

AROUND TOWN In the news

The New York Times on Monday featured an article on U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and the impact of his vote against President Barack Obama's stimulus package on his 2010 election prospects. McCotter joined all Republican members of the House of Representatives in voting against the economic stimulus. On the other hand, McCotter has been a vocal supporter of government loans to General Motors and Chrysler.

Among those quoted in the article by Carl Hulse was Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, who is quoted as saying, "Since when do Republicans vote against tax cuts? They are betting the farm, because if this works, I think people will remember they were not on board."

The *Times* article notes that McCotter, chair of the Republican House Policy Committee, has broken ranks with his party on expanding health insurance for children and supporting a measure to ease union organizing.

On the stimulus, the *Times* quotes McCotter: "It won't work. If I thought it would work, I would have voted for it."

Blight buster

A sign of the housing markets woes is a pile of personal belongings dumped in the yard of a foreclosed home. That won't change under a new city ordinance that takes effect today (Feb. 26), but it does shortened how long those possessions can stay there.

The Westland City Council

Tax rates: Relief for some, not all

BY DARRELL CLEM Observer staff writer

Westland's residential property assessments plunged 17 percent for 2009, fueled by a housing-market crash that will mean tax relief for many — but not all — local homeowners, city officials confirmed. "I'm guessing the majority of

people will see some sort of relief this

year. How much, I don't know," city Assessor James Elrod said.

Still, longtime residents could be shocked to learn that they will pay slightly higher property taxes this year — even though their home values dipped — due to quirks in a voter-approved law in 1994 that slowed tax hikes even as the housing market prospered.

The result, as unnerving as it might relief coming this year.

seem, is that some homeowners will not see their taxes decline until the gap is closed between two key numbers — their assessed value and their taxable value.

While Elrod expects the gap to close for virtually all residents by 2010, the situation likely won't be well-received from struggling homeowners who thought they had tax relief coming this year. "We are getting some calls," Elrod said.

It works like this. One longtime city homeowner saw her assessed value, or state equalized valuation, plummet from \$82,520 last year to \$66,400. The SEV represents half of a home's value.

However, her taxable value rose

Please see TAXES, A3

Kids lace up to learn how to skate

Amber Costigan's favorite movie is *Ice Princess*. According to her mother, Rhonda, she loves the movie and loves to watch. She estimates her daughter has viewed the film 500 times.

That movie, a new pair of skates and seeing the medals and newspaper clippings about her mother, who was a competitive skater, was enough to get the 6-year-old on the ice at Mike Modano Arena last week to learn to skate.

"She did a good job, she ice skates better than I thought," said Rhonda Costigan. "She was shaking her butt so much to make herself move. She did the obstacle course. She skated better than I thought."

Open to boys and girls ages 6-15, the ice skating clinic was among several recreation programs offered to youngsters during the area school districts' midwinter break. Ice skating instructors worked with new skaters, teaching them how to skate, how to stop and in the case of Amber do toe picks with figure skates.

Please see SKATE, A3



Youngsters use their arms to maintain their balance on ice skates during the learn to skate program at the Mike Modano Ice Arena.



recently approved the ordinance, which limits leaving abandoned property outside of foreclosed home for longer than 72 hours. It comes on the heels of another previously adopted ordinance that deems high grass in excess of eight inches a problem and stipulates that it must be cut.

"While it is imperative we give occupants adequate time to secure their belongings, this ordinance will prevent the mortgage company from creating a blight nuisance," said Mayor William Wild. "Our goal is to protect property values and sustain the livability of the neighborhood."

In addition to imposing a time limit on how long the personal articles can remain outside the premises, the ordinance allows the city to remove and dispose of the property as well as recover removal and disposal costs.

Likewise, the cost the city incurs to cut the grass of foreclosed or abandoned properties is passed on to the property owner, and if the property owner fails to pay the cost, a 30 percent surcharge is added to the property's tax bill.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amber Costigan, 6, of Westland breaks into laughter after falling during her first time ice skating. Helping her up was her friend, Breanna Kolenc, 10.

Help needed with finishing touches on Octagon House

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's historic Octagon House, a mid-1800s home that has been restored and opened for public tours, still needs a few finishing touches.

The two-story house, situated in the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, needs volunteers for plaster work in a small, upstairs bedroom where historians want to spruce it up with new wallpaper.

A carpenter also is being sought to build a bookcase and to finish "a little touch-up work" around the house, historian Jo Johnson said. To help, call (734) 326-1110 or (734) 522-3918.

Even now, Johnson described the house as "usable" and said a couple of small weddings are expected to occur there as early as this spring. Local officials unveiled the

Octagon House to a large crowd dur-

ing the 2007 holiday season. It also has been opened to the public 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, and Johnson said special tours may be arranged.

The opening of the eight-sided house, flanked by two additions built in the mid-1930s, capped a yearslong restoration effort to protect one of the city's oldest houses. Johnson said historians still hope to add more period furniture to the beloved home. story house was built by the ancestors of Clyde Smith, who owned the former Clyde Smith & Sons Farm Market & Greenhouses on Newburgh Road.

The Octagon House once stood just south of the now-razed farm market, but it was moved to Warren Road near Hix before it was relocated a few years ago to its new spot in the historic village.

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Judge gives lengthy sentence in sex assault case

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who sexually assaulted his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old daughter will spend much — if not all — of his life in prison.

Tadario Derwin Sims, 22, was sentenced Wednesday in Wayne County Circuit Court to 25-50 years for four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, and Judge Vonda Evans imposed an additional nine to 15 years for three counts of second-degree CSC.

Sims learned his fate after a Wayne County jury convicted him earlier this month following allegations he molested the girl, gave her alcohol and showed her pornographic movies while his pregnant girlfriend was receiving hospital care for a child he fathered.

'He's a threat and danger to the children of Westland and the state of Michigan, so he's where he belongs.'

DEBRA MATHEWS, Westland police sargeant

Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews commended the sentence Evans imposed for sexual assaults that happened early last year in the city's Norwayne neighborhood.

"He sexually assaulted an 8-year-old child. It was very cold. It was very calculated," Mathews said. "It involved alcohol and pornography, and there's no doubt in my mind that if the girl hadn't told (her mother), it would have continued.

"He was only 22 years old, so he had a long life ahead of him to molest young children," Mathews said. "He's a threat and danger to the children of Westland and the state of Michigan, so he's where he belongs."

Sims faced at least 25 years in prison for sexually assaulting a child under 13 years old, but Evans' court clerk said the sentences of 25-50 years and nine to 15 years will be served consecutively — not simultaneously.

Sims chose to go to trial even though he made two videotaped confessions admitting his crimes.

The girl's mother went to police after her daughter told her what had happened. The mother also has four sons, including the last-born boy fathered by Sims.

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19



Historians say the original two-

Index

Apartments C3
Automotive C4
Career Builder C4
Crossword Puzzle C3 👘
FILTER B6-7
Food & Wine B8
Obituaries B4
PUBLIC SAFETY A4
Real Estate C2
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ORDINANCE NO. 192-C-1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WESTLAND CITY CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 83, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 83-1 THROUGH 83-6, REGULATING THE DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY OWNERS AND OTHER PARTIES

WHEREAS the Westland City Council finds that abandoned personal property creates a traffic hazard, affects the fair market and taxable values of surrounding properties, creates a potential harborage for vermin, constitutes a nuisance, and often requires the expenditure of City and/or private resources to clean up. The City Council further finds that it is therefore necessary to regulate abandoned personal property to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WESTLAND HEREBY **ORDAINS:**

Section 1. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-1, of the Westland City Code is hereby amended to add the following:

Definitions.

Abandoned Personal Property means personal property that has been deserted, relinquished, cast away, or left behind by an occupant of any premises who has voluntarily or otherwise surrendered or abandoned possession of real property or a premise, or is disposed of by Court order, order of a governmental agency, owner of the real property, or any person, firm or entity acting as agent for or on the owner's behalf.

Occupant means a person residing in, having resided in, in possession of, or having had possession of real property, the premises, or any building or structure located upon real property as an owner in possession, mortgagor, land contract purchaser, tenant, subtenant, or assignee successor in interest of any of the foregoing.

Owner means a person that owns, operates, holds a legal or equitable interest in, or is entitled to the control of real property, including a holder of legal title, land contract vendor, landlord, trustee, receiver, property manager, or an agent acting on behalf of any of the foregoing.

Personal Property means furniture, appliances, goods, belongings, effects, equipment and fixtures of an occupant that are found on real property, the premises, or within any other building or structure located upon real property.

Premises means a house, dwelling, shelter, mobile home, garage, shed, any building or structure, or any portion thereof situated upon real property.

Real property means any land, real estate, building, structure, mobile home, mobile home park, trailer park, tenement, leasehold, or any interest therein that is used, occupied, or offered for sale, purchase, rent, or occupancy.

Section 2. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-2, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

An owner or occupant shall not leave any abandoned personal property on real property for a period of time that is greater than seventy two (72) hours computed as commencing at :00 a.m. the morning after the personal property is removed from

March is the time to challenge your property assessment

his time of year, most people are gathering income tax information getting ready

to prepare their return or take it to a professional. Paying attention to income taxes is extremely important which is why **Money Matters** I recommend

keeping a tax **Rick Bloom** file throughout the year.

Taxpayers

who scramble to find their tax information ultimately forget something and the result can be paying higher income tax. Most people should have received all the necessary information for a 2008 tax return whether it is a 1099 or a W-2.

Another tax that requires action this time of year is property tax. Homeowners should have received a statement regarding property taxes. Many are under the assumption that there is nothing that they can do with regards to property taxes. Although there is some truth

to that statement, there is, particularly this year, an opportunity to petition your municipality to lower property' taxes. Keep in mind, the right to appeal your property taxes happens only once a year and now is that time.

Cities and townships throughout Michigan are beginning to convene the local Board of Review. The local Board of Review meets in early to mid-March to resolve how property is assessed. If you believe your property is overassessed, particularly because of what has occurred in the real estate market, now is the time to contest your assessment at the Board of Review.

Unlike many tax procedures, particularly through the Internal Revenue Service or the Michigan Department of Treasury, a Board of Review, conducted by a local municipality, is informal. You do not need the assistance of a professional. I believe that most people can present their case. In fact, at many Boards of Review, you no longer have to appear in person, you can submit a written statement.

What do you need to provide the Board of Review in order

to be successful? It is important to recognize that when the times and do not have the municipality assesses the value of your house, they are basing it on fair market value (worth on the open market). The best documentation and evidence vou can show the board is what similar houses in your neighborhood have sold for in the last year. In other words, if a house on your block which is similar to yours has sold for substantially less than your house has been appraised for, that is the type of information that you need to provide the Board of Review.

Once you have decided to appeal, it is important to make sure that the information they have regarding your home is accurate. You can visit your city assessor's office to ensure the information on your home is correct. For example, if they believe your house is 3,500 square feet when it's only 2,800 square feet, that error can make a substantial difference in your property taxes.

How much you can save with regards your property taxes? I don't know, but in these difficult times, whenever you can lower your taxes, why not?

Many people are struggling

in these difficult economic time or the energy to prepare for the Board of Review. Unfortunately, this is the only time of year the Boards of Review convene. Unlike your income tax return where filing for an extension is an option, there is not an extension option when it comes to your Board of Review. Therefore, if you want to appeal your assessment now is the time to do it.

Don't be nervous to appear, the board is comprised of community residents. The key in presenting your case is to be organized and precise. In addition, the more documentation you can provide the better your case will be.

By spending a minimal amount of time, homeowners have an opportunity to potentially save a substantial amount of money, not only this year but for years to come.

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

CORRECTION

A story about Slot Car Mania that appeared in the Sunday, Feb. 15, Westland Observer should have Southfield is the winner of stated that there are two other slot car race tracks in western Wayne County - Lightning Speedway at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and TSS Hobbies and Slotcar Raceway in Belleville.



Contest winner gets yearlong movie pass for 2 Dorothy Deitch of ners will receive a pass for

the Observer & Eccentric/ Mirror/Hometown Weeklies online Oscar contest. Eight contestants picked the winners in six different categories and four tie-breaker questions (see

below). Deitch was selected in a random drawing. She won a yearlong movie pass for two to Emagine Theaters of Canton and Novi. Seven other wintwo for a single showing at Emagine Theater. They are Bonnie Burkhardt of Canton Township, Jimmy Orsag of Rochester Hills, Brent Rau of Novi, Denise Burke of Livonia, Mayda Sagherian of West Bloomfield, Penelope Vert of Livonia and Margie Hengtgen of Dearborn.

The winners answered the following questions correctly: Best Picture, Slumdog Millionaire; Best Actor, Sean Penn in Milk; Best

Actress, Kate Winslet in The Reader; Best Animated Feature Film, Wall-E; Best Supporting Actor, Heath Ledger in The Dark Knight; Best Supporting Actress, Penélope Cruz in Vicky Christina Barcelona. Tie Breakers: Best Directing, Slumdog Millionaire; Best Musical Score, Slumdog Millionaire; Best Cinematography, Slumdog Millionaire; Best Documentary Feature, Man on Wire.

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premises, and left or placed anywhere on the real property.

Section 3. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-3, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Nuisance Per Se.

Any condition on real property that violates the regulations of this Article constitutes a nuisance per se, which may be abated by a court of competent jurisdiction if the City elects to abate the nuisance by commencement of an action in said court.

Section 4. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-4, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Abatement Remedies.

(a) The City shall have the right to remove and dispose as refuse any abandoned personal property located upon real property that is not removed within the time frame set forth in Section 83-2.

(b) Enforcement of this Article by the City shall not prevent the City from enforcing any other nuisance violations arising on the real property, either by prosecution or other enforcement action.

Section 5. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-5, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Reimbursement for Expenses of Removal and Disposal.

Expenses incurred by the City in abating any violation of this Article, including but not limited to costs of removal and disposal, court costs and reasonable attorney fees, shall be paid by the owner or the owner's successor in interest within thirty (30) days of the date of a city invoice for such services. The city shall have a lien against the real property to secure payment of the obligation. If the invoice remains unpaid after thirty (30) days, the amount of the invoice shall be placed upon the tax roll as a special assessment, and shall be subject to the same penalties, interest, and collection procedures applicable to delinquent taxes.

Section 6. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-6, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Penalty for Violation of this Article.

Any person who violates a provision of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both. Each day that a violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a separate offense. A person who violates the provisions of this Article may also be responsible for violation of Article XIII of Chapter 22 of the Westland City Code.

Section 7. That all other provisions of Chapter 83 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 9. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 10. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted: 2-17-09 Published: 2-26-09 Effective: 2-26-09

Publish: February 26, 2009

Section 1. That Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-42, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 167-A-5-1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 18. ARTICLE II.

SECTIONS 18-42 AND 18-43 OF THE WESTLAND CITY

CODE TO ELIMINATE BREED SPECIFIC DESIGNATIONS

FOR VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS DOGS, ALLOW FOR

VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS DOGS TO BE IDENTIFIED VIA

MICROCHIPPING, AND ADD REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTING VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS DOGS

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Unconfined means not securely confined indoors or confined in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure upon the premises of the owner.

Vicious or dangerous dog means:

THE CITY OF WESTLAND HEREBY ORDAINS:

- 1. A dog that without justification attacks a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death.
- 2. A dog that is used for dog fighting or other illegal activity,
- A dog that with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack unprovoked, to cause injury to, or to otherwise endanger the safety of humans
- or other domestic animals The above does not apply to a dog that:
- a. Has been abused or tormented; b. Was directed toward a trespasser or a person
- committing or attempting to commit a crime, or c. Was involved in other similar mitigating or
- extenuating circumstances.

Section 2. That Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-43, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

A. The owner of a vicious or dangerous dog must:

- 1. Be 18 years of age or older;
- 2. Have such dog tattooed or microchipped, registered and licensed with the city;
- Provide information including the name, address, phone number, city and county from whom or where the owner acquired such dog;
- 4. Provide proof of at least \$100,000 in liability insurance;
- Notify the animal control officer or his agent 5. within a 24-hour period when the owner has knowledge that such dog is at large, unconfined, has attacked an individual or other animal, or that such dog has died; and
- 6. Notify the animal control officer or his agent when such dog is sold or given away to another person. The notification shall include the name, address, phone number and city of the new owner.
- 7. When transporting the dog, confine it in a closed,
- locked vehicle to prevent opportunities for escape and in a manner sufficient to prevent children from coming into contact with the dog through an open window in the vehicle.

Section 3. That all other provisions of this Chapter of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect. Section 4. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law. Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted: 2-17-09 Published: 2-26-09 Effective: 2-26-09

Publish: February 26, 2009

OE08645952 - 2x18

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before March 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Refill System

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office. Questions pertaining to the equipment should be directed to Scott Neal, Asst. Fire Chief at (734) 467-3182. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

> Jade M. Smith Controller

Publish: February 26, 2009

OE8645910_2x3.5



CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

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

> Tuesday March 3, 2009 9:00 a.m.

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	9:00am5:00pm

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%

Publish: February 19, 22, & 26, 2009

OE08645951 - 2x11.5

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 BET TEASURER-CL	
•	OE08544068_2x7

Road in Westland.

Willow Creek Cooperative

house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March

enrollment into our Parent/Tot,

Young 3's, 3 year and 4 year pro-

grams. Willow Creek is at 36660

Road, Westland. For more infor-

Cherry Hill, west of Wayne

mation, call (734) 326-0078.

Nursery Olympics

west of Wayne Road.

