

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Series offers tips to survive economic madness
Neighbors, B7

Around Town

Checking in

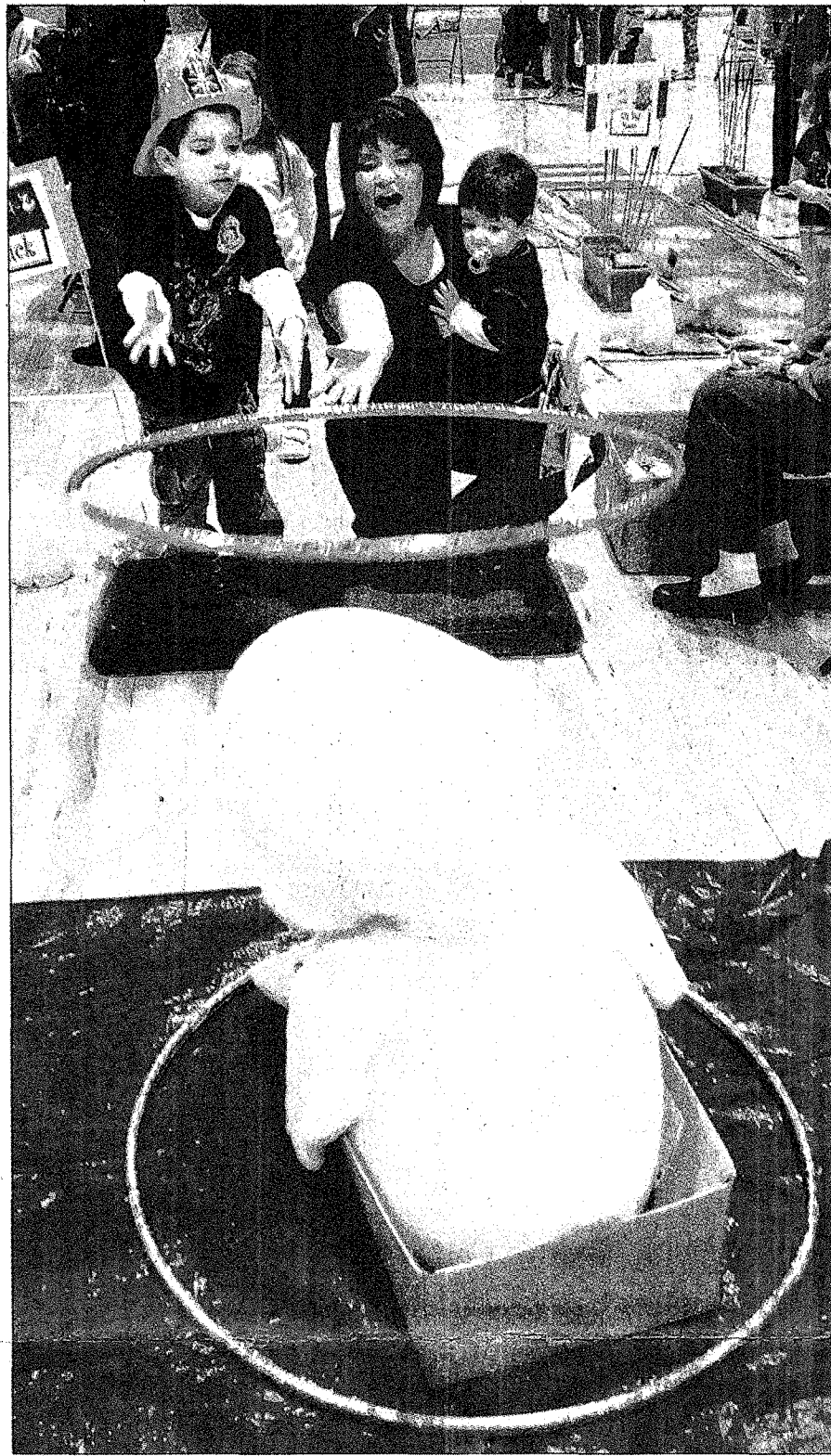
Westland's 18th District Court is making sure that some of its probationers don't get caught up in celebrating on St. Patrick's Day. The court's probation department is having 650 probationers report for random alcohol testing between 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, and between 7 a.m. and noon Wednesday, March 18. St. Patrick's Day is one of the busiest bar days of the year, and those selected for testing have been placed on probation for alcohol related offenses and have a strict no-alcohol-consumption clause in effect. The court has been conducting random testing for eight years, using it as a deterrent against drinking and driving and as a way to rehabilitate individuals who have an alcohol addiction. Probationers who fail to report receive notice of a hearing. Unless they can prove they had a good reason not to show up, they will face penalties. Those who do show up, but who fail their alcohol tests, also will face penalties.

On stage

Chris Badynee is known for his Bogdon Box Bass, but the Westland resident is adding a new item to his resume — performer. Badynee and his daughter, Blaise, have been appearing in the American Ballet Theater's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Detroit Opera House that wraps up with a 2:30 p.m. performance today. Blaise has been a bridesmaid in the production while her father has had a smaller part as a butcher. "It turns out that the dance company announced that they needed someone to participate as a background non-dance performer 'butcher' in the Marketplace Scene, so my daughter Blaise phoned me from rehearsal," Badynee said. "She's actually dancing in the show, I'm in a marketplace scene where I move large prop sides of beef around." According to Badynee he rehearsed the scene on Thursday, the day before the show opened.

