerings. The OU Zoup! location will be managed by Chartwells, a division of Compass Group that serves as the campus food service provider.



"We're very excited about this new opportunity for Zoup!," said CEO and co-founder Eric Ersher. Zoup! is a Michigan company which celebrated 10 years in business in 2008.

Zoup! owns and operates six corporate stores and 14 franchises throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio, with new stores coming in Connecticut, Indiana and New Jersey.

BACCO CHANGES WITH THE TIMES

SOUTHFIELD — Acclaimed Southfield restaurant Bacco Ristorante has gone smoke-free, and is presenting a new menu featuring smaller, more traditional Italian-sized portions.

"With smaller portions, we can be more creative in the kitchen and our guests can get more creative in dining," says Luciano Del Signore, proprietor and chef. "Our prices have been reduced to reflect the smaller sizes. Now, our customers can enjoy a three-course meal for the same price as what a full entrée was previously."

Each entrée will be a complete meal consisting of a protein, two vegetables and a starch on each plate. Favorites such as the Piemontese filet, veal tenderloin, high quality seafood and decadent desserts will remain available. Bacco's wine menu now includes half-pour options, for half the price of a full glass, so patrons can sample more wines throughout the course of a meal.

Bacco Ristorante is located at 29410 Northwestern Highway. Call (248) 356-6600 or visit www.baccoristorante.com.

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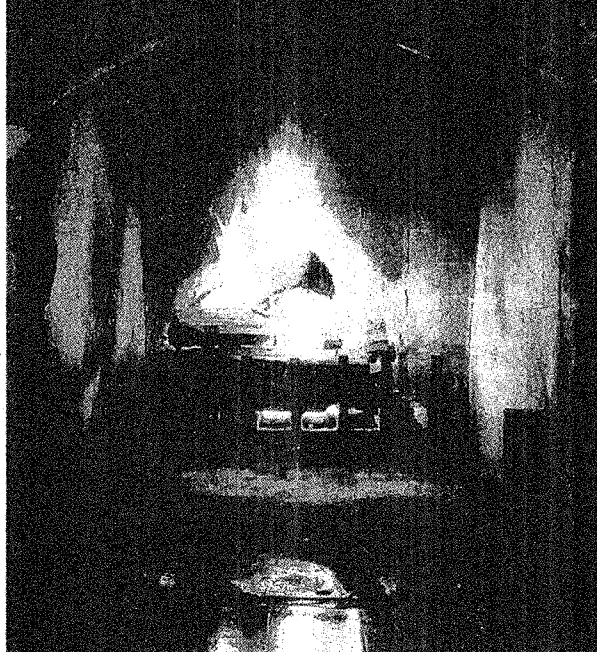


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