Westland Parks and

Recreation will present its

Nursery School Olympics 10

7, at the Bailey Recreational

a.m. to noon Saturday, March

Center, behind City Hall on Ford

Bring your toddlers ages 18

10. Willow Creek is accepting

Preschool is hosting an open

Open House

Masonic dinner

Don't forget to get your reservation in for the Wayne Lodge No. 72 Master Mason Degree and Dinner Saturday, Feb. 28. Lodge will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be at 6 p.m. Chef George will provide entertainment for the ladies while members do the second section. Friends and family are welcome.

Make reservations by e-mailing Junior Warden Gil Albanice at gibealba@sbcglobal.net or calling (734) 425-2104.

Also, tune your palate up for pancakes on Sunday, March 1. The Rainbow Girls will have their Sunday breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children for pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. The lodge is located

AROUND WESTLAND

on Palmer Road west of Wayne ON THE WEB

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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. 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.

FROM PAGE A1

from \$63,431 to \$66,221, meaning she will pay an additional \$105 in property taxes in 2009. Still, the gap between the SEV and the taxable value has almost closed, raising the likelihood of tax relief next year --- barring a sudden uptick in the housing market.

Confused? So are many homeowners, and that's why city officials are bombarded with questions from sometimes-irate residents this time of year.

Residents who feel wronged may mount a challenge with the local Board of Review, which will hear appeals March 9-12 at Westland City Hall. The three-member panel will meet from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 9 and 11, and from 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. March 10 and 12.

For more information, call the Westland Assessor's Office at (734) 467-3160 or visit the city's Web site at www.cityofwestland.com, and click on the link for assessments.

Moreover, homeowners who don't get the relief they sought locally may seek a higher ruling from the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Some 25,000 households, and nearly 2,000 commercial and industrial owners, should be receiving property assessments that the city has been mailing out. The numbers this year are "mostly flat" for the business sector, Elrod said.

Falling property values also will mean a loss of tax revenue for city officials who already had been bracing - and planning - for a difficult year of finances.

If nothing changes, Mayor William Wild said the city is expecting its general fund surplus to drop from just under \$2.2 million to a projected \$1.2 million by June 30. This Saturday, city leaders will wrap up the second of two strategic planning sessions partly aimed at seeking solutions.

"Those are the kinds of questions we're going to have to find some solutions for," Wild said.

Property taxes aside, Wild attributed the bulk of the projected general fund shortfall to a Westland 18th District Court deficit, a decline in revenues from interest, and a drop in certain city fees.

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 4 2/17/09

Presiding: Council President Godbout

Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemver

29- Appr. minutes of 2/2/09.

- Appr. apply for 2 grants to MDNR.

- Adopt of Bud. Amend. 2009-09: Housing Rehab Fund-\$2,061,722.00.

Appr. 1 yr. contract Excess Workers Comp. Ins. Agreement w/ Safety Nat'l Ins. Co. - Appr. Prep. Land Div. Res. PD #2169, s.e. corner of Gray & Joy.

Adopt Ord. #192-C-1. to amend the C ode by ad Art. I, Sec. 83-1 thru 83-6 to reg. disposal of abandoned pers. prop. 30- Adopt. Ord. #167-A-5-1, to amend Ch. 18, Art. II, Sec. 18-42 & 18-43 to elim. breed spec. designations for vicious & dangerous dogs & allow microchipping. 33-Appr. Spec. Land Use, 8727 Middlebelt, Parcel #005-01-1257-000, s.w. corner of Middlebelt & Joy. 34-Appr. to hire Advanced Strategy Group as lobbyists for City. 35-Conf. re-app't. of C. Hierta to LOCC, for 6 yr. term to exp. 11/18/14



FROM PAGE A1

"How cool that they had the program, it was a perfect opportunity for Amber to try ice skating," Rhonda said. "It

was really cool, too, because it brought out a lot of kids." The event not only lets youngsters try ice skating it also introduces them to skating lessons offered at the arena. Rhonda Costigan competed in a variety of ice skating competitions and also skated with

legendary skater Richard Dwyer who was known as Mr. Debonair in the Ice Follies and later in Ice Capades. She trained at the Garden City Civic Arena, but has decid-

reasons.

"I live in Westland and it's close to our house and the instructor Amber had was so nice," she said. People interested in skating lessons at the arena can call

ed to enroll Amber in classes (734) 729-4560. at Modano Arena for several - By Sue Mason



and Municipal Employees Local 1602, accepts honors

meeting.

on behalf of the 109-member union from Councilman **Charles Pickering (left)** and Mayor William Wild. Pickering and the mayor recently honored AFSCME Local 1602 during a council

members honored

Larry Roman (middle),

president of the American

Federation of State, County

AFSCME

Licenses must be obtained on or before Monday, March 2, 2009 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Starting March 3, 2009, a \$2.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:

CITY OF WESTLAND

2009 ANIMAL LICENSES

WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36601 Ford Road OR

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marguette

EILEEN DeHART, CMC

WESTLAND CITY CLERK OF08634247 2x2

Publish: February 12 & 26, 2009

CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before March 9, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Fire Station Commercial Grade Garage Doors

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office. Questions pertaining to the equipment should be directed to Scott Neal, Asst. Fire Chief at (734) 467-3182. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

> Jade M. Smith Controller

> > OE8645921_2x3.5

OE08644712 - 2x4.5

Publish: February 26, 2009

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

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

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

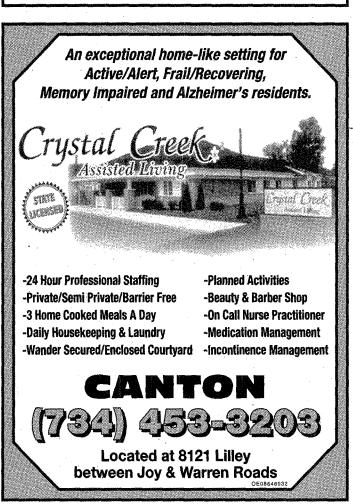
Please note: the bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

Year & Make	Style
1997 Chevrolet	Blazer
1992 Dodge	Dynasty
1996 Ford	Thunderbird
1995 Dodge	4 Door
1992 Mercury	Marquis
1994 Lincoln	2 Door
1994 Pontiac	2 Door

VIN # 1GNDT13W6V2153211 1B3XC4632ND854035 1FALP62W8TH101215 2B3HD56F4SH5551824 2MECM75WXNX689673 1LNLM91V3RY657868 2G2FS22S1R2236400

OE08545469 2X

Publish: February 26, 2009



36-Conf. re-app't. of J. Tillman to LDFA, for 4 yr term to exp. 1/18/13.

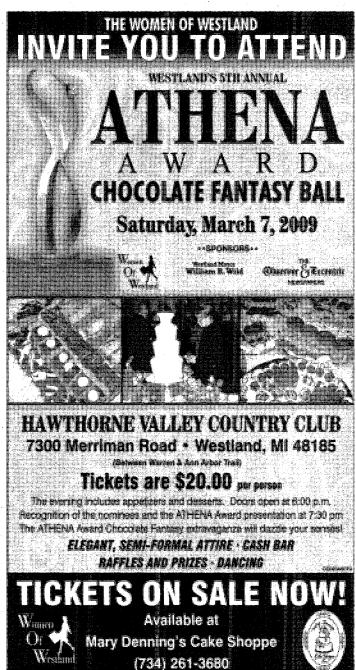
37-Conf. re-app't. of K. Pare to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr. term to exp. 2/18/12.

38-Conf. re-app't. of J. Thor to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr. term to exp. 2/18/12.

39-Appr. Checklist: \$1,128,623.75 & Prepaid \$2,640,410.96. Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout **Council President**

Publish: February 26, 2009



Rđ

Joy Rd.

Rd.

Inkster

R

Ann Arbor Trail

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

PUBLIC SAFETY **Report: Man has money** Joy Rd. John Hix Rd taken during assault

A 54-year-old man told police he was assaulted and robbed of his money while he was walking on Grand Traverse near Kalamazoo Court, southeast of Palmer and Venoy, shortly after midnight last Friday. He was taken to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital by Westland paramedics.

A4

(W)

The victim told police someone ran up behind him, punched him in the left eve and removed \$126 from his pants pocket. He said he didn't get a description of his assailant, who fled the scene. The man told authorities he ran for help and that a resident of nearby Manistee called for help.

Home broken into

A 37-year-old man told police that the rear patio doors of his home had been smashed and that a television had been taken between 7 p.m. and midnight Saturday while he was away from his home on Treadwell, southeast of Palmer and Newburgh. The man, who was away playing cards, told police that a couple of prescription drugs also had been taken.

Prescription drugs stolen **3** A manager of Maple Drugs, on Ford Road

POLICE BRIEFS

west of Wildwood, reported that someone broke into the pharmacy and stole prescription drugs between 11 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, and 8:10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. The employee reported that nothing else appeared to have been taken.

An alarm had been activated near a back door on the night of the incident, but when police arrived the store was locked and no one was found. The incident remains under investigation.

Wedding ring stolen

An 18-year-old woman reported that someone broke into her Woodcrest Villa apartment, on Wayne south of Joy, while she and her fiancé were gone between 10:30 a.m. and 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18.

The victim told police she had locked the door but that someone got inside, ransacked a bedroom and took a wedding ring worth \$500. She also said cash was missing from a dresser drawer.

taken from his Hampton Court apartment, north of Ford between Wayne and Wildwood, shortly after he left around 8:30 p.m. Saturday to walk to a local business. The victim told police he was only gone for 10 minutes but that the door of his apartment had been kicked in.

Gun found on sidewalk

6 An employee of Regal Market, on Merriman north of Palmer, contacted to police to report that a customer found a gun, described as a 9mm Black Ruger, on a sidewalk near the location. The gun was inside a Meijer shopping bag. Police also found a loaded magazine next to the gun, but no rounds had

A 53-year-old man told police that his home on Mackinac Court, southeast of Palmer and Venoy, was broken into sometime between 3 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, and that a new television and computer were

Ford Rd. John Hix Rd. Venoy Rd Cherry Hill Rd. Cherry Hill Rd. Newburgh Palmer Rd. B Hannan Merriman Rd. Rd. Wayne R Glenwood Rd Ê. Henry Ruff Van Born Rd. had gone to the Westland answer, according to police. Kmart store to look for par-

Newburgh

R

(5)

tially smoked cigarettes from

an outdoor ash tray. When he

Rd

Wayne

3

Warren Rd.

Lock cut off storage unit 8 A 31-year-old man report-ed that some of his person-

al belongings had been stolen. when a lock had been cut off a storage shed at Storage Pros, near the northeast corner of Van Born and Middlebelt,

sometime on Wednesday, Feb. 18. A maintenance man told police that it appeared there may have been damage to other locks, which had been replaced with cheaper padlocks, possibly in an attempt to conceal the crimes.

8 Annapolis Rd. 꾿

- By Darrell Clem

Inkster



returned home, he said, the side door was open. Game system, games taken When asked why he would A 27-year-old man report-ed that a PlayStation, look for used cigarettes after stolen. The man told police the having spent \$250 on a new games and money were incident happened when he television, the victim couldn't

been loaded into the chamber. Police confiscated the items during the incident that happened about 11:15 a.m. Feb. 13. **Computer, TV stolen**

Thursday, February 26, 2009

A5

(WGc)

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Look who's 10

Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness in Garden City recently reached a milestone - its 10th anniversary. That's how long the martial arts and fitness studio at 30942 Ford Road, has been offering American Kenpo, STOTT PILATES, Kickboxing and Tai Chi to the community. Owners Kelly and Shelby Perkins opened he studio in a 1,200-squarefoot building in 1998 and moved one door east to its current location in 2002, giving them more room to offer additional classes. In 2007, it added Pole Dance Fitness classes to its curriculum and beginning March 7, GMA will add CCW classes. Coming up in late spring, Guardian will add, "Kids Get Growing." Also on tap are Humane Pressure Point Tactic classes. Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness also has a satellite school, located inside Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton. For more information, call (734) 266-0565.

Copper Country treat Mention pasties and you auto-

matically think of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. You can get one of those Copper Country favorites at Marv Denning's Cake Shoppe at 8036 N Wayne Road, Westland. The pasties are made from an old family recipe that's been passed down for generations. They made with ground sirloin, potatoes, rutabaga, onions and carrots. They are old fashioned and made fresh in the bakery by Baker Charlie. Stop by and try one. Also available are chicken pot pies and pizza rolls. Call (734) 261-3680 of (888) 715-4479 at least an hour before and Charlie will bake them for you. You can pick them up hot and ready for lunch or dinner.

It's Blizzard time

We're not talking about the weather, we're talking 🦔 about the Dairy Queen Blizzard ice cream treat. If you've got a craving for one, you can satisfy it at the Dairy Queen of Garden City. Hey, it may be chilly, but you can get your Blizzard fix at the ice cream stand that's now open for the season. Hours currently are noon to 8:30 p.m. until

the weather warms up. Stop by and go green by ordering a Mint Oreo Blizzard, the flavor of the month for March, or have your favorite sundae or cone. You'll find the Dairy Queen of Michigan at 28825 Ford, east of Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 427-7850.

For your princess

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

Members from 16 Chambers of Commerce from the western suburbs, including Westland and Garden City, will have an After-Hours 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March'26, all under the roof of Burton Manor on Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, in Livonia, to "Break the Boundaries"

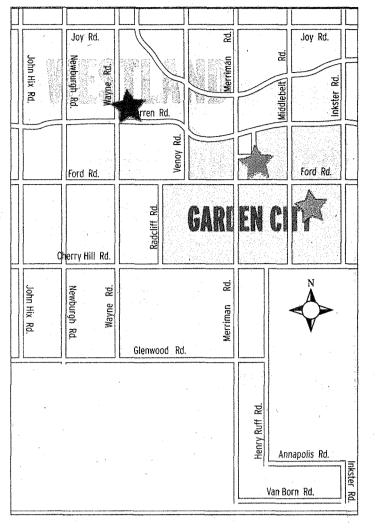
and do some serious networking. Cost is \$10 per person and \$25 for an expo table. Call the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222 or the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448 for more information.

GET IN THE RACE

Slot Car Mania at 6527 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland will run a "Run What You Brung" slot car drag race night Saturday, Feb. 28. Qualifying begins at 2 p.m., with races starting at the end of qualifying. For more information, call Slot Car Mania at (734) 469-7087.

SEND IT

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



BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New physicians on staff

计结构的 建设制度

Garden City Hospital has added three physicians to its medical staff: Dr. Michael J. Kennedy, who specializes in infectious diseases and has an office at 24350 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 111, Farmington Hills; Dr. Eugene W. Lin, who specializes in physical medicine/rehab and has an office at 1819 E. Big Beaver, Suite 210, Troy, and Dr. Nilesh M. Patel, who specializes in orthopedic surgery and has an office at 21031 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

The hospital now has 365 physicians in 47 specialties to serve the community. For more information or to make an appointment with one of the hospital's new or existing physicians, call the Physician Referral service at (877) 717-WELL. Located in Garden City, Michigan, Garden City Hospital provides comprehensive health care services, osteopathic medical education, and health care related programs to the community at large. More information is available online at www.gchosp.org.

engagement around challenges of poverty through training, mentoring, conferences, and poverty simulations.

The Family Success Model was developed in 2005 and piloted successfully by Starfish founder the late Ouida Cash. The current program will serve more than 60 families in Inkster and surrounding communities over the next three years. Each family assesses its current resources and strengths, sets long-term goals, and works towards those goals with support from Starfish and the community. Graduates of the program are engaged with Starfish staff as co-facilitators and mentors to families new in the prógram. *We are humbled and grateful for the generosity from both the Fisher Foundation and the McGregor Fund to help families and children in our community realize their full potential by empowering them with skills, resources, and confidence to move from poverty to sustainable success." said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "Through our funding partnerships, we continue on our path to develop a highly effective and replicable poverty program based on a family-centered and respectful approach." **Starfish Family Services** offers programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in western Wayne County. They include free early childhood programs, a crisis shelter for teens, afterschool and summer programming, an organic children's garden and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services. More information can be found online at www.starfishonline.org.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Jocelyn and Jim Kollar of Alleycat Designs offer embroidery and Direct to Garment printing at their store on Wayne Road in Westland.

Alleycat puts its mark on clothing

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

We provide embroidery, screen printing, airbrushing, and Direct to Garment printing services, ranging from polo shirts for corporate and local businesses to T-shirts for clubs and organizations. We have a variety of wearables at our fingertips including jackets, hats, sweats, T-shirts, polos, uniforms, and more. We service a wide range of customers and a wide range of locations from a fire department in Connecticut to a Parks and Recreation department in West Palm, Florida. Our focus, however, is here locally and in the state of Michigan.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

What makes our business unique is probably our Direct to Garment printer. We invested in this machine for a particular reason. People would come to our store and have this elaborate design they wanted on shirts. When you do screen printing, the price of the item is basically driven by the number of colors in the design. The more colors, the higher the price. With the Direct to Garment printer we can take the design, no matter how many

ALLEYCAT DESIGNS INC.

Business Name: Alleycat Designs Inc.

Name and Title: Jim and

Jocelyn Kollar, owners

Number of employees:

Your business specialty:

Including us, 3

Road, Westland

vears

2000

printing

Sunday

signs.com

we can do it.

In 1997, Jim worked in the automotive industry as

a quality assurance manger. Business Address: 6647 Wayne He injured his back and it was apparent he would not be able to return. At he same time, Jocelyn managed an airbrush store, Abba Airbrush, Hometown: Westland for 15 in Wonderland Mall. After a little more than a year on **Business opened when? March** worker's compensation and not being able to find a job we met someone who set up a kiosk outside of the airbrush store who was selling embroidered goods. After talking with Embroidery, Direct to Garment him several times, he helped us by steering us in the right Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday direction to get started on our and Wednesday and 9 a.m. to own. Jim started the business 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday in the garage at our home. We and Friday. Closed Saturday and wanted to be home for our kids as they were young at the time. Business phone and Web: (734) After six years and the kids getting older and with no room 728-7867 and www.alleycatde-

left in the garage, we moved to the store front where we at today. How did you decide to locate in the

Observer: How did you decide to

open your first business?

