

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Neighbors, B7



## AROUND TOWN

### Mission: Green needs 'green'

Westland's Mission: Green, an initiative designed to promote environmental awareness and wellness practices within Westland through cost-saving, environmentally friendly programs and activities, is on the hunt for green — green backs, that is.

The program is holding its first events/fund-raiser committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, in the conference room at the Economic Growth Building located at 37095 Marquette, east of Newburgh. People who plan to attend should enter through the rear door at the east side of the building.

The committee is looking for members who enjoy event planning, showing off their creativity, and have an interest in caring for the environment. It also needs ideas and input for Mission: Green's first fund-raising effort as well as for a plan to summarize how Mission: Green will be represented at city events this year.

Mayor William Wild started Mission: Green last year to work toward implementation of a curbside recycling program as well as reduce the carbon footprint of residents and businesses in the city. A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact people have on the environment.

### Money sought to fix up parks

In hopes of improving park amenities in Westland, city leaders have decided to seek \$525,000 from the state to build a water play area, called Rainforest H2O Zone, at Tattan Park near Carlson and Ford roads, and to partially fix lead-contaminated Central City Park and install a soccer area, picnic shelter and a walking path.

On Tuesday, the Westland City Council approved a measure to apply for the money through a Michigan Department of Natural Resources trust fund. The city will seek \$175,000 for the splash park and \$350,000 for Central City Park.

If both projects are approved, the city would have to provide \$75,000 for the Rainforest H2O Zone and \$150,000 for the Central City Park projects.

## Court: Less tickets lead to deficit

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland 18th District Court will have to erase a \$659,000 budget shortfall by June 30 or dump the problem on city leaders who already are facing a money crunch that could potentially threaten services and trigger more job cuts.

District judges and court officials, saying they helped prop up the city's budget with nearly \$2 million during the last two years alone, conceded

Thursday during talks with city leaders that they are grappling with a deficit.

Chief Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli attributed the revenue shortfall largely to a collective decision by Westland police to curb their ticket-writing efforts last summer. Officials said the slowdown was in response to a now-resolved labor dispute with the city administration.

"The tickets that generate the revenue just weren't being written," Cicirelli said, citing a 2,000 drop in

traffic tickets.

Her remarks came as the Westland City Council summoned court officials to a meeting to explain the sharp dip in revenues that could ultimately siphon money from the city's general fund surplus, which has hovered precariously around the \$2 million mark.

Mayor William Wild already has fought to stave off a city budget crisis partly by shaving 23 jobs, mostly by not filling positions that became vacant.

Cicirelli confirmed that the court, with a \$4.7 million budget this year, has trimmed a probation officer and a court officer from its ranks, leaving 33 full-time employees, two judges and two part-time magistrates.

In another revenue-busting move, Councilman Charles Pickering criticized what he called a "conscious decision" by city officials to reduce alcohol-enforcement efforts, but Police Chief James Ridener said he

Please see TICKETS, A2

### Ready to rock

The T-shirt Kayla Duka of Westland wears lets the audience know she's performing "Best of Both Worlds" from Disney's popular "Hannah Montana" TV show. Kayla was the first act for the Burger Center for Students with Autism's annual talent show. For story and photos, see today's Education Page, A4.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Wayne-Westland updates high school textbooks

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The amount of money the Wayne-Westland Community Schools has spent on new textbooks in the past 18 months has topped \$1 million.

The school board this month approved the purchase of seven sets of mathematics and science books for the high schools, totaling more than \$242,000.

"Since July of 2007, we have

spent \$1.2 million on major textbook adoptions, and that doesn't include the ancillary things," said Superintendent Greg Baracy.

The latest purchases approved this month include new pre-calculus books for grades 11-12 and calculus books for grade 12, both published by Pearson Prentice Hall. The books replace textbooks with copyrights dating back to 2001 and 1999, respectively.

"One of the key things was that we

wanted to do was make sure the pre-calculus aligns with the curriculum. We hope to increase the number of students attending college," said teacher Susanna Smelcer. "We looked at the technical component to try and make sure the calculus aligns with the AP (Advanced Placement) calculus."

"It was important to make sure that students will be successful in AP calculus," added Donna Lochlear, director of secondary development.

The pre-calculus book is written with a high school student in mind. The book it replaces was a college-level book, Lochlear added.

The board also approved the purchase of six high school science books for chemistry and accelerated chemistry, physics and accelerated physics for grade 11 and human anatomy and physiology and astronomy for grade 12 as well as two different sets of

Please see TEXTBOOKS, A2

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## 'Backbone of city': AFSCME workers honored

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They're the workers who clear snow from Westland streets and brave bone-chilling temperatures to fix broken water lines. They process tax payments, help the city prepare for elections, keep parks spruced up and take telephone calls from sometimes-irate residents.

They're the frontline workers for this city of 86,000 people. They're the 109 employees of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602.

"These folks are the backbone of our city," Mayor William Wild said.

They often get little recognition, but that changed Tuesday after Westland City Councilman Charles Pickering

suggested publicly honoring the hourly AFSCME workers during a city business meeting that brought applause and a standing ovation.

Pickering wanted to salute AFSCME workers not only for the jobs they do, but also for their philanthropic efforts to help local charities and families in need. In short, he said, they have "touched many lives and provided rays of sunshine" for the city's less fortunate residents.

Pickering read aloud a prepared resolution noting the contributions of AFSCME employees to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, the children's Play Planet structure in Tattan Park, the Concrete Jungle skate park and to the union's adopt-a-family program during the holiday season.

"Their motto is making the

city of Westland a better place for those who live, work and play here," Pickering said, adding later, "their philosophy is simple: Give to the community that gives to them."

AFSCME workers also received accolades for helping The Salvation Army, veterans groups, donating \$5,000 to AFSCME victims of the 9/11 tragedy, and for helping with programs at the city's senior citizen Friendship Center.

Pickering, Wild and AFSCME Local 1602 President Larry Roman stood in front of the audience during Tuesday's recognition ceremony. At one point, AFSCME employees stood up in the audience, and Pickering noted that many of them not only work in Westland, but also live here.

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**Open Houses**

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.

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.

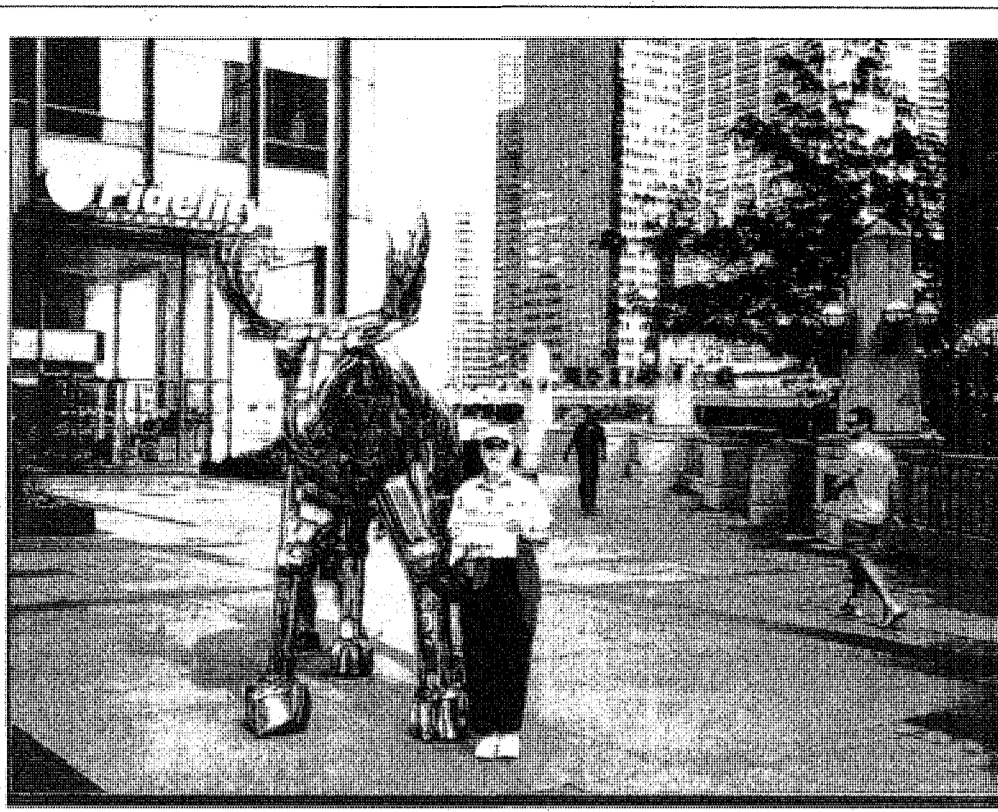
**Relay kick-off**

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



**Wish you were here**

Beverly Bettega of Westland took her Observer with her on a trip to Chicago, Illinois, in August. Bettega was in the Windy City to visit her daughter Julie Lafferty. 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.

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.

**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 at phone at (313) 224-0902 or by e-mail at District12@co.wayne.mi.us.

**Pancake breakfast**

Canton Young Marines, a national non-profit youth service organization, will host its first annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 15, at the Wayne AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland.

Menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, assorted fruit, juice, coffee and milk for \$7.50 per person. Call ahead carryouts are available by calling (734) 729-8930. Donations are gladly accepted. For more information, call Sheryl Lamarand at (734) 737-9748 and leave a message.

**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.

**Glow Skate**

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

For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

**Prison families**

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

**Caregiver support**

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones.

Caregiver Support meetings offer valuable information and assistance to individuals caring for a loved one. They're held from 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of the month at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options are available. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of the month, while the evening group meets 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

For more information on dates and times, or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

**TICKETS**

FROM PAGE A1

had to trim overtime costs at a time when he had to assign officers to respond to a spike in crime. Ridener said calls for help rose from 43,000 just two years ago to 55,000 in 2008. Wild defended the change in

law-enforcement priorities and said, "You can't write drunk driving tickets when you've got a call that a store has been held up."

Cicirelli also blamed the economic recession for the court's inability to collect some fines, but she said she hopes those payments will start to trickle in as people receive their income tax refunds.

Moreover, court officials have indicated that they can increase their revenue as long as police officers issue tickets.

"If we have the work," Cicirelli said, "we can generate the funds."

Just one drunken driving ticket brings in \$1,400 to the city, she said. Last year, however, city officials sparred over allegations by some local bars

that police officers were being too aggressive — and hurting their business — by stopping drivers as soon as they drove off.

To improve revenues, court and city officials agreed that they need to lobby state legislators to try to get certain fines increased by Lansing lawmakers. But some council members also indicated that the court needs to reassess its

spending practices.

Councilman Dewey Reeves said the court may need to examine its staffing levels and consider not providing vehicles for judges, whose salaries are about \$140,000 a year. Reeves questioned whether the court will be willing to consider "the hard cuts."

Councilman Bill Johnson suggested that rather than

eliminating jobs, the court might consider temporarily laying off some employees for just a few months.

Cicirelli conceded that she, Judge Mark McConnell and other court officials are looking at ways to trim spending. "We are looking at making major cuts," she said.

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**TEXTBOOKS**

FROM PAGE A1

safety goggles.

"We want the core classes and the elective classes to be excellent, Prentice Hall fit the need of the district," said

teacher Elizabeth Bozyk about the chemistry book. "This chemistry book has it all in one. It works for the student who's struggling in math to one of our college-bound students."

She noted that the astronomy book replaces one that has a 1999 copyright.

This is the second time in as many months that the board has approved the purchase of new textbooks. In January, it approved spending more than \$200,000 on new social studies books for the second, third and 10th grades.

Baracy pointed out that the science books adoption process took 2 1/2 years with the committee also looking at what is taught to eighth- and ninth-graders. The purchase also includes 10 data projectors and carts and CPS clickers to assess knowledge instantaneously.

"This is the end of a long process," he said. "Our students are being provided with the best, up-to-date, topnotch books and the teachers picked them. It's tremendous to have so many teachers put in the time. Kudos to Aggie and the Textbook committees. They've done an excellent job."

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# Students give gymnasium a fresh look

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The gymnasium at the Cambridge Center has a fresh new look, thanks to efforts of students who attend the alternative high school.

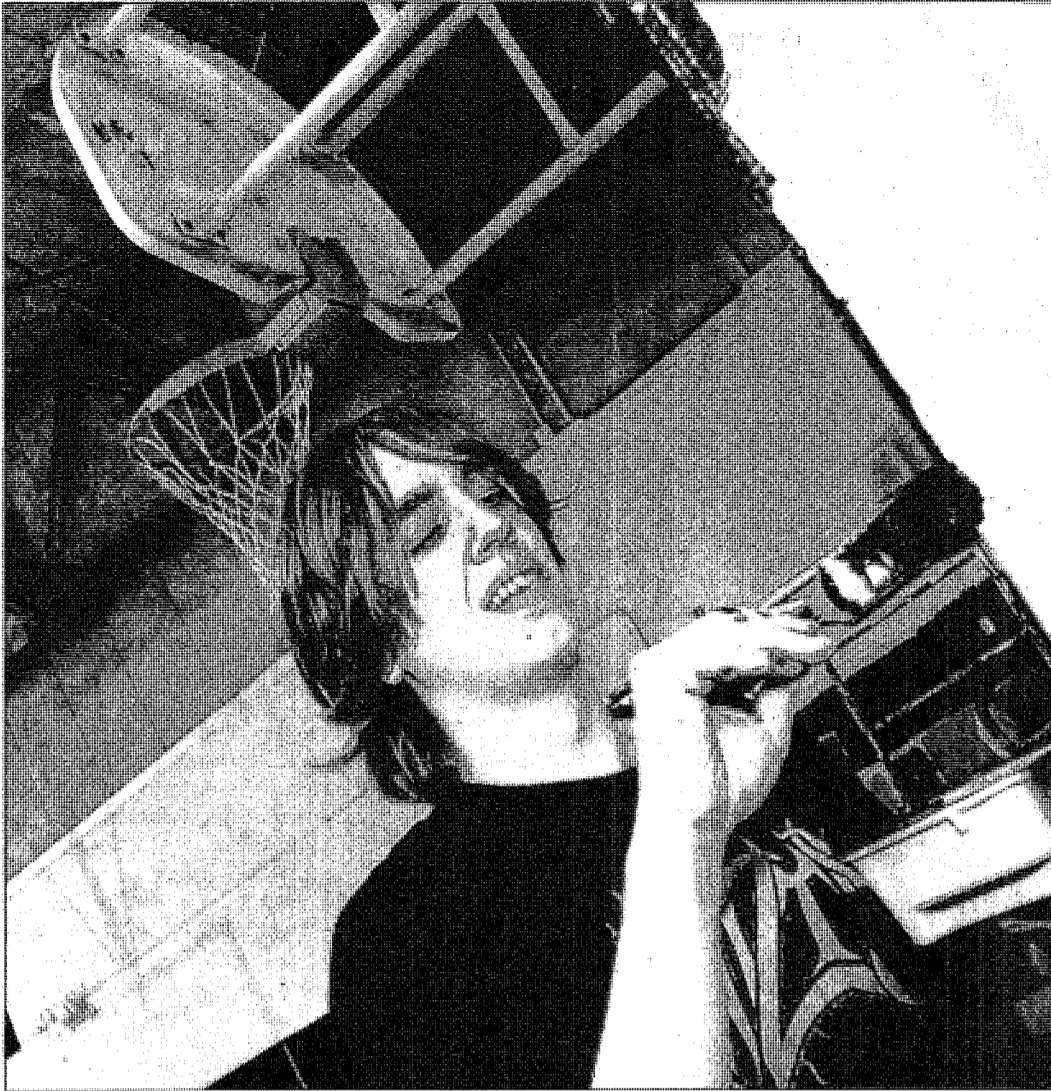
A group of students lead by Cambridge graduate Justin McCoy painted the walls in white with lines of black and gray, the school's colors. Even the plywood that enclosed the old stage was painted. Still to be done is the Cambridge logo, a panther, and sports items.