River time

The temperatures may be on the chilly side, but it doesn't mean you can't start thinking about the out of doors. If you're a canoeing enthusiast, catch Doc Fletcher at the William P. Faust Public Library on Wednesday, March 25, when he stops by to talk about canoeing Michigan's rivers. Fletcher, who has canoeed Michigan rivers for 30 years, is the author of *Weekend Canoeing in Michigan*. The guide book looks at 20 of the state's rivers, offering informal advice breakdowns on times and distances, starting and ending points, great sights and grills and taverns. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, call the library at (734) 326-6123. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Going for the gold

It was a family affair at the Nursery School Olympics where Colin Borbi, 5, got encouragement from his mother Mary Borbi and little brother Wyatt, 2, in the Ring a Duck event. For more on the annual Parks and Recreation Event, see Page A6.

Library branch goal: Reach Norwayne area

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cheryl Napsha and her colleagues at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland have been working to expand library service to the Dorsey Center in the city's Norwayne area. "It's very important," said Napsha, the Westland library director. "Geographically, it's such a large city and the Norwayne area is so far from here. It's just not realistic to expect everyone to get here." The main library is on Central City Parkway, between Warren and Ford. The library facility at the Dorsey Center, which is off of Venoy south of Palmer, is open 2-4 p.m. Mondays, offering computer use for adults.

"We do some seasonal programs for children," said Napsha, who came to the library in May 2007. Lisa Hausman, department head for children's services, has had storytimes there, including last summer and continuing more recently when Wayne-Westland schools were on break. Napsha credits Westland Mayor William Wild as the impetus for getting the library in the Dorsey Center off the ground. "He's taken a real great interest in establishing equal services for that area, this was really the mayor's vision," she said. "It's on my to-do list. I'm really trying to make that goal happen."

Please see **LIBRARY, A2**

Westland awaits report on recycling

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A city-hired consulting firm is preparing to roll out the green carpet for a curbside recycling program long demanded by residents who want Westland to become more environmentally friendly. The firm, Resource Recycling Systems, is expected to issue its recommendations during a public meeting set for 6 p.m. Monday, March 30, on the second floor of Westland City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh. City leaders have been pushing for a heavy turnout among recycling enthusiasts who have waited years for a workable program that comes without customer fees. Two earlier curbside efforts that imposed a price tag had failed. "I look forward to seeing a strong showing of support from residents at this study session," Mayor William Wild said in a prepared statement. "I am encouraged by residents' enthusiasm thus far, and their continued involvement will be integral as we move forward to bring

curbside recycling to the city of Westland." City leaders last year agreed to spend \$10,000 to hire Ann Arbor-based Resource Recycling Systems to study curbside proposals and issue a recommendation that the company considers best for Westland. The recommendation will come just as some recycling proponents have started losing hope that the city will actually start a program anytime soon. "I'm starting to lose faith in the whole situation," said Margot McCormack, who, along with other recycling supporters, collected 600 signatures demanding a curbside program. "I know the mayor is very much for it, so let's get with it for crying out loud. The sooner the better — and better late than never." Currently, residents who want to recycle have to take their materials to a drop-off site on Marquette east of Newburgh. Wild has indicated that once the city receives a recommendation from Resource Recycling Systems, he hopes to have the curbside pickup service in place within 60 days.

New trial date set in Laci Green murder case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A new murder trial date of June 1 was set Friday for the ex-boyfriend of Westland nursing student Laci Green, whose body was found last May 7 in a grassy field on the city's southwest side. Barring a guilty plea or a new glitch in the case, 25-year-old Robert James-the-First Howard of Dearborn Heights is scheduled to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Hathaway's courtroom for premeditated first-degree murder. Howard was supposed to stand trial in January, but the case was delayed amid some legal maneuvering by defense attorney Bertram Johnson. However, the new trial date was confirmed Friday by Hathaway's court clerk. Green, a MotorCity Casino employee and Schoolcraft College

nursing student, was found strangled to death last May 7 in a field near the Dunn Court home where she lived. Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch testified during a preliminary hearing last summer that he believed Howard was angry because Green had broken up with him and was seeing another man. A taxicab driver has testified that he gave Howard a ride to Green's neighborhood on the night that she was killed. Moreover, the victim's parents, Edward and Barbara Green, encountered Howard outside their home just a few hours before their daughter's body was found about 6 a.m. Howard has denied killing Green, and Johnson has indicated that the case will likely go to trial "because of the nature of the (circumstantial) evidence."

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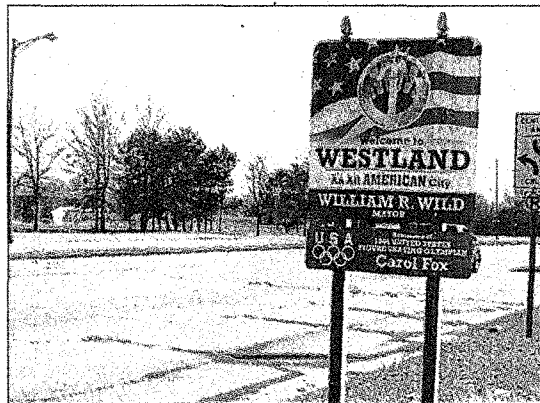
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City puts out all-American welcome signs

Signs of change can be seen along thoroughfares in Westland with the addition of colorful welcome signs playing up the city's theme of an all-American city. Thirty-five new welcome signs featuring the city seal amid the backdrop of the American flag have been erected at entry points around the city. Many of the signs also bear the names of current and former Westland residents who have called Westland home. The signs are sponsored by local businesses in the city of Westland. "Westland is the home of some tremendously talented individuals whom we are very proud of and wish to acknowledge," Mayor William Wild said. The larger, upper portion of each sign is identical at each location. Some entry points also include an additional sign, which proclaims Westland the home of such acclaimed residents as figure skater and 1984 U.S. Olympian Carol Fox, Dallas Stars hockey player Mike Modano, 2008 Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy, 2003 American Idol finalist Josh Gracin and NHL hockey player Chris Conner, also of the Dallas Stars. In addition, there are signs that list the names of local establishments that have provided sponsorships, including North Brothers Ford, Westland



Some of Westland's new welcome signs recognize individuals like ice skater Carol Fox who with partner Richard Dalley were U.S. Olympic team in 1984 and were three-time World Professional Dance Champions.