Westland community?

We wanted to stay in Westland, close to home. We weren't really sure it would happen. Didn't know if we could financially, but we met the nicest guy that worked for the management company of our current location and they really helped us out a lot. They made it very easy.

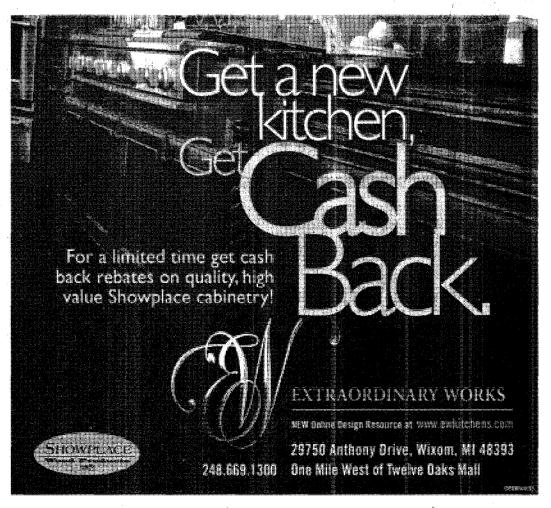
Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?

We really don't have any funny tidbits or stories about being business owners. It's hard work, fun at times. We meet different people. We made some jackets for some Red Wing Alumni once and had to make two for Gordie Howe. That was fun.

Program gets funding

Starfish Family Services. a nonprofit agency serving children and families in southeastern Michigan, has received a \$1 million grant from the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation and a \$200,000 grant from the McGregor Fund to support its Family Success Program.

The Family Success Program is designed to help families with young children transition from the daily struggles of poverty to independence and sustainable family success through activities related to community



Visit us online at hometownlife.com

colors, and print it directly to

the shirt. No setups (unless

minimums, no transfers, no

problems. Whether you need

print is nice because you can't

feel the ink on the shirt and

it washes well. So, if you have

a custom design or just want

you kids picture on a T-shirt

1 or 100, we can do it. This

art work is needed) no

THURSDAY February 26 2009

Page A6 (W)

Sue Mason, editor (313) 222-6751 smason@hometownlife.com

online at hometownlife.com

GANNETT

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

LET'S FORGET WHAT I SAID ABOUT GETTING RID OF YOU! EDER MICH. SCHOOL FUNDING GEOF BROOKS

OUR VIEWS Court deficit merits close look

Westland's 18th District Court is facing a deficit, and in some ways, it's a sign of the times. When things get bad economically, crime increases. You need only look at back issues of your Observer to note the increase in break-ins, assaults and robberies around the city.

According to Police Chief James Ridener, calls for help rose from 43,000 two years ago to 55,000 in 2008.

That kind of an increase pulls police officers off more routine matters like dealing with speeders, drunken drivers, the kinds of offenses that can generate money for 18th District Court through fines.

Last week, Chief Judge Sandra Cicirelli and Ridener met with the City Council to discuss that revenue shortfall, which if not reversed, could eat away at the city's budget surplus. Cicirelli told the council that the economy and a 2,000 drop in traffic tickets last year is part of the \$659,000 revenue drop. Local officials attributed the latter to police officers who wrote less tickets in response to a labor dispute that's since been resolved.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the police department and the court. The former does its job and creates work for the latter. The more work there is, the more opportunity to collect fines. But in these difficult times, major crime takes precedence over minor infractions.

Yes, it is important to get the drunks off the road, slow down the speeders and get the guy who doesn't know how to use a turn signal, but residents want to feel safe in their homes and their businesses. People may remark about where a police officer is when they see a driver blow through a stop sign, but when it comes to crime, they want to know the police will come in a timely fashion. And there is no doubt that Westland police officers will be there.

Residents also have expectations of their court and judges. They want to be heard and expect to be treated fairly and that's just what happens in district court day in and day out. The court and its employees do their job and as a result, have made money for the city in the past-years. But these are very lean times.

Pointing fingers will not erase the court's red ink. It has to look at how it does business and find ways to trim expenses and increase rev-

Time for a change

Congress was out of control with all the spending they did over the last eight years. The Republicans were much to blame for the first six of those years, but the Democrats had control over the spending the last two years.

Spending helped put us in this situation, so why does Congress think that more spending can get us out? This stimulus bill is filled with outrageous spending, most of which has nothing to do with need less government and more prosperstimulating the economy. The bill will create 600,000 new jobs, but they are

LETTERS

What do you think? Mail comments to the Westland Observer, 615 W.

Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

too much for us to vote on," well, in therein lies the problem. We don't need a new law every day to take away more of our money and more of our freedoms. We ity.

Why pay a congressman \$180,000

the form of phony claims about alleged "socialism." In the Republican mindset, economic and tax policies that put more money into the pockets of working-class Americans are the quintessence of evil, a devious Marxist plot to redistribute income from the persecuted elites downward to the unwashed masses, meaning American working families.

Meanwhile, in a sick and pathetic affront to patriotism, Republicans and their anointed leader Rush Limbaugh are also openly hoping and even cheering for the American economy to further fail, hoping this ultimately helps them politi cally no matter what the consequences are for American families. This treasonous conduct exposes the GOP once and for all as devoid of integrity and a political party whose appeal is primarily to ignorance, bigotry and hatemongering. How ironic it is that these are the same Republicans that previously questioned the patriotism of those who had correctly challenged the Bush's administration's lies that led to the invasion of Iraq. The hypocrisy of the current Republican whining about alleged socialism is all the more absurd following more than 30 years of fraudulent conservative economic policies in America. These policies resulted in a massive upward redistribution of income from the poor and middle classes and into the pockets to those already possessing great wealth. As the inevitable failure of an unregulated market economy now unfolds with catastrophic results, President Barack Obama's responses are a long overdue return to intelligence and common sense.

enues. The only question is can it be done with only four months left in this budget year.

ONLINE **VOICES & VIEWS** Don't blame the police

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

Don't forget the collective decision by the City and City Officials to make sure that police overtime details, such as Drunk Driving and Selective Enforcement (Ticket Writing) were cut in half. No longer is there two officers working such details to help the court generate money. How quick everyone is to judge the police officers when they have no clue the amount of work each officer does with no resources. For a city this size, there should be at least 10 more officers. We all suffer, but let's blame the cops who are out there putting their lives on the line to keep the city safe.

ServingCitizens

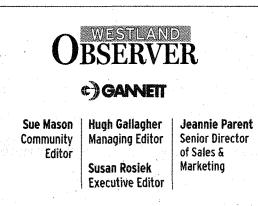
Join the discussion

What do you think about ...? Have you damaged your car, tires, or rims by hitting a pothole in the past year?

Yes No No

Unsure

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.



all government jobs, which will require ongoing taxpayer money to fund them.

Also included in this spending package is: \$30 million for the harvest mouse, \$8 billion for a rail train. \$5.5 billion for "green" federal buildings, \$300 million for "green" cars for federal employees. Congress needs to stop spending money that does not belong to them and get off the public free ride. They should be on the same plans we are expected to live with, such as, Medicare and Social Security.

And who decided that Congress should vote on whether or not congressmen get a raise? They should have NO say in whether they get a raise or not. My boss does not give me that option, why should they? Raises should be approved by a public vote.

For that matter, all spending should be approved by public vote. Online voting is a viable option. The Department of Defense has hundreds of programmers and analysts on the payroll doing security scans and checks constantly to make sure no one infiltrates the system.

Congress will tell us that there's "just

a year in salary alone to do what can be done online in a matter of minutes. This would save taxpayers about \$110,000,000 in salaries alone, not to mention, the money spent on offices, staff, health care, travel, etc.

It's time for a change WE can believe in, not the rhetoric of the same old "tax and spend" that Washington has been feeding us forever and a day.

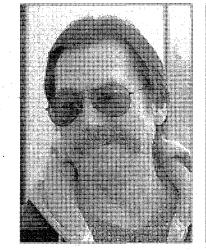
Phil Solarz Westland

GOP is bankrupt of ideas

It appears that the Republican Party, including all seven of Michigan's GOP members of Congress, has settled on a consistent strategy for obstructing President Obama's efforts to restore an American economy already ruined by Republican stupidity. Utterly bankrupt of ideas and still parroting their same tired and failed conservative economic nonsense, the GOP has also resurrected a long-discredited bogeyman in

COMMUNITY VOICE

With gas prices low, have you changed your driving habits? We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Garden City post office.



"No, I've been retired for about a year and a half and I pretty much do what I want to do." Skip Sikora

Westland



"Yes, I'm driving more. I went hunting a lot more this year. I think we're all worrying about it going up again." **Jon Ferrell** Westland



"No, I combine trips and I'm not going to my daughter's as much. When you're on a limited income, it's hard." Anne Wallen Canton

Joe Golonka Westland

"No, because I'm as frugal as I was before. I try to get twothree errands done in one shot."

John Davidson Westland

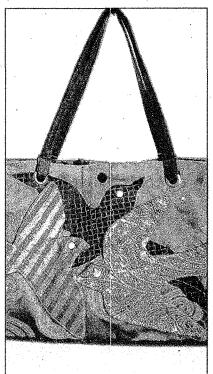
Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

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

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Magic Bag purse show

Canton handbag designer Michele Kramp will preview her Spring 2009 Magic Bag Lady line, made from recycled fabrics and findings, during a trunk show at Heavenly Metal in Ann Arbor 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 6. Shop for handbags and browse the store's clothing, jewelry and artwork while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres at the shop, located at 207 E. Ann St. Call (734) 663-4247, visit www.heavenlymetal. com, or RSVP at themagicbaglady@ yahoo.com.



E-mail items for consideration in Malls & Main Streets at least two weeks in advance to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

NEIMAN MARCUS BEAUTY EVENT

TROY - Purchase \$100 or more in cosmetics or fragrance and receive an NM Exclusive tote in pink, turquoise or orange filled with nine colorful treats during The Beauty Event, through March 8. Spend \$1,000 in cosmetics or fragrance and get \$100 off your total purchase on the spot. Visit Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy or online at www.neimanmarcus.com.

ADELE WECHSLER APPEARANCE

TROY - The Bridal Salon at Macy's Somerset will host couture wedding gown designer Adele Wechsler as she takes appointments during her trunk show, Feb. 27-March 1. Wechsler is known for timeless gowns, emphasized by sheer overlays which flirt with light and movement. Call (248) 816-4270 or visit the store, 2752 West Big Beaver Road, Troy.

PAMPER THE BRIDE AND BEYOND

SOUTHFIELD - Silver Garden of Southfield will host the third annual "Pamper the Bride & Beyond" Bridal Expo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at Silver Garden in Southfield.

This event will feature interactive workshops, live music, exclusive exhibitors, giveaways, pamper services, a Spotlight Fashion Showcase and a "Grooms Lounge." Call (248) 809-2117 or visit www. pamperthebrideexpo.com.

its Fall 2009 Trunk Show March 4-7. The Pendleton passion for intense color, exceptional fabrics and wearable on-trend style captures the heart of the Fall season. Customers attending the show may view samples and place orders with no obligation - a great opportunity for petite, plus and tall customers. Pendleton is located at 117 N Center St. Call (248) 596-9820 or visit Pendleton Woolen Mills at www.pendleton-usa.com.

WOMEN'S WARE/WOMEN'S WEAR

YPSILANTI – Fashionistas and artistas might want to schedule a road trip to see Women's Ware/Women's Wear at the Eastern Michigan University's Ford Gallery through March 25. The exhibit explores women's art in various media including textiles and jewelry. Works by 15 artists use clothing, accessories, broaches, embroidered pillows and button sculptures to reflect feminist themes. An installation explores shopping and its meaning. For more information call (734) 487-1268 or visit http://www.emich. edu/fordgallery/

HERSH'S HOSTS ZELDA TRUNK WEST BLOOMFIELD

- Hersh's will hold its annual ZELDA trunk show with beautifully designed separates for Spring March 12-14. Hersh's is located on The Boardwalk at 6901 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 626-7776.

oring fashion is unleashed at benefit for BBYO

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK O-& E STAFF WRITER

Times may be tough, but it's still easy to be fashionable. Just take some cues from Fashion Unleashed, 8:30-10:30 p.m. March 7 at Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield. The annual runway event benefits Michigan **Region B'nai B'rith Youth** Organization, and BBYO teens model the clothes each year.

This year, they'll be wearing the latest looks from The Shirt Box, Guys 'N Gals and Moosejaw.

Lois Levenson, owner of Guys 'N Gals at the Orchard Mall, will act as emcee.

Levenson has been in business for 33 years, and has lent clothing from her trendy shop to Fashion Unleashed since it began.

Her daughter, Julie Feldman, served as president and treasurer for BBYO as a teen. Now, as co-owner of Guys 'N Gals, she helps to organize the fashion show.

"It's a great organization," said Feldman, who graduated from West Bloomfield High School. "It keeps kids busy and involved in their community, it promotes community service and lets them meet different kids from all over."

Feldman said the outfits she's sending down the catwalk will reflect the bright colors, ruffles and dresses that are in vogue.

"It's all spring and light and fun and airy," she said. "Dresses are huge, so I'll definitely be doing a segment

FASHION UNLEASHED

What: Runway show featuring clothes from The Shirt Box, Guys N' Gals and Moosejaw When: 8:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

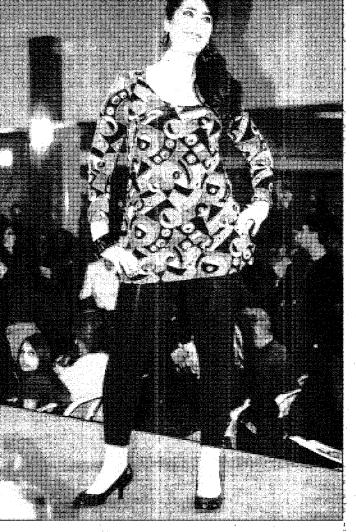
Where: Orchard Mall, Orchard Lake Road north of Maple, West Bloomfield

Tickets: \$15; \$10 students; \$250 pre-glow; proceeds benefit Michigan Region B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

item for spring it should be a scarf, Feldman said. Look for lightweight, colorful scarves, with or without fringe. "That's a great way to update your wardrobe. Throw it on with a dress, or with tank tops and jean shorts or jeans," Feldman said. **Tickets to Fashion**

Unleashed are \$10 for students; \$15 for general admission; and \$250 for a pre-glow at Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry with wine and hors d'oeuvres, along with prime seats at the show. All proceeds benefit Michigan Region BBYO, a non-profit organization that provides leadership training, educational, social, athletic and community service programs for Jewish teenagers

from all backgrounds.



Stephanie Horwitz of West Bloomfield, regional president for B'nai B'rith Girls, models clothing from Guys 'N Gals at last year's Fashion Unleashed.

ThinkSmart;

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A7 (*)

PARISIAN HOSTS COMMUNITY DAY

LIVONIA - Shop for a cause as Parisian hosts Community Day Feb. 28. Purchase a \$5 booklet stocked full of discounts good for that day only, and proceeds from the sale of the coupon books will benefit various local charities. The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. recently announced over \$10 million was raised for local non-profit organizations and agencies through its 2008 semi-annual Community Day events. Parisian is located at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Village of Rochester Hills.

BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT ROYALOAK-The

Relationship Institute will stage "Beauty From the Inside Out," a women's workshop on using food, meditation and mind/body integration to enhance natural beauty, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 28. It's three hours with three dynamic women - Kelly Hale, founder/ director of Inspired Wellness in Birmingham and Brain Gym instructor; Andrea McNinch, culinary arts educator specializing in raw/vegan foods and founder of Regeneration Raw; and Shirley Bavonese, social worker and founder of the Relationship Institute. Cost is \$45 per person or \$75 for two people attending together. The Relationship Institute is located at 27172 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Call (248) 546-0407 or visit www. relationship-institute.com.

PENDLETON TRUNK SHOW NORTHVILLE - Pendleton

in downtown Northville will hold



WHIMSICAL WEDDING EXPO

ROYAL OAK - Brides-to-be can find a variety of Whimsical Occasions Wedding Expo 1 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. For tickets, \$8 advance, \$10 day of show, Call (248) 399-2980 or visit www. whimsicaloccasions.com.

TOP DOCS+

with dresses. The bohemian look is also hot, Feldman said, and there

are many ways to wear it. "It's 'hippie chic," she said. "Maxi dresses, loose fitting tops, maybe with embroidery, little hippie headbands with feathers at the end, long beaded earrings. How cute will all that look on the runway?"

But if a gal can only buy one

VATCHM **Exclusive Poster**

A sneak peek at the comic turned movie. Plus, an exclusive poster by Watchmen illustrator Dave Gibbons.

OSTER

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(*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

A8

online at hometownlife.com

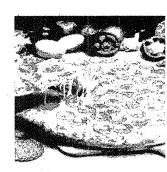
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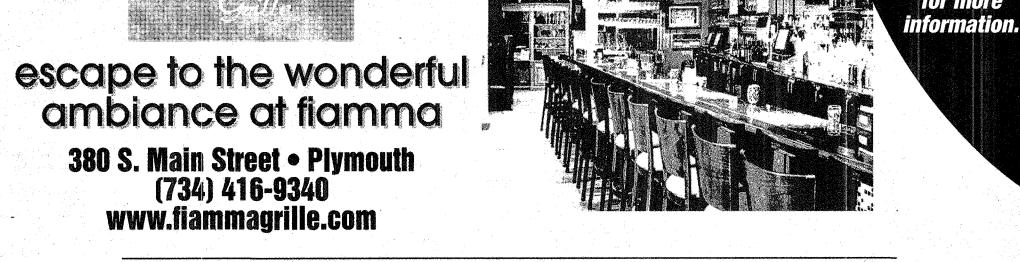


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Hot shooting sparks 50-39 triumph

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early this season, when his 1-6 team was performing as poorly as the economy, Salem girls basketball coach Fred Thomann offered the following stimulus plan to his out-ofsync squad: Let's start playing together.