"Justin was the lead painter, he came up with the design," said Debbie Eves, assistant director of adult and community education. "We have been complimented by the superintendent (Michelle Cline), board member Roy Watts, the Burger East staff and the referees for our basketball games."

McCoy graduated from Cambridge in January but comes back to his alma mater to be the sound man for the basketball games. Eves described the Garden City resident as "a responsible young man with quiet talents."

Eves came up with the idea last year, and director Jack Pelon agreed. Using money made from the center's pop and candy machines, they were able to buy the white, black and gray paint.

Joining McCoy in painting the gym were students Eric McGuire of Westland, Eric Brooks of Garden City,

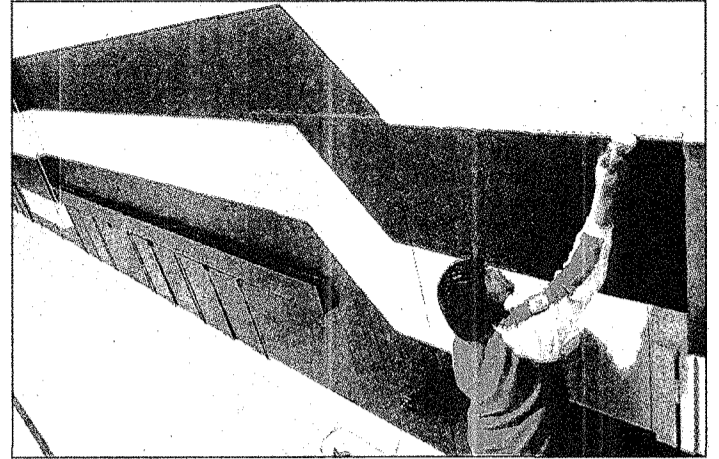


Cambridge Center student Eric McGuire of Westland helps with the strips being painted on the gym walls.

Onique Adams of Inkster and Ariel Robinson. They worked around the building schedule, painting the walls on Fridays and Saturdays. The project took three weeks to complete and, according to Eves, the students worked

12-hour days to finish it. Pelon and Eves have worked hard to renovate the former junior high school. With a new coat of paint in the gym, their now looking to fix the bleachers and create a technology classroom.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cambridge Center student Eric Brooks of Garden City touches up the wall where the new black and gray strips were painted by students.



Cambridge Center graduate Justin McCoy of Garden City gives instructions to student Ariel Robinson on how far down to paint the black strip.

"We've visited Schoolcraft College to get some ideas from them," Eves said.

The Cambridge Alternative High School has 350 students. So far this year it has seen 24 of its students graduate in November and

28 in January. Another 23 are expected to finish their schooling in March. Eves estimate that the high school will graduate 133 students by the end of the school year.

For more information about the alternative high school program, call (734) 762-8430.

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## Applications sought for League of Women Voters scholarship

High school students are being invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship that will be presented by The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County in June.

The scholarship is available to a qualified United States citizen, male or female, college undergraduate. Applicants need to meet the following criteria:

1. Reside in the league's service area of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Wayne County portion of Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne or Westland.

2. Attend a Michigan college or university.  
3. Major in government, political science or public policy.  
4. Be entering the third or fourth year of undergraduate

studies. Additional information and the scholarship application can be found at the League's Web site at [www.lwvnmw.org](http://www.lwvnmw.org). Click on 2009 Scholarship

Application. The deadline for applying is April 17. The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work, safeguarding democracy, leads to civic improvement.

### Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts make these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do they have low vision.

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"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use.

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's ability to carry out necessary independent activities.

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OE08040925

# EDUCATION



Jonathan Walker of Redford had the moves and the groove of Michael Jackson in his version of "Thriller."

## Students 'shine' at annual talent show

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The stars came out from an afternoon of rock'n'roll. Michael Jackson was there. Kiss made an appearance. Even Bob Seger put in an appearance ... Well, sort of.

Students at the Burger Center for Students with Autism put on their best rock star faces and took to the stage recently to present a talent show that had something for everyone.

"It's amazing for us to see," said James Boogren, the center's associate director. "We like to think we know the kids, but with this, they show us

another side."

The students showed off their moves, "strumming" guitars and singing with performances ranging from a simple children's song, *Wheels on the Bus*, by Logan King-Campbell to a rocking rendition of *Hound Dog* right down to Elvis Presley's swivel hips by Brandon Davis.

Robyn Castle and Donna Lober's Crew - Brandy Abgell, Rylee Crawford, Carmela Dean, Chelsey Goslin, Erica Hall, Trinity Irby, Nicole Johnson, Tamara Little, Renee Mills, Mary Ann Muldoon, Jeni Ottathengil, Meghan Perkins and Lauren Wadrzck - high kicked their way into the



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jared Rudolph of Taylor impresses the audience with his feats of prestidigitation as Jared the Masked Magician.

hearts of the audience, drawing loud applause for their dance routine set to the music of Cyndi Lauper's *Girls Just Want*

to Have Fun.

Gladys Knight and the Pips may have made *Heard It Through the Grapevine* a hit, but Charlotte Yaeger and her backups Ameer Abdelrahman, Colin King-Campbell, Michael Lomas and Jordan Lee Peterson gave it a California Raisin spin dressed as bunches of grapes and singing into oversized telephones.

"They've been practicing for weeks, it's not easy because they're not in the same classroom," teacher LeeAnn Dye said. "They've been getting together and working their heinies off."

Jonathan Walker glided across the stage in his version

of the Michael Jackson hit, *Thriller*, while Kayla Duka impersonated preteen idol Miley Cyrus with her performance of *Best of Both Worlds*. And Brandon Davis rocked with *Hound Dog*.

And Gabrielle Kreza didn't need the platform shoes and face makeup to get the audience into her performance of the Kiss hit, *I Want to Rock and Roll*. She got help singing the chorus from the members of the audience like Ryan Goldsworthy of the DSHL Band who were waiting to perform *Seek and Destroy*.

There was even feats of prestidigitation, as Jared (Rudolph) the Masked

Magician amazed his audience with his ability to make things disappear and guess which one of three items his helper had selected.

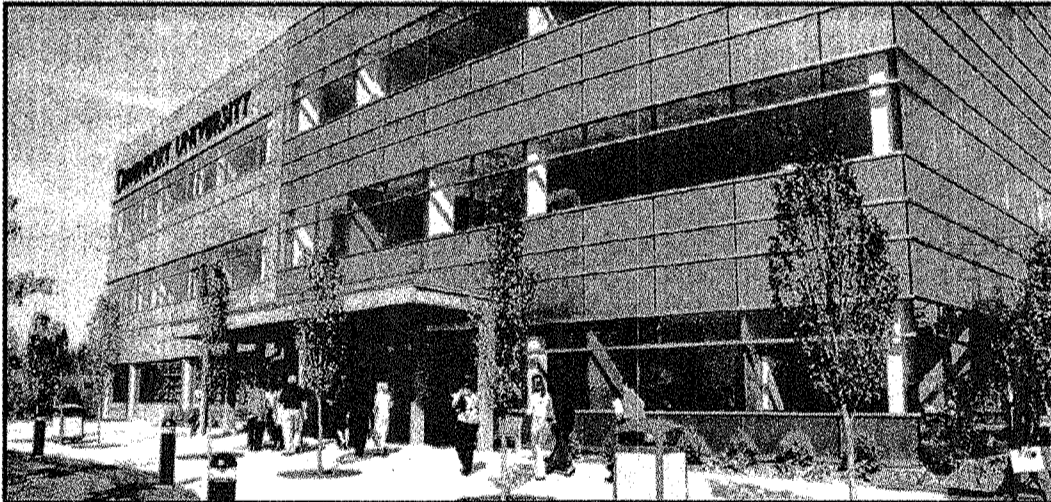
"Is it the pot of flowers?" he asked.

This is the sixth year the students have presented the talent show.

"It's wonderful to see how capable and entertaining our students can be," said Susan Pinto, talent show co-chair. "They really shine on stage."

"The staff put a lot of time into this, but to see the kids come out for this, it's hard to find words," Boogren added.

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# Dinner, cake auction benefits 3-Day's Pink Panthers team

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cheesy cauliflower/broccoli soup and quiche will be on the menu when the Hines Park Pink Panthers host A Taste of Pink Dinner and Cake Auction on Friday, Feb. 27, in Westland.

The team will be participating in the Susan G. Komen Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day Aug. 14-16 and will use Friday's event to help raise the \$2,300 each team walker must raise to participate in the event.

"The team start a few years ago and last year we were more than 60 strong and raised over \$125,000," said team member Rose Cerroni.

Members come from as close as Livonia, Westland,

Dearborn Heights and Detroit and from as far away as Fenton and Rochester. They will begin training for the 60-mile walk next month, Cerroni said.

"We had a small nucleus of people who organized it and we were able to get sponsors for our purple T-shirts," he Livonia resident said. "We're now getting recognized by our shirts."

And also what they have done at the end of the walk. Wanting to walk into Greenfield Village

as a team, members line the street leading into the village to cheer on walkers as they wait for the rest of the team. Cerroni said the group received an e-mail from a woman who was moved by the show of support.

"It's now a tradition we'll have to keep up," she said.

The Taste of Pink fundraiser will bring team members together in advance of training. The event will be held from 6-11 p.m. at the Bailey Center, 36651

Ford in the Westland civic center complex, west of Wayne Road.

The dinner will include the soup and quiche as well as a savory meat roll, lettuce, fruit and chicken salad and pasta with marinara sauce and garlic bread.

The cake auction will follow dinner.

Tickets are priced at \$12.50 each and are available by calling Cerroni at (734) 464-6276.

Helping make the Taste of Pink happen are the Kroger store at Cherry Hill and Merriman and Bigby Coffee at Ford and Newburgh, both in Westland, Frank Renko at Pat Milliken Ford in Redford, and Merricraft Florist, Cantoro Italian Market and Byrd's Meat, all in Livonia.

The Pink Panthers have three team captains — Russ Hall, who lost his wife to cancer last year, Cathy Burns and Darcy

Michelle Blakemore.

"We had to have three captains because the team is getting so big," Cerroni said. "And we're getting a lot of new members."

They, along with Cerroni, an 18-year cancer survivor, will be "crewing" for this year's 3-Day. Rather than walk, they will take care of the walkers 24/7, helping with such things as serving meals, working at intersections and even handling the portable restrooms.

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While both the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons recommend giving prophylactic antibiotics to patients with prosthetic joints, there is no evidence that doing so will stave off infection. So says a recent study that looked for evidence that this standard practice of administering antibiotics to dental patients with artificial joints had any effect. With the number of artificial joints implanted annually expected to rise to about four million by 2030, and many authorities urging less use of antibiotics, this is bound to be a big issue for people with artificial joints. Health experts have been warning for some time that unwarranted antibiotic use is leading to a rise in antibiotic resistance.

As part of your healthcare team, we are concerned about all aspects of your health. If you have artificial joints, you may want to discuss the necessity of taking antibiotics prior to dental visits with your health care professional. If a medical condition comes to our attention during a dental exam, you can be sure we will discuss the issues with you as well as any other healthcare provider if you choose. We bring you our dental column as a way to inform our friends and neighbors here in the community of the many benefits of professional dentistry. For gentle dental care for the family, please call us at **734-453-9413, 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth (one block East of Kellogg Park).**

P.S. New guidelines also suggest that dental patients at risk for endocarditis (infection that can strike an artificial heart valve) receive fewer antibiotics than previously recommended.

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# Astronomy Expo shoots for the stars

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tom Blaszk's interest in astronomy goes back to the mid-1980s. He was a single parent then and was looking for something close to home to interest his young children.

All he had to do was look up and stare at the stars and the planets. "What better way is there to entertain them?" Blaszk asked rhetorically.

That interest has spurred Blaszk to organize the Astronomy Expo and Swap, now in its sixth year, at Holy Cross Church in Livonia.

This year's event features speakers and lectures ranging on topics from imaging to telescopes.

"We have a planetarium which is an 18-foot dome that we inflate," Blaszk said. "It's a great opportunity to come and hear prepared lectures.