Shopping Center, Red Holman Pontiac and the Westland Community Foundation. The signs are a continuation of the city's ongoing marketing efforts to brand Westland as a means to attract residents and businesses. The city is approximately 22 square miles.

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Survey: 90 percent of parents 'clueless' on drinking

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just under 60 percent of Livonia ninth-grade students reported drinking once in the previous year, according to a 2007 survey presented at a Town Hall meeting Thursday on underage drinking with the Livonia Save Our Youth task force.

Other statistics showed that 69 percent of ninth-graders said that they rode in a car where someone had been drinking and 22 percent had participated in binge drinking. And more than 90 percent of the students think their parents are clueless about underage drinking.

Those were just some of the results from the survey reported by Bob Douvill, student assistance counselor at

Franklin High School, and Kathy Weaver, student assistance counselor at Churchill High School.

The task force discussed how the use of alcohol is risky for teens.

Dr. Mark Menestrina, a task force member, cited statistics that revealed that drinkers who started younger than 14 were seven times more likely to be in an accident than those who

waited until they were 21. That same group was four and a half times more likely to develop drug or alcohol problems and three times more likely to attempt suicide.

Menestrina, a physician, also reminded the audience of the controversial T-shirts worn last year by students with the words "Pusching it to the Limit" (a word play on Busch beer) and "Class of .08." Many

parents were concerned, but others remained indifferent, Menestrina said.

"Some adults thought there was a problem, then shortly thereafter there was an accident involving alcohol that involved a death, changing many lives forever," Menestrina said.

Michelle Moccia, a nurse who works in the emergency room at St. Mary Mercy

Hospital, said she and her colleagues see all ages in the ER resulting from underage drinking.

Drinkers increase the risk of injury or death, she said. "We see fractures, they lose their teeth, and they often don't realize how badly they are hurt," Moccia said. "Thank God for their friends who bring them in. We'll tell them, 'You saved their life.' We're so glad because we can hydrate them. Their heart can stop or they can stop breathing."

The task force also heard from four young adults who discussed their teenage drinking. "It's very prevalent," said one of them. "(Alcohol) is easy to find. There's older friends over 21 and parents allow it."

"Where there's a will, there's a way. If you want to get a drink, you will get it," said another.

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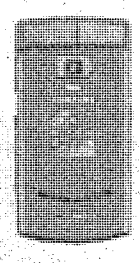
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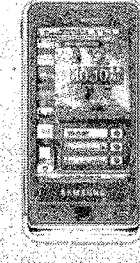
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LIBRARY FROM PAGE A1

Library staffers have met people from Norway on food distribution days at the city facility.

"I think it would be popular," Napsha said of a more full-time library there.

Currently, the Dorsey library facility has six personal computers with Internet access. Two librarians are there each Monday to help patrons. Adults need help with job searches, as well as applying for unemployment.

"They're able to give one-on-one assistance," Napsha said.

Napsha would like to expand offerings to Norwayne, a lower-income area, "so we're really serving a new need that didn't exist five or 10 years ago for people."

The Dorsey library area has furniture and is painted. "I could fill the collection," said Napsha, who doesn't need books for it. "It's really just staff costs."

Wild agreed there's such a need for library services, with many Norwayne residents lacking cars to get to the main library. He noted the children's programs in 2008 and current limited adult services.

"It's still an idea that I think has a lot of merit," he said. "We know it's going to take a little while to get it going."

Officials have been looking at the library and Dorsey Center budgets.

"It's tough in this time right now," Wild said. "We're still going to try to do that (staff the branch). It all comes down to funding."

Napsha also credits Joanne Inglis, city housing director, for her help.

"She's very interested in making this happen, too," she said.

An unrelated yet similar opportunity is arising across Venoy from the Dorsey Center at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army corps building. Salvation Army Capt. Derek Rose said they've received a \$25,000 Target corporate grant to supply a media center at the corps, including a computer lab for adults and children. The plan is for 11 laptop computers with educational software. After-school tutoring is offered to children and teens at the Wayne-Westland corps.

Rose noted there will be books and magazines as well. The Salvation Army is talking with Michigan Works, a state agency, about being a possible pilot site for job training.

CORRECTION

A story in Thursday's *Observer* should have stated that Taylor Towers will continue to be run by the same management, even if the facility is part of a financial restructuring. The changes, if approved, will not affect the management, the tenants or the remaining employees.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial Baseball Booster Club is hosting a Scrapbooking fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Rudgate West Clubhouse, 7040 Shawnee Drive, Romulus. The registration fee of \$25 includes a light breakfast, lunch and door prizes. The deadline for registration is April 17. Checks and money orders can be made out to Wayne Memorial Baseball. Registrations can be mailed to Wayne Baseball c/o Deborah Gush, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, Mi. 48184. For more information, call (734) 260-9517.