The Rocks not only bought into the plan, they've executed it to near-perfection.

The ensuing dividends have included 11 wins in 12 games — the latest Tuesday night's 50-39 victory over Livonia Franklin in the KLAA's Kensington Conference title game.

Salem will take its 12-7 record into Friday night's KLAA Association championship contest against White Lake Lakeland. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m. at Salem.

"When we were 1-6, this group of players said, 'Hey, let's change this thing around," said Thomann. "They said, 'Let's come together. Let's play as a group. Let's make sure that we don't go out of here leaving something behind.

"And, at this point of time, they haven't left anything behind."

Salem rocked at both ends of the court, shooting 51.5

percent (17-for-33) from the field while forcing the Patriots into a 15-for-48 (31.2 percent) shooting night.

Senior post players Chelsea Davis (17 points and nine rebounds) and Tracy Whalen (12 points and 12 boards) led the winners' onslaught. Junior guards Sara Stone and Brett de Bear added 11 and five points, respectively.

"When we were 1-6, I'm not sure we expected things to turn out like this," admitted a smiling Whalen, a transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy, just a few seconds after admiring her team's newest trophy. "But we did know that we'd come together eventually."

Thomann called it Whalen's best game of the year.

"She rebounded, defended and scored," the Salem coach said. "She was awesome tonight. I thought Chelsea did a fabulous job, too, and our three perimeter players (Stone, de Bear and Victoria Brotz), did a nice job of helping on the twins."

The twins Thomann made reference to were Franklin senior dynamos Briauna and Brittany Taylor, who scored 13 and 10 points, respectively. Sophomore guard Chelsea Williams also played well, scoring eight. The Patriots' biggest downfall was their performance at the free-throw line, where they connected on just 8-of-19 attempts (42 percent).

"It was a hard-fought basketball game," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We've been a good free-throw shooting team this season, but that's what let us down tonight. We missed our free throws and they made theirs.

"Plus, Salem made fewer mental errors than we did. That's what it boiled down to."

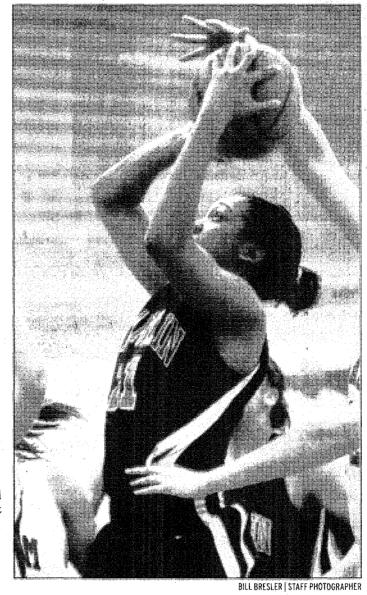
The game was knotted at 18-all at the half before Salem reeled off an 11-4 run to start the third and seize a shortlived 29-22 advantage.

Sparked by an inspired defensive effort, the Patriots closed their deficit to 33-32 with 5:31 to play on a steal-and-layup sequence by Briauna Taylor.

However, Brotz drained a pair of free throws with 4:47 left, Whalen hit a jumper 37 seconds later and Davis drilled two freebies on the Rocks' next possession and, just like that, Salem's lead had expanded to 39-32.

The Rocks knocked down seven free throws during the final 94 seconds to seal the win.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 578-2767



Franklin's Briauna Taylor gets her shot blocked from behind in Tuesday's Kensington Conference championship game.



BY BRAD EMONS______ OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Excuse Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger for sounding a little like Jim



MADONNA UNIVERSITY BASEBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

Head coach: Greg Haeger (13th season).
League affiliation: Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.
Last year's overall record: 37-14.
Titles won last year: WHAC regular season and playoff champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Levi Cheshire (All-NAIA Region VIII);
Will Kennedy (All-NAIA Region VIII); John McCracken (All-NAIA VIII).
Leading returnees: Kevin Zerbo, Sr. Inf. (.377, 9 homers; 46 RBI;
WHAC Co-Player of Year); Jeff Sonnenberg, Sr. RHP (3-2, 2.50 ERA);
Ryan Morrow, Sr. Inf.; Aaron Hacias, Sr. 3B; Shawn Little, Sr. OF; Tarik
Khasawneh, Soph. C; Scott Boyer, Sr. OF; Dominic Benevidas, Soph. SS;
Mike Gansser, Soph. SS; Keegan Beaton, Jr. RHP.
Promising newcomers: Kyle Bolton, Jr. RHP; Drew Adamiec, Soph.
C; Zach Flavin, Jr. DH; Tom Hansen, Fr. LHP; Robert Fraser, Fr. RHP; Trent
Pohl, Soph. RHP; Andy Omilian, Fr. RHP; Chris Kangas, Fr. LHP.

Hills Harrison who hit .377 last year with nine homers, 13 doubles and 46 RBI. Third baseman Aaron

Hacias, another senior, also adds punch to the already potent lineup. "Those two guys are one-two in the conference in offensive numbers," Haeger said. "We also have a lot of team speed and a lot of power. It's a good offensive team, maybe the best I've ever had one-through-nine." The Crusaders swing into their 21st season Saturday in a double-header against St. Xavier (Ill.) as part of the **RussMatt Invitational in** Winter Haven, Fla.

WRAPS

KLAA girls basketball STEVENSON 52, JOHN GLENN 34: Kaylee McGrath returned to the lineup Tuesday from a sprained ankle to score 13 points and grab 10 rebounds to lead host Livonia Stevenson (7-12) to a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover win over Westland John Glenn (7-12).

Eleven of 13 Spartans scored as McGrath, a senior center, hit 7-of-8 free throws while Stevenson was 17-of-22 overall as a team.

Sophomore Kristen Balhorn grabbed 11 rebounds and sophomore Tasi Newton added seven points for the victorious Spartans, who trailed 11-5 after one quarter before outscoring the Rockets 20-8 in the second period to take command.

Chanel Payne led Glenn with 14 points, while Brandi Holbrook added six. Senior center Brittany Holbrook went down with a sprained ankle in the first quarter and did not return.

NORTHVILLE 41, CHURCHILL 33: Julia Ramey tallied 12 points

and Chelsea Atzinger added 10 Tuesday as the host Mustangs (11-8) turned back Livonia Churchill (9-10) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Northville trailed 28-24 after three quarters before going on a 17-5 fourth-period run. The Mustangs made 16-of-18 free throws.

Senior Alysa Boldiszar led the Chargers with 10 points. S. LYON EAST 46, WAYNE 35:

3. LIVE EAST 40, MAINE 33. Three players scored in double figures Tuesday as host South Lyon East (2-17) earned the Kensington Conference crossover win over Wayne Memorial (2-17).

Freshman Taylor Jones led the way with 12 points, while juniors Kate Grunewald and Courtney Emery contributed 11 each to avenge a 39-35 setback to the Zebras on Jan. 13. Senior center Samantha Dye

Senior center Samantha Dye led Wayne with 11 points and 15 rebounds, while junior guard Allie Coleman scored 10 points.

Leyland as he entered the 2008 Major League season. "We're taking the Detroit

"We're taking the Detroit Tigers' model from last year," said the 13th year coach, whose team heads today for Winter Haven, Fla., for its annual spring trip. "We'll have a great offense and play defense. We just hope we can get the pitching."

Haeger lost eight seniors off the mound from last year's 37-14 squad which earned its fourth straight NAIA Region VIII appearance and won both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's regular season and playoff crowns.

The Crusaders will miss No. 1 starter Will Kennedy (Westland John Glenn), who went 7-3 with a 2.26 earned run average, and closer John McCracken, who went 2-0 with a 1.59 ERA. Both earned All-Region VIII honors.



naeger

So who's left as far as arms? Senior Jeff Sonnenberg, a right-hander, had an impact last year after going 3-2 with a 2.50 ERA. He fanned 41 batters in 43 innings and tossed a no-hitter last spring against Aquinas College.

Penciled in next, according to Haeger, is junior Keegan Beaton, a 6-foot-2, 245-pound junior right-hander, who spent his first season at Grossmont Community College (Calif.).

Also in the mix to start is 6-4, 231-pound right-hander Trent Pohl, a transfer from Wayne State University who earned starts as a quarterback two seasons on the Warriors' football team.

"He can throw, he's got a pro body, a pro arm, so he has to be considered," Haeger said of Pohl.

Who takes the mound after that is anybody's guess with two freshman, right-hander Robert Fraser (John Glenn) and Tom Hansen (Rochester Adams) showing early promise.

Meanwhile, the closer's role could go to another freshman -- Andy Omilian (Novi Detroit Catholic Central). "He's tough to hit, a submariner with a good arm," Haeger said.

Although there are more questions than answers on the mound, the Crusaders will more than live up to their No. 26 NAIA preseason ranking because of their ability to put runs on the board. The offensive attack is led

by WHAC Co-Player of the Year Kevin Zerbo, a senior infielder from Farmington MU opens its home slate March 29 against Davenport University at Ilitch Ballpark.

"With so many new arms it's tough to tell," Haeger said. "But if we pitch well we'll be OK."

Haeger can only hope his pitching staff performs, and the defense, performs much better than Leyland's Tigers did in 2008.

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Catholic League champs

Jessica Pavela turned away 20 shots for the shutout as Livonia Ladywood captured its fifth consecutive Catholic League girls hockey championship Saturday with a 4-0 win over Farmington Hills Mercy at Orchard Lake St. Mary's rink. Shelby Kucharski notched her 42nd and 43rd goals of the season in the first period (from Katie Folk) second period (from Julie Bushart). In the third period, Erin Doyle added a pair of goals with Kucharski and Emann Freij assisting on the first, while the other was unassisted as the Blazers improved to 10-9-1 overall. Mercy netminder Alessi Nehr made 28 saves as the Marlins fall to 14-6 overall.

Patriots, John Glenn both excel at wrestling district

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Both Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn will be sending large contingents to Saturday's upcoming Division 1 individual wrestling regional at Brownstown-Woodhaven.

Franklin earned pair individual district crowns and five runnerup finishes at Saturday at Livonia Stevenson.

The Patriots, who advanced eight, received individual titles from seniors Don Stratz (160 pounds) and Cody Hay (215).

Runner-up finishers included senior Mike Modes (285), junior Paul Hanni (103), sophomore Steve Tuyo (112), senior Elvin Ferreira (145) and senior Brandon Billiau (152), while senior Garrett Hay (171) added a third.

"Overall I was pleased with getting eight out, plus it's the most finalists we've ever had (seven)," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "I knew going in we might get 10 out we might get two. I think the same thing for this weekend. We might get them all through to 'state,' but nobody is a sure thing."

Stratz, who defeated Dearborn Fordson's Lawrence Zeidan with a technical fall in 4:48, is now 48-4 overall.

Hay, who upended University of Detroit Jesuit's Will Lamping, 10-8, in the final, is 45-10 overall.

"Right now (Don) Stratz is wrestling great and Cody Hay had the tournament of his life," Chiola said. "Going into (this) Saturday it's going to be more about mental toughness than anything physical. There's going to be a lot of matches that come down to a last-second takedown or overtime, and when it's a senior who loses it's that much harder to take. I

Please see WRESTLING, B2

LUIH. WESTLAND 37, CLARENCEVILLE 27: In Tuesday's Metro Conference fifthplace consolation game, host Lutheran High Westland (9-8) used defensive trap to stymie

Other girls games

Livonia Clarenceville (4-15). Senior guard Allyson Yankee led the victorious Warriors with 14 points, while senior forward Katey Ramthun added eight points and six rebounds. Junior forward Rachel Storck also scored eight points and grabbed five boards.

Jenna Burgess scored eight points for the Trojans.

Warriors' coach Bill Strang credited Clarenceville for playing hard and mixing up defenses to try and bother the Warriors.

"We were constantly adjusting our offenses," he said. "They made us work hard for the victory."

LUTH. SOUTH 55, HURON VALLEY

38: On Tuesday, juniors Hannah Nielson and April Broska scored 21 and 20 points, respectively, leading Newport Lutheran South (12-5) to the nonleague win over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-15).

Junior Claire Wood and sophomore Katie Nell each scored eight for the Hawks, who led 14-9 after one quarter before being outscored 25-10 in the second period.

"We came out strong in the first quarter, but then turnovers killed us in the second quarter," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said. "We let them have too many easy layups. Nielson and Broska are nice ballplayer. They do a great job of attacking the basket."

LADYWOOD 60, SHRINE 36:

Livonia Ladywood (9-10) tuned up for next week's Class A district with a win Monday night at home over Royal Oak Shrine (8-10).

The Blazers led by only five at intermission, 28-23, before going on a 17-4 third-quarter run.

Senior forward Caitlin

- Szczypka led the victorious Blazers with 13 points.
- Teammate Molly Gacioch added
- nine, while Sarah Jury contributed seven.
- Shrine (8-10) stayed close in the first half by making 15-of-17 free throws.

Matti Baltrusaitis and Halley Wangler led Shrine with 12 points apiece.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

Naubert's night

Stevenson guard nets 26 points in surprise victory over Wayne

Bobby Naubert went off in the final quarter, scoring 13 of his game-high 26 points Monday night to give Livonia Stevenson an upset 60-58 boys basketball win over host Wayne Memorial.

B2

(LW)

The junior guard, who also dished out six assists, ignited a 27-16 fourth-quarter run as the Spartans improved to 10-6 overall and upended the South Division champions in a KLAA crossover.

Jordan El-Sabeh, a junior forward, chipped in with 17 points, including eight in the final period. He nailed 4-of-4 free throws.

"This is a great win for our program and should give the kids some confidence going into district play," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "Wayne was undefeated at home this season, but our kids proved to be resilient battling back from a double-digit deficit in the fourth and leaving their gym victorious.

"Naubert was spectacular once again, but the hero of tonight's game was El-Sabeh

BY TIM SMITH

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ten different players found

the score sheet Monday night

for host Livonia Clarenceville

in a 77-43 boys basketball win

over Macomb Lutheran North

Setting the tone was senior

swingman Jamie Stewart, who

Clarenceville, now 11-7 over-

all, advances to the semifinals

to play 7 p.m. Friday at home

against Lutheran Westland,

a 67-59 winner Monday over

tallied nine of his game-high

21 points.

Hamtramck.

in the opening round of the

Metro Conference playoffs.

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

making two clutch shots down the stretch to keep us in the game. Bobby and Jordan both grew up a little bit tonight."

Ricky Chrzasz (seven points) Mark Grisa (six points, four blocks) also made key baskets in the late-going for the Spartans.

"We've been struggling with illness and injuries for the past couple weeks so it was nice to come away with a quality win on the road," Allie said. "Nick Tomasi received his first start of the season and played with tremendous poise. It is important that the team remains even-keeled as we approach playoff time.'

Robert Woodson paced the Zebras (12-5) with 16 points, while Jimmel Bennett and Daniel Hill added 14 and 12, respectively.

It was 25-all at halftime before the Zebras seemingly took control with a 17-8 surge in the third quarter. Wayne led by as many as 13 in the fourth quarter before the Spartans stormed back.

"The fourth quarter we did not take care of the basketball," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "And we did not make free throws (3-of-9) where they (Stevenson) made 7-of-8. It's really disappointing. And we got off to a slow start.'

SOUTH LYON 56. CHURCHILL 38: Poor shooting cost Livonia Churchill (7-10) dearly Monday in a KLAA crossover setback to the Central Division champion Lions (13-4).

The Chargers made only 14-of-46 from the floor (30.4 percent), including only 4-of-18 from threepoint range.

led a balanced South Lyon scoring attack with 12 points. Senior point-guard Jordan Short added 11, including 7-of-8 from the foul stripe. Mike Fenner added 10.

"We had trouble scoring and they (South Lyon) played well defensively," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They also rebound well. And they forced us into some tough shots. We just have to learn from it and play better."

Senior guard Ryan Woods led

the Chargers with 12 points, while senior guard Scott Senczyszyn added nine. Junior forward Adam Bedell had 10 rebounds

KETTERING 49. JOHN GLENN 46: Mark Woodset's two free throws with only 32 seconds left gave Detroit Kettering (7-6) the lead for keeps en route to a non-league win Tuesday at Westland John Glenn (9-6).

Tyrone Pride led the victorious Pioneers with 18 points, including four 3-pointers. Kettering made only 9-of-17 foul shots on the night, but hit 7-of-9 in the final period.

Senior guard Austin Anderson led the Rockets with 19 points, while senior forward Dorian Prather added 11. Glenn was 8-of-13 from the foul line. SALEM 58, FRANKLIN 53: Senior

guard Joe Posler scored 20 of his game-high 24 points in the first half Monday as the visiting Rocks (7-10) held off a late Livonia Franklin (6-11) rally for a KLAA crossover victory.

Salem led 35-23 at intermission before the Patriots made a game of it in the second half.

Junior guard Charles Williams added 11 points for Salem. Connor Leidal, a senior forward,

tallied 15 for the Patriots, while Jeff Poole, Jack Chinivare and Andy McCaffery added nine apiece.

think we'll be ready. It should be exciting."

Both Stevenson and Livonia Churchill each got four wrestlers out.

The host Spartans were led by senior 140-pounder Raz Markosian, who notched his 50th win of the season when he avenged an Observerland Invitational loss to Redford Union's Dwuan Burris in the district final, 7-6.