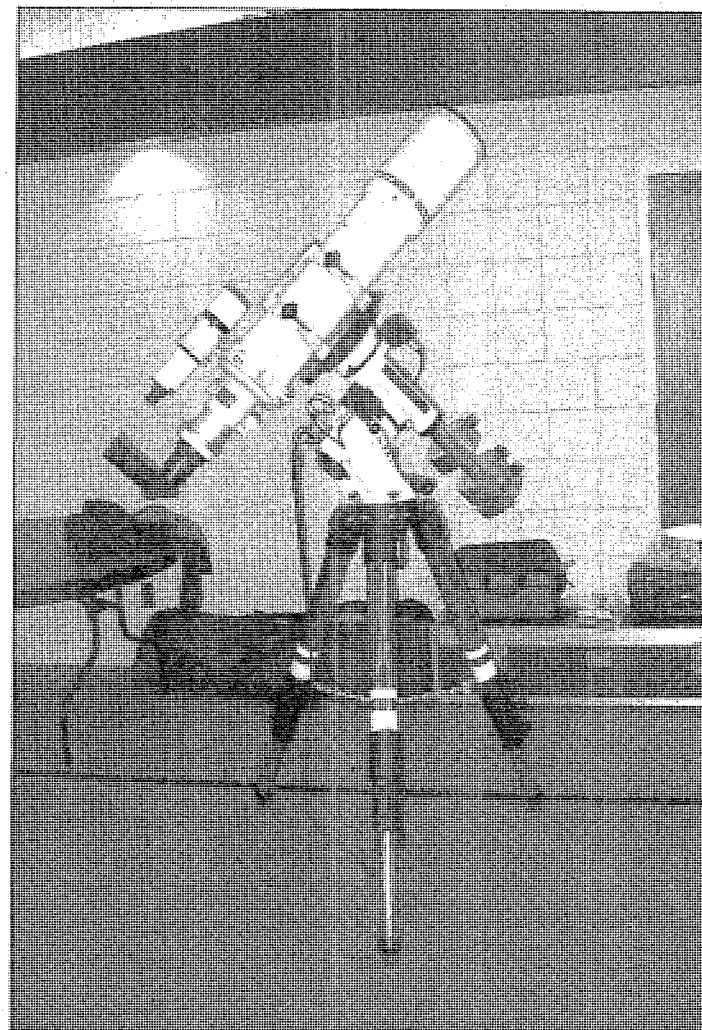
We try to find people who speak with enthusiasm and put it out at a level we can all understand." The show also features two sponsors who will have booths there. Door prizes will be available from vendors.

"If you're not careful, you will learn something," Blaszk said. "It's basically education, and it's geared toward all ages."

Astronomy 101 offers the basics (what the planets are, revolutions and seasons of the Earth) and Astronomy 102 discusses how to take that little knowledge and apply it, Blaszk said. "We have from the very elementary to the very sophisticated."

Blaszk has been a member of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club for 10 years. The group is composed of 75 percent of Ford employees (Blaszk is retired) and is part of the Ford Recreation Association.

Astronomers, photographers and even amateur star gazers all can be a part of international research. "There are a lot of major partnerships with major governments," Blaszk said. "Researchers count on people in looking at comets and asteroids. It's like having a universal club we all belong to."



Telescopes, lectures and even a planetarium will be featured at the sixth annual Astronomy Expo and Swap 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Holy Cross Church, 30650 Six Mile.

### ASTRONOMY EXPO AND SWAP

**When:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7

**Where:** Holy Cross Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia

**Speakers and lectures:** Astronomy 101, 10 a.m.; Astronomy 102 for Newcomers with John Schroer, planetarium education coordinator with the Detroit Science Center, noon; A Milky Way, i.e. the Galaxy with Mike Best, resident astronomer at the Vollbrecht Planetarium in Southfield, 2 p.m.; also planetarium lectures at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; and sessions on Introduction to the Dark Sky, 10:30 a.m.; Astrophotography with a DSLR, 11 a.m.; How to Purchase Imaging Equipment, 11:30 a.m.; and Building Your Own Telescope, 1 p.m. Other sessions are also scheduled.

**Admission:** \$5

**Expo Hotline:** (313) 577-8400, Ext 475. For a complete list of events, visit <http://www.boonhill.net/FAAC/>.

He hopes the Astronomy Expo continues to grow as word-of-mouth spreads. "I'm hoping we spur enough interest in the immediate areas as we become the winter astronomy event in the Detroit area," Blaszk said.

"It's amazing. People have really embraced astronomy."

Astronomy doesn't have to be an expensive hobby, either, even when telescopes can range in price from \$100 to \$2,000.

"I ask, 'Do you have binoculars?' Good. You're on your way," Blaszk said.

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# Money held by custodian companies not subject to creditors

**Q:** Dear Rick: Thank you for your advice over the years. About 10-15 years ago, I decided to consolidate my holdings at Charles Schwab. I now have accounts at Schwab and Fidelity. I own mostly mutual funds, but I do own some stocks and individual bonds. With all the economic chaos, my fear is what would happen to my money if Schwab or Fidelity went under. I do not plan to sell my investments, but I am wondering if it would make sense to hold them individually as opposed to Fidelity or Schwab. What do you think?

**A:** Thanks so much for being a loyal follower. It is an honor to come into people's homes through the radio and the newspaper to help them make better decisions with their money.

As to your question, I do not believe you have to move your money out of Charles Schwab or Fidelity. Even if one of those companies did declare bankruptcy, your money would be protected.

It is important to understand that when you use a custodian such as Schwab or Fidelity, you are not investing in the custodian. They are operating as a fiduciary to hold and maintain your investments. Your money would not be subject to the creditors of the bankrupt company because it is not their asset.

Using companies like Schwab and Fidelity makes it easier for investors. Basically, these companies are super-markets of investments. As opposed to getting individual statements from every investment you own, you get one consolidated statement. It's much easier for an investor to manage his/her portfolio. In addition, with companies like Schwab, Fidelity, TD Ameritrade and Vanguard, you can invest in many commission-free mutual funds. I am a believer of commission-free investing.

When using a company such as Schwab or Fidelity, it is important to recognize that certain funds may be commission-free (no load) if you purchase them directly through the mutual fund company, but do have fees if purchased through one of the custodians. Some mutual funds, in order to purchase them through one



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

of the custodians, will have a transaction fee. Although the transaction fee is substantially lower than a commission, nonetheless, it is still a fee. If you wish to avoid that fee, purchase the investments directly through the company. For convenience purposes, you may pay the transaction fee in order to have the benefit of consolidated statements.

**Q:** Dear Rick: I've started reading about the Stanford Group and how investors lost billions of dollars on CDs purchased through that company. I thought CDs are federally insured up to \$250,000, so how can investors lose that money?

**A:** The fraud perpetrated by the Stanford Group is still being uncovered. However, the simple answer to your question is the that the CDs they were selling were not federally insured. They were CDs issued by an offshore bank. The Stanford Group used its own bank on the island of Antigua. Those types of CDs are not federally insured and have virtually no protection.

Many investors got scammed by the Stanford Group because they were enticed by the high rates of return that the CDs were paying. Unfortunately, investors never considered the CDs were not federally insured. If purchasing CDs, you are saying this is the very conservative portion of your portfolio and there is no reason to take risk.

I recommend shopping around for the highest rate possible on a certificate of deposit. However, I only recommend shopping at federally-insured institutions. Whether issued by internet banks or out of state banks, as long as CDs are federally insured, you are protected.

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

# Growth Works lauds kids who overcome, their helpers

Young people and those who help them overcome obstacles to success were recognized Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Growth Works 2009 Recognition & Awards Dinner.

The Plymouth-based agency offers help to young people with substance abuse problems as well as those who've experienced trouble with the law. The annual dinner was held Feb. 19 at Fox Hills Country Club west of Plymouth.

"It's been a great year in terms of the services we are providing for kids," said Dale Yagiela, Growth Works executive director. He's pleased with outcomes, but also concerned about funding in this rough economy.

Yagiela praised Wolverine Human Services' partnership with Growth Works which includes substance abuse treatment for boys started in 2006. "We were able to begin a girls' program this year," with Wolverine at a facility in Vassar, Mich., Yagiela said.

Growth Works leaders are looking to a similar partnership approach for kids with mental health issues. "I think we've got some very good quality efforts to help kids," said Yagiela of that endeavor, with more news to come in April.

Recognized at the Fox Hills dinner for milestone years of dedication and service were: Ann O'Flaherty of Plymouth (20 years), David Sculati of Farmington Hills and Bill Ventola of Plymouth Township (five years), all Growth Works board members.

Academic Awards included: For special achievement and outstanding effort in academics earning the General Education Development certificate or high school diploma: Lawrence Jordan Anquetil of Canton (GED), Brendan Allender of Livonia and Rick Bergquist of Livonia.

Growth Works Program Awards included: For special achievement and outstanding effort over the last year in Aftercare and Residential Treatment: Steve Chapman of Westland and Christopher Rothley of South Lyon.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the last year in the Western Wayne Care Management Organization: Janell Reeves of Westland and Brennan Orndorff of Dearborn.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the past year in Community Intervention & Treatment (Youth Programming):

Amanda Mog of Canton, Tori Bergquist of Livonia and Resul Bahtijari of Dearborn Heights.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the past year in Community Intervention & Treatment (Adult Programming): Steven Harsch of Belleville and Arnie Newman of Westland.

Community Awards included: For efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people: Ronaele Bowman of Westland, Phil Cavanagh of Redford, Kay Beard of Canton and Cindy King of Belleville.

Yagiela, in an interview before the dinner, noted lower-

income families have been on the edge. "Their lives have been affected for the last five-six years." He's seeing more middle-class kids in treatment.

Yagiela and others at Growth Works are concerned about increased heroin use among young people. He noted one teen could ride from his western Wayne County home on his bike to buy heroin in Detroit.

"I think it's cost and availability," said Yagiela, adding there's a strong link between juvenile delinquency and drug use.

- By Julie Brown

# Ficano asks community leaders to help with census

During a breakfast meeting Thursday, Executive Ficano urged mayors and supervisors of the 43 Wayne County communities to help with the census 2010 count.

"We need to stand up and be counted," said Executive Ficano at the Guardian Building in Detroit. "We depend on this count for federal funding. We need to bring together a cross-section of community members whose only focus is 2010 Census awareness. We need to increase the Census questionnaire - mail-back response rate through a community wide/neighborhood-to-neighbor program."

As the Chair of the Committee for Wayne County, Executive Ficano has formed several subcommittees. He asked that mayors and supervisor identify people who can work on the various committees that include government, religious, community based, recruiting Subcommittee, education, media, business, multi-

To find out more about Census 2010 log onto [census.gov/2010census/](http://census.gov/2010census/)

cultural and labor. Dwight Dean, Detroit regional director, said that they would be opening several offices and hiring dozens of people to work on the census count during the next year.

"With just 14 months before the next Census, we are reaching out to local officials, and community leaders to deliver the message to every resident of the importance of an accurate and complete population count for each locality. People listen to leaders they know and trust, and the Mayors and other elected officials that serve in Wayne County are critical to our success with an accurate and complete count."

To find out more about Census 2010 log onto <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>

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# Concert rocks to help uninsured diabetics

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It started out as blog on Myspace.com and has evolved into the DiabeticRockstar.com, a n online social network for diabetics.

Now its founder Christopher Thomas is inviting people to join him at the Cherry Martini Bar in Canton Friday, Feb. 27, for a fundraising concert to support DiabeticRockstar's Fight It campaign, which provides uninsured diabetics with medications and supplies.

In exchange for a \$5 donation at the door, guests will be treated to performances by Outshine and The Shawn Riley Band. There also will be beer, shot and martini specials.

"We're trying to give a reason to donate, you get a concert for only a \$5 donation," said Thomas. "In the world of nonprofits, \$3-5 really does go a long way."

Thomas grew up in Canton and graduated from John Glenn High School in Westland. He went on to Eastern Michigan University where he graduated in 2006 with a degree in writing and editing. A year later, he packed up and moved to New York City after being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

He quickly fell into the Big Apple lifestyle where "you learn fast that it's all about networking." Through a friend, he landed a job waiting tables and lived the New York life. On the side, he blogged on MySpace as Diabetic Rockstar. He decided to by the domain and start

## BENEFIT CONCERT

**What:** Diabetes concert event for Fight It!

**When:** 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Feb. 27

**Where:** Cherry Martini Bar, 50296 Cherry Hill, west of Canton Center, Canton

**Admission:** \$5

the Web site.

"I found a lot of people who could relate to me," he said.

The Web site's motto is "Live life like a rockstar" and it encourages people to: "Stop with the excuses: Start living, or start dying, the choice is yours." More than 2,500 people have signed on to the Web site, including 700 who are not diabetic.

The Fight It campaign came about when Thomas was looking for a charity to give the proceeds for a Rockstar event. Having a hard time finding one, he decided to start one to help diabetics who can't afford medications and supplies that can cost more than \$4,000 a year.

He created a clothing line and hosts concerts like the one at Cherry Martini to fund Fight It. He also accepts donations on the Web site.

"We accept money and supplies and find a home for them," he said. "We want to develop affiliations and partner with other companies, but we're tight and close to the vest about that. We're emotional and heartfelt about what we do. We wear our emotions on our sleeves."

Interest in the Web site has picked up. Thomas said at

least two people sign up each day. And it doesn't hurt to be showcased - "on Page 15" - of the February 2009 issue of *Reader's Digest*.

"It was the biggest thing to happen to us," he said.

Thomas still waits 40 hours a week, but is finding it harder to manage a job and the Web site. Eventually, he'll have to make a decision about giving up the former to manage the latter. But that won't come until the Web site can support him.

"I feel it's not there yet, we're not bringing in enough for me to just preside over it," he said.

