

SUNDAY

March 1  
2009

The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 44  
Number 80

75 CENTS

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# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Neighbors, B6



## AROUND TOWN

### Late hours

The Westland Assessing Department will be open until 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, and Friday, March 6, for residents who have questions about the assessment notice they received. The city has used a one-year sales study, as opposed to the standard two-year study, so assessments are more reflective of current market conditions. Tax assessment notices were mailed to Westland residents on Feb. 23.

"Our primary purpose in extending these hours is to more easily accommodate the schedules of our residents," said Westland Mayor William Wild.

The assessor's staff will be able to help residents with questions they have about Board of Review procedures should they want to appeal the assessor's decision. The Board of Review will hear appeals 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 11, and 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, and Thursday, March 12.

The Assessment Department also has a page on the city's Web site, [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com), which provides information on property assessment and the Board of Review. Various assessing-related forms also are on the Web site and available for download.

The Assessor's Office is on the second level of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford, west of Wayne Road. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information, call (734) 467-3160.

### Helping out

The hardest part of living in Michigan these days may be finding a job. With the state facing an unemployment rate above 10 percent, state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, is looking to help workers and job seekers by bringing together state and local officials at a town hall meeting 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 9.

The "Town Hall on Job Strategies for Challenging Economic Times" will include representatives from local and state agencies, including the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, the Michigan Economic Development Agency, Michigan Works, Michigan Department of Human Services and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

There also will be an opportunity for people to meet individually with officials and agencies to talk about job search and retention strategies and other related work topics.

The town hall will be held at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, near the corner of Farmington and Five Mile. It's open to the public. For more information, call Anderson at (866) 262-7306 or e-mail him at [SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov](mailto:SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov).

## MDEQ gets plans for park's cleanup

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amid hopes of cashing in on federal stimulus dollars, Wayne County officials Friday submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality a long-awaited plan for fixing a portion of lead-contaminated Central City Park and reopening it for public use.

The proposal contains more than 200 pages of fine-tuned details for addressing environmental problems

and installing new soccer fields, pavilions and concession stands on the easternmost 12 acres of Westland's former recreation jewel. Officials hope that the work can begin this year and receive stimulus dollars aimed at creating jobs and improving communities.

"I think this is great news for the city of Westland," Mayor William Wild said Friday afternoon, "and because of the timing, I think it bodes well for us to get started this year."

Wild hailed the comprehensive proposal as the biggest milestone since he ordered the park fenced off when he became mayor in January 2007. He closed the park two months after other city and county officials divulged what they had known for years — that the former landfill still contained contaminants.

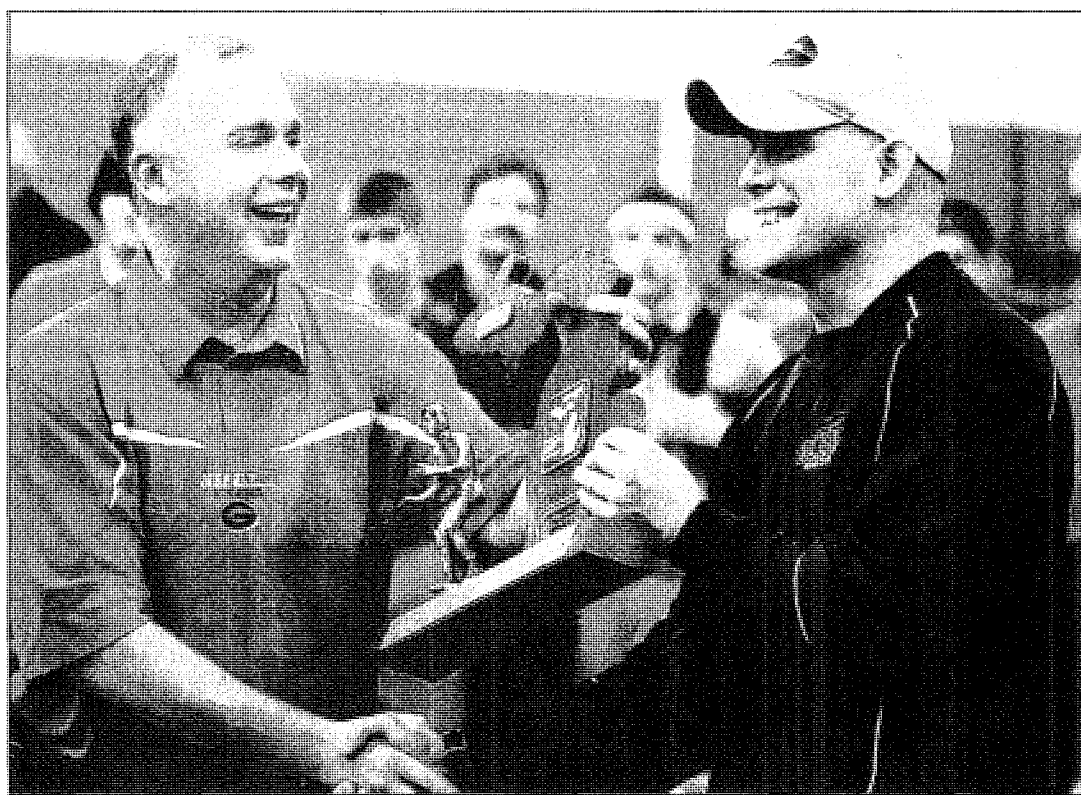
Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp issued a statement Friday confirming that MDEQ



FILE PHOTO

Central City Park has been fenced off to the public since January 2007.

Please see **PARK, A2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### It's a first

John Glenn Athletic Director Brian Swinehart (left) was extremely happy to present the Michigan High School Association Division One wrestling regional trophy to head coach Bill Polk. The Glenn wrestling team beat Canton on criteria after the match ended in a 29-29 tie. This was Glenn's first wrestling regional trophy in the history of the high school. You can catch more of the action by visiting our Photo Gallery online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## Trial date set in fatal pedestrian accident

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Livonia man accused of driving drunk and killing a pedestrian in Westland is facing an April 7 trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Wesley Thomas Sanborn, 22, could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison, if he is convicted of driving a Chevy Blazer and striking Gary Brown, a 27-year-old Livonia father of two young children, along a stretch of Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Brown, also described as drunk, was killed shortly before 5 a.m. last Aug. 3 near the Westland-Livonia line. One witness, newspaper delivery worker Jason Suarez, testified during a preliminary hearing in October that he saw Brown walking drunk in the middle of Joy

Road before the accident occurred.

Sanborn's trial date in Judge Michael Callahan's courtroom was confirmed Thursday by Westland police Sgt. Ron Kroll, who is in charge of the traffic bureau that investigated the fatality. The defendant is charged with manslaughter with a motor vehicle, operating while intoxicated and causing a death, and failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving death.

Westland Police Officer Jack McIntosh earlier testified that Sanborn claimed he drank a couple of beers at a bar and three more at a friend's apartment during the hours prior to Brown's death. Sanborn also told police he was receiving a telephone call or text message when the accident happened and that he believed he had hit a mailbox.

Police stopped Sanborn's vehicle when he returned to the scene about 11:40 a.m. the same day, several hours after Brown was killed. Officer Jeffery Kropodra has said in court that the Chevy Blazer had a "spider web" crack in the windshield, a broken mirror and other damage.

Although Kropodra said he stopped Sanborn several hours after the accident, "I could smell a strong odor of intoxicants coming from his breath when he was talking to me," according to testimony during the preliminary hearing.

Defense attorney Stephen Boak has argued that there was no legal basis for Sanborn's arrest. Boak said authorities couldn't show that Sanborn was drunk when the accident occurred because of the time that had lapsed and what may have happened during the interim.

## School aid bill axes extra funds for W-W

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials will be sitting down with local lawmakers Monday to talk about the devastating effect Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed state school aid plan budget will have on the district and what can be done stop it.

While there has been a lot of talk about the \$59 per pupil cut in the foundation allowance and cuts to categoricals, Wayne-Westland is facing a even bigger cut — the elimination of a more than \$6 million supplemental foundation payment in lieu of millage. Coupled with a projected loss of 360 students next year, the district is facing a \$15 million revenue shortfall.

"The regional economy can't afford this devastation," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This isn't pork barrel language, this is partial restoration of a wrong; it's \$7 million of \$12 million we should have received."

"This is just devastating," added state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, whose district is being hit hard by the cuts. "I was stunned when I heard about this. I knew they were going after the categoricals and I saw the funding cut, but I didn't know they had zeroed in on special allocations."

Anderson's Senate district is being hit hard by the budget cuts. In addition to Wayne-Westland, the Garden City Public Schools will lose \$800,000 in supplemental foundation money, while the Redford Union district will lose a district grant and Livonia Public Schools faces up to a 20 percent in its 20-J money. Those are in addition to cuts in funding and categoricals like adult education and Renaissance Zone reimbursement.

The supplemental foundation money relates to a 10-mill tax levy turned down by voters within months of the passage of Proposal A. The millage was disallowed in calculating the new foundation allowance which threw the district into deficit. It wasn't until 2000-01, that the district was able to convince lawmakers of the damage done by the elimination of the millage and it received a partial restoration — 7 of the 10 mills.

"It wasn't retroactive," said Baracy. "We had a \$70-\$80 million loss in funding and that's significant. No other district in the state was as negatively impacted as Wayne-Westland."

Anderson has already been talking with state officials and is working with the school district's consultant on a strategy to get the funding

Please see **SCHOOLS, A3**

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## Trio sent to prison for church break-in

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A resident's quick action and a rapid response from Westland police officers have led to prison time for three defendants who broke into a local church.

The incident, which happened around 3 a.m. last Nov. 21, has resulted in Westland brothers Aaron Ray Hanson, 22, and Justin Merlyn Hanson, 21, facing one to 10 years in prison along with co-defendant Jonathan Edward Morris, 20, of Canton.

Westland police Lt. Dan Karrick, who is in charge of the local detective bureau, responded to questions by describing himself as "absolutely" pleased that the three young men will do time.

"I'd like to see them get more

time, but I'm happy that they got some time for breaking into the church," Karrick said.

The break-in happened at Our Savior's Church near Warren and Venoy, and Westland Officers Jason Brassfield, Robert Kenyon and Ronald Buckley caught the three suspects after an alert resident noticed suspicious activity and called for help.