Rotary auction
The annual fund-raiser, "Off to the Races" for Wayne Rotary and Wayne Recreation will be held Friday, April 24, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

Money raised will be divided between Wayne Rotary College and/or Technical School Scholarships for Wayne Memorial High School youth whose parents are currently unemployed; and Wayne Recreation's upgrade of the Walz Quadruplex playground.

Live and silent auctions featuring items donated by Leo's Jewelry and Gifts, as well as mock horse races will be part of the festivities. Food will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available from Wayne Rotarians or by calling Jeff Rutter at Wayne Recreation at (734) 721-7400, Ext 1304.

Health Expo

Westland residents can register now for the Savas Health Expo that will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, in Westland.

The cost is \$35 to receive a full battery of tests, including blood sugar, blood pressure, body mass index, lipid profile, triglycerides, hearing and ABI for PAD (blood flow to the legs). In addition to a variety of lectures, a light breakfast and lunch will be provided and there also will be free gifts, door prizes.

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

Testing ends at noon and participants should not have food after midnight for testing purposes. People must register in advance by calling (248) 356-5033. No registrations will be accepted at the door.

Pancake breakfast

Order of Rainbow Girls of Wayne Lodge No. 72 will have their monthly Pancake

Breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112, 37137 Palmer, east of Newburgh, Westland. The cost is \$5 per breakfast and feature the "best pancakes in the state," served to you by the Rainbow Girls. No reservations necessary. For more information, call (734) 721-7950.

Parent workshop

Celebrate Calm will present an workshop for parents and teachers, 10 Secrets to a Stress-Free Home and School, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Create a calm home, eliminate yelling and arguing, improve focus, attention and behavior in school and turn defiance and disrespect into internal motivation and create a stress-free discipline and homework time. The workshop is free and there is no need to register. Lunch will be served after the program. Educators will receive CEUs for attending. For more information, call the church office at (734) 728-1088.

Ready to skate

It's a sure sign that spring is on its way: Westland's Concrete Jungle Skate Park is now open for business. All skateboarders and inline skaters are welcome

to enjoy the peaks and valleys of the 20,000-square-foot park, which is open weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dusk; and from noon to 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. until dusk on weekends.

The Concrete Jungle Skate Park is beside the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford Road, behind Westland City Hall. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food for the month of March to residents north of Michigan Avenue from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at

the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Glenwood.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can collect their food at building and must contact the building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at their building.

For March, the distribution will include tuna, noodles, sliced potatoes, peas, grape juice, pork patties, peaches, and possible additional items. This program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. For more information, call the Dorsey Center surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

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EDUCATION

Hard work wins blue ribbon for St. Mary School

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It has been several years in the making at St. Mary Catholic School in Wayne, and the finished product has earned a blue ribbon.

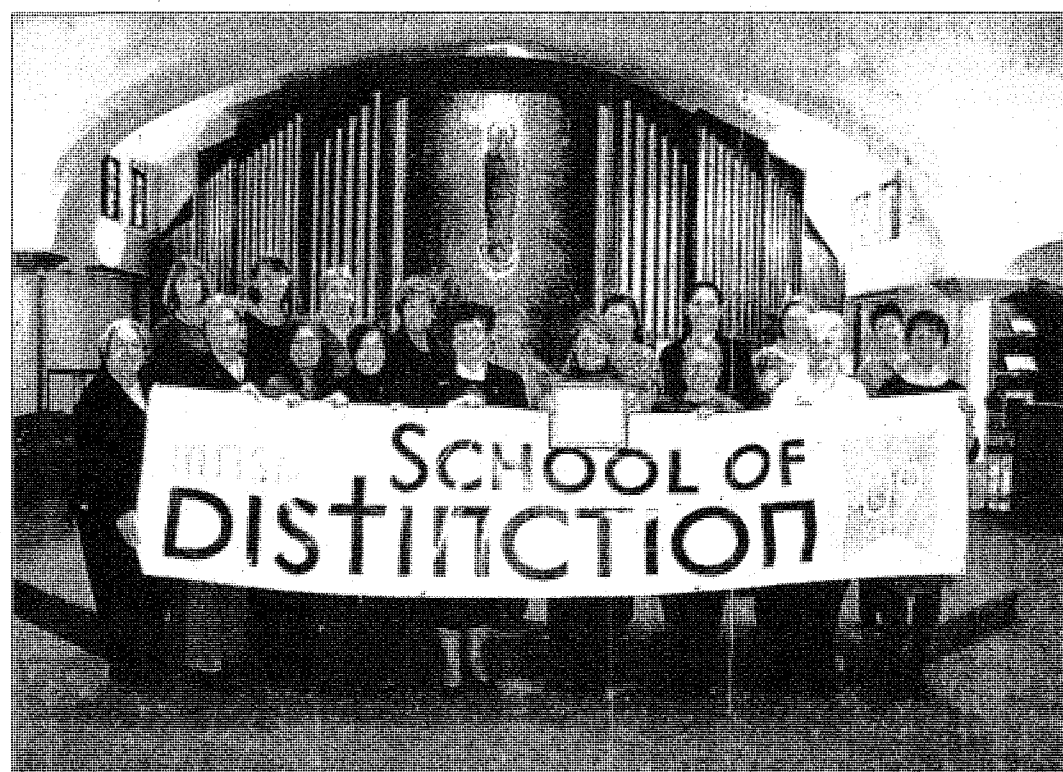
The school is now one of two in the Archdiocese of Detroit to be designated a school of distinction by the Michigan Non-Public School Accreditation Association. The only other school is St. Michael in Livonia, which received its designation two years ago.