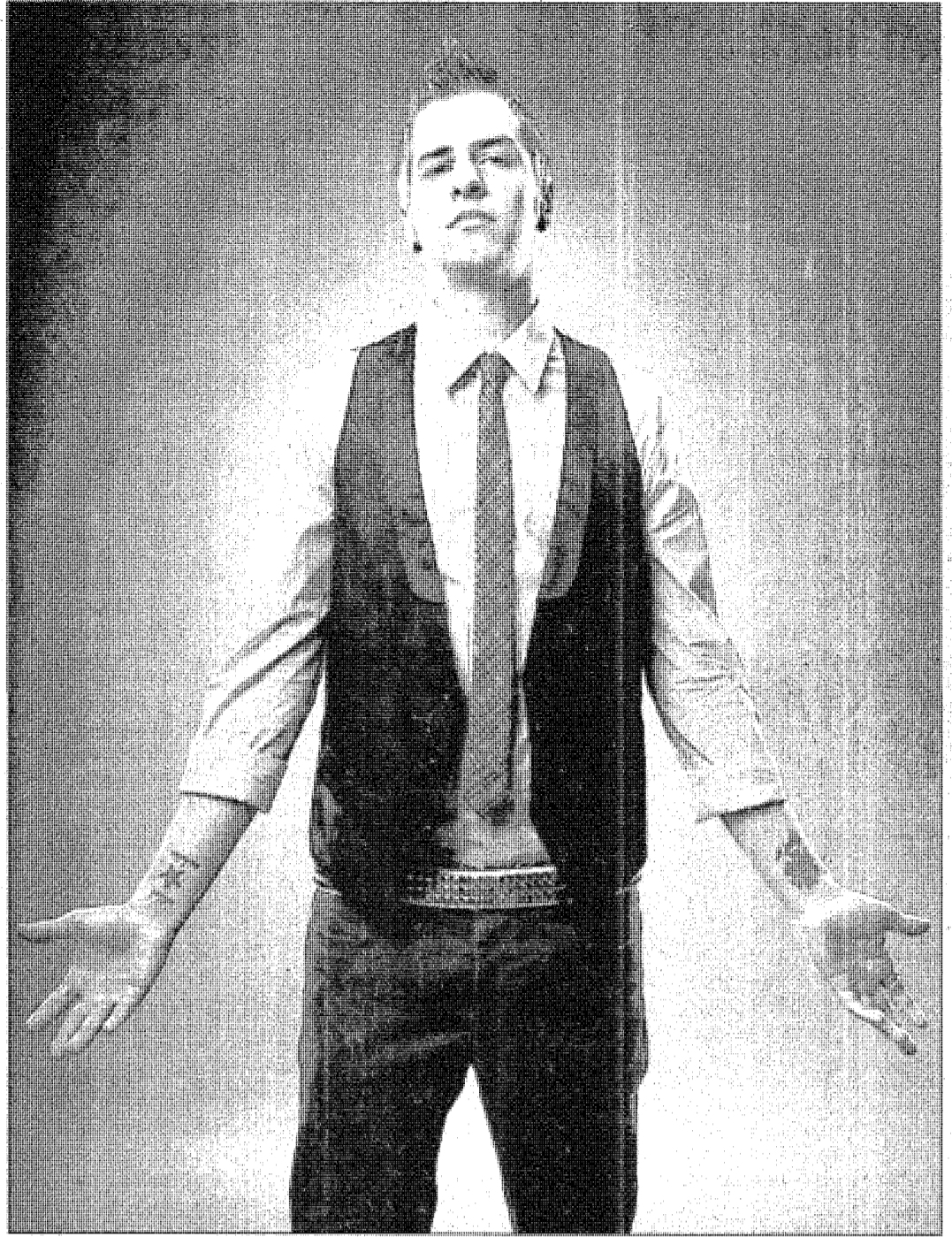
But if testimonials are any indication, Thomas may soon have to give up his day job, so to speak.

A veteran of other social networking sites, a woman with Type 2 diabetes wrote that "I am consistently amazed by how well it is run, and how kind and generous people are. There are forum boards, there are a few weekly chats, groups, the list just goes on and on. Every day is like finding something new."

Admittedly, the economic climate isn't so good in the Michigan and the country. He has been struggling, living from Subway sandwich to Subway sandwich, but has met people in his travels around the country "who are worst off than me."

"People can go on the Web site and use PayPal to donate," he said. "We have merchandise available. Buy a T-shirt. Buy a bracelet. It all goes to the same place."

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



A blog on MySpace has evolved into a Web site for Christopher Thomas who will be in Canton this week to raise money for his Fight It! which provides medications and supplies to uninsured diabetics.

## Return of an American icon

Dick Scott one of a handful of dealers selling revitalized Indian motorcycles

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first American-made motorcycle is making a comeback, and the Dick Scott Automotive Group — Dick Scott Nissan in Canton and Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth — plans to be part of it.

Indian Motorcycles, which dates back to 1901, is back in production after going out of business in 1953. The Dick Scott Automotive Group is one of only seven dealers nationwide selling the exclusive bikes that sell for \$31,500 to \$38,500.

"We've been open since

Jan. 5 and we've already sold 10," said Jeff Scott, 45, whose motorcycle dealership is on Michigan Avenue west of I-275. "It's amazing the brand equity that Indian carries in the motorcycle community. Even though they've had their problems and have been back once since 1953, the Indian name is an iconic brand."

Indian was big in racing in the early part of the 20th century and supplied the majority of police and military motorcycles during World War II. After the war ended, the company fell on hard times and stopped production in 1953.

Scott, who's the motorcycle rider in the family, said he pushed hard to get the automotive group to add Indian to its line-up.

"We're dealing with custom-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Indian Motorcycle dealer Jeff Scott astride an Indian. At left, Terry Berendt, Kaitlyn Dwyer, and Lisa Beam.

ers in California, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana... from all over," said

Scott, who noted the features on Indian bikes are very distinctive. "You've got premium leather seats, the deep valanced fender is an Indian trademark as is the lighted Indian head fender ornament."

"What makes them great motorcycles is they're all hand built by two-man teams in North Carolina from start to finish," he said. "They have the

## INDIAN MOTORCYCLES

**Where:** Dick Scott Dodge, 684 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Phone:** (734) 451-2449

highest content of American-made parts of any bike made."

Scott said the Baker six-speed transmissions are made in Haslett, Mich., and the high-level of chrome is standard.

"The power of the engine is great for a cruiser," said Scott. "It's got 84 horsepower and 100-foot pounds of torque. That will get you moving pretty quick."

The Indian Chief comes with four different trim packages, pricing it much higher than its well-known competitor, Harley-Davidson, which sells from \$14,000 to \$18,000.

Scott plans to have his grand opening June 27 when the riding weather should be much better.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2637

## WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATTENTION: FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company will provide management services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
36745 Marquette Westland, MI 48185

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009 at 10 am at 36745 Marquette Westland, MI 48185.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 1 pm on Monday, March 30, 2009. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

Publish: February 22, 2009

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## 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

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Westland Housing Commission (WHC) has developed the fiscal year 2009 Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and applicable regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plan reflects the goals and objectives of the agency and the administration of housing and community development programs. The Agency Plan and supporting documentation is available for public review for a period of not less than 45 days at the Westland Housing Commission's administrative office located at 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186.

The Commission's hours of operation are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The comment period will end on April 8, 2009. The WHC Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at the Housing Commission's Administrative Office. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen comments on the Agency Plan, which will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development no later than April 17, 2009.

Joanne A. Inglis, Director  
William Wild, Mayor

Publish: February 22, 2009

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St. Dunstan School students showing off their academic skills are geography bee winner Zachary Smith (left), a sixth grader from Westland, eighth-grader Hannah Schultz of Livonia who is the local winner of the America & Me Essay Contest and sixth-grader Brennan Schilling of Westland, spelling bee winner.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## 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 will go on to 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."

## Edgar Allan Poe turns 200

In the 200 years since the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, his detective stories, dark poetry, and tales of horror have continued to mesmerize people just as much now as when they were first written. His stories are not the only area of interest surrounding Poe; he led a somewhat tragic existence filled with unfortunate alcohol use, literary success, financial difficulties and great personal loss, which ultimately ended in a mysterious sudden death at the age of 40.

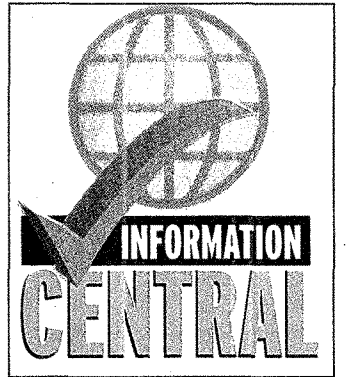
If you are really excited about Poe's 200th birthday, Virginia is the place you want to be. There you will have the opportunity to attend lectures about the poet, visit the homes he lived in, or tour the cemetery that became his final resting place. The Poe Museum in Richmond contains a large collection of manuscripts, letters, first editions and personal belongings, and is sure to be of interest to any Poe enthusiast. To view all of the events taking place throughout the year, explore the Web site at [www.poe200th.com](http://www.poe200th.com).

Perhaps a trip to Virginia this year is unrealistic. Never fear! You can always come to the library and enjoy a much less expensive celebration of the life of Edgar Allan Poe. Take home any one of a number of volumes of Poe's works, such as "The Gold-bug and Other Tales" and the famous "Great Tales of Terror," or learn more about his life and death from Walsh's "Midnight Dreary: The Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe." If it's his poetry that fascinates you, we have several volumes of his complete poems available for checkout as well.

Be sure to listen to Poe's poetry in audio as well as book form. The technical devices repetition, internal rhyme, and alliteration employed in his works make for an entirely different experience when hearing them read aloud. "Edgar Allan Poe, Collected Stories and Poems" can be checked out on a Playaway so you can listen to the magical combinations of sound and rhythm while working out or for setting the mood on a stormy Sunday.

To find out more about Poe, the Public Library of Westland is a great place to start. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us).

**Highlighted Activities**  
Navigating Turbulent Economic Times: 7 p.m. Feb. 23.  
Join Andrew Gagne, associate



financial advisor, as he discusses common sense methods for making it through tough markets in a fourth quarter market review. Q&A session will follow the presentation. All are welcome. Call (734) 326-6123 for more information.

Science Fiction Book Club: 7 p.m. Feb. 25.

Join the Science Fiction Book Club for a discussion of Stephen King's "The Gunslinger." Copies of the book are available at the Reference desk. "The Gunslinger" introduces protagonist Roland as he pursues the Man in Black through bleak and tired landscapes in a world that has "moved on." This is the first volume in "The Dark Tower" series.

Black Literature and Music of the 1960s: 7 p.m. Feb. 25. Teens and adults.

Join poet, playwright, and actor Victor Walker presents on the political and cultural goals achieved by Black artists in the 1960s and offers a comparison to artistic leaders in today's African-American communities.

Everyone's Reading 2009 Book Discussion: 2 p.m. Feb. 28.

Everyone's Reading is a community-wide reading program sponsored by public libraries in Oakland and Wayne counties. Join us for a book discussion of this year's book "Finding My Voice" by Diane Rehm. Copies are available at the library. Look for more ER programming throughout the metro Detroit area by picking up a brochure at our library or visiting the Web site, [www.everyonesreading.info](http://www.everyonesreading.info)

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

Information Central was compiled by Mary Fixler, reference librarian and English major. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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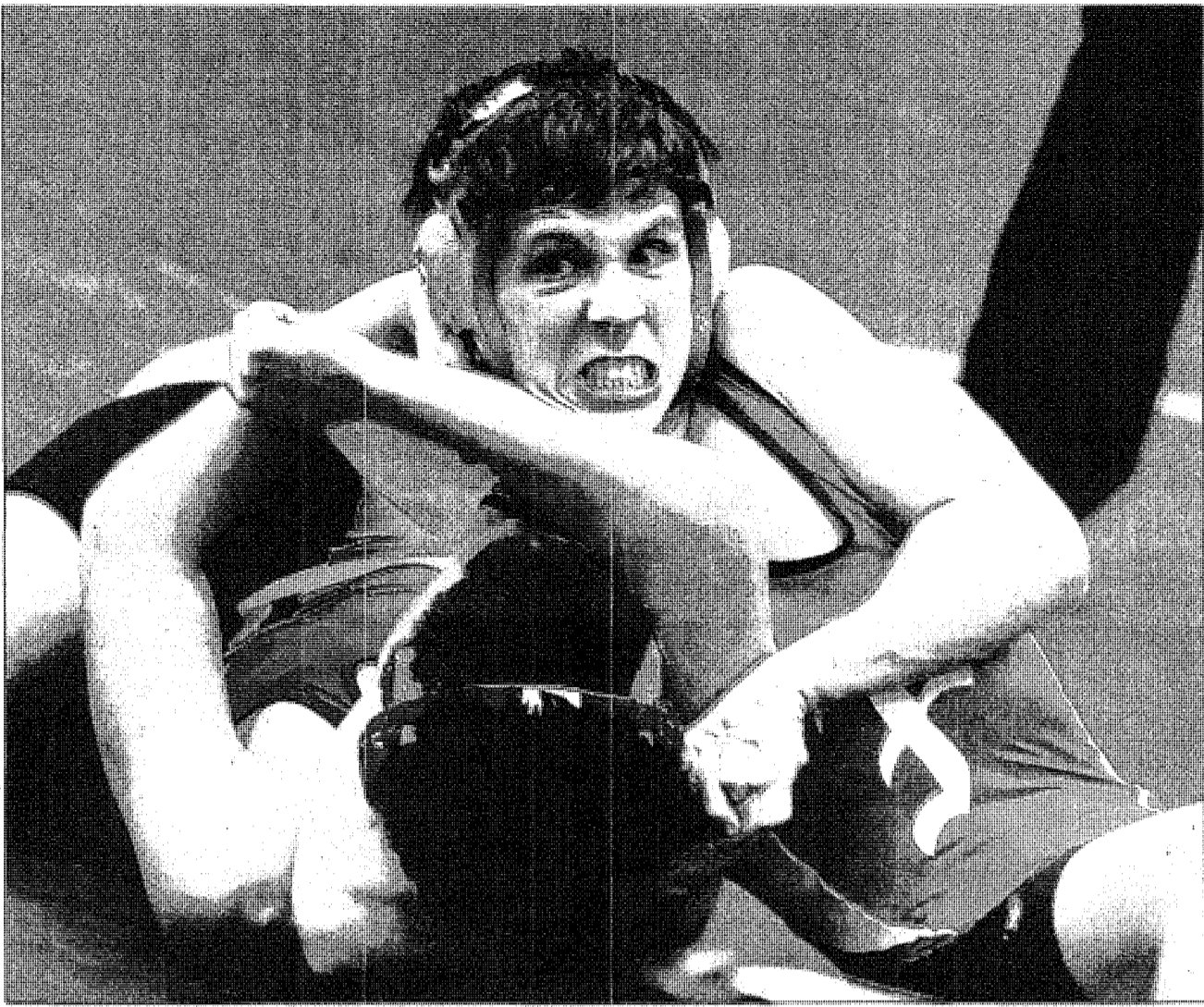
SECTION B  
(LW)

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

Unlocking traumatic events frozen in time - Health, B10

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

# HOMETOWN LIFE



Franklin's Erik Czech, who was behind on points, pins Garden City's Austin Smith during the second period of the Division 1 team district tourney at Dearborn Fordson.