Police caught one intruder near the church, another in a nearby apartment complex and a third who had gotten into an alleged getaway car near the scene.

The witness who called police "allowed us to get there quickly and catch these guys before they had a chance to steal anything," Karrick said at the time.

All three defendants received the prison sentences in mid-

February after they earlier pleaded guilty to breaking and entering charges. The young men already had been placed on probation for past break-ins, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Karrick said the alert resident and three officers received police department honors during a recent awards ceremony for their collective role in catching the Hansons and Morris.

According to the state corrections department, Justin Hanson and Morris will not be eligible for release until at least May of 2010, while Aaron Hanson's earliest possible parole would come six months later in November.

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# Judge bans public, victim's family from beheading hearing

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Birmingham psychiatrist Gary Shiener testified Friday at a hearing to determine whether convicted killer Jean Pierre Orlewicz should get a new trial, not many people were around to hear it.

Including the parents of Orlewicz's victim.

Third Circuit Judge Bruce Morrow banned the public and the media from attending the hearing for Orlewicz, the Plymouth Township teenager convicted last spring in the stabbing and beheading death of Daniel Sorensen, a 25-year-old from River Rouge.

While it was unclear what Shiener was saying Friday, he did interview Orlewicz once in jail prior to his trial last spring.

However, Judge Annette Berry, who presided over Orlewicz's trial, ruled in a pre-trial hearing March 31 that Shiener wouldn't be allowed to

testify. Shiener had said at the time he thought a second interview was necessary, but it never happened.

The victim's parents, Jim and Kim Sorensen of Westland, said they understood the judge's desire to protect the families, but they were disappointed at his decision.

"This young man murdered our son," Jim Sorensen said. "We understand (Morrow) did it out of respect for the Orlewicz family and any sensitive issues that may have been raised. But we should have been in there."

The closed hearing was requested by Orlewicz's attorney, Elizabeth Jacobs, who said afterward Shiener's testimony may not be heard in a potential new trial.

"There's no reason to taint a jury panel, which is what happened the first time," she said.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said she did not want the courtroom closed.

"The Wayne County

Prosecutor's Office is at a loss to understand why the Sorensen family, the public and the press were excluded from the courtroom today," Worthy said in a statement. "There was no reason given by the court for this action. It is my firm belief that court proceedings should be an open and transparent process."

Jurors convicted Orlewicz of killing Sorensen at his grandfather's Canton home Nov. 7, 2007. He then beheaded Sorensen with a hacksaw and burned his fingertips with a blowtorch.

Orlewicz is serving a mandatory life sentence for first-degree murder. Accomplice Alexander Letkemann pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for his testimony against Orlewicz. Letkemann is serving a sentence of 20-30 years.

The hearing was adjourned Friday and is expected to continue April 24.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

# 3 police officers receive promotions

Three promotions have been announced in the Westland Police Department, a 100-officer police force that serves the city of nearly 86,000 residents.

Former Sgt. John Hoak has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and Officers Steve Bird and Matt Price have become the department's newest sergeants.

Hoak has worked in the department's patrol division, special investigative unit, youth bureau and as a detective. He joined the police force in 1987 and was named Officer of the Year in 1998.

Hoak has helped at-risk youths by serving on the advisory board of the Growth Works Care Management Organization Community Team, and he also is a field training officer, an evidence technician and an original member of the rifle team. He has received the Police Heart,



Bird



Price



Hoak

Life Saving Award, two department citations, two certificates of merit, six unit commendations and the safe driving award.

Bird joined the department in 1999. He is a criminal justice graduate of Western Michigan University who received his police certification through the Kalamazoo Valley Regional Police

Academy.

Bird has been a field training officer and instructor in the Operating

While Intoxicated (OWI) Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Evaluations program since 2003, and he has received training in dispatching operations. Bird has received a Life Saving Award, three department citations, three certificates of merit and two unit commendations.

Price received his associate degree from Oakland Community College before transferring to Eastern Michigan University. He entered the Washtenaw Police Academy and graduated in 1994, and then earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1997 while serving as a Westland officer.

Price has received 19 department awards and citation. He has been a field training officer for 10 years and a member of the perimeter rifle team for more 10 years. He also was assigned to the multi-agency Metro Street Enforcement Team for three years.

# SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

restored. It appears that federal stimulus money will be used to bring back much of what has been cut from school funding, but Anderson is concerned

about what will happen when the money runs out in two years.

Projections are that the state's 2012 budget will be worse than this year unless there's a major upswing in the economy, he said.

"Every school district was hit hard, but the hardest hit was

Wayne-Westland," he said. "I'm cautiously optimistic of getting it partially restored, but I want them to be made whole."

He added that district residents and school officials should keep in mind that the governor's proposal is just the first step in the budgetary process, what she presented isn't

anywhere near what it will end up being.

Like Anderson, school board Trustee William Gabriel is concerned about using stimulus money. The governor's proposal takes funding away from districts and puts it back with the federal stimulus money, he said. "I find it ironic that to get

federal money to bail out an ailing school system, we have to lose almost \$7 million," he said. "How can we take federal money and take a severe cut? This is a disaster for the school district."

Gabriel plans to be at the meeting with Anderson and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc,

who serves on the K-12 Committee in the House of Representatives.

And Anderson plans to keep in communication with the governor and his colleagues.

"The administration is going to hear a lot from us," he said. "I plan to do everything I can to get this funding restored."

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# EDUCATION

## Student writing contest has Abraham Lincoln as theme

The Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, in partnership with the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), is looking for "Essays About Lincoln," a statewide writing contest celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.

"Since presidential scholars first began ranking our presidents some 60 years ago, Abraham Lincoln has consistently been rated among the top three," said Dr. William Anderson, chair of Michigan's Lincoln committee and retired director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. "I think the time is right for Michigan's young people to take a closer look at Lincoln's legacy and consider how his life lessons and principles still serve as a guiding force."

The essay themes are broken out into two categories: Grades 5-6 - "Lincoln's Leadership Then and Now: what President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Means to Me," and grades 7-8 and 9-12 - "Lincoln's Leadership Then and Now: How President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Inspire Me Today."

"Too often, we forget that history is not just about places and dates in our past, it's about the people whose thoughts and deeds made those places and dates worth remembering," said Bruce B. Butgereit, commander, Commandery of the State of Michigan, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. "President Lincoln's life was filled with immense challenges and yet he never gave up trying to better himself. His legacy stands as a symbol of what can be achieved through commitment, compassion and honesty. It is hoped that by giving

students an opportunity to study and write an essay about Lincoln, they will better understand who they are and how Lincoln's example can serve as an inspiration to them."

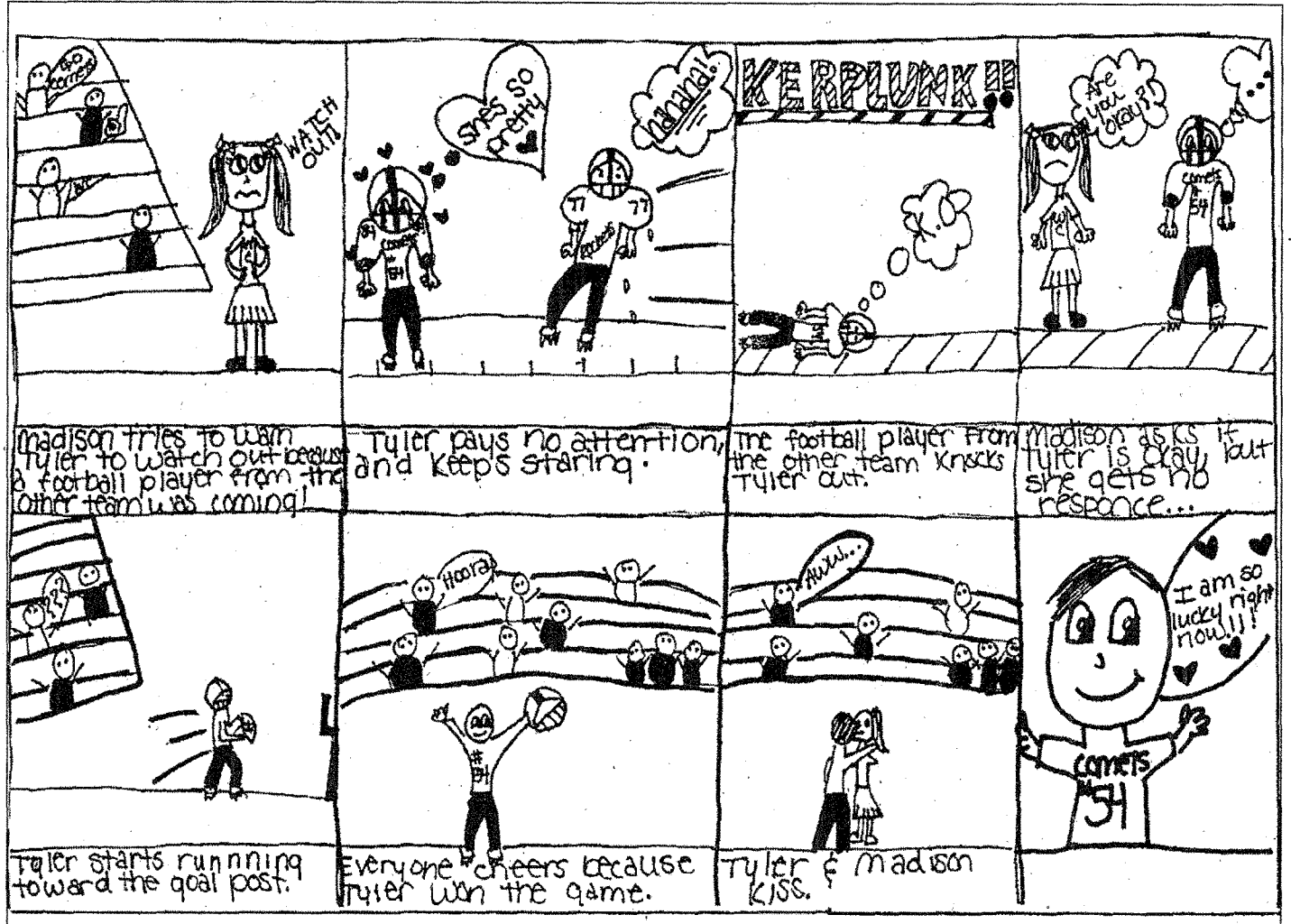
The essay contest is designed to support Michigan English Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum standards, including those for language, literature, voice, depth of understanding, ideas in action, inquiry and research, critical standards, and historical perspective.