Stevenson also got a second from senior Mitch Gonzales (135), and fourths from both junior Josh Seibert (160) and junior Andrew Schramm (189).

Churchill, meanwhile, received fourth places from sophomore John Bannoura (130), senior Brvan Fortney (135), senior Grant Morgan (152) and junior Curtis Castleberry (171).

Mann propels Rockets

Glenn senior Jimmy Mann raised his overall record to 37-3 by winning the 140pound individual district title Saturday at 140 pounds with a 7-5 decision over Billy Osborne of host Temperance Bedford.

The Rockets also gained runner-up finishes from junior Steve Wakeford (103), junior Anthony Pavlich (125), senior Jared Stephens (135), senior Zaid Ammari (152) and junior Dustin Gajowiak (285).

Also qualifying for Glenn was third-place finisher Joshua Austin, a junior at 119; and fourth-place finisher Zach Redden, a junior at 160.

Wayne Memorial senior Tevin Hines (135) also placed third to raise his overall record to 45-11.

C'ville qualifies pair

Seniors Jake Ruth (125) and Derek Robbins (171) earned spots in Saturday's **Division 3 individual regional** at Williamston after both placed fourth last weekend at Richmond.

Ruth, 27-9 overall, has bounced back from a monthlong illness. "He willed himself back to health, he was the eighth seed and I don't how he made it to regional," Clarenceville coach Anthony Salciccioli said.

Warriors' trio advance

Lutheran High Westland's Stephen Kemp ran his overall record to 38-3 by winning the 160-pound weight class with a 12-7 decision over Clinton's Drew Porter in the Division 4 individual district Saturday at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

The Warriors' Brad LaRose (119) and Laith Francis (125) also advanced this weekend to Manchester with runner-up finishes at the district.

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DISTRICT WRESTLING RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING RESULTS (top 4 qualify for regional) Feb. 21 at LIVONIA STEVENSON

285 pounds: Travis Ramsey (Highland Park) decisioned Mike Modes (Livonia Franklin), 7-6; 3rd place: Martez Churchfield (HP) pinned

Reggie Lewis (Grosse Pointe South), 2:41. 103: Todd Melick (Novi Detroit Catholic Central) dec. Paul Hanni (Franklin), 8-3: 3rd: Sergio Rodriguez (G.P. South) p. lan Stirton (Northville), 1:47.

112: Alec Mooradian (CC) p. Steve Tuyo (Franklin), 1:08; 3rd: Kienuwa Davis (Farmington) p. Matt Thompson (CC), 1:14.

119: Justin Melick (CC) won by technical fall over Griffin Forton (G.P. South), 23=5; 3rd: Greg Lorrain (N'ville) p. Matt Hecksel (Livonia Churchill), 2:15.

125: Charlie Josepth (CC) dec. Ali Bajrami (Farm.), 12-8; 3rd: Michael Orange (Southfield) dec. Nolan Goodall (G.P. South), 5-3.

130: Doug Eldridge (CC) won by major dec. over Devin Ashley (Garden City), 10-2; 3rd: Clayton Caldwell (Novi) dec. John Bannoura (Churchill), 9-2.

135: Paul Hancock (Dearborn Fordson) won by major dec. over Charlie Kokenakes (Stevenson), 16-2; 3rd: Dontez Butler (Oak Park) dec. Bryan Fortney (Churchill), 10-5.

140: Raz Markosian (Stevenson) dec. Dwuan Burris (Redford Union), 7-6; 3rd: Jalen McCov (HP) p. Harry Eichholtz (N'ville), 0:13.

Feb. 21 at TEMPERANCE BEDFORD (top 4 qualify for regional) 103 pounds: Chadwick Turner (Southgate) decisioned Steve Wakeford (Westland John Glenn), 9-7; 3rd place: Nick Kim (Salem) dec.

Devin Foster (Woodhaven), 3-1 (overtime). 112: Evan Guffey (Wyandotte) dec. Harry Cassedy (Dearborn), 8-4; 3rd: Waleed Faraj (Canton) dec. Ludwig Castaneda (Southgate), 8-2.

119: Leon Shannon (Wyandotte) dec. Carl Lucke (Canton), 8-6; 3rd: Joshua Austin (John Glenn) pinned Tim Deja (Wyandotte), 0:47. 125: Nick Boone (Southgate) dec. Anthony Pavlich (John Glenn), 9-5; 3rd: Joe Lombard

(Wyandotte) dec. Kyle Horr (Monroe), 3-0. 130: Sean Turner (Monroe) dec. Tommy Kozak (Belleville), 5-3; 3rd: Brian Gibbs (Bedford) dec. Jason Vanwasshenova (Lincoln

Park), 7-5. 135: Donnie Watkins (Canton) dec. Jared Stephens (John Glenn), 3-0; 3rd: Tevin Hines (Wayne) dec. Tyler Schneider (Belleville), 10-7. 140: Jimmy Mann (John Glenn) dec. Billy Osborne (Bedford), 7-5; 3rd: Dario Farrugia (Wyandotte) won by major dec. over Johannes Olind (Salem), 9-0.

145: Brent Winekoff (Canton) won by technical fall over Aaron Jeffrey (Bedford), 25-10; 3rd: Nick Lujan (Monroe) dec. Dino Berri (Dearborn), 3-0.

152: Tyler Romiin (Bedford) won by major dec. over Zaid Ammari (John Glenn), 12-0; 3rd: Alex Eklem (Dea (Canton), 6-4. 160: Khodor Hoballah (Dearborn) dec. Matt Washlewski (Woodhaven), 6-5; 3rd: Devon Bronson (Southgate) dec. Zach Redden (John Glenn), 9-3. 171: Ian Kohlhofer (Bedford) p. James Walton (Lincoln Park), 0:44; 3rd: Keith Zech (Canton) dec. John Schneider (Woodhaven),

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Trojans jumped out to a 42-25 halftime lead and were never headed.

Keeping the ball rolling in the second half were senior guards Corey Reynolds (12 points, 12 rebounds), Darryl Whitaker (13 points, five steals) and senior forward Jeremy Gainer (10 points, eight rebounds).

Senior forward Kevin Geisler led the Mustangs (3-14) with 11 points.

HURON VALLEY 62, LUTH. SOUTH 56: On Tuesday, visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (9-5) erupted for 27 points in the third quarter to build a 55-34 edge and then hung on for dear life in the fourth to hold off a late rally by Newport Lutheran South (7-8).

Bryan Gruenewald had another stellar game for the Hawks with a game-high 22 points, including five treys as well as seven rebounds.

Aaron Howell added 12 points, while Chad Fielek contributed 10 points and seven rebounds. Jacob Diroff scored 18 for the Saints

U-D JESUIT 72, CLARENCEVILLE 56: On Saturday, Livonia Clarenceville (10-7) suffered a nonconference setback. to University of Detroit-Jesuit (12-4) at U-D Mercy's Calihan Hall. Difficulty trying to keep UD's 6-8 senior center Jordan Morgan

in check hampered Clarenceville. Morgan, who is headed for University of Michigan, led all players with 23 points.

Clarenceville trailed by just four points early in the fourth before

Stewart and Clark paced the Trojans with 17 and 14 points, respectively. Chipping in with eight minutes of play was Reynolds.

Lady Ocelots (25-2) set conference mark

Now the fun really begins for the Schoolcraft College

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MCCAA playoffs Wednesday at home against St. Clair CC

to give host Madonna (14-16, 9-5) the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic

'massive foul trouble" helped the home team build a commanding lead down the stretch. "Eventually their size and

strength wore us down," Clarenceville coach Corev McKendry said. "Jalen (Reynolds), Jamie and Jeremy were all in foul

trouble pretty much from the start trying to guard their big fella (Morgan).

points and eight rebounds in just 12

Trojans roll into Metro tourney semifinals

Senior forward Justin Hartman

women's basketball team.

The Lady Ocelots enter the postseason ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA poll and with a 25-2 overall record following a convincing 97-55 triumph Saturday at home over Henry Ford Community College.

Coach Karen Lafata's squad became the first women's team in the history of the Michigan **Community College Athletic** Association to go 18-0 in the Eastern Conference. Salem High's Tayler

MU, S'craft cagers falter

The Madonna University men's basketball team dropped its regular season finale Saturday at home to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, 56-52.

The loss drops the Crusaders to 12-18 overall and 6-8 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Shane DeNooijer led the victorious Wolves (6-23, 2-12) with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Myke White and Jonathon Cannon each chipped in with 10 points.

Senior Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial), playing in his final home game for MU, finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Bryant Slaughter (Westland) scored a team-high 14 points.

MU committed 22 turnovers and shot only 39.2 percent from the floor (20-of-51).

U-MD was 25-of-58 from the field (43.1) and made only 5-of-13 free throw

HENRY FORD 91, SCHOOLCRAFT 68: Thomas Rudy scored 17 points to lead Henry Ford Community College (19-7, 13-5) to an MCCAA Eastern Conference triumph Saturday over host Schoolcraft College (7-22, 4-14).

Daris Smith (Westland John Glenn), Renaldo Wallace and Daryl Foster each added 14 points for the victorious Hawks. who led 49-32 at intermission.

Schoolcraft, which failed to make the MCCAA playoffs for the second straight year, got a game-high 18 points from Martez Abney (Wayne Memorial).

Others in double figures for the Ocelots included Bruce Watson, 14; Larry Wilson (Livonia Churchill), 13; and Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison), 12.

Langham led the Lady Ocelots to their 27th straight conference win and 34th consecutive homecourt victory with a

game-high 26 points. April Goins chipped in with 22 points and nine rebounds, while Antania Shepherd added 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Jasmine Brown also scored 16 points and Sheray Brown grabbed 11 rebounds for Schoolcraft, which opened the (18-10, 12-6)

The winner faces either Grand Rapids CC (20-5) or Lansing CC (15-10) in the state semifinals, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Flint Mott CC. The finals are 3 p.m. Saturday at Mott.

Chelsea Manasian (Livonia Churchill) led Henry Ford (5-20, 3-15) with 17 points, while Taquweisha King added 16.

MADONNA 57, U-M-DEARBORN 55: Erin Bentley finished with a team-high 14 points, including a key triple with 25 seconds remaining Saturday

ice win over the University of Michigan-Dearborn (16-12, 3-11). Seniors Christie Carrico and Alysa

Guerin (Salem), both playing in their final home games, finished with 10 and eight points, respectively.

Kim Olech (Plymouth) added nine points and 15 rebounds. Chanel Bridges paced the Wolves

with 12 points and 16 rebounds. Yvonne Hamood added 12 points and eight rebounds, while Katie Roberts scored 11 points.

The Crusaders, seeded fourth, open the WHAC playoffs beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at home against Siena Heights (11-19).

145: Dezmond Jones (HP) dec. Livin Perreira (Franklin), 9-7; 3rd: Jon Nelson (N'ville) p. Gerid Gee (CC), 2:19

152: Trevor O'Connor (CC) p. Brandon Billiau (Franklin), 2:24; 3rd: Matt Hagan (N'ville) dec. Grant Morgan (Churchill), 6-4.

160: Don Stratz (Franklin) won by tech. fall over Lawrence Zeidan (Fordson), 21-2; 3rd: Quayshawn Means (HP) dec. Josh Seibert (Stevenson) 9-3

171: Nick Mudar (N'ville) dec. Hassen Berry (Fordson), 4-3; 3rd: Garrett Hay (Franklin) won by injury default over Curtis Castleberry (Churchill)

189: Mike Kinville (CC) dec. Jabreel Naser (Fordson), 3-1; 3rd: Marvin Jenkins (Southfield) dec. Andrew Schramm (Stevenson), 3-2.

215: Cody Hay (Franklin) dec. Will Lamping (U-D Jesuit), 10-8; 3rd: Quean Smith (HP) won by injury default over Colin Maresh (N'ville).

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 27

TAYLOR KENNEDY 3

Feb. 23 at Country Lanes

Clarenceville top individuals: Garet

413. Team totals: 1,005-912-1,917 (17 points).

211-196-407. Team totals: 922-896-1,818 (3

points); Kennedy, 182-161-343 (0 points) Dual match records: Kennedy, 12-2 overall;

Clarenceville, 9-4-1 overall

Hintzman, 235-202-437; Phillip Heidler, 203-210-

Kennedy's top individual: Buddy Keating.

Baker games: Clarenceville, 248-211-459 (10

189: Nick Whitenburg (Bedford) p. Rasmey Allen (Dearborn), 4:28; 3rd: Tomas Gomez (Southgate) dec. Austin Root (Salem), 4-2. 215: Buster Wilson (Lincoln Park) p. Sam

Lepper (Salem), 2:43; 3rd: Forrest Sampson (Belleville) dec. Justin Dozier (Woodhaven), 7-4. 285: Jacob Moore (Southgate) dec. Dustin

Gaiowiak (John Glenn), 3-2: 3rd: Mason Cole (Bedford) dec. Kyle Young (Bedford), 1:00.

PREP BOWLING

GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS **TAYLOR KENNEDY 20** LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 10 Feb. 23 at Country Lanes

Kennedy's top individuals: Kenna Wil 216-204-420; Kristen Marcis, 215-196-411; Anessa Keating, 200, Team totals: 975-812-1,781 (10 points).

Clarenceville's top individuals: Amber Cummins, 241; Amy Weibler, 203. Team totals: 912-850-1,762 (10 points).

Baker games: Kennedy, 195-181-376 (10 points); Clarenceville, 180-161-341 (0 points), Dual match records: Kennedy, 13-1 overall: Clarenceville, 9-5

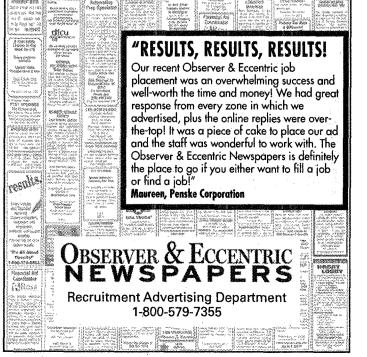


Pom champions

On Feb. 15, the Livonia Stevenson pompon squad, coached by Lyndsey Domm, took first in the Varsity Class A Division II at the 30th annual Mid American Pompon State Championships held at Eastern Michigan University. Each team performed a traditional Mid American style, original pompon routine. The routines featured athleticism, visual effects, rhythmic timing, showmanship and outstanding kicklines. Teams were judged on 10 categories by a select group of pompon experts. Team members for the Spartans include: Courtney Adkins, Carly Bernadotte, Shannon Black, Amanda Brindley, Paige Frey, Allie Goodrich, Jillian Henderson, Lindsey Kleven, Emma Knox, Julie Mochol, Ivy McMullen, Paige McMullen, Megan Pietila, Rachael Reister, Courtney Remijan, Shaylyn Sikorski, Anna Sinclair, Hannah Smith, Jennifer Smith, Rachel Stone, Jenna Suzio, Samantha Turner, Tiffany Yu and Allie Zureki.

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

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers attracts the qualified candidates you need!



LOCAL SPORTS

KLAA championship goes to Livonia Blue

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Blue needed an alltime high scoring effort Saturday to win the inaugural Kensington Lakes Activities Association girls gymnastics meet held at Walled Lake Central.

Blue finished with a team total of 148.325 to hold off a stiff challenge by Northville, which scored 147.15. Howell was a distant third with 140.000, while Livonia Red took seventh with a 136.35.

Blue, undefeated during the dual meet season at 7-0, got a first place all-around performance in Division 2 by senior Laura Nomura (36.075), along with a runner-up finish in Division 1 from junior Emily Quint (37.475).

Nomura won the vault (9.7), while teammate Alex Kitz captured the uneven bars (88.875).

Also in the Division 1 allaround, Blue's Meghan Powers placed fourth (36.975) and Brittany Janis added a fifth (36.825).

Powers was able to bounce back from a nasty fall on the balance beam last Thursday during the final dual meet of the season against Northville.

"Meghan had a strong meet, she came back and really stepped it up," Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "She also had her high score of the year on floor exercise with a 9.5 (third). She had an 8.9 on beam (eighth). I'm happy with her and she's

PREP GYMNASTICS

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GIRLS GYMNASTICS MEET

Feb. 21 at Walled Lake Central TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Blue, 148.325 points; 2. Northville, 147.175; 3. Howeli, 140.00; 4. Canton, 139.00; 5. Brighton, 138.35; 6. Walled Lake Maroon, 136.675; 7. Livonia Red, 136.35; 8. Salem, 135.10; 9. Walled Lake Gold, 132.125; 10. Plymouth, 119.05; 11. Hartland, 32.00.

DIVISION I INDIVIDUAL RESULTS Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily Quint (Blue), 9.575; 4. Brittany Janis (Blue), 9.475; 6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'ville), 9.65; 3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalle Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Ouint (Blue), 8.85. Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMauro (Red), 9.35; 7.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Blue's Emily Quint, doing her routine on the balance beam, was runner-up in the Division 2 allaround at last Saturday's KLAA meet held at Walled Lake Central.

happy she was able to compete in the all-around."

Livonia Blue now has two weeks off until returning to action Saturday, March 7 for the regional at Plymouth High where it should be another tight duel between Livonia Blue and Northville.

"These two weeks we'll work on some new things as well as cleaning up our old skills and stay on top of everything," Fierk said. "Northville has a very strong skill set on beam. That's something we'll work on. We hope to stay in the competition spirit."

Janis (Blue), 9.05; 8. Powers (Blue), 8.9. **Floor exercise**: 1. Presley (N'ville), 9.7; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.65; 3. Powers (Blue), 9.5; 8. Janis (Blue).