## Gabel opts for return to grid job

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two months after he resigned unexpectedly, Tim Gabel has had a change of heart and will return for his 15th season as Livonia Stevenson's varsity football coach.

The announcement was made Thursday afternoon by Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman, who also said that Conrad Newman will return as well to his original position as defensive coordinator.

Hyman recently went through a thorough interview process and reportedly narrowed the field of candidates down to three finalists.

"As we worked through the interview process, it became evident that the best situation for the Stevenson football program was for Tim Gabel to resume the head coaching position and Conrad Newman resume the assistant coaching position," Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman said. "I approached Tim and Newman about returning. They took some time to consider coming back and then decided to return. I am excited and grateful that they are coaching football at Stevenson High School."

The 41-year-old Gabel was 92-47 in 14 seasons with the Spartans, including nine state playoff appearances. He was coming off his two most successful campaigns. In 2007, Gabel guided the Spartans to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Division 1 state semifinals followed by an 11-2 record and a trip to the Final Four last fall.

Prior to taking the varsity reins in 1995, Gabel was an assistant coach under Jack Reardon, who was the school's varsity coach for 30 years. Gabel's late father Jack was a longtime assistant as well under Reardon.

But on Dec. 12, Gabel announced his resignation, which caught the administration and followers of the program by surprise.



Gabel

Please see GABEL, B4

## GAME WRAPS

### KLAA boys basketball

**FRANKLIN 53, CHURCHILL 48:** Down 25-20 at halftime, Livonia Franklin (6-10, 4-6) rallied in the second half Friday to beat Livonia Churchill (7-9, 3-7) in a KLAA South Division game.

Junior guard Andy McCaffery led the Patriots with 12 points, hitting 4-of-5 from the foul line. Senior forward Connor Leidal added 11 points, including 5-of-8 from the stripe, with five rebounds. Junior Mike Gadsby nailed three triples for nine points.

Franklin was 12-18 from the foul line after going 22-of-54 combined the previous two games.

"We were able to hit some perimeter shots and we solved our free throw problems," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We were able to take the lead and close out the game."

Churchill had three scorers in double figures — Adam Bedell (14), Ryan Woods (12) and Cameron Norscia (12).

**WAYNE 63, PLYMOUTH 56:** Jimmel Bennett scored 11 of his team-high 16 points in the third quarter Friday as host Wayne Memorial (12-4, 9-1) avenged its only KLAA South loss of the year against the Wildcats (8-8, 5-5), who dropped their fourth straight.

Bennett connected on three triples during a 20-11 third-quarter run for the Zebras.

Robert Woodson and Daniel Hill added 15 points and 12 points, respectively, for the division champions.

"The last time their 2-3 zone (defense) gave us problems, but in the second half we were able to get it inside against their zone," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said.

Sophomores Brennen Beyer and Justin Moss tallied 15 and 11, respectively, for Plymouth. Cliff Buttermore added 12.

**JOHN GLENN 63, CANTON 54:** Senior guard Austin Anderson scored 28 points and dished out eight assists Friday to propel host Westland John Glenn (9-6, 5-5) to a KLAA South win over the Chiefs (8-8, 5-5).

Dorian Prather and Jeremy Langford added 14 and 13, respectively, for the Rockets, who built a 35-17 halftime lead.

Dietrich Lever and Marlan Glenn tallied 15 and 11, respectively, for Canton.

Glenn was 13-of-20 from the foul line, while the Chiefs made 12-of-22.

**NORTHVILLE 48, STEVENSON 41:** In a KLAA Central Division game Friday, the host Mustangs (5-11, 4-6) got 12 points from Bryce Groshiek to beat Livonia Stevenson (9-5, 5-5).

Northville led 24-11 at halftime before Stevenson went on a 17-8 third-quarter run.

"There was a total lack of focus in the first half and that's disturbing," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "We also settled for perimeter shots and that cost us the game."

Junior guard Bobby Naubert led Stevenson with a game-high 18 points. Junior forward Jordan El-Sabeh added nine.

Northville was 10-of-12 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 7-of-9.

## Going to the mat

### Patriot wrestlers survive district test

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin survived a Tractor pull and came away with the Division 1 team district wrestling crown Wednesday night at Dearborn Fordson.

The Patriots, now 21-8 overall, advance to Wednesday's team regional at Novi to face No. 4-ranked Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (14-4) in one semifinal, while Livonia Stevenson (25-19) takes on Grosse Pointe South in the other matchup, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The winners meet 30 minutes after the last semifinal with the victor heading to the state finals Friday, March 6, at Battle Creek's Kellogg Center.

Franklin cruised to a 69-11 victory

over Garden City in the district final, but had a much tougher time disposing of the host Tractors, 38-30.

"It was a hard-fought win," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "When I heard that we drew Fordson, I started looking at some of their performances they had this year and started realizing how tough of a meet it would be."

Franklin winners against the Tractors included Paul Hanni (112), Justin Jacobsen (125), Elvin Ferriera (145), Brandon Billiau (152), Don Strat (160) and Mike Modes (285), the latter whom pinned Zouhair Mneimneh in nine seconds to seal the victory.

"They have some very good middle and upper weights," Chiola said of the Tractors. "I was under the impression that they were down this year, but that

wasn't the case at all. They were ready to wrestle and we had our hands full. It didn't help that we had a few kids not on weight, but the rest of the guys pulled us through."

Emotions ran high during the semi-final match.

"I was a little disappointed in the sportsmanship that was on display from both sides," Chiola said. "My guys are usually well behaved, but sometimes when they react to what's going on, they overreact. I thought the official let things get out of hand. Right now I just want to get everyone healthy for individual district (at Stevenson), and then we'll start worrying about Catholic Central."

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## Lady Ocelots smother OCC

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even though Wednesday was a very special event at Schoolcraft College — a so-called "pink out" to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer — it was just another day at the office for the high-flying Lady Ocelots and their coach, Karen Lafata.

Schoolcraft, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll and perennial champions in the MCCA Eastern Conference, rolled to an 80-51 victory over Oakland

Community College to move to 24-2 overall and 17-0 in the conference.

"It wasn't a distraction at all," said Lafata, referring to Get in the WBCA Pink Zone night honoring the memory of legendary North Carolina State head women's basketball coach Kay Yow while helping build awareness toward American Cancer Society Initiatives such as Relay For Life. "They (Schoolcraft players) were

Please see HOOPS, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Blue's Laura Nomura performs on the balance beam during Thursday's dual meet against Northville.

## Blue gymnasts vault by N'ville

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Blue completed an undefeated regular season Thursday night with a 145.30-144.80 girls gymnastics victory over Northville in a dual meet held at Churchill High School.

Junior Emily Quint led the way with an all-around score of 37.65, including a first in vault (9.45) as Livonia Blue improved to 7-0 overall and 6-0 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Northville's Chloe Presley, edged out by Quint in the all-around (37.60), captured first in the uneven bars (9.5) and floor exercise (9.55), while teammate Makenna Pohl won the balance beam (9.65).

Livonia Blue also received strong all-around performances from Brittany Janis, third (36.45); Kelly Charniga, fourth (35.60); and Laura Nomura, fifth (35.10).

It was the final home meet for six Livonia Blue seniors — Janis,

Nomura, Meghan Powers, Allison Gilley, Dalia Shafie and Carley Lukas.

"Senior night was a big night," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "We took some hard landings, but we pulled off a win for our last meet. Everyone stepped up and did everything they could for the team. This win was a team effort. I am very proud of all the girls and I am going to miss our seniors."

**LIVONIA BLUE 145.30  
NORTHVILLE 144.80  
Feb. 19 at Churchill H.S.**

**Vault:** 1. Emily Quint (Blue), 9.45; 2. Brittany Janis (Blue), 9.35; 3. Chloe Presley (N), 9.25; 4. Alex Kitz (Blue), 9.05; 5. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.0.

**Uneven bars:** 1. Presley (N), 9.5; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.25; 3. Charniga (Blue), 9.1; 4. Janis (Blue), 9.05; 5. (tie) Makenna Pohl (N) and Cassidy Winter (N), 8.95.

**Balance beam:** 1. Pohl (N), 9.65; 2. (tie) Quint (Blue), Laura Nomura (Blue) and Amy Reynolds (N), 9.35 each; 5. Presley (N), 9.3.

**Floor exercise:** 1. Presley (N), 9.55; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.45; 3. Pohl (N), 9.3; 4. Winter (N), 9.05; Janis (Blue), 9.05.

**All-around:** 1. Quint (Blue), 37.65; 2. Presley (N), 37.60; 3. Janis (Blue), 36.45; 4. Charniga (Blue), 35.60; 5. Nomura (Blue), 35.10.

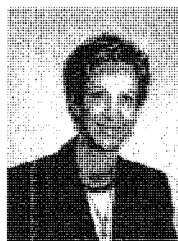
**Livonia Blue's dual meet record:** 7-0 overall, 6-0 KLAA.

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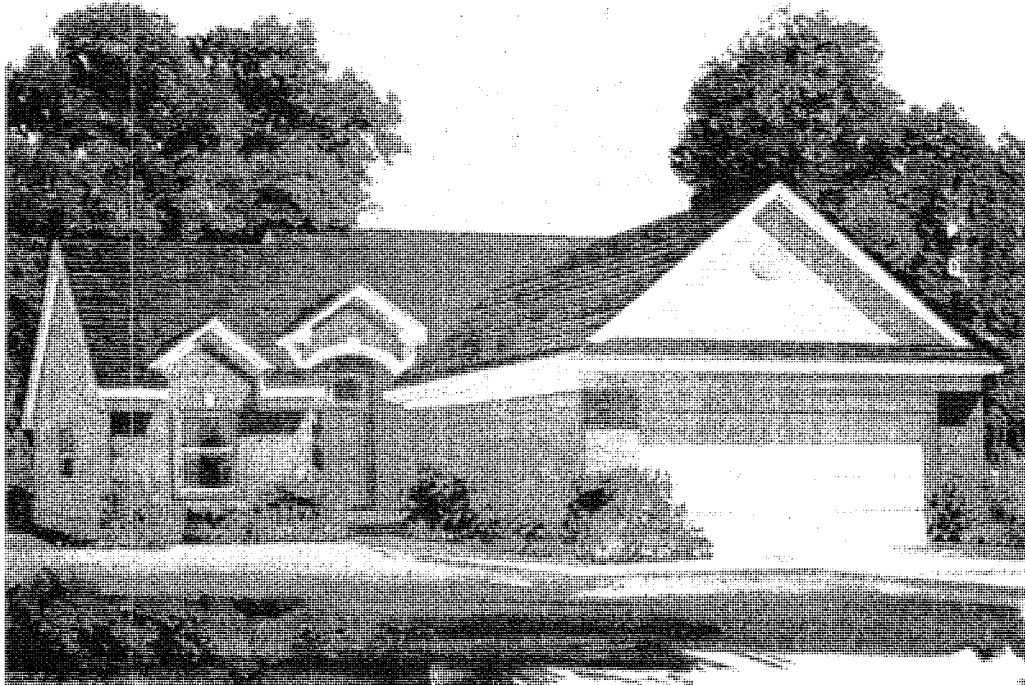
*The Belmont*

Livonia Builders and Breault Homes have a winning formula that has worked for the past 2 years. Although the housing market has been dismal here in Michigan, they have been able to sell over 120 homes since January, 2007. Producing great homes with excellent standard features at foreclosure prices is a winning combination for the consumer.

"Two years ago we met with our contractors and suppliers and discussed our philosophy moving forward. We must offer standard features that exceed our customers' expectations at a price more attractive than our competition," said Danny Veri, partner of Livonia Builders. "Our competition isn't other home builders, it's the used home market and foreclosures. We need to

make sure the buyer can see what our homes have to offer, and once they do that there will be no comparison."

When the new home buyer walks into a Livonia Builders or Breault home they are welcomed with upgraded features at standard prices. Features include: granite countertops, site sanded and stained hardwood floors, oversized baseboards and casings, Andersen or Jel-Win windows, Merrilat cabinets, 12 inch ceramic tile in baths and laundry, bedroom ceiling lights and an egress basement window. They also have outstanding energy products such as high-efficiency furnaces and hot water tanks, up to R-49 insulation in the attic, energy seal package,



*The Regency*

windows have low E glass with argon gas, and Energy Star dishwasher.

"What we hear over and over from our customers is that they never expected to be able to afford a brand new house with all of these features as their first home," said Veri. "It is unbelievable to think that someone can buy a home from us for only \$5,000 down and have a payment with taxes and insurance for around \$1,000 a month. When you calculate the net payment after writing off interest and taxes, the monthly payment is down to around \$700." A household income of \$20 an hour can qualify for this

type of financing. Another quality product they offer is the financing. "The mortgage broker we work with has 5% and 3.5% down programs. "With interest rates extremely low, pricing depressed, and the first time home buyer tax credit being proposed, this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"We focus on good neighborhoods with good schools," said Veri. We have sites in Canton, Westland, Woodhaven, Ann Arbor, with South Lyon and Northville coming soon. The pricing of the neighborhoods are as follows: Canton starts at \$189,900 with 2-story



*The Jenkins*

homes starting at 1600 sq ft, Westland

has ranch and colonial homes that are 1330 to 1650 sq ft starting in the \$140's, Woodhaven has ranches and colonials starting in the \$130's, the Ann Arbor area starts in the \$160's and has homes that range from 1330 to 2100 sq. ft. South Lyon starting price is in the \$160's and the homes start at 1800 sq ft. Northville homes start at 2600 sq ft and are in the low \$300's.

"The major difference between our homes and a foreclosure is that you know what you are getting with ours. It is brand new and comes with a warranty. With a foreclosure, there are no warranties or disclosures, it is buyer beware." In most cases with foreclosures, there is a huge time delay getting a

response back from the bank once you make an offer. With us you deal directly with the owner of the company and have an immediate answer. Our homes are much more energy efficient than even homes built just a few years ago. Finally, our homes have more up-to-date features than most foreclosures have. So you don't have to spend another \$20-\$30,000 to remodel the kitchen and/or bathrooms," said Tim Breault of Breault Homes.

To learn more about the homes that Livonia Builders and Breault Homes are constructing, or to view a model home, call Danny Veri at 734-NEW-HOME email him at: dannyveri@sbcglobal.net or visit the website at www.michbuilder.com.