Awards will be given for a first-, second- and third-place winning essay from each of the three grade competition levels (grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12). All winners will receive a certificate of achievement, a "portrait" of Abraham Lincoln in the form of a new \$5 bill, and a figurine or framed print of Abraham Lincoln.

Winning essays may also be published or displayed in various locations, publications and Web sites. For full contest rules, mailing guidelines, and downloadable entry coupon and release form, visit [www.milincoll.org](http://www.milincoll.org). For more information, contact the Michigan Commandery at (616) 827-3369 or by e-mail at [patriot-bluel@yahoo.com](mailto:patriot-bluel@yahoo.com).

All entries must be post-marked by April 4, and mailed to Lincoln Bicentennial Essays, MOLLUS Michigan Commandery, P.O. Box 888281, Grand Rapids, MI 49588

The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) was founded on April 15, 1865, the day Abraham Lincoln died. Its mission is to perpetuate the memory of Abraham Lincoln and his ideals. Learn more at [suvvc.org/molus/mi/molus.html](http://suvvc.org/molus/mi/molus.html).



The pretty cheerleader gets the football player in Alexis Lester's winning cartoon.

## Students get creative with cartoons

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The topics were as varied as the cartoonists themselves — a cheerleader, aliens and summer vacation.

For students in Danielle Hall's drawing and painting class at Marshall Middle School, the goal was to create the best cartoon strip. The reward was seeing it in print.

"They got pretty excited because they're creating their own characters," Hall said. "They brainstormed and came up with five different characters. They didn't have to use them all,

but they had to figure out where they wanted them to be."

Seventh-grade Alexis Lester did her cartoon about the football player who's too busy looking at the pretty cheerleader and was run over by the other team.

The subject matter was something near and dear to her heart. She's a cheerleader for the Westland Comets and was this year's homecoming queen.

"I could see something like this happening," said Alexis. In her cartoon, which was picked as the best, the cheerleader asks the football player if he's OK. He ignores her. He runs down the field and scores the winning touchdown. Everyone cheers and "they finally kiss," she said.

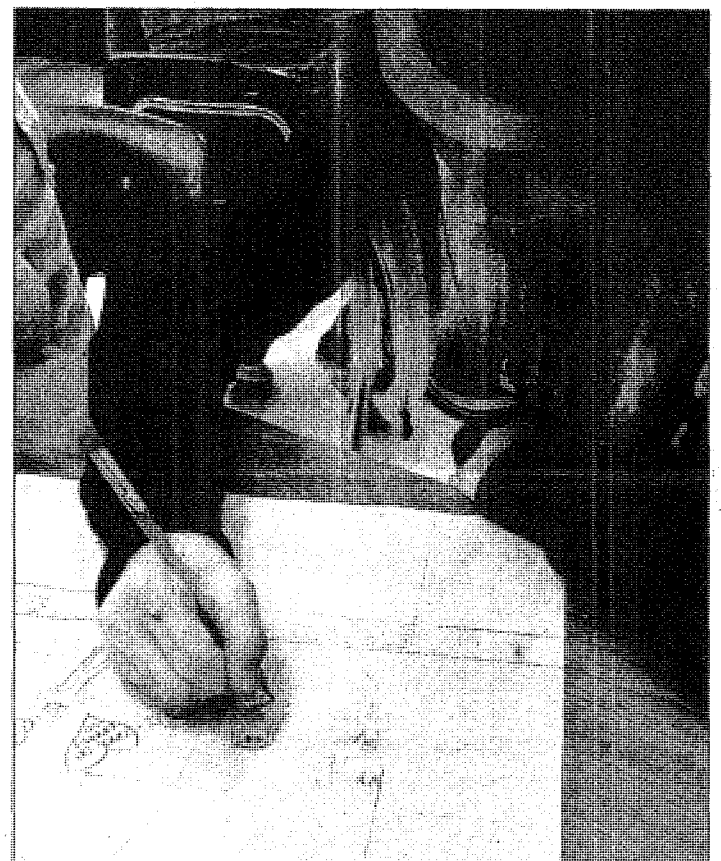
"The final speech bubble is the cheerleader thinking how lucky she is," she said, adding that she spent two days working on the rough draft.

Seventh-grader Chelsea Blair chose summer vacation with a twist for her cartoon topic. Friends on summer vacation have to think of a way to raise \$200 for one friend who wrecked his mother's car.

"I was going to go with summer vacation, but decided to throw in some conflict," she said.

Eighth-grader Amber Congdon's cartoon was a hunt for the ultimate Skittle wrapper on a bus. Her characters included Teechieberry, Senor Jalapeno, Uncle Waffle and Over the Rainbow Kid.

Seventh-grader John Banks focused on kids playing basketball at a gym where they knock the net over with a slam dunk



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seventh-grader Alexis Lester works on her football cartoon where a football player pays more attention to the cheerleader than the game. Her cartoon was selected as the best in Danielle Hall's painting and drawing class.

and make the owner mad.

"I like comic book stuff," he said. "I draw heads and funny faces and adventures like the person who climbs a tall stairway and falls down into a video game."

Hall did a similar activity with her students last fall and decided to include it in her current class. The students not only had to figure out the who, what

and where of their cartoons, but also had to do the dialogue. They also watched a video on creating facial expressions. They sketched out the cartoons then went over the pencil marks with a black Sharpie.

"I think the kids enjoyed it because they had free rein with it," said Hall.

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**NEW PATIENTS**

# 5 women vie for 2009 ATHENA Award

Chocolate may be the theme, but the center of attention will be the ATHENA Award, when the Women of Westland hold their fifth annual Chocolate Fantasy Ball Saturday, March 7.

The ATHENA Award is presented to man or woman for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

Five women have been nominated and this year's recipient will be announced at the ball which will be held at the New Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 73000 Merriman, east of Warren, Westland.

Nominated for the 2009 award are Sue Wilk, a social worker at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center; Susan Szurek, nurse practitioner at the Oakwood Lincoln School Healthcare Center; Barbara Schimmel-Marcum, director of Senior Resources for the city of Westland; Linda DeVore, a registered dietician and certified diabetes educator with Fairlane Dialysis Center and Garden City Hospital, and Susan Ianni, general manager of Gordon Chevrolet.

Wilk is employed by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and is head of the district's department of social workers. At the career technical center, she has provided support for young women taking classes in non-traditional fields and launched the Innovative Design Vehicle program that has received numerous state and national awards for its students-designed and built cars.

She also started the Special Angel parents support group that assists parents of special needs children and the Parent Partnership program at Roosevelt Elementary School. The program supports parents in helping their children reach their goals.

Szurek played a key role in the establishment of the Oakwood Healthcare System clinic within Lincoln Elementary, providing medical care for students and their families. She has worked with the school staff to provide extensive and ongoing classroom-based health education, piloted a walking club involving 800 fifth-graders.

She also has served on the board of the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan, did a "Girls Group Talk, an educational session for the Westland Youth Assistance Program and was integral in implementing the Lincoln School Caring for Kids Program, a large scale Oakwood Hospital employee program that provides more than 200 clinic youngsters and their families with food and presents at Christmas.

Schimmel-Marcum has worked at the Westland senior Friendship Center for many years and became its director in 2008. She is being recognized for encouraging and placing senior women in leadership positions at the center, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their professional skills. She also has served as the Westland representative on the Senior Alliance Board of Directors and helped make The Westland-hosted 2008 Wayne County Senior Olympics a success.

DeVore works with patients, creating meal plans and goals,

at the Fairlane Dialysis Center and teaches classes on managing diabetes at Garden City Hospital. She has raised more than \$15,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation as a participant in the annual Breast Cancer 3-Day, and has participated in the Westland Relay for Life and the National Kidney Foundation fund-raising walk at the Detroit Zoo.

Ianni has helped in bringing the Safe Kids Worldwide

program to the dealership twice a year for five years, with more than 100 people having their child's safety seat checked on average at each event. She also has helped such causes as the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toy for Tots, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, the American Red Cross and worked with several radio stations to fulfill community needs.

The Chocolate Fantasy Ball will start with a cash bar at 6

p.m. followed by hors d'ouvres at 6:30 and followed by the announcement of the 2009 ATHENA Award recipient at 7:30 p.m. and the Chocolate Fantasy dessert extravaganza. There also will be a silent auction.

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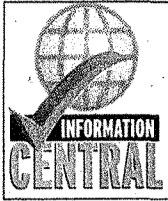
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## Celebrating National Words Matter Week

Communicating with others is often the most important part of our days, whether with family, friends, co-workers, or workers who help us with our basic needs. For members of the National Association of Independent Writing Evaluators (NAIWE), words matter even more.

During the week of March 2-6, NAIWE is celebrating the written word with an online convention available through the NAIWE Web site, [www.naiwe.com/home.php](http://www.naiwe.com/home.php). The site includes such features as advice and help on becoming a freelance writer, weekly writing tips, free articles and links to the convention itself.

Whether you are interested in writing school papers, poems, business proposals, fiction, or resumes, the Westland Public Library has plenty of resources that will make sure you do your best. Great books include "The Everything Guide to Writing Great Research Papers," "Poetry Matters,"



"Persuasive Business Proposals and Resume Writing" and "Interviewing Techniques That Work."

For those who are interested in improving their skills in the more perfunctory aspects of word processing software, the library also offers free Microsoft Word classes (both Introductory and Intermediate) twice monthly. Call for a reservation as these fill up quickly!

For the writer more interested in the nuances and expressiveness of the written word, the library also offers monthly Adult and Teen Poetry Groups happening on the first two Mondays of the month. Please check the schedule for time and place. For more information, call the

Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123 or visit [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us).

### Highlighted Activities

**Adult Poetry Group:** 7 p.m. March 2 ages 19 and up.

Interested in reading, discussing, and writing poetry? Please join us for one of our sessions, whether you're a first-time writer or a serious wordsmith. Sign up at the Reference Desk or just show up. Check out our blog at [westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com](http://westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com)

**Documentary Movie Night:** 7 p.m. March 3, "Maxed Out."

"Maxed Out" takes us on a journey deep inside the American debt-style, where everything seems OK as long as the minimum monthly payment arrives on time. "Maxed Out" shows how the modern financial industry really works, explains the true definition of "preferred customer" and tells us why the poor are getting poorer and the rich getting richer. No registration required. Refreshments will be provided.