(Blue), 9.65; 3. Powers (Blue), 9.5; 8. Janis (Blue), 9.2; 10. (tie) Charniga (Blue) and DiMauro (Red), 9.05 each. All-around: 1. Presley (N'ville), 37.65; 2. Quint

(Blue), 37.475; 4. Powers (Blue), 36.975; 5. Janis (Blue), 36.825.

DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS Vault: 1. Laura Nomura (Blue), 9.7; 4. Alex Kitz (Blue), 9.0.

Uneven bars: 1. Kitz (Blue), 8.875; 4. Katina St. Pierre (Red), 8.5; 6. Sarah Bridges (Blue), 8.45. Balance beam: 1. Amanda Rohkohl (Howell), 9.4;

Nomura (Blue), 9.1; 9. Sally Osentoski (Red), 8.9.
 Floor exercise: 1. Nicole Jacobs (Salem), 9.35;
 Nomura (Blue), 9.25; 8. St. Pierre (Red), 8.85.

Nomula (Slue), 9.25, 6. St. Pietre (Red), 8.85.
 All-around: 1. Nomura (Blue), 36.075; 10. St.
 Pierre (Red), 34.20.

Crusader trio honored

Madonna University's 6-foot junior center Kim Olech (Plymouth), who averaged 10.5 points and 11.3 points per game earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors in women's basketball.

The Adrian College transfer, who also earned WHAC Newcomer of the Year, was also named to the WHAC All-Academic team where a junior or senior must carry a 3.25 grade-point average or better.

Sophomore teammate Tabatha Wydryck (Wyandotte) as the was selected to the All-WHAC second-team in addition to earning a spot on the all-defensive team as well. She is second on the squad in scoring; putting in 10.3 points a night while leading the team with 3.3 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Rounding out the award winners for MU was freshman Erin Bentley (Monroe) who was selected to the WHAC's Champions of Character team as the MU student-athlete who best displays the NAIA's five core values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Servant Leadership and Sportsmanship.

Voran Player of Week

Livonia native Michael Voran (Stevenson), a forward for the Wenatchee Wild (Alaska) of the North American Hockey League was recently named

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Stevenson softball clinics

The Livonia Stevenson coaches and players will offer a pair of softball clinics for girls in grades 4-8 including defensive (fundamentals) skills from 9 a.m.-to-11 a.m.; followed by offensive skills (hitting, bunting, base running) from noon to 2 p.m., both on Saturday, March 14, at the high school fieldhouse.

The cost is \$30 for each clinic (if postmarked by March 1). The cost is \$40 for each clinic at the door. Checks, along with a registration form and signed release, should be made payable to: Stevenson H.S. Athletic Department, Rob Witherspoon, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

For more information, call Witherspoon at (734) 732-5883; or e-mail rwithers@ livonia.k12.mi.us.

Spartan baseball clinics The Livonia Stevenson

baseball program will stage a sbcglobal.net.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sherwood West/NAHL Player of the Week after striking for five goals and two assists as the Wild sported a 4-0 record against Kenai River.

On Feb. 18, Voran scored the overtime game-winner in a 3-2 victory. Two nights later, the 18-year-old put home two more goals in a 7-4 triumph.

He added another goal and assist in each of the Wild's next two wins over the Brown Bears, including the game-winner in Sunday's 6-3 victory.

The Wild stands in second place at 25-17-2 in the NAHL West.

"Mike is a solid leader and big-time performer in big games," Wild head coach Paul Baxter said. "He continues to demonstrate why he'll be a valuable addition to any top Division I school."

King All-Catholic bowler

Livonian Shannon King, a senior at Farmington Hills Mercy, posted a 571 series including a high game of 207, to lead the Marlins to a successful defense of their Catholic League bowling crown held Saturday at Oak Lanes in Westland.

King, headed to Loyola University (Ill.) in the fall, also earned All-Catholic and first-team All-Conference honors.

MU golf signings

pair of clinics including young

pitchers (grades 3-8) from 10

a.m. to noon and hitting and

fielding (grades 3-8), 1-3:30

p.m., Saturday, March 14, at

The cost for each clinic is

\$40. Enrollment is limited to

the first 40 registrants for the

young pitchers and 60 for the

For more information, call

varsity coach Rick Berryman

at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail

AAU volleyball tryouts

girls AAU girls volleyball

March 1.

program (ages 10-17) will be

Saturday Feb. 28 and Sunday,

The program is based out

experienced and new players.

To register for the tryouts.

call Gary Smart at (734) 432-

5959; or e-mail smart5959@

of Livonia and is open to

Limited space is available.

Tryouts for the spring TVO

Berry3724@aol.com.

hitting and fielding clinic.

the high school fieldhouse.

■ Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced his first three signings for the 2009 fall season including Kevin Robinson (Livonia Churchill), Ronnie Pollack, Jr. (Southgate Anderson) and Erik Taurence (Wyandotte Roosevelt).

Robinson, a two-time All-Observer selection, becomes the third member of his family to tee it up for MU joining older brothers Steve and Matt.

Kevin Robinson is a two-time Division 1 district runner-up (2006 and 2008).

Pollack is a transfer from Wayne County Community College who earned four high school letters. The four-time All-Mega Conference selection became to first Anderson golfer to advance to the state tournament (2007). He also lettered in hockey and tennis.

Taurence is the cousin of current MU junior golfer Justin Taurence where he is two-time All-News Herald honoree and a second-team Division 2 All-State hockey pick.

■ MU women's golf coach Scott Marzolino recently announced the signing of Birmingham Marian's Megan Fleischer to an NAIA letter-of intent for the fall 2009 season.

The Mustangs' team MVP and captain has finished in the top 10 at the Catholic League tournament and was fourth individually in the Oakland County Division II Tournament while helping Marian to a

runner-up team finish. She has also lettered twice in basketball and once in track.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP WRESTLING **BOYS BASKETBALL** Thursday, Feb. 26 Saturday, Feb. 28 Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m. (Individual Regionals) Franklin at Novi, 7 o.m. Division 3 at Williamston, 9 a m Division 1 at Woodhaven, 9:30 a.m. Canton at Stevenson, 7 p.m. John Glenn at South Lyon, 7 p.m. Division 4 at Luth. N'west, TBA. **BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING** Wayne at S. Lyon East, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27 Thursday, Feb. 26 Mt. Carmel at Huron Valley, 7:30 p.m KLAA Central at South Lyon, 6:30 p.m. (Metro Conference Semifinals) KLAA South at John Glenn, 7 p.m Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 7 p.m Saturday, Feb. 28 **GIRLS BASKETBALL** Kensington Conf. Meet at Novi, 11 a.m. PREP BOWLING Thursday, Feb. 26 Huron Valley at Liggett, 5:30 p.m Friday, Feb. 27 Det. Pershing at Ladywood, 7 p.m. (Team Regionals) Division 2 at Super Bowl, 10 a.m. Thurston at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Luth, Westland at Det, Urban, 7 p.m. Division 1 at Westland Bowl, 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27 Saturday, Feb. 28 Brighton at Franklin, 7 p.m. (Individual Regionals) John Glenn at Pinckney, 7 p.m. Division 2 at Super Bowl, 10 a.m. W.L. Central at Churchill, 7 p.m. Division 1 at Westland Bowl, 11 a.m. Waterford Mott at Stevenson, 7 p.m. **GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER** PREP HOCKEY Saturday, Feb. 28 Friday, Feb. 27 Division 1 regional at Wayne, 11 a.m. Churchill vs. W.L. Northern Division 2 regional at Airport, noon. at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Division 3 regional at Goodrich, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 Division 4 regional at Mason, 5 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Ladywood vs. B.H. Kingswood

Thursday, Feb. 26 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 7:30 p.m.

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

at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.

(LW) B3



B4 (*)



THERESA M. ANTCZAK Age 85. Of Farmington Hills, ML Passed away February 8, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, ML



PENELOPE S. AVESIAN

February 24, 2009. Age 61 Beloved wife of Paul. Dear mother of Berge. Rachel Rabidoux (Jason) and Katie. Sister of Sam Halkias (Carol). Memorial service Friday 11a.m. at Highland Park Baptist Church, 28600 Lahser Rd. (south of Twelve Mile), Southfield. Memorial tributes to the LUNGevity Foundation, Penelope Avesian Memorial Fund, 435 N. LaSalle St., Ste 310, Chicago, IL 60654 or Detroit Country Day Friends of the Arts Association, 22305 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Beverly Hills, MI 48025. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

OF WOMB SAVE

CHERYL A. BELL

February 22, 2009. Beloved wife of Dear mother of Robert Robert. (Jennifer), Chris (Elaine), Heather Tuggle, Sean (Brandy). Daughter of the late Michael and Pauline Jarvis. Loving grandmother of Bobby, Katie, Allie, Evan, Emily, Trysten, Lydia, Skylar, Megan, Shelby, Alexis, Erik, Ryan and Alicia. Sister of Paul. Sue. Jeanne, Pam, Michael, Patrick and the late Larny. Visitation was at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Novi Tuesday 2-9 pm. Funeral was Wednesday 2:00 pm On-line sympathy message www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

WILLIAM P. BENTON

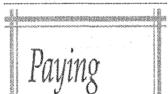
Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills. Died Feb 19, 2009 of cancer. He was born Nov 4, 1923 in Laurinburg, NC. He is survived by his wife Blanche, daughters Barbara Benton, Roxanne Darling & her partner Shane Robinson, Judy Dennis & her husband Mike Dennis, Nancy Lievois & her husband Jim Lievois, and grandchildren Carlie, Annie, and Christina Dennis, and Jordan and Tyler Lievois. The funeral service will be at St. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI on Sat., Mar. 21, 2009 at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to



BERTHA ELAINE "SWEETIE" DANAJ (nee McDONOUGH)

Age 80, of Petoskey, a woman of extraordinary faith, died February 7, 2009, surrounded by her children.

She was born January 11, 1929, on Beaver Island, the daughter of William Patrick and Sophia Regina (Haugen) McDonough. She married Thadeus Edward Danaj on June 28, 1952, and celebrated almost 54 years of marriage before his passing in 2006. They made their home in Detroit and later in Westland. She came to the Detroit area as a high school graduate. She did secretarial work and was a nanny for the children of a dentist. On a return visit to Beaver Island, she met her future husband, Ted, who was also visiting relatives on Beaver Island. They continued their courtship in Detroit with him properly calling on her at the Evangeline, a boarding house for single, young ladies. They started their family imme diately after they were married and Bertha remained home raising her young children. In 1967, she began working for Deluxe Check Printers and retired from there in 1987, making many lifelong friends during that time. Bertha and Ted traveled for many years to Las Vegas to escape the Michigan winters. In recent years, they returned to northern Michigan and made their home in Petoskey. Bertha was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. She faced the physical challenges of the final 8 1/2 years of her life with grace, humor and wit, as her husband lovingly tended to all her needs. She is survived by her children, Pamela (Gary) Malo of Livonia, Lawrence (Becky) of Livonia, Timothy (Lorraine) of Alpharetta, Georgia, Susan (William) Wright of Lake Leelanau, Beth (Thomas) Burke of Petoskey, twenty grandchildren, sis-ters Mary Ellen Monachino of New York, Charlotte (Richard) Sanderson of Florida and brother Anthony Mardee) McDonough of Australia. She was preceded in death by her husband, infant son Kenneth, infant granddaughter Brandee Danaj, brothers Glen and Kenneth. Internment at



to the

Loved One

CAROLINE M. DeBRINCAT

Age 91. Of Farmington, MI. February

21, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-

ELIZABETH DELANEY

Delaney; her grandchildren, J.C. and

William Johnson, and Sean and Cara

Delaney; her sisters, Janet Phyfe and

Barbara Hart; and many nieces and

nephews. Memorial service at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St.

Plymouth, Saturday, February 28, 11

am. Memorial visitation at Schrader-

Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Friday 3-9 pm. In lieu

of flowers, contributions may be made

to the Plymouth Community Band or

MAJOR LAWRENCE EDWARD HOPP

was born in Rochester, MI on January

2, 1923. The son of Albert and Viola

Demming Hopp. He was a retired Air

Force Veteran and he served during

the WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras.

in Corydon, IN on Šaturday, February

28, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will

be held at the funeral home on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Council. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.

the

Plymouth Community Arts

Age 86. Passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Indian Creek Healthcare

Center in Corydon, IN. He

Age 86, of Ann Arbor. Passed

away February 21, 2009. She is survived by her children, Cornelia (Phil) Johnson,

Stuart (Beth), and Barbara

ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

Fribute

St. Mary's Cemetery in Charlevoix.



RICHARD W. JOHNSON

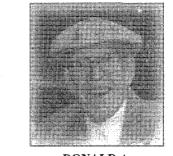
February 23, 2009. Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills. Proud veteran US Army WWII. Retired design engineer, Ford Motor Co. Beloved husband of the late Ruthann. Dear father of Alan Johnson (Patricia), Susan Johnson, James (Deborah), Carol Burke (Terry) Judy (Bruce Weigman) Johnson and Smith (Robert). He was Melinda devoted to his 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), Thursday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. until funeral service 11:30a.m. Memorial tributes to New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, 1814 Pond Run, Auburn Hills, MI 48326. View obituary and share memories at

www.desmondfuneralhome.com



DEBRA LYNN KINE

Age 52, of Traverse City. Died Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Bortz Heath Care following a valiant battle with multiple melanoma. Born on Sunday, April 22, 1956 in Plymouth, Debra was the daughter of Robert and Shirley Gayle (Thompson) Kine. The family resided in Dearborn and later moved to Traverse City where Deb graduated from Traverse City Central in 1973. Known to her family and many friends as Deb, she had been employed for 13 years at Munson Medical Center as a CSR for the laboratory send out department. She loved to read, sail and loved the color purple. She loved her dog Jazmine, but the joy of her life was her son and grandchildren. Deb is survived by her son, Nathan (Sarah Hansen) Kine of Buckley, her grandchildren, Logan and Hansen and Allanah and



DONALD A. SCHARCHBURG

Age 101, February 21, 2009. Beloved husband of Eleanor for 69 years. Loving father of Martha (Bruce Beyer) Scharchburg. Dear grandfather of Cameron. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Memorial contributions may be directed to St.

EVA SPANN (STOOPS)

Joseph Mercy Hospice. Please share a

memory at www.rggrharris.com.

Age 78, passed away Feb. 17, 2009. Loving mother of four daughters and three sons. She leaves four sisters, a brother and 22 grandchildren.



MARY CATHERINE "KITTY" STOREN (nee: COONEY)

February 20, 2009, of Bloomfield Hills. Director of Development, Loyola High School, Detroit. Beloved wife of Bob. Dear mother of Tricia Van Faussien (Mark), Katie Shafer (Tim), Meghan Carter (the late Rich), Elizabeth Kent (Jason), Stephanie Jett (Randy), and Julie Lupo (Scott). Grandmother of Hannah, Bobby Zachary, Henry, Joe, Charlie, Mackenzie, Richie, Maggie, Mary Kate, Jack, and Alex. Sister of Bill Cooney, Pat Hathaway, Margaret Casey, Ann Nordloh, Henry Cooney, Eileen Finney, Julia Cooney, and Michael Cooney. Services and Burial have taken place. A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-362-2500. Memorials to Kitty Storen Memorial Fund at Loyola High School, 15325 Pinehurst, Detroit, MI 48238.

View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



RELIGION CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY

All you can eat fish fry

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

Bethany singles

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

Free movie night

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

Blood drive

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

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley.