## WINTER 3 (Mar. 2--Apr. 28)

Reg. Deadline: Feb. 20th

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<p><b>Flag Football Leagues</b></p> <p>Youth (6-12 years old) Agent Fee: \$100 Youth (6-12 years old) Team Fee: \$950</p> <p>Adult Free Agent Fee: \$100 Adult Team Fee: \$950</p>	
<p><b>Dodge Ball Leagues</b></p> <p>High School and Adult Leagues Hi-Density Foam Balls Team Fee: \$450 6 Games + End-of-Season Tournament</p>	

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# Confidence builder

## Crusaders sit on 2nd-place Davenport, 72-63

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### COLLEGE HOOPS

Despite its fifth-place standing in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, the Madonna University men's basketball is proving it can be a dangerous team come playoff time.

The Crusaders, led by senior guard Cedric Sims, used a balanced scoring attack Wednesday to down second-place Davenport University, 72-63, at the MU Activities Center.

Davenport falls to 19-10 overall and 9-4 in the WHAC, while MU improves to 12-17 and 6-7.

MU trailed 62-61 with 6:39 left before going on an 11-1 run to end the game.

Several players contributed to the win, most notably Sims, the 6-footer from Wayne Memorial High grad, who nearly finished with a triple-double after scoring 14 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and dishing out nine assists.

Sims hit four critical free throws in the final 2:07 to help secure the win.

"Cedric played great for us, he moved the ball, he kicked

it out and hit the glass," MU interim coach Myron Brown said. "He was a difference maker. Even though he had 14 points, he did the little things to get us the win."

Junior center Leroy Allen added 14 points and six rebounds, while Westland's Bryant Slaughter and Noah Williams (off the bench) each chipped in with 13 points. Canton High's Ryan Waidman finished with a team-high nine rebounds.

Livonia Clarenceville's Lonnie Fairfax led the Panthers with a career- and game-high 19 points, hitting 7-of-10 shots. James Nelson added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

But it was the slender-built 5-9 point-guard that gave the Crusaders fits. "He's a really good player, we tried everything against him," MU coach Myron Brown said of Fairfax. "We wanted to back off of him up in the half-court, but he's lightning quick with the ball. And he's so quick to run out of the break. He showed a lot today."

Fairfax played a team-high 37 minutes and had just three turnovers to go along with four rebounds and two assists in only his fifth start of the season.

"We seemed like we were stuck at 62 for a long time and couldn't get going offensively," Fairfax said. "We did not stop them on defense and our goal was to hold them to 62. And if we did that, we thought it would win us the game."

Fairfax, who earned a starting role midway through the conference schedule, called his homecoming "bittersweet."

"My family, my teammates and my coaches (from Clarenceville) were here," he said. "It kind of sparked me to play a little bit better."

**OAKLAND CC 98, SCHOOLCRAFT 70:** MCCA Eastern Conference leader Oakland Community College (25-5, 17-1) pulled away in the second half for the victory Wednesday over host Schoolcraft College (7-21, 4-13). Wayne Memorial's Martez Abney had 22 points in the setback, while Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison) added 14 points and seven rebounds. Ryan Matthews contributed 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Ocelots, who trailed 42-32 at halftime.

# 26-1 Panthers stop Madonna

The Madonna University women's basketball team stayed close for a half, but nationally-ranked Davenport pull away in the second half Wednesday for an 82-67 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference win.

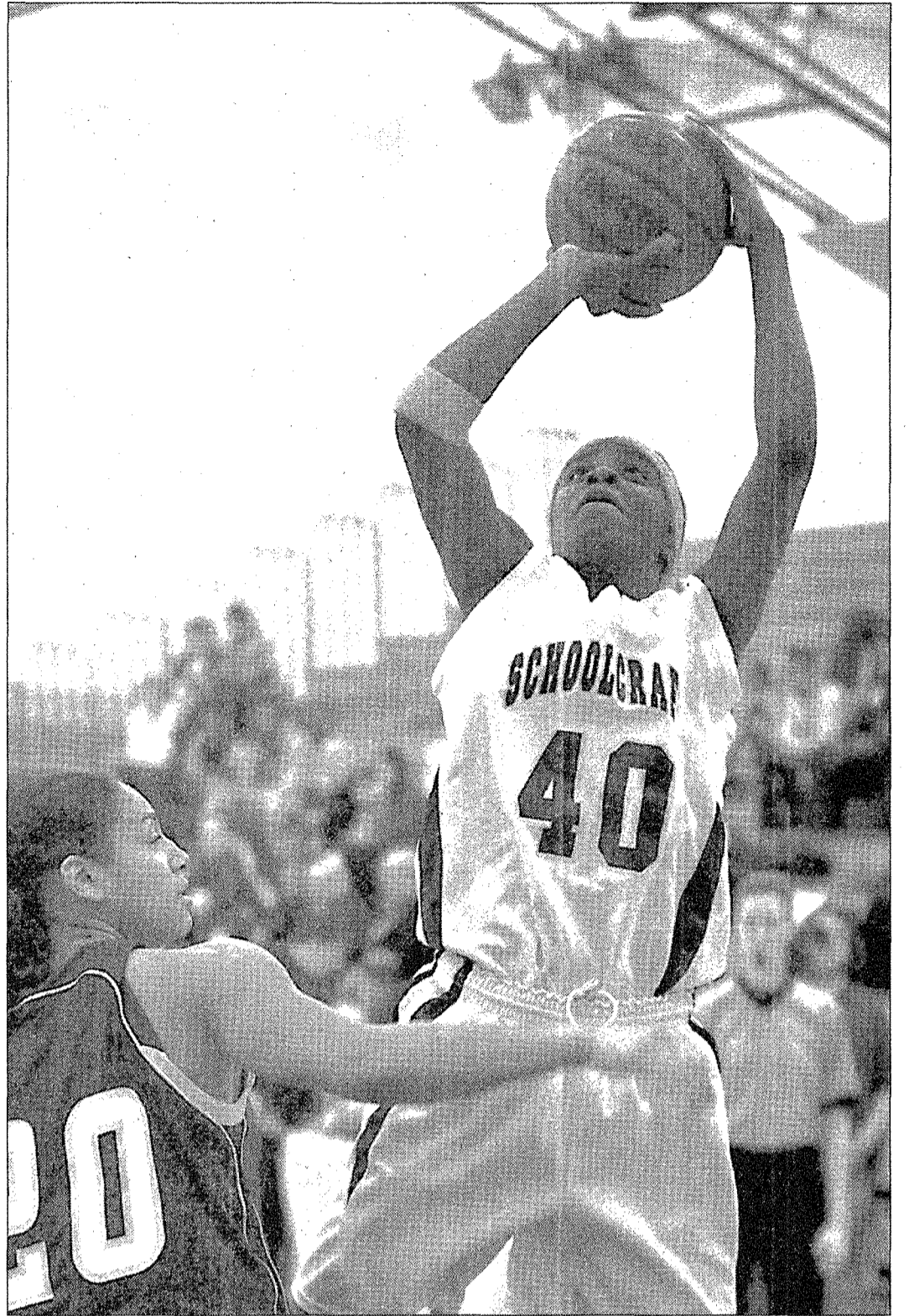
Forward Brittany Lyman led the victorious Panthers, now 26-1 overall and 12-1 in the

WHAC, with 19 points. Davenport, ranked No. 3 in the latest NAIA Division II poll, shot 40 percent from the field (32-of-80) and got 41 points from its including 12 each from Abby Neff and Kendra Anderson. Starter Kristi Boehm tallied 11.

Christie Carrico paced visiting MU (13-16, 8-5) with a

14 points and nine rebounds. Tabatha Wydryck chipped in with 13 points and eight rebounds, while Alysa Guerin (Salem) and Erin Bentley each scored 10 points.

The Crusaders, who trailed by only one at halftime, 41-40, committed 30 turnovers and shot 41.3 percent from the field (19-of-46).



Eyeing the rim during Wednesday's 'Get in the WBCA Pink Zone' game is Schoolcraft College freshman center April Goins.

## HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

really excited about it. It was fun for me and for them to have fans and a DJ."

Yow recently died from breast cancer after battling the disease since 1987.

All of the festivities of the first-annual event might have hampered some teams, but not the Lady Ocelots.

They stormed out to a 10-2 lead, with four points each from sophomore forwards Tayler Langham (Salem) and Shery Brown.

The Raiders (19-6, 13-4) did hold Schoolcraft to just 34 points in the opening 20 minutes, but still trailed 34-22 at the break.

Schoolcraft really took off in the second half, shooting at a 60 percent clip (17-of-29) to bust the game wide open.

Epitomizing that surge was

Langham, who led the Lady Ocelots with 17 points. Seven of those came in a two-minute span when she tallied all of her team's points to build a 67-40 edge. Langham converted a layup after a spin-a-rama move through the lane, then drained a triple from the right corner.

In between, Langham stole the ball and made two free throws.

Also in double figures for Schoolcraft were Brown (16 points, 15 rebounds), freshman forwards Jasmine Brown (12 points) and Southfield-Lathrup product Amber Avery (10 points, seven rebounds). Freshman center April Goins contributed nine points and six rebounds.

Chipping in with eight points, six rebounds and six assists was freshman forward Antania Shepherd while freshman guard Angela Burrell tallied eight assists.

After Saturday's regular sea-

son finale against Henry Ford CC, Schoolcraft opens MCCA postseason action with a 7 p.m. Wednesday at home against the fourth seed in the East.

The veteran coach has high hopes for the 2008-09 run, that it will exceed last season's disappointment of losing in the state final to Kellogg Community College.

"This team is really special in terms of how consistently they have come to play every game," Lafata said. "They work hard and they're focused. They don't have many off nights."

Meanwhile, all proceeds from Wednesday's women's men's twinbill between Schoolcraft and Oakland Community College went to the Kay Yow Women's Basketball Coaches Association Cancer Fund and Susan G. Komen For The Cure.

See related story in Section A of today's *Livonia Observer*.

## GABEL

FROM PAGE B1

"I just felt like it was time," Gabel told the *Observer*. "It wasn't a snap decision, it's been coming a number of years. It's something I've been contemplating."

Gabel said he mulled over his decision to return for 10 days after being approached by Hyman. He also spoke with Newman about rejoining the staff as well.

"Because out of respect for Lori and the administration, and in the best interests of the

kids, it made it hard to say no to Lori's request," Gabel said. "The administration felt it was in the best interest of the program and it wasn't hard to agree with them."

"We're both fully committed to the 2009 season. You'll see little change in the time we spend and there's no intention of cutting corners. We'll be 100 percent committed to the players. Somehow we'll convince the kids that they'll get our best effort. We'll make sure we have fun and we'll go with it."

Thursday after school, Gabel addressed his players briefly during a weightlifting session.

"Both Conrad and I have

a lot of these kids in class," Gabel said. "We have some really great kids. We've been in the school and it's not a hardship to work with good kids, especially in my situation."

Gabel said he hasn't explored yet his how his staff, which includes varsity offensive line coach Scott Shaw — whom Gabel assists during the track and field season — will shape up for the 2009 season.

"I didn't expect this to happen," Gabel said. "As far as the staff right now, I don't know. I haven't talked yet to anybody."

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# Reader Rewards

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Youth baseball tryouts

The Southeast Michigan Rebels, a 16-and-under travel baseball team, will stage a tryout and evaluation workout from 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Auburn Hills Dome, located at 141 S. Opdyke Road, in Auburn Hills.

There is a nominal cost for using the dome. All positions are open until roster is finalized.

For more information, e-mail assistant Joe Wilson at sandlotjoe@yahoo.com; or call 734-612-7663.

#### Churchill Hall of Fame

The seventh annual Livonia Churchill Patrons and Athletics Hall of Fame induction dinner will be Thursday, March 19, 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. (bring a sack lunch); and Session II featuring pitching and defense from 12:15-2:45 p.m.

Campers are urged to bring a glove, bat and athletic shoes.

The cost is \$25 per session or \$45 for both (includes T-Shirt). Checks should be made payable to Franklin High School. Send to: Matt Fournier, Franklin Baseball Camp, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

For more info, call Fournier at (734) 968-0499; or e-mail mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us.



# NEIGHBORS

## A family affair Pierogi business a labor of love

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's been a busy day at Lila's Pierogi but the family who owns the business remains unfrazzled. Waleria "Lila" Orłowska, son Antonio Calimazzo and his wife, Connie, love working together, although making 150 dozen of the Polish dumplings at a time is a chore.

A typical run is 90 dozen but they're preparing for the Easter rush. That's not easy because the Livonia shop offers 21 different fillings from potato and onion to mushroom with portabella and mozzarella. All are sold frozen so that gives them some breathing space between batches but it's not unusual for them to come in after church on Sunday to mix up the farmer's cheese or potato and cheddar, their best seller.

"You just don't quit. When you're ready to pass out you go home and sleep and then start again," said Antonio Calimazzo, who admits he's not too fond of onion day when the three peel and chop 50 pounds of the tear jerkers. He loves his pierogi fried in butter and onion though. Sons Luc, 7, and Logan, 8, love them straight out of the frying pan.

"Christmas is chaos when they're waiting outside the door. It's our busiest time when they load up for parties and to take to their families out of town," said Connie. "Once they try them they keep coming back. We have one family that comes once a month with a hamper, others with laundry



Lila Orłowska works with her son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Connie Calimazzo at their pierogi shop in Livonia. Here they're pictured in front of a mural by Orłowska.

baskets. We're busy before Christmas and through Easter and we're gearing up for Lent so we're stocking up."

### WORKING TOGETHER

In years past, the entire family pitched in. Antonio works construction so weekends and rainy days find him at the shop.

"My brother worked to 3 a.m. in the morning," said Lila Orłowska. "Connie's sister sometimes works and my mother and brother."

Lila (pronounced Leela) is proud of the authentic Polish recipe she learned at her mother's knee. Both were born in Poland and came to this country in 1967 when Lila was 14. Today Janina, age 82, doesn't help out much any more. She lives with Lila in Redford.

"We'll be here five years next month," said Orłowska. "It was my grandmother's recipe. I was named after my grandmother. She was a tough lady. We had four kids in our family. Mom made the oldest girls learn. They had to learn."