**World Travel 101:** 7 p.m. March 10.

This workshop offers tips on making traveling more affordable and enjoyable. Information will be provided on how to communicate with people from other cultures, tips on finding accommodations and using local transportation, and ideas on to stretch your travel budget. No registration required.

**Game Night:** 6-8 p.m. every Friday night throughout March

Want to spend some fun time with your family and friends and not spend any money? Join us at the library for Game Night every Friday night throughout the month of March. Bring a game or play one of the many games available at the library. Whether you want to come alone or meet a new friend, everyone is invited. Chess and card players, we're saving tables for you, too. No age limit. No fun limit. Snacks provided.

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

Information Central was compiled by Andy Schuck, reference librarian and resident poetry facilitator. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## Economy, jobs are top topics at coffee hour

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Martha Clark of Livonia has been looking for a job for two months now. Her husband lost his job in a machine shop, and with a son in high school looking to attend college, they're worried.



Anderson

"We lose our health insurance March 1," she said at a coffee hour hosted by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "We don't know what we're going to do."

Clark said it's tough to ask family for financial help as they also work in auto-related fields and have lost their jobs. When she applies for retail jobs, she's competing with candidates with bachelor's degrees in business.

"I don't know what we're going to do," she said. "A lot of plants are closing and they're not coming back."

Anderson told those at the legislative coffee hour of "promising information" on the mortgage modification front. He's heard word of interest rates being dropped, with the federal government and mortgage companies splitting the cost.

"Right now, the value of their home has dropped so much that they cannot refinance," Anderson said. The loss of equity means those who try to refinance don't qualify for another mortgage.

"This would help bridge that gap," he said of the plan, which would require the homeowner to repay the federal side costs, or at least part of them, when property is sold.

Anderson noted mortgage companies may prefer bankruptcy, although it's better to avoid that and keep people in their homes.

"It affects property values all across the community when you have more vacancies," he said.

Anderson praised the state's No Worker Left Behind initiative and its efforts to address major job losses in Michigan.

"It is a very difficult time right now," he said. "A lot of the school districts are devastated." He anticipates federal stimulus dollars helping Michigan soon, but is unsure of impact in future years.

Anderson discussed the need for nurses and other health care workers, noting many Canadian nurses were needed after the 9/11 attacks. The last couple of state budgets have allocated money for nurses' training, although lack of instructors and slots for nursing students remain issues.

Environmental activist Bill Craig of Livonia urged action on cleaning up the Cooper School site, a brownfield in Westland that was a Livonia school, and Westland's contaminated Central City Park.

"Those are two examples that I think go to the head of the list," said Craig, who's worried stimulus dollars may go to "pet projects. I think the environment is going to be in the caboose again."

Anderson said there are 10 times more projects than those that can be funded. "The money then reverts back to the feds" if unspent, he said, adding Michigan needs road and bridge work.

"It's a very tumultuous time right now with cuts," the senator said. Anderson will host a Town Hall meeting on "Job Strategies for Challenging Economic Times" 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 9, at the Livonia Senior Center, which also hosted Monday's coffee hour. The senior center is near Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Anderson will be joined by representatives from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Works, Michigan Department of Human Services and United Way for Southeastern Michigan and possibly other agencies and organization. For information, call Anderson toll free at (866) 262-7306 or e-mail [SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov](mailto:SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov).



## Wish you were here

A statue of Blackbeard the Pirate that stands atop of Blackbeard's Hill in St. Thomas provided the backdrop for Sharlene Clark's Wish You Were Here snapshot. The Westland resident traded January's winter chill for the warmth of the Virgin Islands, where it was a "very hot" 88 degrees. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.



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# Bankruptcy may be an option for some situations

**Q:** Dear Rick: I'm being pulled in 101 different directions. My problem is I can't pay my bills. I have over \$35,000 in charge card debt, I haven't paid my mortgage in two months and I'm worried about my job. I have talked to a number of different people and the options are bankruptcy, working with one of the debt relief companies or basically doing nothing. A friend suggested that because of some

new law, the bank won't be able to foreclose on my home and that as long as I pay something on my charge cards, there won't be a problem. My friend also said bankruptcy won't solve my problems because my credit would be ruined. I don't know what to do.

**A:** You can talk with three different people and receive three different courses of action. All the options may solve the issue, but the key is finding one that best suits your situation.

My general rule is if there is no possibility of paying off your debt anytime soon, bankruptcy is an option you should pursue. I disagree with

your friend. Bankruptcy is a viable option to put you on the path to financial solvency. Bankruptcy laws today are not as lenient as in the past. That doesn't mean people in dire situations should not pursue bankruptcy. In the past, people could declare bankruptcy and wipe out all debt. Today it is not as easy, however, it is still possible. Bankruptcy will allow you to reduce your debt and set up a payment plan you can live with.

There is no doubt that obtaining credit is going to be difficult once you go through bankruptcy. However, non-payment of your mortgage as well as late and delinquent payments on your charge card

will also have a negative affect on your credit. The fact that your credit will be affected is not the major concern. The major concern is getting you back on the road to financial solvency.

In today's difficult economic times, more people understand why it is necessary to file for bankruptcy.

One of the great things about this country is we give people the opportunity to rebound after adversity and eventually prosper. Corporate America has no problem using the bankruptcy laws. That does not mean bankruptcy is an individual's first option, however, it should be an option. If you do pursue

bankruptcy, I recommend discussing your situation with a bankruptcy attorney.

Doing nothing and waiting to see what happens in Washington is not a viable option.

As to seeking advice from a debt relief company, I have no problem pursuing that option. However, you do have to factor into the equation what happens if you do lose your job.

In selecting a debt relief company, be careful. Check the company out through the Better Business Bureau, find out what their fee structure is and most important what they can do to assist with your individual situation.

There is no doubt we're in very difficult financial times and many people are having difficulty meeting their financial obligations for the first time in their lives. Although, there is no particular course of action that will solve everyone's problem, doing nothing is not the way to go. Study the pros and cons of all options available then act.

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

# Electronic tax filing is fast, easy and convenient

**E**ach month, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will answer reader questions asked about property taxes. Wojtowicz reminds taxpayers: "Always remember that your property is your most precious asset. Do not risk losing it for nonpayment of property taxes. If in doubt, ask questions."

**Q:** Is there a fee to pay my delinquent property taxes by electronic debit (ACH)?

**A:** No. The electronic debit option is at no cost to you.

**Q:** Is there a fee to pay my delinquent taxes by credit card?

**A:** Taxpayers using MasterCard or Visa will incur a service charge of 2.49 percent of the total taxes paid. The fee is paid to the service provider, not the Wayne County Treasurer.

**Q:** How will I know if my payment was received?

**A:** As soon as the process is completed, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. A receipt will be mailed to the address that you provided on the screen.

**Q:** What are the benefits of paying my delinquent taxes on the Internet?

**A:** It's fast - the payment process takes only a few minutes. It's accurate - verification steps guide you along the way, you are able to review payment information before it is sent

It's convenient - this payment option is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week without having to leave the comfort of your home.

It's easy to use - the screens are self-explanatory and help buttons are there to guide you through the process.

It's secure - Wayne County maintains a high level of security on the Internet.

Readers can e-mail questions for Ask the Wayne County Treasurer to [askabouttaxes@hometownlife.com](mailto:askabouttaxes@hometownlife.com)

# Some solutions to coyote 'problem' are overkill

**F**rustration. That word applies equally to those who want the deer of Rochester Hills or the coyotes of Bloomfield Hills to be shot as it does for those who do not. The culling program - and culling is just a sanitized word for sanctioned, organized killing with a purpose - has many residents fully disgusted and very angry.

The culling program was officially spawned over concerns of the many deer-car crashes, yet other residents were delighted with the demise of deer for another reason: "Now they won't eat my flowers." That program has been halted. For now.

The city of Bloomfield Hills' planned response to "problem" coyotes is one of selective killing, using officers to shoot coyotes that are perceived to be threats to people or pets. As of press time, no shots have been fired. And that's well and good. For it's going to be a long stretch to sort out those coyotes that are happily munching on garden-raiding groundhogs or geese that poop prolifically on palatial properties from coyotes that want your bird-stalking cat as kitty cuisine or consider the family canine a competitor. Being opportunists, coyotes do both.

What neither kill program seems to have taken into consideration is that wildlife knows no borders: Coyotes and deer and all things wild don't care about political boundaries. They respond to habitat availability and they are evolving to our behavior far more efficiently than we are to theirs. There is no quick



Coyotes are the subject of a video produced by Bloomfield Township Police Officer Pete Matejckik.

fix. But there are facts that put the wildlife among us in perspective.

Fact: Coyotes do not belong up North "where they should live in the forest." Coyotes are not forest animals and they were not driven out from someplace else because of development. They are here because we give them food; abundant rodents, birds and foods associated with human behavior. Fact: Likewise deer are opportunists and everything about our landscaping practices screams Location! Location! Location!

To understand ways to reduce conflict, it is necessary to recognize the difference between biological and social carrying capacity. Biological carrying capacity is loosely defined as the number of animals that can be supported by a given habitat year after year without adversely affecting that habitat. The rotten apple in our planning process is the social carrying capacity, or how many of a species we humans tolerate in a given habitat. For some, one coyote is too many and deer "belong in zoos."

For others just the presence of wildlife rais-

es the quality of life whether we see them or not. Another fact is clear: Local government units are under pressure by their constituents to do something, even when that something is not long-term and does not include a serious and thoughtful educational campaign.

There is no easy fix to what some see as problematic wildlife behavior. But the sooner we realize that it's our behavior that alters wildlife behavior, the better off we are and the less government will have to respond to human behavior by shooting wildlife. Kudos to Bloomfield Township and Police Officer Pete Matejckik for the township's bold steps in the right direction with a much needed on-line education campaign on suburban coyotes ([www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Police/Coyotes.htm](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Police/Coyotes.htm)) and the recognition that it's all about habitat and food and aversion conditioning.

Final thoughts: If you want that coyote off your property, tell it so. Keep a portable air horn handy.

Blast it and yell, wave your arms. Run towards it, yelling all the way. Run away and you send a message: You are weak and afraid. And be realistic: Drunk and distracted drivers pose far more threat to you and your pets than the coyotes of Oakland County.