"We recognize what a wonderful job that is being done by the students and staff, but it's nice when someone else recognizes it," Principal Jaylee Lynch said. "Now we're ready to shout about it."

Lynch, accompanied by her staff and students — as well as St. Mary's pastor, the Rev. David G. Burgard — received the certificate in the church following a weekday Mass from Supt. of Schools Sr. Mary Gehringer and Associate Supt. Susan Leslie.

"We're talking about a school as a good team," Gehringer told the students and staff. "A good team works for years to be good. You have done that and you have been accredited because of it."

"A church with a school is challenged and has a responsibility for it," Burgard added. "This school has a long history here and with good help, you have a bright future."



St. Mary School Principal Jaylee Lynch and the teaching staff show off the Michigan Non-Public School Accreditation Association banner that's declares the Wayne school a school of distinction.

According to Lynch, work on earning the designation began more than three years ago under former Principal Catherine Myszka. A school improvement team determined what the specific goals would be for the school and the outcome to enhance the quality of education.

"We recognized that some of what we needed to do was train ourselves so we could enhance student learning and technology," Lynch said. "We

had to train ourselves to work better."

According to Lynch, determining the goals was done in the first — and "longest" — year of preparation for the association's designation. After that, the process, "was like a snowball moving forward."

Among the goals determined to be needed was alignment of the school's K-8 curriculum with Michigan standards making it more accountable. Another was to have tech-

nology into the classroom. Individual grades have Web sites and an online Gradeline is available for parents to check grades. There's also an online newsletter to keep them informed of happenings at the school.

"There's a lot of technology in the classrooms, the teachers use it and teach students to use it," Lynch said, adding that, "The key is each school of distinction in and of itself, while comparable to others schools,



Sr. Mary Gehringer (left), the superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit and Associate Superintendent Susan Leslie (right) present St. Mary School Principal Jaylee Lynch with the school's certificate of distinction.

decides what its goals are and then works together to accomplish them."

She added that the parish has always been supportive of the school and has been involved in creating a community of learners. St. Mary School opened its doors in September 1924 and at one time had a high school. Situated at West Michigan Avenue and Third Street in Wayne, its 279 students in kindergarten through eighth grade come from Wayne, Westland, Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Van Buren, Belleville, Inkster and Dearborn Heights.

The school also has a

staff of 15 teachers and four shared-time teachers provided through the Wayne-Westland Community Schools for no-core subjects like Spanish and art.

The school is currently accepting enrollment for the 2009-10 school year. Parents interested in more information can call the school at (734) 721-1240.

Lynch said the school can't sit on its laurels. Students and staff needs to continue to do their best.

"But it's nice to see everything come together," she added.

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

League of Women Voters seeks scholarship applications

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is accepting applications for a \$1,000.00 scholarship that will be awarded in June to a male or female college undergraduate student.

Applicants must qualify as a U.S. citizen and reside in the LWV service area of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne and Westland and the Wayne County portion of Northville.

They also must attend a Michigan college or university, be majoring in political science or public policy and be entering the third or fourth year of undergraduate studies. Additional information

and the scholarship application can be found at the League's Web site at www.lwnww.org. Click on 2009 Scholarship Application. Applications must be post-marked by April 17.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Name: Malloré Starks, 8
School/Grade: third-grader at Elliott Elementary School
Parents: Gordon and Janine Starks
Nominated by: Principal Johnnye Summerville
Why she was nominated: Malloré is a thoughtful and caring student. She is respectful of her peers and teachers and is always ready to lend a helping hand. She enjoys doing homework and playing all kinds of games with her mom, dad and three brothers. Since Malloré



Malloré Starks

enjoys homework, she says it is not a surprise that her grades are usually A's and B's.
Future plans: She wants to be a veterinarian because she loves caring for animals.
What she likes about school: The best part of school is learning and making new friends.
Favorite subject: Reading because it gives her information about people and places that she didn't know, and it makes her curious to read even more.
Roles models: My parents because they know a lot of things about a lot of stuff and they share it, and my teacher because she helps me get smarter by challenging me.

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12-MONTH

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IRA** Now you can get this same great rate with an IRA at Citizens Bank. That's two ways to make the right decision.**

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*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is valid as of 3/15/09. \$1,000 minimum deposit required to open either account. Offer valid only on new accounts. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. May not be combined with any other certificate of deposit offer.

** You should discuss your situation with your tax or financial advisor before purchasing an IRA.



Visit us online at hometownlife.com

Livonia Public Schools Open Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Twenty seats are open to students across grades 1 through 5 in fall 2009.

Limited Registration window: April 6-20

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2009-10 school year. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will be open from April 6-20 at the Department of Elementary and Special Program, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us or contact Charlotte Worthen, Director of Elementary & Special Programs at 734-744-2589.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

McManus

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Monday, March 16, 2009 • 7 p.m.