### ART AND PIEROGI

Orłowska's strength must have come from Waleria and Janina because she raised Antonio as a single mother from age 2 after her divorce. It took Orłowska 11 years to earn three arts degrees from College for Creative Studies and Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, but she kept pursuing her dream of becoming a graphic artist. While she cleaned houses to pay the bills, Lila never stopped painting or making pierogi. She eventually opened the shop. Her mural of the Polish eagle is one of the first things customers see when they enter the door.

"It's a lot of hard work, but I never get enough of pierogi," said Lila.

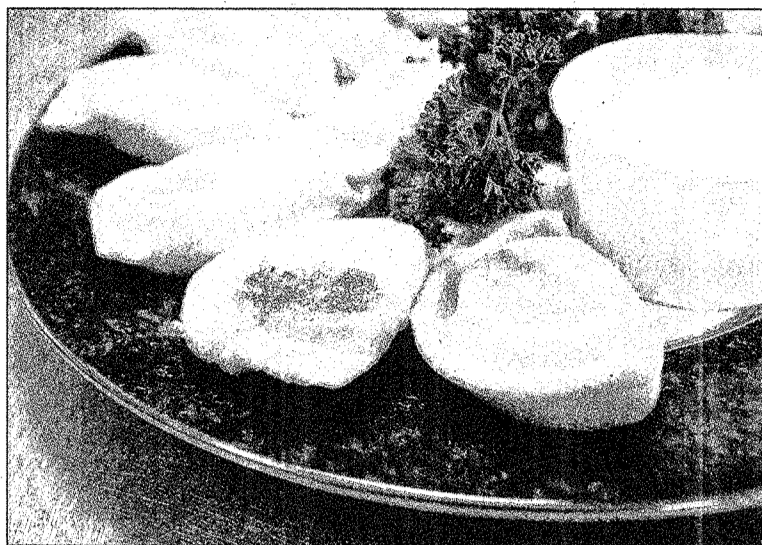
Antonio couldn't agree more. Pierogi are a staple at the family's kitchen table.

"You don't get sick of them because then you just move on to another flavor. As far as the work, even on rough days we still have fun. We have fun constantly," said Antonio as he demonstrated how pierogi are filled two at a time and then the edges of the dough sealed in a machine.

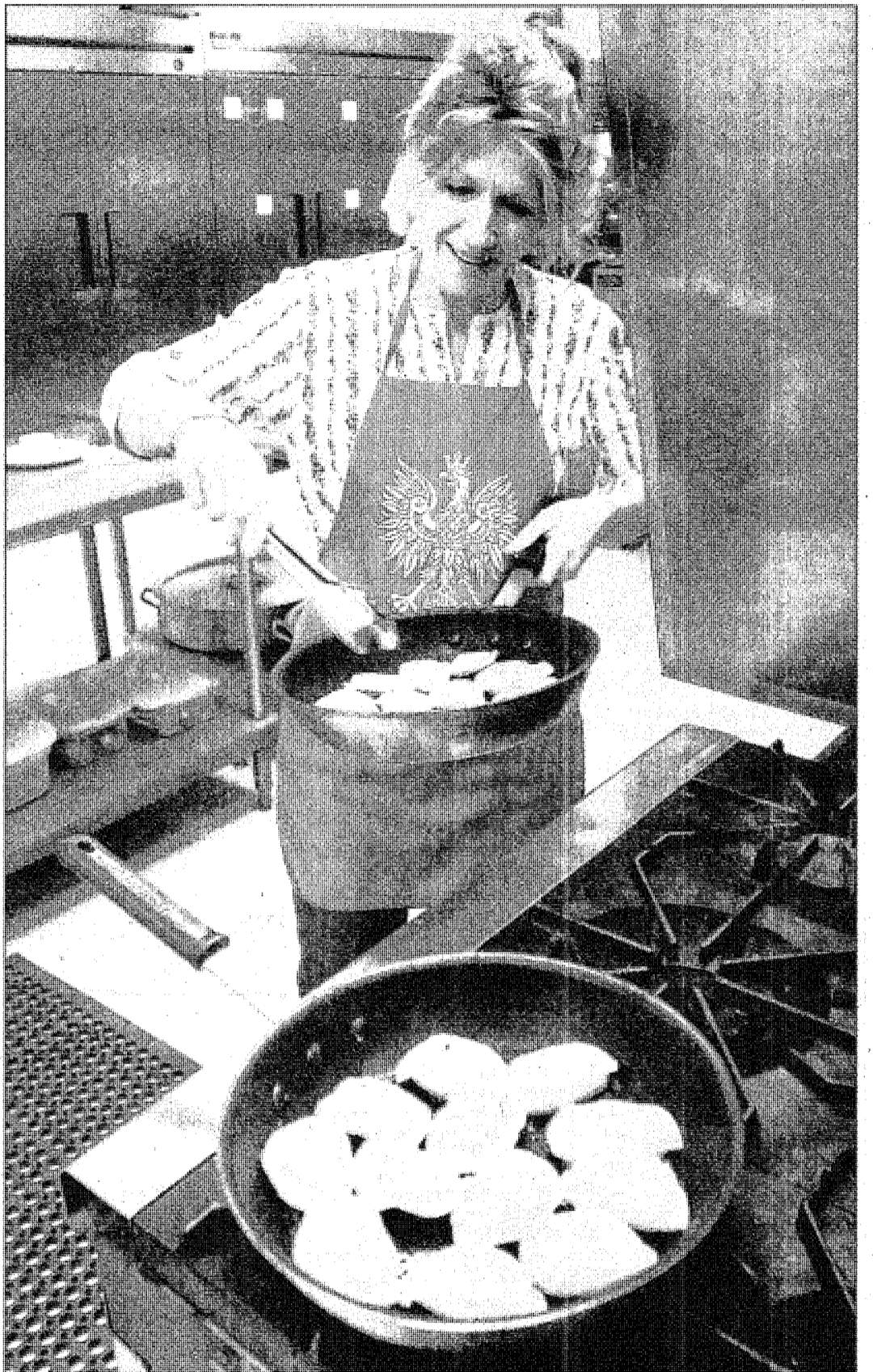
Annamary Demyan is a regular customer at Lila's shop. A week ago Friday, she was picking up a dozen farmer's cheese pierogi.

"They're the best around," said Demyan of Redford. "I've told people in church about them. I come from a Slovak family. My mom used to make them. My sister and I tried a couple of times but it's a lot of work."

Lila's Pierogi is at 27811 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 4 p.m. Saturday. Call (734) 421-7444 or visit [www.lilaspierogi.com](http://www.lilaspierogi.com).



Potato and cheddar cheese pierogi are always a big seller at Lila's.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Waleria "Lila" Orłowska fries up a batch of potato and cheese pierogi at Lila's Pierogi in Livonia.

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**SYMPATHETIC NEURODYSTROPHY**

The term sympathetic neurodystrophy is an example of a forbidding looking medical phase that breeds down to an understandable concept. "Sympathetic" refers to the sympathetic nervous system, a part of the body's neural system that controls the size of blood vessels. "Neuro" refers to the nerve endings that connect to the body's small arteries. "Dystrophy" means that a part of the body's machinery is not working right. The term, in total, states that the nerve endings are not regulating the blood vessels properly.

The main features of sympathetic neurodystrophy are swelling and pain, usually involving one hand or one foot. The problem comes on over several days and often is not associated with recent injury or an underlying condition such as diabetes.

A doctor cannot usually make a diagnosis of sympathetic neurodystrophy on the patient's first visit as the swelling and pain may mimic injury, gout, infection or a blood clot. These possibilities need evaluation, and at times trials of treatment for infection or arthritis. When therapy fails to bring improvement, the possible diagnosis arises of sympathetic neurodystrophy.

Initial treatment requires daily cortisone at a high dose for at least a month. Thereafter, the doctor slowly lowers the dose. Taking high dose steroids for a prolonged period brings on unwanted side effects such as weight gain, irritability, hypertension, susceptibility to infection, and possibly diabetes. Unfortunately, to date no other regimen has successfully substituted for this draconian treatment.

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# Series addresses economic crisis

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

Rev. Paul Perez isn't thinking about basketball when he talks about March Madness. The name of the economic series was meant to illustrate the dire circumstances facing many families today.

Perez has seen the effects of the financial crisis first hand as it effects members of Newburg United Methodist Church where he is a deacon and directs adult and children education. That's why he's starting March Madness, a series of forums on surviving and thriving in the current economy. On Monday, March 2, Perez has invited Cindy LaFond and Tracey Emmanuel of the Livonia Housing Department to speak about Home Foreclosure. All forums start at 6 p.m. on Monday nights in March at the church in Livonia.

"The series came about from discussion with me and my pastor about how we can respond to the current economic crisis. We have church members, folks who have lost jobs, have foreclosed houses within their neighborhoods. I thought about issues folks may be facing and wanted to connect with folks in Livonia who could speak to the issues," said Perez, a Rochester Hills resident. "The financial crisis has hit close to home, at the church, if not

ourselves friends and family members."

Perez has lined up a number of experts in the community to share their knowledge. On March 9, Julie Puginni of Career Counseling at Schoolcraft College speaks about Career Transitions. March 16 is living in Anxious Times with Paul Melrose of the Samaritan Counseling Center. Sue Sweeney, department of Gerontology, Madonna University, redefines retirement on March 23. Closing the series is Observer & Eccentric columnist Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management focusing on Investing in a Down Economy.

"The series is a new thing for us, an opportunity to connect with the surrounding community on an important issue. Newburg as a faith community has been part of this community for 175 years and we have a lot of deep concern for the community," said Perez who grew up in Livonia. "We wanted to help the community while partnering with the community."

The forum is open to all communities not just Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-0149. Newburg United Methodist Church is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia.

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

## MILESTONES

### Allen-Coleman

Jennifer Lyn Allen and Joshua Mark Coleman, both of Livonia, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is daughter of Tresa and Jim Stillely of West Jordan, Utah, and her fiancé is the son of Chris and Kim Coleman of Rochester.

They plan to marry in November 2009 in Rochester.

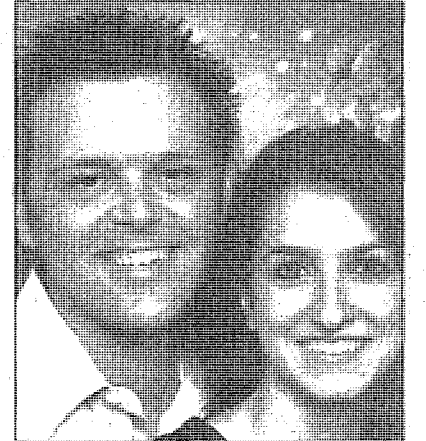


### Orza-Sergent

Alfredo and Anna Orza of Port Orange, Fla., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Dr. Danielle Marie Orza, to Dr. Adam William Sergent, son of Jerry and Karen Sergent of Plymouth.

Danielle graduated from Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange in 2002, the University of Florida in 2005, and the University of St. Augustine in 2008. Adam graduated from Franklin High School in Livonia in 1997, Madonna University in Livonia in 2002, and Palmer College of Chiropractic in Port Orange in 2006.

A spring wedding is set for May 16 at St. Paul's Basilica in Dayton Beach, Fla., followed by a reception at the Daytona Beach Hilton and a honeymoon in St. Lucia.



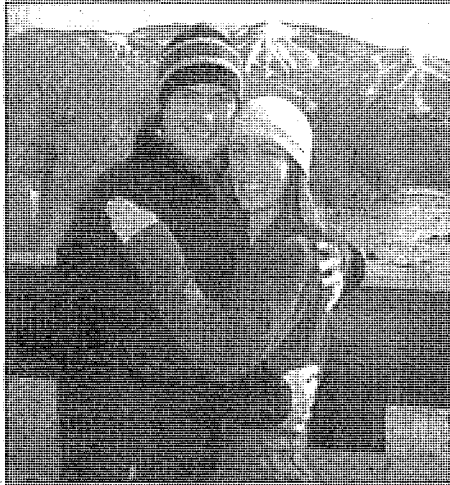
### Miriani-McLeod

Carolyn and Dean McLeod of Livonia are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Matthew Dean McLeod, to Allison Renee Miriani, daughter of James and Barbara Miriani of Oakland Township.

Matt is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2003 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Allison is a 1999 graduate of Lake Orion High School. She also graduated from MSU in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. She is currently the news editor of the Steamboat Pilot & Today newspaper and co-editor of At Home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Matt and Alli reside in Steamboat Springs where their April 2009 wedding will take place at Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School.



### Zengerle wedding

Sarah Plafchan and Ryan Zengerle were married on July 19, 2008 at The Chapel at St. John's in Plymouth. The bride is the daughter of Larry and Rosemary Plafchan, of Farmington Hills. The groom is the son of Michael and Mary Ann Zengerle, of Fenton.

Sarah and Ryan are graduates of Michigan State University. Sarah is employed by DIRECTV in Chicago, as an account service representative. Ryan is a dental solutions specialist to Nobel Biocare in Chicago. The couple spent their honeymoon in Italy and they reside in Chicago.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Department of Management and Budget, Office of Retirement Services and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules

The Public School Retirement Board, the State Police Retirement Board, the Judges Retirement Board, and the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules will hold a public hearing on March 9, 2009, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The hearing will be held in Conference Room A, 1st Floor of the General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The public hearing is being held to receive comments from interested persons on the promulgation of General Rules: Adding R 38.1371 - R 38.1386 and rescission of R 38.1201, R 38.1203, R 38.1204 and R 38.1207 for the Public School Retirement Board; adding R 38.1761 - R 38.1686 for the State Police Retirement Board; and adding R 38.2171 - R 38.2186 for the Judges Retirement Board by the State Office Administrative Hearings and Rules.

The Rules for the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules are being promulgated under the authority of Executive Order 2005-1, MCL 445.2021. It is proposed that all of the Rules will take effect immediately after filing with the Secretary of State.

Comments may be presented in person and in writing at the time of the hearing. Comments may also be submitted by mail or FAX until March 9, 2009, at 5:00pm. Address any comments to:

Public School Retirement Board  
or  
State Police Retirement Board  
or  
Judges Retirement Board  
Attention: Executive Secretary to the Board  
P.O. Box 31070  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Or FAX: 517-322-6145

All hearings are conducted in compliance with the 1900 Americans with Disabilities Act. Hearings are held in buildings that accommodate mobility impaired individuals and accessible parking is available. A disabled person who requires accommodations for effective participation in a hearing should call Linda Albro-Sparks at 517-636-6039 (voice) to make the necessary arrangements. To ensure availability of the accommodation, please call at least one (1) week in advance.