Lastly, deer feeding is illegal in all of Lower Michigan. Feeding creates unnatural gatherings and provides grains for mice, rabbits, squirrels and birds. Abundant small animals in your yard attract coyotes that become less cautious of us. And that means more conflict, perceived or real.

**Jonathan Schechter** writes on nature's way. [oaknature@aol.com](mailto:oaknature@aol.com).

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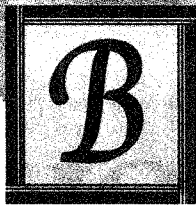
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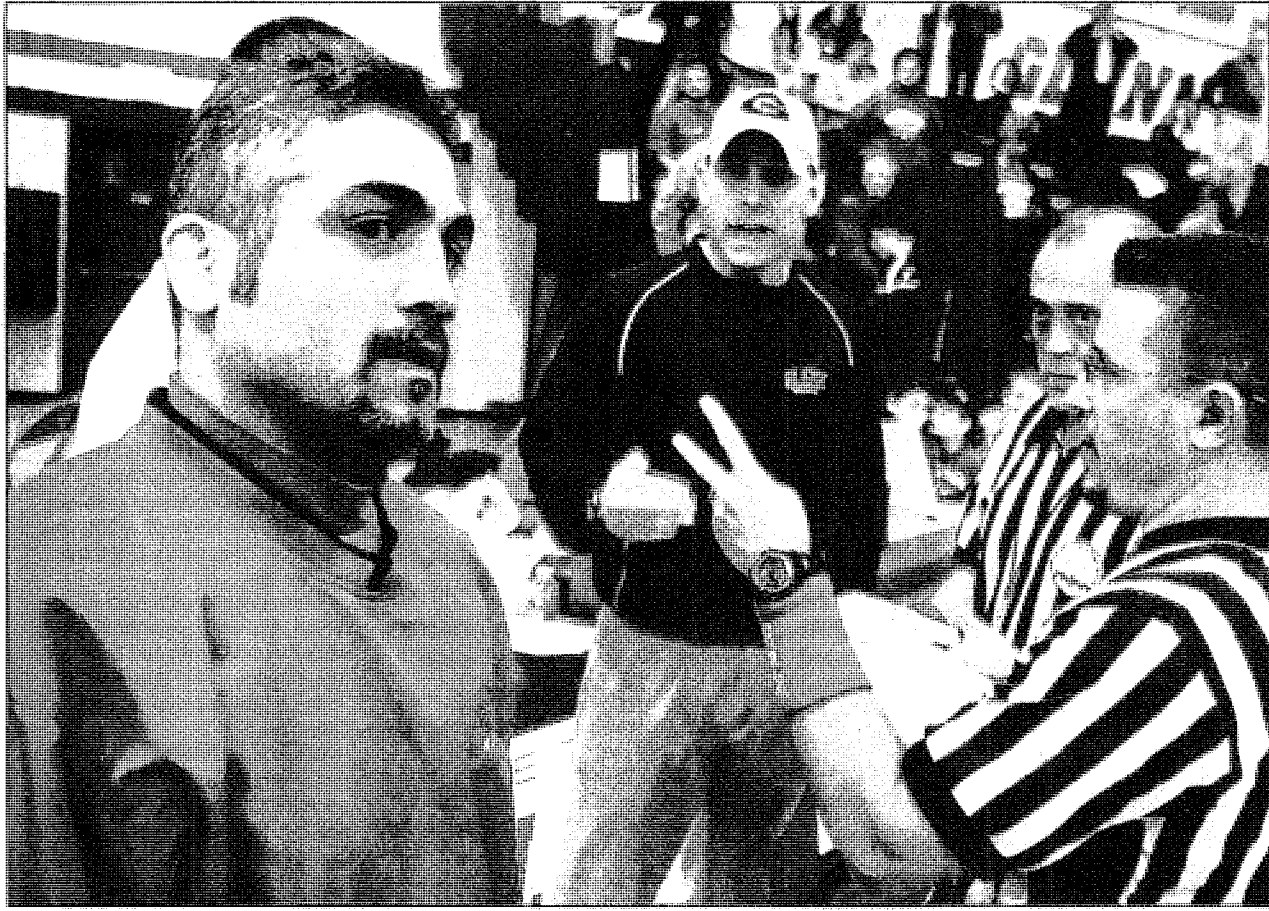
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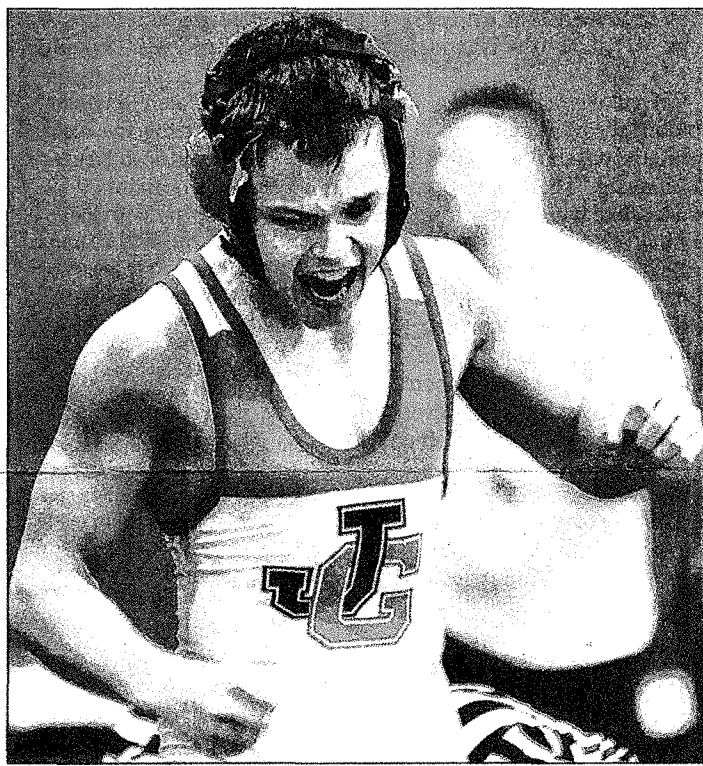
Brad Emons, editor, (313) 222-6851  
bemons@hometownlife.com



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's assistant coach Mike Pantaleo (left), head coach Cory Mancuso (behind) and John Glenn head coach Bill Polk discuss the MHSAA rule book criteria from referees Tom Arsenault and Jerome Angelo. Glenn won the regional championship by the sixth criteria – most first points scored.

## New criteria: Battle Creek



Glenn's 103-pounder Steven Wakeford reacts after pinning Canton's Daniel Filippelli to put his team up by three points for the Division 1 regional team championship.

### Rockets savor title

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The MHSAA rulebook had final jurisdiction in deciding the outcome of Wednesday night's Division 1 team wrestling regional at Westland John Glenn.

With the score deadlocked at 29-all after Glenn's Joshua Austin decisioned Canton's Carl Lucke, 6-3, in the last match of the evening at 119 pounds, officials Tom Arsenault and Jerome Angelo huddled with the coaches of both teams at the scorer's table to determine the tiebreaker criteria.

"We had to go through each weight class," Angelo said. "We went from A through F." The deadlock was broken on the sixth criteria – most first-points scored in each match, and the host Glenn came away the dramatic victor.

Here's now the tiebreaker criteria was broken down: unsportsmanlike points (even); matches won (7-7); pins (2-2); technical falls (1-1); major decisions (zero each); and finally initial points scored (8-6 in favor of Glenn).

The Rockets, now 25-7 overall, will be making their first trip in school history to the Elite Eight,

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

## Regional Pin Pals

Wayne, Glenn 1-2

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Norway Lanes is the next destination for three area Division 1 high school bowling teams following action on Friday in the Region 7 tournament held at Westland Bowl.

Wayne Memorial, ranked No. 1 in Division 1 and the KLA Central Division champions, will join host Westland John Glenn and Salem next Friday in the state finals in Muskegon.

Meanwhile, the Glenn girls lost a tight duel for first with Taylor Kennedy, but advanced for the first time in school history. Brownstown Woodhaven also made the cut by finishing third.

Wayne freshman Elliott Arnold had the high series of the boys 13-school field with a 647 followed by Ryan Gabriel (603), Josh Vojtkofsky (597) and T.J. Lave (557).

Jesse English had a two-game set of 383, while Kellen Collison finished with a 150 in his only game.

Wayne had a pin total of 4,106 with regular games of 986-1,037-913. The Zebras rolled six Baker games of 216-254-150-160-193-197.

Glenn's team total was 3,712 on regular games of 832-855-971, along with a Baker six-game set of 164-110-195-198-189-198.

The Rockets' lineup is dominated by seven juniors – Chris Harper, Kyle Hamlin, John Cleavenger, Derrick Ammons, Josh Duprie, Josh Herzig and Brian Monte – along with freshman Thomas Brusseau.

Salem's team total was 3,650 on a regular three-game set of 969-819-88, followed by a Baker set of 210-145-148-141-186-144.

Glenn girls coach Shirley O'Hara sounded a bit raspy as Taylor Kennedy nosed out her Rockets in the final frame for first place, 3,419-3,392.

"I'm very happy, but I don't have a voice," O'Hara said. "We were down 40 after the Bakers, but then it was neck-and-neck all the way to the 10th frame."

Glenn's Baker games included 149-191-156-153-189-127. The Rockets then posted regular games of 829-761-838.

The Rockets, who finished runner-up to Northville in the KLA's Central Division this season with an 8-2 record, are led by seniors Katy Harris, Amber Krzyzanski, Victoria Elsey and Kristin Peters.

Rounding out the squad is junior Allyson Kassab and sophomore Natalie Brown.

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## GAME WRAPS

**KLAA girls hoops**  
FRANKLIN 47, BRIGHTON 27:  
Livonia Franklin (17-3) closed out the regular season in grand fashion Friday night with a resounding win over the visiting Bulldogs (16-4) in a consolation battle of KLAA divisional champions.

"We showed up tonight, I think we came out of our slump," said Franklin coach Dave McCall, whose team pulled away with a 20-7 fourth-quarter run. "We played the game like we were trying to win instead of not trying to lose. It was a good, hard game."

Senior twins Brianna and Brittany Taylor led the Patriots with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Chelsea Williams, a 5-foot-8 sophomore, handled the point-guard duties and finished with six points along with junior guard Nicole Emery.