Madonna University • Kresge Hall

36600 Schoolcraft Road (I-96 and Levan)

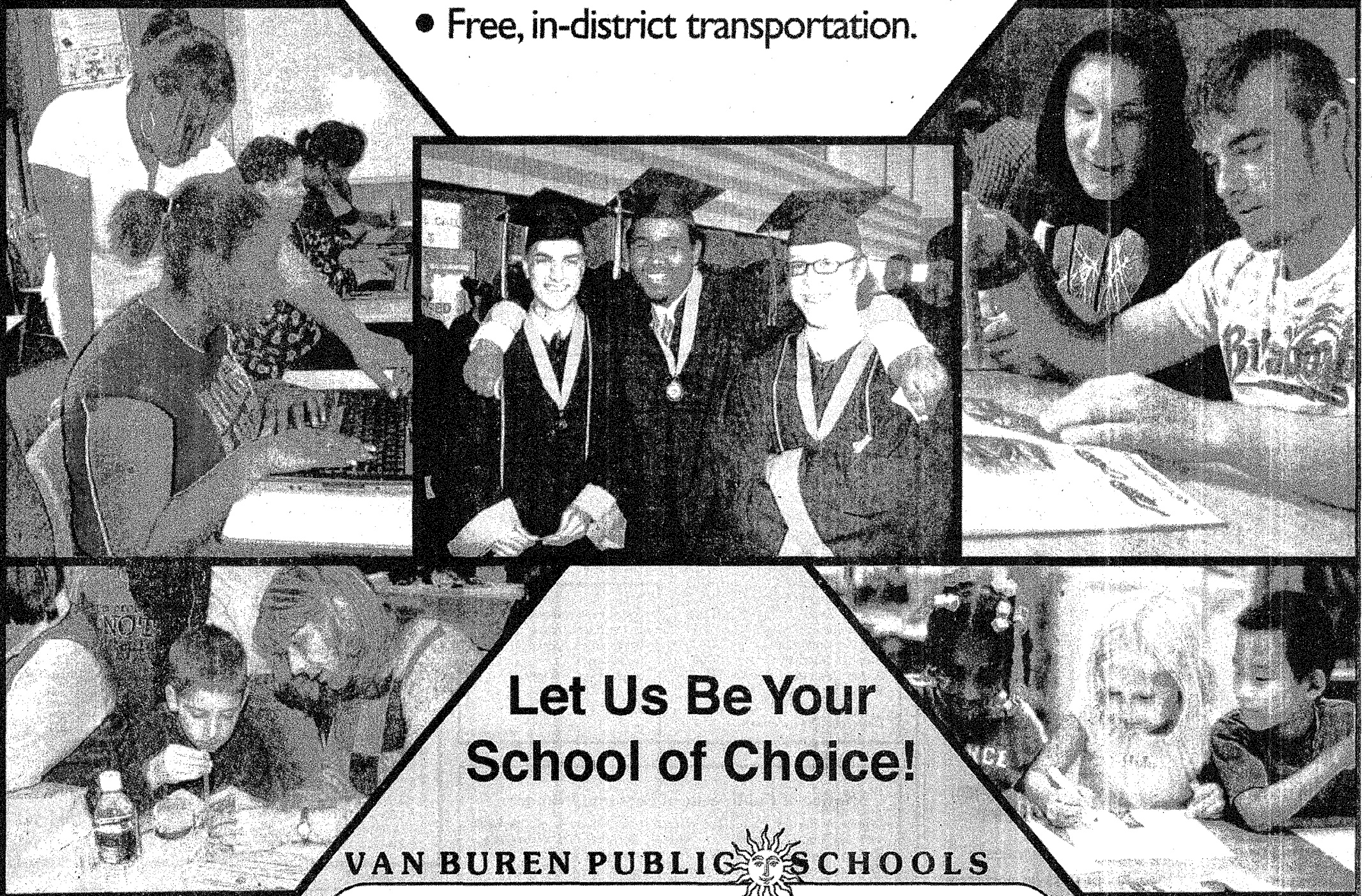
Free and open to the public • 734-432-5356




Now Accepting Kindergarten Students for Fall of 2009

Do you have a son/daughter who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2009, the eligible age to begin kindergarten next September? Why take the chance that your child's kindergarten education will be missing something? We at Van Buren Public Schools have provided a positive kindergarten experience since 1827. We understand that making the right choice for your child by selecting the correct kindergarten program can make all the difference. Van Buren Public Schools offer:

- All-day, everyday kindergarten in all of our elementary schools.
- A well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that emphasizes literacy, mathematics, science, and technology.
- A curriculum that encourages personal and social development.
- Art, music, and physical education opportunities for elementary students within Van Buren Public Schools.
- All Van Buren Public Schools are accredited by the North Central Association (NCA) and meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind legislation.
- Before and after school, latchkey, quality care program. (fee-based).
- Free, in-district transportation.



**Let Us Be Your
School of Choice!**

VAN BUREN PUBLIC  SCHOOLS



Today's Dedication . . . Tomorrow's Success

For more info, call Kathy at (734) 697-9123, ext. 209.



Jackson Tuttle, 2, and sister Ashley, 4, race around the Big Wheel Grand Prix course.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

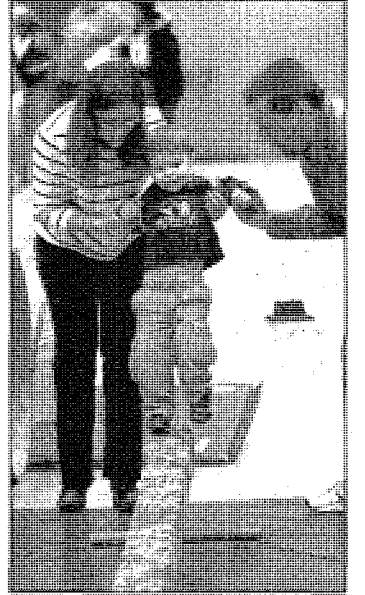
Preschoolers go for the gold at 'Olympics'

It was a toddler's dream come true. They rode their Big Wheels indoors, threw food on the floor and basically just had a grand old time doing those things they're told not to do, all the while the people who told them that were cheering them on.