For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Rush concert series

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

Midweek Lenten services

Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have midweek Lenten services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. For information, call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

Lenten services

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

Wednesday Lenten Service

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

Lenten services

Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. Fish fry

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



Henry Ford Hospital, Schepens Eye Clinic, Hospice of Palm Beach County or the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mr. Benton was a wellknown and loved automotive executive. For more information please visit www.williampbenton.com



RAYMOND MORRIS COLE

Age 78, of Twin Lake. Passed away Saturday, February 21, 2009 at a Muskegon hospital. He was born October 20, 1930 in Gary, Indiana to Hubert and Luella (Carey) Cole and he spent the majority of his childhood in Hatboro, PA. Mr. Cole earned a Bachelors degree from Purdue University and a Masters degree from Penn State. He was formerly employed as a mechanical research engineer for General Motors. Ray enjoyed scenic road trips, logging thousands of miles across the United States. He was an avid collector of antique pattern glass, stamps, and anything "Disney". He was a published photographer, model airplane enthusiast, with his happiest times being when he was surrounded by mountains and deserts. Survivors include three daughters: Karen (Bill) Tombs of Grand Haven, Debbie (Jamie) Jones, Lisa (Jason) Hubbard, both of Rochester, MI, and their moth-er, Betty Jane Cole; six grandchildren: Kimberly (Jason) Rykse, Jesse Tombs, Cole Jones, Carly Jones, Mallory Hubbard, and McKenna Hubbard; and two great-grandchildren, Hailey and Maddox Rykse. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Robert Cole and his step-father, Morris Todd. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, 339 Walnut Blvd., Rochester, MI 48307. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to the Arthritis Foundation. Share memories with the family at their online guestbook

w.modetzfuneralhomes.com

Ashlynn Kine; her father, Robert Kine of Traverse City, her sister, Sheryl (Mark) Irving of Maple City, her brothers, Dale W. (Carol) Kine of Traverse City and Jon (Wendy Matthews) Kine of Interlochen. Many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends also survive. Deb was preceded in death by her mom. Gavle and sister Paula. Visitation will take place at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, on Thursday, February 26 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A celebration of Deb's life will take place on Friday, February 27 at 1 p.m. also at the funeral home, with Pastor Ted Smith officiating. For those desiring to remember Deb through a memorial contribution, the family suggests Hospice of Michigan or the American Cancer Society. You may share your condolences and memories of Deb with her family at her on line guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com. **EVELYN JEAN KINNEY**

Nolan

(RYSKA)

Age 77. Of Sedona, Arizona. Died suddenly February 19, 2009 after a brief illness. Born in Brownsville, PA

February 13, 1932 to John and Julia (Thomas) Ryska. Evelyn resided in Michigan prior to retiring to Sedona in 2003. She was actively engaged as a court reporter for over 50 years. Evelyn enjoyed skiing, travelling, and was a talented designer and decorator. She leaves her devoted and loving husband of 25 years, Bruce M. Kinney of Sedona, a sister Patricia Boczenowski (Ryska) and her husband John Boczenowski of Framingham, Massachusetts, and nephews Derek. David. and Brian Boczenowski. Funeral arrangements were conducted by Greer's Mortuary of Sedona. Funeral Service was conducted at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sedona. Burial was at Green Acres in Scottsdale, AZ. Donations in Evelyn's memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

Age 82, February 21, 2009. Of Beverly Hills, MI. Beloved wife of 58 years of George L. Miller. Loving

mother of Laura L. Miller and son, Lindsay B. (Elaine) Miller of Dallas, TX. Marjorie was born June 1, 1926, to Harold M. Brown Sr. and Gladys (Baldwin) in Royal Oak, MI. Proud grandmother of Brian Miller. Sister of Harold M. (Betty) Brown of Rochester Hills, MI. Also survived by many loving family and friends. A Memorial Service will be held in March at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile Rd. (east of Lahser), Bloomfield Twp., MI. Please sign Marjorie's online guest-



SHARON LEE WALK

February 24, 2009, after surviving cancer for 23 years. Age 66, of Livonia. Loving wife of James. Beloved

mother of Keith (Kimberly) and Kevin (Jennifer). Proud grandma of Makenna, Brendan, Cristian and Kyle. Dear sister of Dottie Smith and daughter of Eve Hutchings. Visitation Thursday 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (between Sheldon and Beck). In state Friday 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Funeral Service at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Entombment Cadillac Memorial Gardens-West. Memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 650309 Dallas, TX 75265. To leave a message of condolence please log on to vermeulenfuneralhome.com



GARY E. WOODS

Born August 24, 1940, passed away at Piedmont Hospital Atlanta, GA, February 2009. He is survived by his loving wife, Zoe Darling-Woods; brother Ron, of N. Palm Beach, FL; daughter Ami, of Good Hart, MI and his devoted dog, Bob. Woods worked as a graphic artist in the printing and advertising field in Atlanta and Detroit. Burial will be in Michigan at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Gary Woods to Piedmont Hospital Trans plant Fund, 1968 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Ecrentric Call 1-800-579-7355

Families in action workshops

The National Association for Mental Illneses 10-week educational program began 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 either every Wednesday or Thursday evening and ends on April 29/30. The goal is to help families better understand mental illness, how it affects the family and what they can do to help. A nominal fee of \$20 per person or \$30 per couple will be charged at the time of registration. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. For information or to register, call Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197. Space limited, so pre-registration required.

UPCOMING

House of worship tour

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



7-9 p.m. Tuesdays March 3 to April 7, in the church building of St. Colette, 17600 Newburgh Rd. Livonia. The 6-week Hungry for God series helps adults and teens enjoy an even deeper, closer love-relationship with the God who is loving them first, best, and always. This series will be facilitated by Deacon Bob Ovies, former director of the Detroit Archdiocesan Office for Family Life. Each session focuses on one of the following themes: Hungry for God's love, Hungry for Salvation, Hungry to Know God's Plan for your Life, Hungry for Jesus, Hungry for the Power to Forgive, Hungry for Faith & God's Spirit. Register at religioused@stcolette.net or call (734) 464-4435.

Evenings of reflection

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia offers special Lenten Evenings of Reflection with the first 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, featuring Rev. Daniel Trapp, professor of theology and graduate spiritual director at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, speaking on "The Mystery of Christ Within Us" from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, and the second on Wednesday, March 18, with Rev. Daniel Jones, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Assistant Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. The public is invited. Both events will be in St. Michael's Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200 or visit the parish website at www.livoniastmichael.org.

School open house

If you have children ready to enter pre-school through eighth grade in the fall, Guardian Lutheran School is holding an Open House 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at 24544 Cherry Hill Road in Dearborn. During the Open House, families will have an opportunity to receive personalized tours of the facility, spend time in the classrooms, enjoy light refreshments and talk with teachers, parents and board members. For details, call (313) 274-3665, email walter.krone@ guardianlutheran.org or visit www.guardianlutheran.org.

Bethany Suburban West activities

Saturday, March 7, Monthly Dance 8 p.m. to midnight at St Robert Bellarmine 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster Rd., Redford. Dance lesson; Swing, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane for information, (734) 261-5716.

Sunday, March 15, annual 9 a.m. Lenten Mass at the Felician Sister House Chapel on the Madonna College Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Uuse the Newburgh entrance and breakfast will follow service. For details contact Kathy, (734) 513-9479.

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

MARJORIE A. MILLER (nee BROWN)

He is survived by two sons, Thomas Hopp of Greenville, IN and Lawrence Edward Hopp, Jr. of Trenton, MI; one daughter, Marilynn Muth of Hanover, Ontario, CA; a brother, Richard book at www.cremationmichigan. Albert Hopp of Venice, FL.; four grandchildren and four great-grand-children. A Memorial will be held at the Gehlbach & Royse Funeral Home

BELIEFS & VALUES

online at hometownlife.com

Church services a time to paws for reflection

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN . O&E STAFF WRITER

Beginning Sunday, March 1, customers coming into Dunk N Dogs Spa in Livonia can not only wash their dog but pray. The Rev. Claudia Barber says as long as pets are under control and not trying to eat their neighbors, they're welcome to attend All Creatures Universal Life Church. The service allows humans to worship with their pets.

"I think it's a really good idea," said Sharon Robinet, spa owner. "People like me who are single and have a lot of animals do almost everything with their animals. They go almost everywhere with me. Now I can incorporate them into my spiritual life."

Robinet likes the idea so much she's renting space to Barber at a reduced rate. As a business owner, the Redford woman spends long hours away for home so it was only natural that when Barber approached her with the idea of holding services at the shop, she was all ears.

For many church-goers, Sundays usually mean leaving their pets behind to attend to spiritual needs. Not anymore. Beginning March 1 and every Sunday thereafter, Barber will be holding regular services for pets of all kinds and their owners in the 1,000-square-foot indoor

ALL CREATURES WORSHIP

What: Church services for pets of all kinds and their owners When: Begins 1 p.m. Sunday, March 1, and continues every Sunday Where: Dunk N Dogs Spa, 27911 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads, Livonia. For information, call the spa at (734) 422-WASH or Rev. Claudia Barber at (313) 563-0162

dog park at the spa which usually functions as a self serve pet wash and doggie day-care, grooming and obedience training facility as well as a cat rescue.

"What's nice is we're all animal people. We've all been to church where you line up in the parking lot for a blessing but it's only once a year and never inside. Why not have a weekly service where people can come with their animals?" said Robinet. "We have no idea how many people will be there or what kind of animals they're bringing so we decided everybody has to be on a leash or in a crate or carrier. We don't want birds or cats to set off the dogs."

Barber says pets must be up-todate on vaccinations and friendly to people and other pets. She plans to bring her four dogs and six birds to the hour-long services which will be very informal and centered around pets.

"My pets have done so much to help me spiritually as well as emotionally to connect more to God that it's a shame I have to leave them home. I want them to share this part of my life with me. We say our prayers in the mornings and they're always peaceful during that time," said Barber, who was ordained in the nondenominational church based in Modesto, Calif. in 2003. In addition to leading the services she provides Christian counseling for owners whose pets are ill or have died.

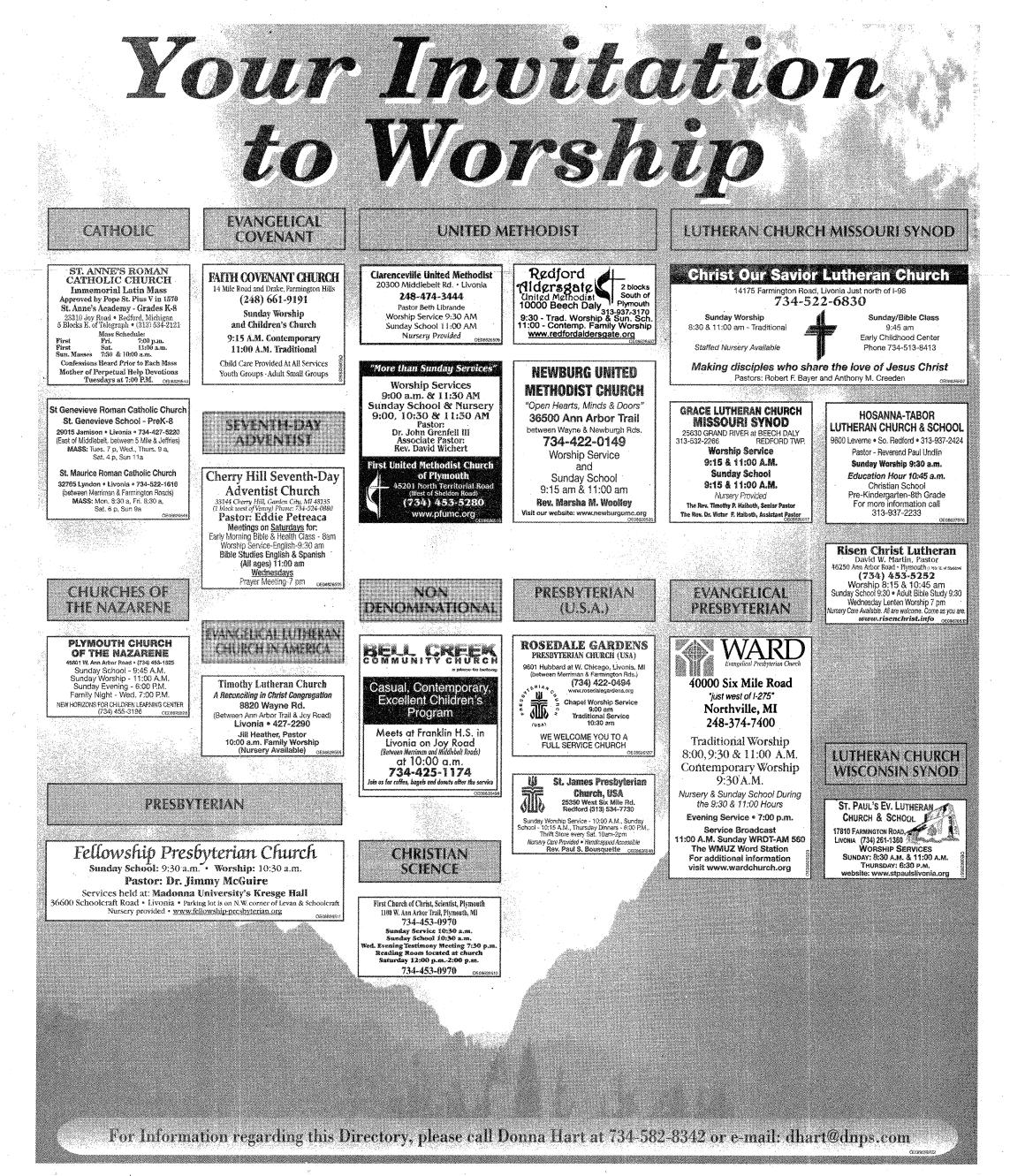
"It's not a fancy church atmosphere. I didn't approach any churches but wanted to have a place where there wouldn't be a problem if a dog has an accident," said Barber, of Dearborn Heights. "I've already had several people respond to the flyers I've been putting out. I've sent e-mails to all the rescues trying to get the word out and put ads on Craig's List.

"I believe what the bible says that God created all the creatures, human and otherwise. Jesus said when the smallest sparrow falls God knows. I believe they will be in heaven, that all creatures go back to God."

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



The Rev. Claudia Barber leads worship services for all creatures at Dunk N Dog Spa in Livonia every Sunday beginning March 1. Here she's pictured with Muffin, one of her four dogs.



- 85

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

B6

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CelloBella! is Mike Wilhelm, of Dearborn Heights, on guitar and vocals, and Alison Donahue of Royal Oak on cello and vocals.

Blowout Family Hootenanny set

This year, Metro Times Blowout will include an afternoon of shows for parents and children. The Blowout Family Hootenanny, featuring the Mydols, CelloBella! and Danny Kroha, will take place 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at Cafe 1923, 2287 Holbrook, Hamtramck. Parents who buy \$20 wristbands for the Blowout can bring their children to the Hootenanny for free.

"I think this is the first time we've had a family-friendly show at the Blowout," said Maria Stella, promotions manager for Metro Times. "We really wanted to open up the event more and draw some people to Hamtramck during the day to benefit the businesses.

Call Cafe 1923 at (313) 319-8766 or visit www.metrotimes. com/blowout.



FILTER Local 'Foes' join 199 other bands at Blowout



The Friendly Foes will take the stage at 1 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at The Belmont during Metro Times Blowout 12. They are (from left) Liz Wittman (bass and vocals), Ryan Allen (guitar, lead vocals), and Brad Elliott (drums).



BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK STAFF WRITER

The Friendly Foes, fronted by Livonia native Ryan Allen, will be among 200 bands playing at this year's Metro Times

Set for March 5-7, the annual music festival is designed to celebrate homegrown bands and spans 15 venues throughout Hamtramck. It also includes a pre-party at the Majestic Theater Complex in Detroit on Wednesday, March

Wittman, of Oak Park, on bass and vocals; and Brad Elliott, drums. Both Allen and Elliott It's the second Blowout for the Friendly Foes, who have been together a little more than a year, but Allen has played many more with other lineups. "I think this will be my sixth

or seventh Blowout total, and I've played it with many other bands that I've been in in the past, including Red Shirt Brigade, Tiny Steps, Scott Allen & the Breakdance, and the Sharp Hearts, none of which exist anymore," Allen

Concurrently, Allen played Blowouts with Thunderbirds are Now!, a successful post-

Please see BLOWOUT, B7

2009 BLOWOUT SCHEDULE

Where: 15 venues throughout Tickets: \$20 for Metro Times Blowout 12 and Pre-Party

When: 9 p.m. March 4 Where: Majestic Theatre Complex, 4120 Woodward Ave.,

Entertainment: Mustache in Your Face at the Garden Bowl; Silverghost, The Octopus, Child Bite, and Electric Fire Babies at the Magic Stick; The Meatmen, Outrageous Cherry, The Wrong Numbers, Punk Fitness Interlude, Genetto Files and Fluent at the Contact: (313) 833-9700, www. metrotimes.com/blowout

GET OUT

E-mail items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wvonb@ hometownlife.com.

ART

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

Art is in Market. Grand re-opening wine and j cheese reception, 3-9 p.m. March 7, new location in Laurel Park Place, 37642 Six Mile Road, Livonia, http://artisinmarket.blogspot.com. CPop Gallery: "Conformity Exhibition: Live Conformists/Dead Troublemakers," through March, opening reception, 7-11 p.m. March 7, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9901, wcpop.com.

Hotposchi, Studio: Painting classes for all ages, free fine art portfolio assessments for collegebound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com. Ldus Arts Gallery: Local Artist Exhibit, March 3-26, artists reception, 6-9 p.m. March 6; Palette and Brush Club Exhibit, March 31-April 5, artist reception, April 4; Kathleen Graf Exhibit, May 1-27, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.

Northville Art House: First Friday Art Receptions, 6-9 p.m. first Friday of each month; DIA Lecture Series, Art of Norman Rockwell, March 4, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org. Plymouth's Annual Art Feast: May 15-16, Downtown Plymouth.

Plymouth Art in the Park: July 10-12, Kellogg Park, Plymouth Community Arts Council: Winter Break Art Camp for Kids, Feb. 23-27, S50 a day per child, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.

AUDITION

Music Hall: Diddy/MTV show, "Making His Band," 10 a.m. March 21, Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org, www.makinghisband.mtv.com.

BENEFITS

Detroit Hard Rock Cafe: Rockers Brandon Calhoon, Frankie D'Angelo and Robin Horlock, acoustic performance to benefit 'Musicians on Call,'' March 5, doors 8 p.m., \$5, 45 Monroe St., Detroit, (313) 964-7625. **The Roostratili** Cirque de Monaco Masked Ball, 7 p.m.-midnight, Feb. 28, 60s chic attire with masks, \$75-\$150, benefiting FJC, Detroit Institute of Arts, (313) 833-4005, www.foundersjuniorcouncil.org. **Emerald Theatre:** St. Judes' Concert for the Children with JoCaine, March 21, Mount Clemens, 6 p.m., 18 and older, \$10, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com.

BOOKS/LITERATURE

BLOWOUT

art-punk band that has toured the world, and is signed to New York label Frenchkiss Records. In 2006, the band's album "Make History" was named among Rolling Stone's Top 50 albums of the year.

These days, Allen said the Friendly Foes occupy much of his time.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Free family matinee series hits Canton

Just because you're pinching pennies doesn't mean you have to miss out on family fun. Goodrich Quality Theaters will launch its Free Spring Matinee Series at Canton Cinema this weekend with "Are We Done Yet?," showing Feb. 28-March 1. In the 2007 film, rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube reprises his role as everyman-sports-fanatic Nick Persons from "Are We There Yet?" (2005). Watch the slapstick ensue as Persons evolves from bachelorhood to domestic life. Rated PG.