Brighton, plagued by poor shooting from the field (9-of-37) and the foul line (7-of-20), got five points apiece from Morgan Albert, Dayna Modrzyński, Angela Bisaro and Kelly Cieslak.

**CHURCHILL 46, W.L. CENTRAL 40:** Three players scored in double figures Friday as host Livonia Churchill (10-10) downed Walled Lake Central (11-9) in a KLAA crossover.

Lindsey Graciak and Kia Griffin each tallied 11 points for the victorious Chargers, who jumped out to a 24-16 halftime lead.

Brooke Gustafson tallied 16 for the Vikings, who hit 17-of-27 free throws.

Churchill was 17-of-27 from the line.

**MOTT 56, STEVENSON 45:** On Friday, junior point-guard Desyree Thomas scored 15 points to lead four players in double figures as Waterford Mott (11-9) downed host Livonia Stevenson (7-13).

Holly Cooperider (14), Tiffany Coleman (13) and Asia Rawls (10) also lifted the Corsairs, who led 34-22 at intermission.

Stevenson, which closed to within six points in the final period, got a game-high 24 points and eight rebounds from senior center Kaylee McGrath. Sophomore guard Sarah Smith added 11 points.

Emily Hollandsworth and Jordan York led the defense with four steals apiece. Shelby Wilson, who started, also chipped in defensively, according to coach Paul Tripp.

**PINCKNEY 49, JOHN GLENN 38:** Elyse Lefebvre scored 11 points and Jen Lucas added 10 Friday as the host Pirates (3-17) turned back short-handed Westland John Glenn (7-13).

Glenn, minus starters Nyah McReynolds (flu) and Brittany Holbrook (sprained ankle), couldn't overcome a 28-18 halftime deficit.

Chanel Payne picked up the slack with 17 points, while T.J. Carson-Callaway added seven. Pinckney was 15-of-25 from the free throw line, while Glenn was 7-of-14.

## MU expectations sky high

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Al White doesn't want to get ahead of himself when it comes to sizing up his 2009 Madonna University women's softball team.

But all indications are that the Crusaders could be looking at a banner season after finishing 37-14-1 a year ago, while winning the both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's regular season and playoff crowns. MU also just missed going to the NAIA Nationals after falling to Bethel (Ind.) College in the finals of the Region VIII Tournament.

The Crusaders left Friday for a 14-game spring trip to Arizona where they opened Saturday against two California schools, pre-season No. 2-ranked Point Loma Nazarene University and Hope



Irwin



Sidor

International in the Tucson Invitational.

With his entire infield returning along with the starting battery, expectations for MU are sky high this season.

"I know our infield will make plays," said the 11th-year MU coach. "They're the best defensive team I've put on the field. We have outstanding potential, but we still have to get it done on the field."

Junior first baseman Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill) anchors the infield after leading the Crusaders with a team-best .378 batting aver-

age and 46 RBI.

"Cat is a Division I-type talent," White said of the first-team All-WHAC selection. "And she's even a better person than a player."

Also returning is senior catcher Danielle Richardson, who hit .346; senior shortstop Tedi Johnson (.346); junior second baseman Brittney Scero (.339); and sophomore third baseman Kelly Lesko (.318).

Scero, a Canton High grad, has been bothered during the pre-season with a bad shoulder.

"With Brittney it changes day-to-day, but she's playing right now," White said. "She's our lead-off hitter. She strikes out very few times and she gets on base for us."

"We'll try and get her through. She's undergone cortisone therapy,

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

### MU SOFTBALL OUTLOOK

**Head coach:** Al White, 11th season.

**Career record:** 313-199-4.

**Assistant coaches:** Curt White, Terry Abraham, Steve Gentilia, Shawn Hopper, Rodney Schellenberger.

**Affiliations:** Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC); National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

**Last year's overall record:** 37-14-1 (20-4 WHAC).

**Titles won last year:** WHAC regular season and playoff champions (NAIA Region VIII runner-up).

**Notable losses to graduation:** Christina Finch, Liz Ballinger.

**Leading returnees:** Cat Sidor, Jr. 1B (.378, 46 RBI); Jess Irwin, Soph. RHP (24-7, 1.03 ERA); Danielle Richardson, Sr. C (.346, 31 RBI); Tedi Johnson, Sr. SS (.346, 17 doubles); Brittney Scero, Jr. 2B (.339, 32 RBI); Kelly Lesko, Soph. 3B (.318); Ashley Shay, Soph. C-OF (.367, 4 homers); Tara LaMilza, Soph. OF (.325); Mary Kate Setta, Sr. OF; Rachel Kethe, Jr. OF.

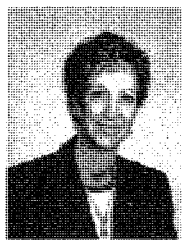
**Promising newcomers:** Hallie Minch, Fr. P-OF; Katie Cooley, Fr. Utility; Amanda Straub, Fr. Utility; Tori Turner, Fr. Utility; Katie Boomgaard, Fr. RHP; Alyssa Bertrand, Jr. Utility; Kathleen Smiley, Sr. OF.

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# Howell ices Spartans in 'state' tuneup, 4-2

A pair of state-ranked Division 1 boys hockey teams closed out the regular season Wednesday night with No. 8-ranked Howell scoring three unanswered goals in the final period to best No. 7 Livonia Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 4-2.

Howell enters state tournament play at 20-3-1 overall, while Stevenson falls to 12-7-5.

Stevenson led 1-0 after one period on Justin Shureb's 18th goal of the season from Cole Rochowiak and R.J. Kierdorf.

In the second period, Howell's Ryan Johnson tied it up with his 17th of the season, but Stevenson's Matt Fox, off an assist from John Strauch, made it 2-1 at with 2:25 left in the same period.

Goals by Jordan Passino (15th) and Gabe Daavettilla (fifth) put the Highlanders ahead to stay in the final period. Brandon Marshall added an empty-netter, his 13th of the year, to put it out of reach.

Stevenson goaltender Richie Dunphy made 21 saves, while Howell's Tyler Keough had 23 stops.

"For two periods we played

## BOYS HOCKEY

really well, but we had a couple of breakdowns in the third period where they capitalized," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Come playoff time we hope to eliminate those breakdowns."

Stevenson opens Division 1 pre-regional action beginning at 8 p.m. Tuesday against No. 3-ranked Northville at the Novi Ice Rink.

**CHURCHILL 2, W.L. NORTHERN 2:** Collin Elkins scored a pair of goals, including a short-handed effort with only 4:40 to go to give Walled Lake Northern (14-8-2) a draw with host Livonia Churchill (9-10-5) in a K.L.A.A. crossover.

Elkins opened the scoring at 4:41 of the first period on a power-play goal from Matt Ranck and Greg Smith.

Churchill led 2-1 after two periods on Alec Smythe's power-play goal from Ken Masiarczyk at 2:30 followed by Jake Otto's goal from Rick Stack only 25 seconds later.

Northern, which took 11 penalties to Churchill's seven, then tallied the game-tying goal by Elkins with assists going to John Baker and Ranck.

Knights goaltender Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves, while Churchill's Adrian Motta had 13 stops.

**W.L. CENTRAL 4, FRANKLIN 1:** In the regular season finale Wednesday at Edgar Arena, host Livonia Franklin (0-24) fell to Walled Lake Central (5-18-1).

It was 1-1 after one period as Zack Tuchklaper scored for the Vikings from Joe Leone, while Cyle Slinder countered for the Patriots from Brandon Kozyn and Cam Wludyka.

Central took a 3-1 lead after two periods on goals by Dominic Lis (from Russ Klimczak and Steve Kobliska) and Max Thomas (from Tom Reed).

Reed closed out the scoring in the final period from Tuchklaper and Thomas.

Central outshot Franklin, 38-12.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday, March 3**  
 John Glenn at Novi, 7 p.m.  
 Canton at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
 Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.  
 Churchill at S. Lyon East, 7 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Luth. N.West, 7 p.m.  
 Det. Urban at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
**(Kensington Conference Finals)**  
 Wayne at South Lyon, 7 p.m.

**(Metro Conference Finals)**  
 Cranbrook at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 5**  
 Rooper at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, March 6**  
 John Glenn at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**DISTRICT TOURNAMENT DRAWS**

**CLASS A**  
**at REDFORD THURSTON**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Livonia Stevenson vs. (B) Livonia Franklin, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Redford Thurston vs. (D) Farmington, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** Livonia Churchill vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Redford Union vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.

**Friday, March 6:** Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Highland Milford regional semifinal vs. Livonia Ladywood district champion.)

**at LIVONIA LADYWOOD**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Northville vs. (B) Plymouth, 6 p.m.; (C) Livonia Ladywood vs. (D) Salem, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** Novi vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Canton vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 6:** Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Highland Milford regional semifinal vs. Redford Thurston district champion.)

**at WAYNE MEMORIAL**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Ypsilanti vs. (B) Romulus,

5:30 p.m.; (C) Wayne Memorial vs. (D) Westland John Glenn, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 6:** Belleville vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Garden City vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.

**Friday, March 6:** Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Gibraltar Carlson regional semifinal vs. Brownstown-Woodhaven district champion.)

**CLASS B**  
**at LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Livonia Clarenceville vs. (B) Ferndale Academy of Oak Park, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** Detroit Old Redford vs. Detroit International Academy, 6 p.m.; Detroit Communication & Media Arts vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 4:** Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Detroit CMA regional semifinal vs. Marine City district champion.)

**CLASS D**  
**at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Canton Agape Christian vs. (B) Detroit Westside Christian, 6 p.m.; (C) Plymouth Christian vs. (D) Lutheran High Westland, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** Redford Covenant vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 6:** Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Sterling Heights Parkway Christian regional semifinal vs. Wyandotte Mount Carmel district champion.)

**PREP HOCKEY**  
**PRE-REGIONAL DRAWS**

**DIVISION 1**  
**at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Livonia Churchill vs. (B) Canton, 6 p.m.; (C) Salem vs. (D) Plymouth, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, March 7 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.)

**at NOVI ICE ARENA**  
**Tuesday, March 3:** (A) Novi Detroit Catholic Central vs. (B) North Farmington-Harrison, 5:30 p.m.

(C) Livonia Stevenson vs. (D) Northville, 8 p.m.

**Thursday, March 5:** A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, March 7 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.)