Date: February 5, 2009 SOAHR# 2008-046 SR, 2008-047  
SR, 2008-048 SR

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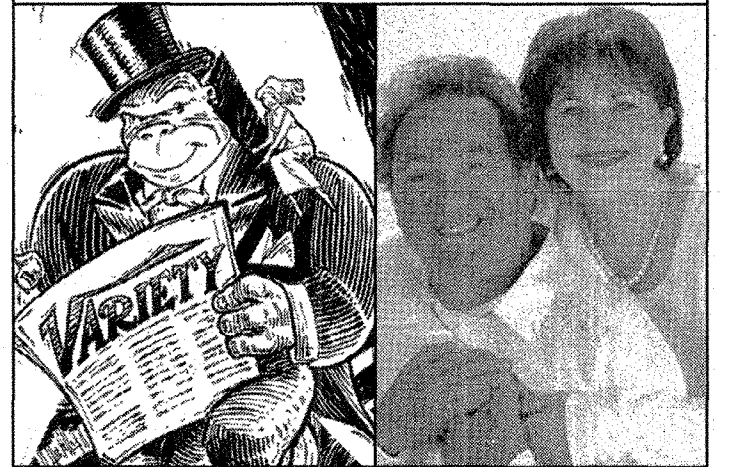
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Cleo Parker and her three English Bull Terriers Anna Nicole (left), Ada and Marley in their Livonia home.

# Learn about doggie quirks at shows

Marley and Madeleine have a lot in common with Clancy our Irish Wolfhound when it comes to stubbornness. The cute English Bull Terrier and large Great Pyrenees breeds require extra patience from the owner during obedience training just like our big guy.

Lucky for Cleo Parker, Marley's owner and Alexa White, Madeleine's mom, they're competing in conformation trials based on looks at the Detroit

Kennel Club Dog Shows Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1, at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Parker fell in love with English Bull Terriers long before the Target dog in TV commercials made the breed popular. She lives with three of the dogs in Livonia where they have her wrapped around their paws. If they want a toy or treat they beg first on one side then the other and never give up. They might even lick an arm or leg to get what they want.

"They're extremely friendly with people and pretty much go up to anybody," said Parker. "They have a lot of personality and make you laugh with the things they do, but they're very independent and stubborn and can be hard to obedience train."

If you're looking to add a four-legged member to your family the DKC shows are a good way to find out about a particular breed's little quirks. Parker brought home her first English Bull Terrier at age 14 after saving her money and begging for a dog. Three-year-old Marley, CH

### DKC DOG SHOWS

**What:** Detroit Kennel Club spotlights more than 2,000 dogs in competition in two separate shows

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1, with Best in Show contenders entering the ring at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Cobo Hall, Detroit

**Tickets:** \$12 adults, \$8 children under age 12 and seniors age 60 and over, free for children under age 2, \$35 for family packs of two adults and three children, and available at the door. For group rates, call (248) 540-5206

Nuance Nonsense, has won trophies in Canada and the U.S. Anna Nicole, Marley's mom, age 6, and Anna's mother Ada, almost 11, have retired to a nice cozy couch in Parker's home.

"The DKC shows are a bench show to meet with the general public," said Parker who's been breeding the dogs since 1985. "When you're not rushed going into and out of the ring, it gives you a chance to educate people."

Parker showed her first dog at 16 in the DKC shows in the early 1970s as a junior handler. This year Alexa White is one of the competitors getting her feet wet in the ring with her first show dog, United Kennel Club CH Depyrmont La Belle Absolve. The 16-year-old Livonia girl has wanted to become a professional handler since attending a match several years ago. Many young people share her dream. That's why the DKC is shutting down the rings from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday for youth to talk to handlers from prestigious shows such as Westminster.

White probably could use



Alexa White of Livonia is showing her nearly one-year-old puppy Madeleine in the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows at Cobo Hall.

a few tips since Madeleine is still a puppy at nearly one year old.

"I have to compete against all the kids ages 9 to 18. It's broken down into six classes of handling skills," said White, a student at Livonia's Stevenson High School. "They judge on how you groom and present yourself. If the dog misbehaves you can't lose your cool."

"Depyrmont La Belle Absolve means the absolutely beautiful in French. She is all white with some reddish color on her back. I love their temperament. They're very stubborn and independent but very loyal, a good watchdog, and I love all of the hair."

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

### REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com). Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, e-mail [lchomin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lchomin@hometownlife.com).

#### Brighton High School

**Class of 1989**  
Planning a July 25 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at [email4kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:email4kelley@yahoo.com), or see [groups.yahoo.com/group/brighton-classof1989](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/brighton-classof1989).

#### Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. Visit [www.casstech59.com](http://www.casstech59.com) or contact Marge Teramino Knable, [reunion@casstech59.com](mailto:reunion@casstech59.com); Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

#### Dearborn Fordson

##### Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: [kaynilitu@aol.com](mailto:kaynilitu@aol.com) or Kathy Shoebridge @ [klivingston@nu-core.com](mailto:klivingston@nu-core.com).

#### Dearborn Heights Riverside

##### Class of 1967

A 42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Rd., Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Rd., Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or [gwiatr@gmail.com](mailto:gwiatr@gmail.com).

#### Detroit St. Bridg

##### Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact [szonyek@att.net](mailto:szonyek@att.net) with any information about classmates.

#### Detroit schools

We are planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Post Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or Marlene Kutnick Yamron (e-mail) [hahatdc@yahoo.com](mailto:hahatdc@yahoo.com). The reunion is planned for Feb. 27, 2009.

#### Henry Ford II

##### Class of 1982

Looking for classmates. We are having a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek MetroPark and we're also planning a reunion in 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doemer) Bambach at 248-740-9759, [ford21982@aol.com](mailto:ford21982@aol.com) or visit our FREE class webpage on [www.classreport.org](http://www.classreport.org).

#### Detroit St. Casimir High School Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009 Class Reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at [JudyCoo@hotmail.com](mailto:JudyCoo@hotmail.com) or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at [PJcruisin@wowway.com](mailto:PJcruisin@wowway.com).

#### Garden City High School East Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 High School Tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum Tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park Large Pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth (734) 522-1845.

#### Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to [GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com](mailto:GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com).

#### Class of 1989

20th reunion 6 p.m.-midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at [www.gardencity89.com](http://www.gardencity89.com) or contact Paula at [gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com).

#### Grosse Pointe North

##### Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit [www.taylorreunions.com](http://www.taylorreunions.com) or e-mail: [info@taylorreunions.com](mailto:info@taylorreunions.com).

#### Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or [nc6897@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nc6897@sbcglobal.net).

#### Livonia Bentley High School

**Classes of 1968-1970**  
Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit [www.bentley686970.org](http://www.bentley686970.org) to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of '68' at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of '69 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembar class of '70 at (734) 455-1395.

#### Livonia Franklin

##### Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: [kaynilitu@aol.com](mailto:kaynilitu@aol.com).

#### Livonia Thurston

Class of 1972 37th Reunion/55th Birthday Bash May 2, 2009, at Mama Mia Restaurant in Livonia. For more information, contact [ths72reunion@gmail.com](mailto:ths72reunion@gmail.com) or call (248) 348-9214.

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Moving on

### EMDR unlocks traumatic events frozen in time

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

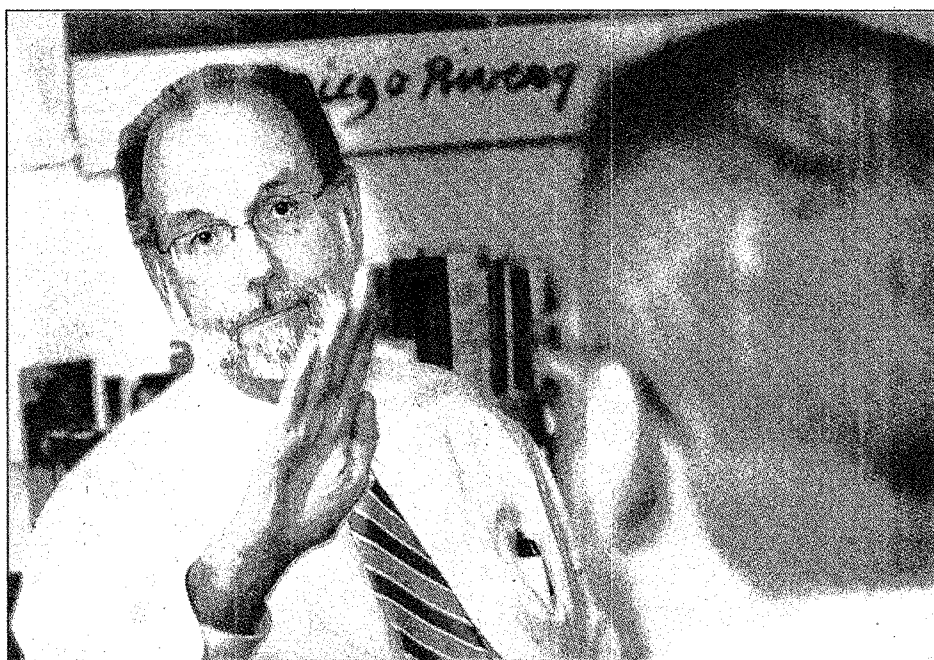
More than 10 years after Dan Chaloux's grandmother died he was still having problems dealing with his grief. It wasn't until the 39-year old Farmington man started having flashbacks that he sought help from psychotherapist David Breeden at Life Cyle Family Counseling in Livonia.

Complicated grief is one of the traumatic events in which Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) can be used to unlock and resolve disturbing events that remain frozen in time. Chaloux had been partying with a friend on Super Bowl Sunday and missed the call that his grandmother was dying. Family thought his presence might have strengthened her will to live since the two were close. Chaloux's grandmother helped raise him.

"It was like I was living through it all again," said Chaloux who admits he felt guilty about not being there before she slipped into a coma. "I had wonderful memories of my grandmother. I'm who I am because of my grandparents. EMDR is a way to touch base with those feelings. It brought up a conversation I had prior to her passing away about how proud she was of me and loved me and I blocked it out. EMDR made me feel better. It was very enlightening. You're talking your way through it."

Chaloux went from not being able to visit her gravesite to sharing memories of her with his young children after EMDR. Last Tuesday Breeden demonstrated the method in his office. Chaloux was asked to focus on the traumatic event and follow Breeden's hand with his eyes back and forth for about 30 seconds of bilateral stimulation. Typically EMDR is used for 15 to 20 sets a visit for several sessions.

"We're not sure why or how it works but it begins to reduce the anxiety that's part of the trauma. EMDR allows communication to occur within the client," said Breeden



Psychotherapist David Breeden demonstrates how EMDR is used to unlock and resolve disturbing thoughts surrounding traumatic events.



Psychotherapist David Breeden (left) listens as Dan Chaloux talks about how he was helped by Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing.

of Beverly Hills, "The traumatic event is stuck, locked in a disturbing area like a hot spot and you can't touch it. The effect of the trauma is the world looks a little less safe. I believe anxiety disorders are rooted in traumatic events and could be helped. EMDR helps with any disturbance."

Psychologist Francine Shapiro discovered the method of psychotherapy back in 1987 to help Vietnam War veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Breeden has used EMDR to deal with a variety of traumatic events from a teen who suffered child

abuse to youth frightened by nightmares and thunderstorms, and an adult afraid to drive on expressways after witnessing a truck accident.

Clients dredge up the emotionally disturbing memories while focusing on external stimulus such as a hand or sound so it's essential that Breeden assesses them first through a history. If their anxiety over the trauma has remained high on a scale of 1 to 10 over time then EMDR might help especially if talk therapy has failed. Breeden begins by giving clients a safe place to retreat if the memories become too much. Chaloux recalled sights, sounds and smells of the beach.

"It's important to tell if somebody is ready to do this," said Breeden. "With Dan 10 years later it was still a 10 plus. Clients therefore develop negative beliefs about themselves and begin to say I'm a failure. It's the legacy of trauma. With EMDR the number begins to come down and helps a person instill a positive belief about themselves."

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

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### FEBRUARY

##### 'Go Red' luncheon

The American Heart Association event features a fashion show, keynote speaker Dr. Annabelle Volgman, and a silent auction including celebrity purses donated by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, 100 Renaissance Center, Detroit. Tickets \$250, available by calling Tashena Young at (248) 936-5806. Proceeds benefit education and research for women and heart disease.

##### Lupus support group

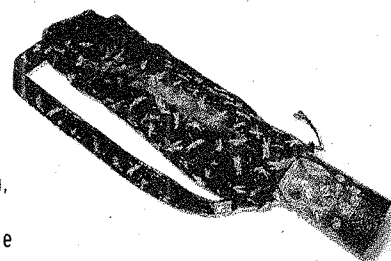
The Lupus Alliance hosts a free meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Lupus Alliance of America's office, 26507 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Guest speaker is Chuck Pottenger on how memory is affected by lupus. Call (800) 705-6677 to pre-register or for more information online at www.milupus.org.

##### 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. Call Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197. Space is limited, so pre-registration required.

##### Thyroid cancer support

The group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survi-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

##### Go Red Auction

A silk butterfly yoga mat bag from Blue Lotus in Franklin (www.bluelotusyogawear.com) is up for auction at the American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon Feb. 25. It is among 30 purses, totes, satchels and clutches donated by the community and gathered by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for the cause.

vors as well as their family members and friends. The next meeting is 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. For more information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

##### Reconnect with food

Registration is now being taken for a Candlelight Yoga and Discussion Program 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Center for Yoga, Birmingham. The program is for individuals interested in exploring their relationship with food, body image and emotions. Cost is \$29, one week prior to program. Pre-registration required. Visit reconnectwithfood.com or call (248) 390-4150.

##### Winter fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The session infuses Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility, and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

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**A Note from Florine**

There are a few four letter words that shouldn't be said in polite company and I'm adding another one: "Diet". Dieting implies a temporary change in eating habits. Losing a pound or two is one thing, but achieving a healthy weight takes more than just a diet. It takes a commitment to better eating habits and sensible portion control. Don't deny yourself the foods you love, just add things that are good for you. Cut up some carrots for a snack instead of grabbing some chips or enjoy an apple to curb your mid-meal hunger.

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