Yep, it was the annual installment of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's Nursery School Olympics in which youngsters 18 months to 5 years of age get to go for the gold in events like the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles, Ring the Duck and Bucket Brigade.

Fifty youngsters showed their skills at 20 different stations at the Olympics. The Westland Fire Department had the youngsters douse a "fire" with buckets they filled with popcorn and peanuts. They knocked down the pins on Westland Bowl's portable bowling alley using the three-foot-wide ball used in power soccer at the Bailey Recreation Center.

"Station 1 ran the bucket brigade, we had four firefighters helping," said Margaret Martin, recreation program supervisor. "And all the kids got fire hats." The event is presents annually by the Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitans, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and Westland Jaycees. But help also came the Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 which provided prizes along with Jaycees and Dads Club. The UPS Store on Ford in



Benjamin Sussex tries the obstacle course, with a little help from his mom Shelly Sussex, and Bud Prough of the Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 which sponsored the course.

Westland also provided the popcorn and peanuts that filled the muslin hurdles for the I-Did-A-Rod.

Volunteers from the organizations, as well as St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, helped youngsters work their way through the Olympic course. The activities were noncompetitive and each child received a certificate of participation. While participation was down this year, Martin said the crowd had a good time. "We had 50 preschoolers running around," Martin added.

CHERRY HILL SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
2009-2010 OPEN ENROLLMENT

April 14-April 27, 2009
Applications available at, and must be submitted to,
Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts
28500 Avondale
Inkster, MI 48141
Lottery, if necessary,
May 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
at Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts
at above address

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Publish: March 15, 2009

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):
City Wide Portable Toilets

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan, 48185. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Kosowski, Parks & Recreation Director at (734) 467-3255. 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

ITB-WL08PR03
Publish: March 15, 2009
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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 3/31/2009 at: 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Mohammad Omar Malik	1096	chairs, grill, saw
Phillip Guerrero	1172	boxes, totes, tv
Linda Riley	1468	boxes, bags, mattress
Antonio Butler	1540	totes, bags, sofa
Tyrone Johnson	1548	boxes, dresser, desk
Wesley Parkey	2260	totes, boxes, mattress
Siriky Bamba	2336	boxes, totes, sofa
Dawn Taylor	2402	dresser, totes, boxes
Robert Jones	3004	bags, boxes
Tyrone Johnson	5012	vehicle - Truck Ford F150 VIN 1FTFEF15Y2TLC14113

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009
OE09649175_2x3

LIBERTY TAX SERVICE

2 Garden City Locations to Serve You:

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

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

- ★ Quality Income Tax Preparation Services
- ★ Loan on Refund in 1 Day or Less (in most cases)
- ★ Business Returns ★ Fast, Friendly & Accurate
- ★ Year Round Support ★ Free Electronic Filing
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OE0964887_2x3

Daion Johnson hops through the lily pads, while Danielle Pop waits for her turn with her mom, Maria Pop.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: January 18, 2009
OE09636190_2x2.5

ACADEMY OF INKSTER
2009-2010 OPEN ENROLLMENT

April 14-April 27, 2009

Applications available at, and must be submitted to,
Academy of Inkster
28612 Avondale
Inkster, MI 48141

Lottery, if necessary,
May 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
at Academy of Inkster
at above address

Publish: March 15, 2009
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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 3/31/2009 at: 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Keyanna Wafford	B048	tv, washer, bag
Charisse Pringle	B049	boxes, bike, tv
Dwain Puryear	B128	boxes, bags, totes
Tracy Walton	B151	tv, boxes, dryer
Nicola Adams	B352	boxes, bags, totes
Connie Volpe	C009	restaurant equipment
Ted Konesky	C013	boxes, bags, dresser
Maribel Calderon	C020	boxes, totes, luggage
Stephen Mitchell	C034	bags, toys, crib
Aaron Daniels	D030	bags, boxes, refrigerator
Sturge Moreland	F014	bike, dresser, boxes

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009
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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 3/31/2009 at: 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

James Hipshire	102	boxes, dresser, sofa
David Kaminski	136	bags, totes
Pro Line Building	143	boxes, bags, saw
Horace Jackson	201	bags, boxes, totes
Karrie Boudrie	346	boxes, bags, clothes
Ronald Worley III	506	boxes, bags, totes
Lawrence Kenny	514	boxes, totes, table
Michael A Santwire	532	sofa, boxes, vacuum
Adam Fockler	533	bags, totes, bike
Scott Murray	539	boxes, bags, washer
Rick Carlson	653	car - TEMPO - LIC - UNL Z85
Melanie Roberts	1039	boxes, bags, totes
John Jordan IV	1116	boxes, bags, totes

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009
OE09648176_2x3.5

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

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

TAKING A BETTER IMPRESSION

Some patients find the procedure of taking a traditional dental impression to be uncomfortable. It involves inserting a metal tray with plastic-like material into their mouths, which is used to make a negative impression of teeth, jaws, and gums. Once the impression hardens, it is filled with plaster of Paris or artificial stone to produce an exact model of the structures in the patient's mouth. More recently, advanced technology has provided a way for impressions to be created quickly and more comfortably. A chairside oral scanner (C.O.S.) utilizes a wand that is placed strategically in the patient's mouth, where it collects data that leads to the creation of a precise 3-D image, which is used to create models for restorations.