**DIVISION 2**  
**at OAK PARK ARENA**  
**Monday, March 2:** (A) Livonia Franklin vs. (B) Royal Oak, 6 p.m.; (C) Farmington vs. (D) Birmingham Brother Rice, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4:** A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 7:20 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, date and time to be determined, at the Novi Ice Arena.)

**PREP WRESTLING**  
**TEAM STATE FINALS**  
**at BATTLE CREEK'S KELLOGG ARENA**  
**Friday, March 6**  
 Westland John Glenn

at Division 1 quarterfinals, 3:15 p.m.

**Saturday, March 7**  
 Division 1 semifinals, 9:30 a.m.  
 Division 1, 2, 3, 4 finals, 4 p.m.

**PREP BOWLING**  
**STATE TEAM, INDIVIDUAL FINALS**  
**Friday-Saturday, March 6-7**  
 Div. 1 at Norway Lanes (Muskegon), TBA.

Div. 2 at Sunnybrook (Sterling Hts.), TBA.

Div. 3 at Airport Lanes (Jackson), TBA.

**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
**Saturday, March 7**  
 Regional at Plymouth, TBA.

**GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER FINALS**  
**at DELTA PLEX (Grand Rapids)**  
**Saturday, March 7**  
 Division 1, 9 a.m.; Division 4, noon.

Division 2, 4:30 p.m.; Division 3, 7:30 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.

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# NEIGHBORS

## In transition Center changes for the better

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Stacey Stover worries the economic crisis combined with the Women's Resource Center name change could mean fewer tickets sold for the annual fundraiser March 10 at Schoolcraft College. The Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow usually sells out the DiPonio Room in the VisiTech Center. Last year 435 supporters raised \$15,000 for scholarships to help women and men displaced by divorce or loss of a job.

This year tickets are still a bargain at \$30. The name change could cause some confusion though. On Dec. 9, Schoolcraft College announced the WRC was becoming the Transitions Center. In addition to helping stay-at-home moms pursue an education, the center expanded its services to offer financial planning, volunteer income tax assistance and support for workers in transition. The Family Resources program provides recruiting information. Student Engagement not only expanded Women's History Month programming, but assists students with building their academic schedules and attracts high school age youth to the campus with its Women on the Way.

"We're adding new services, blending departments," said Stover, who was supervisor for student recruitment and activities until September when she became center director. "We still receive calls from women, domestic violence survivors, seeking housing but also from males interested in checking out the culinary arts program. We're helping with transitions in all of the areas students are experiencing transitions. We're known for working one on one and offering personalized assistance.

"The change allowed us to expand to meet growing needs. An adult student who's a displaced worker can sit down and we can walk them through the process. We serve as an ombudsman, a family resource in times of illness, accident, crisis that gives families a place to go. New is helping students with their schedules. We're excited. We have a new Web site, [www.schoolcraft.edu/transitions](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transitions), but the money (from the fund-raiser) still goes to scholarships for Transitions Center students."

### POSITIVE CHANGES

WRC always helped males but by leaving women out of the name they hope to attract even more. One of the key offerings has been CHIPS, a program teaching computer skills.

"We're still retaining our history, maintaining the strengths and identities in the past and expanding because of economic needs," Stover said. "For the



Stacey Stover is the new director of the Transitions Center, formerly the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.



The spaghetti dinner is just one of the highlights of the annual event that raises money for scholarships. A Basket Raffle is popular as well.

### SPAGHETTI DINNER & WINE GLOW

**What:** Schoolcraft College's Transitions Center hosts its annual dinner to raise money for scholarships.  
**When:** Tuesday, March 10. The evening includes a 6 p.m. Wine Glow, 7 p.m. dinner, and 8 p.m. program.  
**Where:** VisiTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.  
**Tickets:** \$30, sponsorships \$75 (includes two dinners and program listing). Advertisements available for \$20 to \$100. Call (734) 462-4443.

2006-2007 school year 80 percent of those helped by the center were employed after graduation, 75 percent employed in their field."

This year's dinner has expanded as well to include tortellini, carafes of wine on the table and tiramisu for

dessert. Afterwards a video will highlight the changes. Charlotte O'Connor sees the transition as positive even though the name change has caused rumbblings in the center. The word women was removed as a result of passage of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Proposal 2 in 2006 banning affirmative action.

"It's not a secret the initiative influenced this," said O'Connor, who oversees 45 center volunteers. She's worked in the center for 5 1/2 years. "The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative says we can not use public dollars for a specific group. The message is we're still helping the same people, but trying to cast a broader net seeing a lot more people in a time of the economy crisis. The people we see — that's the story. We help people who fall between the cracks. We see older adults displaced by the economy and divorce, women who have been at home without an education and skills. We're seeing the poorest of the poor."



Last year, 435 supporters enjoyed the Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for scholarships for the Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center, now the Transitions Center. Pictured here (right of center) is Conway Jeffress, college president.

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Do you have questions about your children's dental health? February is National Children's Dental Health Month, the perfect time to address any concerns you may have about their teeth and gums. Our philosophy is not only to treat dental needs, but more importantly, to educate our patients to prevent future problems. To this end, our mission is to provide open and free communication and the highest standard of care in an environment of health, mutual understanding, and respect. We have office hours by appointment at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. Please call 734-453-9413.**

P.S. Infections that make root canal therapy necessary are often caused by bacteria that enter the pulp chambers through tooth fractures or decay.

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MILESTONES

**Saatio-Tyler**  
Ellen and David Saatio of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Lynn Saatio, to Bennett William Tyler of Novi, the son of Marian and Bill Tyler of Livonia.

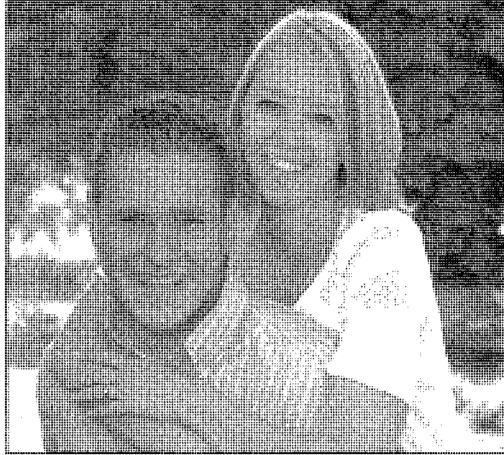


The bride-to-be earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in Elementary Education, in December 2006. She attends Madonna University, earning a master's degree in early childhood education, and works as a kindergarten teacher for West Bloomfield Public Schools.

The groom-to-be earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in elementary education, in April 2006. He attends the University of Michigan-Dearborn, earning a master's degree in public administration, and works as a fourth grade teacher for West Bloomfield Public Schools.

The couple plan to wed in July at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Canton Township.

**Hajduk-Guimond**  
Chris and Lisa Hajduk of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Hajduk, to Eric Guimond, son of Thomas and Barbara Guimond, of Clare. The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Salem High School and a 2008 graduate of Central Michigan University. The groom-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Clare High School and a 2008 graduate of Central Michigan University. Their wedding will take place in August in Canton.



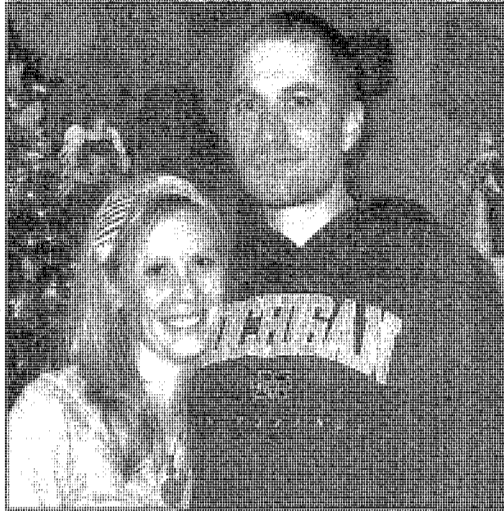
**Kleinschmidt-Felczak**

Michael and Shirley Felczak of Livonia announce the engagement of their son, Michael Felczak, Jr. of Jacksonville, Fla., to Emily Kleinschmidt of Jacksonville, formerly of Marshall, Mich.

The groom-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School in 1998 and earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University in 2002. He is employed as an accounts manager at Aaron's Rental Service in Jacksonville.

The bride-to-be graduated from Marshall High School in 2000 and earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from Western Michigan University in 2004. She is employed as a catastrophic claims representative for State Farm Insurance in Jacksonville.

The couple plan to wed in August at Mission Pointe Resort, Mackinac Island.



**Sied-Heseltine**  
Marshall and Sue Sied of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Kathryn Sied, to Adam Jeffrey Heseltine, son of Shirley Heseltine of South Lyon, and the late Jeffrey Heseltine.



The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Stevenson High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed as an account manager at Google in Ann Arbor.

The groom graduated in 1999 from Stevenson High School and earned his bachelor's degree in 2003 from Western Michigan University. He is employed as a sales account manager at Hilti Tool in Livonia.

The couple plans to wed in July at Castle Farms in Charlevoix.

Starfish helps kids, families

BY JULIE BROWN  
DSE STAFF WRITER

Last year, Starfish Family Services helped more than 9,000 kids and families. The agency, on Hiveley in Inkster with additional offices nearby, began 45 years ago to help children in foster care.

Its name and mission have changed somewhat in that time, according to Paula Brown, chief development officer.

"Our families are very much dealing with the issues of poverty," said Brown, who lives in Plymouth Township. Brown, speaking Feb. 19 to the Westland Rotary, noted 70 percent of Inkster residents receive free/reduced school lunches.

Starfish services include emergency food, along with seasonal clothing for children; a teen shelter and crisis center where youth age 10 and up can stay for up to 14 days; and mental health counseling that is offered to young people and adults through Westland and Livonia locations. Staffers focus efforts on families with children.

"Many of our parents are single moms, very young, some of them. We do everything we can to hold that family together."

The Starfish Family Resource Center in Inkster houses a gym where parents can play with their children. Staff lends a guiding hand, helping moms and moms-to-be understand that they should hold their children and read to them.

Staffers see about 700 children a day in Head Start and Early Head Start, which help children prepare for school. Starfish works with partners to avoid utility shutoff, which can lead to children being removed from the home.

The agency has an organic garden where children help food to grow. "By August, we've got eggplant like this," Brown said, holding her hands wide apart. The children take pride in their contributions to the garden.

Starfish focuses on the family life cycle from birth, to school readiness and into the teen years. They've continued some help for young people coming out of foster care due to age, who face limited options.