Dossin Great Lakes Museum: Author Paul Kavieff discusses "Detroit's Infamous Purple Gang," 6-8 p.m. March 3, \$10, free for members, 100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit, (313) 833-1801, www.detroithistorical.org.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 4 p.m. March 1, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

CHORAL

Rackham Choir: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CLASSICAL

Max M. Fister Music Center: Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22; The Music of Billy Joel & More by Michael Cavanaugh, April 16-19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitsymphony.com.

Plynouth Symphony Orchestra: "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-212, www.plymouthsymphony.org.

"I'd say we're a pop band,

and the Beatles, as well as

and '90s indie rock like

Superchunk," Allen said.

'70s punk like the Buzzcocks

The band's debut album,

"Born Radical," was released

late last year to critical praise.

Franklin High School in 1998

Allen graduated from

and is proud of his Livonia

roots.

taking cues from Elvis Costello

The free film series continues with "Space Chimps," March 7-8; "Madagascar 2," March 14-15; "Igor," March 21-22; "Kung Fu Panda," March 28-29; "Horton Hears a Who," April 4-5; "Tale of Despereaux," April 11-12; "Open Season," April 18-19; and "Hotel for Dogs," April 25-26.

Showtimes are 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Canton Cinema is located

at 43555 Ford Road. Call (734) 844-3456 or visit www. GQTI.com.

Schoolcraft College: Avalon String Quartet, March 20; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.

COMEDY

Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14; Spring Comedy Jam with Mike Epps, Teddy Carpenter, Dominique Witten, March 21, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. JB's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: Allyn Ball, through Feb. 28; Brad Williams, March 4-7; Tracy Smith, March 11-14, 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com. The Second City: "Kwame A River: The Chronicles of Detroit's Hip Hop Mayor," through May, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.

CONCERTS

he said.

foes.

City Theatre: Raphael Saadiq, March 15, inside Hockeytown, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, www.olympiaentertainment.com. The Fillmore: Dropkick Murphys, March 3, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. (248) 645-6666. The fox Theatre. Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12; Filight of the Conchords

"I worked at Larry's

Foodland when I was 15, have

eaten at Daly Burger millions of times, and am probably the

only indie rocker to ever come

Blowout 12 schedule and to purchase

tickets, visit www.metrotimes.com/

blowout. To hear the Friendly Foes,

visit www.myspace.com/friendly-

out of playing LJFL sports,"

For the complete Metro Times

with Eugene Mirman, April 24; Soul 70's Super Jam featuring The Whispers, The Dramatics, The Stylistics & The Manhattans, April 25; Leonard Cohen, May 9, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. Joe Louis Arena: Nickelback, Feb. 28, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com. The Palace of Auburn Hills: Fleetwood Mac. March 8: Eagles, March 21: Billy Joel / Elton John "Face 2 Face Tour," May 21,1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com. St. Andrew's Hall: Ben Kweller with The Watson Twins, Feb 19; Sam Roberts, Feb. 28, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666. DANCE

Detroit Dance Collective: The Power of Green, 8 p.m. March 13, \$18-\$22, Michael A. Guido Theater, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 943-2354. Detroit Institute of Arts: The Kusun Ensemble, African music and dance, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Feb. 27, 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900, www. dia.org.

Detroit Opera House: "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org. FAMILY

Canton Cinema: Free Spring Matinee Series, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, "Are We Done Yet?", Feb. 28-March 1; "Space Chimps," March 7-8, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456, www.GOTI. com.

Detroit Institute of Arts: Target Family Sundays – Performance, Good Mischief with Gemini, March 1, 2 p.m., free with admission, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-7900, www.dia.

For Theatre: Thomas & Friends Livel On Stage, A Circus Comes To Town, June 13-14, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. Marguis Theatre: "Little Mermaid," March 14-April 17, 88-50, ages 3 and up, 135 E. Main, Northville, (248) 349-8110, www.northvillemarquistheatre. com. Meadow Brook Theatre: "Nate the Great," 1D a.m.

and 1 p.m. Feb. 28, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbtheatre.com. Palace of Aubum Hills: Disney On Ice Worlds of

Fantasy, through March 1 \$12-\$26, (248) 645-6666, www.disneyonice.com. **Penn Theatre:** Saturdays @ The Penn, old fash-

ioned variety show, March 7 featuring Nan Washburn, Conductor, Phymouth Symphony Orchestra; cloors, 11:15 a.m.; music, noon; \$3 per child and adult; 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 377-0914, www. plymoutharts.com.

The Lyon Theatre: "Queen Cindereila," March 6-15, \$8 adults, \$6, children 12 and under, 125 E. Lake Street, South Lyon, www.thephoenixplayers.org.

FILM

Detroit Film Theatre: "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29," through March 15; "Gomorrah," Feb. 27-March 8, at Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit I. See www.dia.org/dft or (313) 833-7900. Detroit Historical Museum: "More Bob-Io Memories," 1 and 8 p.m. March 7-8, 5401 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-805, www.detroithistorical.org.

Penn Theatre: February, Romance Month, "Love in the Afternoon," Feb. 26; March, Hitchcock Month, "Marnie," March 5; "Shadow of a Doubt," March 12; "Saboteur," March 19; "To Catch a Thief," March 26, shows at 7 p.m., \$3, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com.

Rediord Theatre: "The Karate Kid," March 6-7, 17360 Lahser, Detroit, www.redfordtheatre, com.

MORE MUSIC

Bulffrog Bar: Open Mic Movement Mondays w/DJ Melly Mel & host Redbone; Live Karaoke Tuesdays with host Paris; Noh Worry Wednesdays; After Work Party Fridays; Mic Rocker Sessions w/ Foolish Sundays; Street Justice Show, Feb. 26; Sevrance, Steelborn, Parades, Inkface and the Digital Dream, Surrender the Operator, Feb. 28; David Young Sir Jay Records Event, March, 5; Realm Showcase, March 6, 15414 Telegraph Rd, Redford, (313) 533-4477, www.bullfrogrocks.

Callahan's: Jim McCarty and Johnny "Bee" Gallahan's: Jim McCarty and Johnny "Bee" Badanjek, The Detroit Rock 'n' Roll Revue, 9 p.m. Feb. 28, 2105 South Boulevard, Auburn Hills, (248) 828-9508, www.atcallahans.com. Detroit Institute of Arts: California Guitar Trio: 7 & 8:30 p.m. March 6, 7 & 8:30 p.m., 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900 or see the web site at www.dia.org. Eclipz Loange: DJ Graffiti, 10 p.m. Feb. 27, free, 21 and over, inside the Greektown Casino-Hotel,

Detroit. Jaz Zafe at Music Hall: Yellowjackets, 8 and 10:30 p.m. March 6-7, \$50, 350 Madison Ave., (313) 887-8500, ticketmaster.com. Magic Bag: Pat McGee Band, Feb. 26; Butch Walker & His Gang of Merry Musical Melodymakers, March 6, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com. Metro Times Blowout: One of the largest local music festivals in the U.S., 200 bands at 15 Hamtramck bars, March 4-7; pre-party March 4 at the Majestic Theater, Detroit; metrotimes.

com/blowout. Token Lounge: Paradime with Marv Won, Danny

Brown, Street Justice and Chief, with MTV filming 'Made,' March 13, 21 and older, 28949 Joy Road, Westland, (734) 513-5030. St. Andrew's Hall: Sam Roberts Band w/Mother Mother, Feb. 28, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (313)

Trinity House Theatre: Mike Mangione w/ The Mean

961-8137

Livonia, (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org. Village Theater at Cherry Hill: Matthew and Gunnar Nelson, March 27, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5460, www.canton-mi.org/ villagetheater. **MUSEUMS** Detroit institute of Arts: "American Chronicles: The

Reds, Feb. 27; Dave Boutette and Chris Buhalis,

Feb 28; Susan Werner, March 1, 38840 Six Mile,

Art of Norman Rockwell," March 8-May 31, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900. Detroit Science Center: "Leonardo Da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius," tickets \$13.95 to \$16.95; "Star Trek: The Exhibition," 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org. Plymouth Historical Museum: "In the Presence of Lincoln," through Nov. 4, 155 S. Main St. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission, \$5; \$2 for students 6-17; \$10 for families. Tour groups can be

accommodated, (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Radin Park: Free outdoor ice skating, located between Morton Taylor and Sheldon Roads on Saltz Road in Canton, (734) 394-5310, www. leisure.canton-mi.org.

leisure.canton-mi.org. Detroit Marriott: The 14th Annual Motor City Tattoo Expo, Feb. 27-March 1, Renaissance Center, (517) 540-6055, www.eternaltattoos.com. Noly Cross Church: 6th Annual Astronomy Expo & Swap Saturday. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 7, 30650 Six + Mile, Livonia, S5, key_string_guy@yahoo.com. Rock Financial Showplace: Cottage and Lakefront Living Show, Feb. 26-March 1, 46100 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-5600, www.rockfinancialshowplace.com.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

Barefoot Productions: "Same Time, Next Year," through March 1, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth, Walker/Buzenberg Furniture Building, \$10-\$15, (734) 560-1493, www.Ticketleap.com, www. iustgobarefoot.com.

Destination Theatre: Canton Follies: One Hit Wonders, March 12-14, \$15, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, (734) 394-5460.

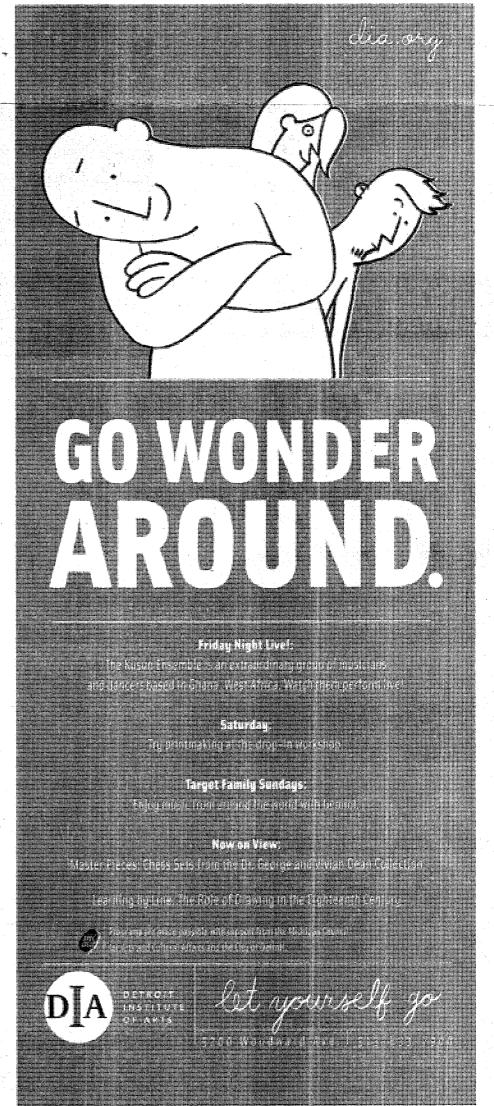
Spotlight Players: "Divine Stella Devine", through March 8, Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www. spotlightplayers.net.

Tipping Pointe Theatre: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," April 22-24, 361 E. Cady, Northville, (248) 347-0003.

THEATER-PROFESSIONAL

Detroit Opera House: "Fiddler on the Roof," March 3-8, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (248) 645-6666. Fox Theatre: "Jesus Christ Superstar," 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 1, tickets \$30-\$69, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com, (248) 433-1515.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com



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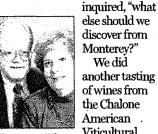
Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 26, 2009

FOOD & WINE

More than Chardonnay

n an August 2008 Focus on Wine Column, we spotlighted chardonnays from California's Monterey wine region. Readers

We did



American Viticultural Focus on Wine Area (AVA) and

Carmel Valley **Ray & Eleanor** AVA, two of the Heald nine AVAs in the

Monterey region, which grow grape varieties from albarino to zinfandel.

CHALONE AVA

Although Monterey County may be the most diverse of all California growing regions, when it comes to temperature, the Chalone AVA has the most variability due to its lack of coastal influence.

During July and August, temperatures hit 90 degrees, but overall from April through October the range is 55 to 72 degrees. Due to elevations exceeding 2,300 feet, Chalone AVA has relatively warm nighttime temperatures.

Add this to a general aspect of Monterey County, that grapevines tend to produce buds about two weeks earlier than other regions and harvest, typically begins two weeks later then other regions. This means that grapes remain on the vine approximately a month longer, producing smaller berries with concentrated flavors.

WINE PICKS FROM THE CHALONE AVA

2004 Michaud Vinevard Pinot Noir, \$38, has begun to show its fine oak influence and generous spiciness that makes it versatile with many foods from grilled salmon to roast chicken.

2006 Graff Family Vineyards Viognier, \$20, is uber

WINE PICKS

PINOT NOIR is the most versatile red wine. It pairs as well with salmon as it does grilled meats. Best bets under \$20: 2007 Hayman & Hill Santa Lucia Highlands, \$15; and 2007 Mandolin Monterey, \$12. Mid-priced: 2006 Clos du Bois Sonoma Coast Reserve, \$25. Splurge: 2006 Lynmar Quail Hill, \$60.

ous black fruit core with a rich backbone. Very northern Rhonish in style at a very good price.

CARMEL VALLEY AVA

Hillside vineyard locations in the Carmel Valley Ridges make this region special. Hillside vineyard locations and those at higher elevations generally have warmer nightime temperatures also.

Carmel Valley experiences more hours of afternoon fog-like conditions than any other AVA in Monterey County. Grapes remain cool and retain acid that makes them ideal food companions.

The seaside town of Carmel and the Carmel Valley AVA should not be confused. The AVA is rugged back country with high elevations above 1,000 feet and steep slopes with granite terraces.

WINE PICKS FROM CARMEL VALLEY AVA

2007 Galante Vineyards Sauvignon, \$25, may seem a strange "pick" given what we've just written about red wines, but if you like sauvignons with lots of grapefruit and lime aromas with spice and vanilla notes and a long, satisfying finish, seek out this wine.

2006 Galante "Blackjack Pasture" Cabernet Sauvignon, \$50, holds a "winning hand" in a lush, dark cherry, well-balanced expression with exceptional character and overall richness.

Chefs cook up Girl Scout Cookie Gala challenge It's difficult to improve variety. A panel of judges repon deliciously iconic Girl resenting local media selects

Scout Cookies ... but some of the Blue Ribbon Award recipi-Michigan's most creative chefs ent, Gala attendees vote for are preparing to do just that. the People's Choice Award, and the organization's top officer chooses the CEO Favorite. Southeastern Michigan Cookie

Participating in the 2009 Gala are Beverly Hills Grill (Beverly Hills), Fifty-One O One (Dearborn, 2008 Blue Ribbon recipient), Giulio & Sons - Hyatt Regency Dearborn (2008 CEO Favorite recipient), J.Baldwin's (Clinton Township), Historic White Horse Inn (Metamora), Mosaic (Detroit), the Roostertail (Detroit, 2008 Presenting Sponsor's Choice recipient), and the Traffic Jam & Snug (Detroit, 2008 People's Choice recipient). The event raises funds to

help bring the Girl Scout lead-

CITY BITES

BREAK BREAD FOR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

DETROIT - Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan is hosting metropolitan Detroit's top corporate, non-profit and civic minded women at the 16th



Chef Chris Johnson from Beverly Hills Grill, returning this year, made Peanut Butter Blondies from Girl Scout Do-Si-Dos at last year's Cookie Gala.

ership development program to nearly 50,000 girls in southeastern Michigan ages 5-17. To purchase tickets, \$70 per

person or \$120 per pair before Feb. 25, call 800-326-0309 or visit www.gsofmd.org/cookiegala.

Annual Women's Power Breakfast Wednesday, March 11. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and networking, and the breakfast and program will follow from 8-9:15 a.m. at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit.

In 2008, Gleaners distributed 8.4 million pounds of food from

October through December, up 17 percent from the year before.

Sherry Margolis will emcee the morning's program, joined by Keynote Speaker Susan Ager, former Detroit Free Press columnist, For tickets, \$100-\$1,000, call (313) 923-3535 ext. 260 or visit www. gcfb.org.

PHOTOS BY SANTA FABIO

Free Chocolate Chip cookies form the crust of this cookie pizza concocted at last year's gala.

Girl Scout Sugar

88 (*)

fruity with tangerine and white peach aromas and flavors.

2006 Graff Family Vineyards Consensus, \$25, at 94 percent syrah, showcases a generEleanor & Ray Heald write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@ aol.com

is located at 31425 12 Mile Road, west of Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Reservations are recommended. Call (248) 848-9393 or visit www.tributerestau-

The Girl Scouts of

Gala is set for Wednesday,

March 11 at the Roostertail in

(one for each Girl Scout Cookie

variety) will be serving up culi-

ies as key ingredients. The gala

nary creations using the cook-

also includes hors d'oeuvres,

an auction, and WXYZ TV's

Glenda Lewis as mistress of

ceremonies. Maggie Allesee

chairs.

and Yvette Bing are event co-

Each year for the past six

the challenge to create a gour-

met dessert using a randomly

selected Girl Scout Cookie

TRIBUTE RESTAURANT

BEGINS ENTERTAINMENT

FARMINGTON HILLS

live entertainment at Tribute.

host live vocalists with piano

The upscale restaurant will now

accompaniment 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday nights. Live

piano music will also be played in

the dining room on Wednesdays,

Thursdays and Sundays. Tribute

- Nationally-known Sinatra styl-

ist Mark Randisi recently launched

years, area chefs have accepted

Detroit. Eight talented chefs



MEMORABLE MEAL **\$89 FOR TWO**

FLEMING'S

Two Filet Mignons Roasted Scampi and Fresh Basil Shrimp Scampi Chopped Wedge Salad Fleming's Potatoes Sugar Snap Peas Chocolate Mousse with Hazelnut Bark



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