The agency, with a \$12 million budget, received a \$1 million Fisher Foundation grant to work with young families over three years, "as far as what poverty is doing to their lives."

By the third year, families will counsel each other, Brown said.

With help of the McGregor Fund, more families can participate.

"They are now moving toward independence and having hope for their future," she said.

David Ingham, a Rotarian and principal at Westland John Glenn High School, praised Starfish: "They do a nice job helping families," Ingham said.

For more information, call Starfish at (734) 728-3400 or visit [www.starfishonline.org](http://www.starfishonline.org).

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**MORE ON KNEE INJECTIONS**

When a patient comes to a doctor's office with a swollen knee, the need to remove fluid from the knee and inject a steroid medication may seem evident. Aspirating the excess fluid allows the knee joint to function better, and injecting a steroid provides a means of resolving present irritation and preventing further inflammation.

Can patients expect a possible knee injection if they have knee pain but no swelling, that is, no evidence of any fluid in the knee? The answer is yes, a knee injection will may be the treatment of choice.

Before undertaking such treatment, the doctor will try to diagnose the problem. Instances where a person could have knee pain but no knee effusion include a meniscal or ligament tear, a bone bruise or bone cyst or a deposit of calcium crystals in the joint. Often knee x-rays will uncover these abnormalities, but not always.

Injecting the knee with a steroid at the time the patient presents with pain helps in several ways. First, the injection relieves pain in a timely manner. Second, a good response to the injection may last for months or more, making it unnecessary to go forward with further studies or immediate surgery. Third, a good response supports the diagnosis that the problem is not a tumor or cancer that if left alone will cause serious impairment at a later date.

The purpose of knee injections is to resolve pain. The presence of fluid gives the physician another reason to undertake the procedure. The absence of fluid does not deter him from the task.

[www.drjweiss.yourmd.com](http://www.drjweiss.yourmd.com)

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Mind-body connection

New hospital like visiting northern Michigan

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OGE STAFF WRITER

Patients might feel like they're going on vacation when they need medical care at the new Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital. Every effort has been made to combine nature with good food and relaxation to speed healing and reduce the unpleasantness associated with leaving home for treatment.

The \$360 million facility opens March 15 with 191 private rooms that not only block out noise but make it possible to have a restful night's sleep by adjusting schedules so nurses, whenever possible, aren't taking temperatures in the middle of the night.

A committee researched over 600 articles that showed design elements could reduce the stress on bodies and minds as well as shorten stays.

"Studies have shown that private rooms can reduce infection rates by 50 percent," said Dr. Michael Seidman, director of Vita, the wellness center offering complimentary therapies in the hospital.

Safety and compassionate care were major concerns when designing the 730,000-square-foot structure that blends into the existing Henry Ford Medical Center. Christine Zambricki stopped to inhale the scent of one of the elements, the towering ficus trees, as she led a tour of the new structure last Monday.



Dr. Michael Seidman and Christine Zambricki stand in the state-of-the-art Technology Wing at the new Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

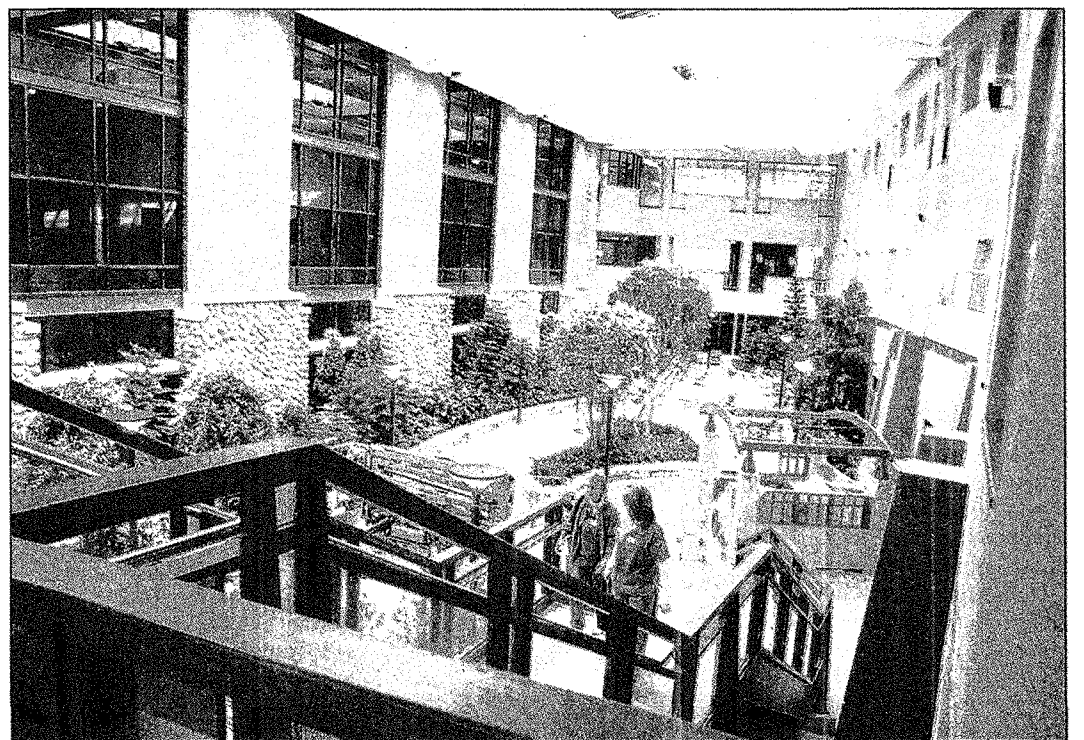
Decorative leaves on the wall sconces and winding paths in the floors add to the tranquil Northern Michigan-like environment.

"The curved walls prevent dust and dirt in corners and gives a warmer feeling," said Zambricki, chief operating and nursing officer and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "So much love went into the building. The quiet atrium is for reflection with an interfaith sanctuary and a storeroom for prayer rugs. All of the patient bedrooms look out on the atrium or outdoor pond. There are sleep sofas so families can sleep in the room and we've upgraded ceiling tiles to absorb sound. Most of the decibel level comes from the corridor which is now 15 to 20 feet from the bed and frequently

guarded by a glass door."

While patient comfort was a consideration, no expense was spared equipping the technology wing, which includes four new state-of-the-art surgical suites and the emergency room. By August, another six operating rooms will open as six old ones in the medical center close. The green lighting is meant to improve visual acuity.

"This is no ordinary community hospital. We're licensed for 300 rooms and hope to keep building," said Zambricki. "We're cutting wait time in the ER for patients 30 percent. The typical ER room has a glass door wall and is larger than an 8-by-10 so family could be together. It gives total auditory privacy so a woman losing a child can't hear a child



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Towering ficus trees welcome patients and visitors to the atrium inside Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

being born."

Decontamination and trauma rooms in the ER allow staff to handle disasters. The hospital offers a range of services from critical care to pediatrics.

On the lower level Chef Matt Prentice passes out samples of the strawberry sorbet made for patients who eat the same food as served in Henry's, the cafeteria. Previously he showed off the refrigerated locker where the organic red leaf lettuce is kept.

"It's all fresh," said Seidman. "Hippocrates said, let thy food be thy medicine. If you don't put proper food into the body it doesn't function properly."

Prentice developed 600 recipes for the hospital menu and trained and hired the kitchen staff. The Matt Prentice Restaurant Group owns a

number of area restaurants including Coach Insignia at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

"I spent last summer writing a manual on healthy eating for the staff to follow," said Prentice of West Bloomfield. "I use no salt and lots of herbs."

Trained as a medical doctor, Seidman became curious about non-traditional medicine many years ago. He believes equally in prevention.

Today he's excited about Vita, which offers wellness counseling, a mind-body studio for yoga classes, skin care treatment to reverse sun damage and acne, and complementary therapies like hot stone massage, acupuncture and chiropractic care. Free wig and makeup consultation are available at no charge for cancer

patients from any hospital, not just Henry Ford.

A relaxation room with a neuroacoustic chair resonates and vibrates through the body with speakers for relaxation, which has been shown to enhance the healing process. A behavioral therapist provides services such as biofeedback and hypnotherapy.

"We use acupuncture before surgery to help heal, reduce pain, fire up the immune systems, preparing body and mind before surgery," said Seidman.

"We're also linking with Schoolcraft (College Culinary Arts program) to teach classes to cook healthy."

For more information, visit [henryfordwestbloomfield.com](http://henryfordwestbloomfield.com).

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## Classes focus on cancer survivorship

Survivorship University, a community-based education program of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, offers free lectures to help cancer survivors, their families and caretakers navigate the everyday challenges of living with, through and beyond cancer. The classes encourage and support the personal empowerment and advocacy of cancer survivorship. To register for the free spring 2009 classes,

call 1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266) or visit [www.karmanos.org](http://www.karmanos.org).

**The Ride of Your Life: Developing a Positive Attitude (F605)** sessions are held 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at the Karmanos' Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center, 31995 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills; and Wednesday, March 25, at the Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center's Wahby Cancer Center, 1000

Harrington Blvd. Author John Ricco talks about adversity. Ricco fought his way past a cancer diagnosis with treatment, support and, most importantly, an eye on the future. He found while he was writing about his ordeal, there were many other people who had been through other life-altering experiences and they came through it because of their positive attitude. This lecture is for anyone who has experi-

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### MARCH

**CHADD meeting**  
CHADD (Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder) meets Monday, March 2, at Way Elementary, 765 W. Long Lk Road, east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. The parent group will have Kara Brooklier Ph.D. speaking on "Understanding and Building Social Competence in

Children with AD/HD and Asperger Syndrome." The adult group will have Paul Gutterman M.D. speaking on "Mood Disorders in Adults with AD/HD." Sign-in begins at 7 p.m.; meetings 7:30-9 p.m. Free, members; \$5, non-members. Call (248) 988-6716 or visit [www.chadd.net/527](http://www.chadd.net/527).

**Diabetes event kick-off**  
Tour de Cure Gearin' Up Cocktail Kick-

Off Party takes place 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at American Cycle & Fitness in Walled Lake for anyone interested in riding or volunteering at the Tour de Cure. There will be complimentary appetizers and cocktails, bike giveaways, discount coupons and free registration for the Tour de Cure. For more information, call (248) 433-3830 or (888) 342-2383 toll-free.

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