With the advent of computers, scanners, and other technological advances, we've come a long way from the early days of dentistry. Today, a good experience with dentistry is based on two things - choosing the right dentist whom you trust and who is up to date on the latest in dentistry, and taking the necessary steps to keep dental problems at bay through self-care at home between professional visits. At **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**, we work with you to maximize your oral health. **Please call 734-453-9413** for an appointment. We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

P.S. A chairside oral scanner creates an impression instantaneously by creating an image on a touch screen.

OE09645504

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OE09649176

ACADEMY OF WESTLAND
2009-2010 OPEN ENROLLMENT

APRIL 14-APRIL 27, 2009

Applications available at, and must be submitted to,
Academy of Westland
300 Henry Ruff Rd.
Westland, MI 48186

Lottery, if necessary,
May 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
at Academy of Westland
at above address

Publish: March 15, 2009
OE0964887_2x2.5



Enjoying the french fries before trying the fish was two-year-old Carter Fox of Garden City.



Felice Summers, 97, (left) has been attending the St. Raphael fish fry with her friend Delphine Sears, 85, since the fish fry started over 20 years ago.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fish fry regulars don't wait for dessert

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is plenty of fish and shrimp for dinner at St. Raphael Catholic Church's weekly Lenten fish fries but regulars know you have to act quickly to get your dessert.

"You get the cheese cake when you get here, she only makes five," said Delphine Sears, who was second in line when the doors opened.

"I pay for the cheesecake when I first come in," said Felice Summers, 97, who comes for the weekly dinner with Sears. "The fish is very good."

"We love shrimp and fish," added Sears, a 53-year member of the St. Raphael parish. "We've come every Friday since the first

fish fry."

The women, both Garden City residents, have visited other churches for fish fries but prefer the dinner at St. Raphael. Along with the food, the women enjoy the atmosphere at the weekly dinners.

"I know an awful lot of people. My children went to school here, so I know a lot of the parents," Sears said.

Three weeks after Summers had moved to Garden City from Detroit, her husband died.

"I looked for a place to settle. I went to different churches. The first Sunday I was here a couple of people tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to breakfast," Sommers said. "This is a real friendly place."

Although she isn't a member

of the parish, Dorothy Maddox doesn't miss the Lenten fish fries.

"I come every week with or without anybody else," said Maddox, who had been right behind Sears and Summers in line and also had her pieces of cheesecake. "I've been coming for 10 years. I always get the same thing — fish and mashed potatoes — it's to die for."

Sitting with Maddox was former mayor Jaylee Lynch, a teacher at St. Raphael for many years and currently principal of St. Mary Catholic School in Wayne.

"When I worked here, I would tell people that I don't like fish so I didn't come to the fish fry," Lynch said. "They said give it a try — it's the best fish around. I've been coming for 10 years. I

don't know if it's magic seasoning. It always comes out perfectly moist and a nice portion. It's very tasty and that's all that is important for me."

On a recent Friday, the volunteers cooks and servers dished up about 630 dinners — fish, shrimp or a combination with fries or mashed potatoes, cole slaw and roll.

"I've been working on the fish fry for years, I don't keep track how many years," said Dolores Cesarz, who was filling orders for shrimp and french fries. "We cover for each other. It's a nice group of people. We always have fun."

At St. Raphael, the fish fry is open from 4:30-7 p.m. or until the fish is sold out Fridays throughout Lent. On Good

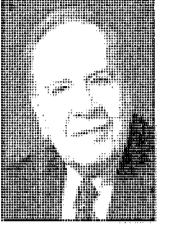
Friday, the doors open at 3 p.m. In addition to fish, shrimp and combination dinners are offered along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include choice of potato, cole slaw, roll and butter, coffee, hot tea or milk. Carry-out orders are available.

St. Raphael is located on Merriman two blocks north of Ford.

Fish aficionados can also stop by the Lenten fish fries at St. Dunstan Catholic Church from 4-7 p.m. each week until Good Friday when the doors open at 3 p.m. There are shrimp and combination dinners available along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include potato, cole slaw and roll. St. Dunstan is on Belton south of Ford, just west of Inkster Road.

Property auctions held in September, October

Each week, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will be using this column as a regular forum to inform you about the tax process and to answer the questions most frequently asked about property taxes.



Ask the Treasurer

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.

Raymond Wojtowicz

Q: When are property auctions held?

A: September and October of the year foreclosed. Properties are offered for a minimum bid that consists of all delinquent taxes, penalties and interest. Properties not sold at the September auction are then offered at our October auction. Successful bidders will receive a Quit Claim deed to the property.

Q: Can I make partial payments?

A: Partial payments will be accepted. You can send in whatever amount you wish to be applied to your taxes. In return, you will receive a paid tax statement reflecting the amount paid as well as the balance due amount each time you make a payment. Partial payments can be made in person, by mail, and also online.

Q: What if I simply do not have the ability to pay my taxes?

A: There may be a couple of options you can use, either call your local Family Independence Agency for assistance: (313) 456-1000, or request a hardship application by calling: (313) 224-6105.

If you have any questions or issues related to delinquent property taxes in Wayne County, please call our Taxpayer Assistance Department at 313-224-6105.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mom to Mom
Spaces are still available for a Mom-to-Mom Sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saturday, March 21, Lathers

Elementary School, 28351 Marquette, Garden City. Admission is \$1. The sale is sponsored by Lathers Elementary PTA. Rent is \$20 for an 8-foot space. People interested in renting a space can call Dawn at 73 513-8767 or by e-mail at dwn-signorelli@yahoo.com to get a contract to sign and return with payment.

Card Party
St. Sebastian Catholic Church's St. Anne Altar Society will hold a Spring Card Party 2-5 p.m.

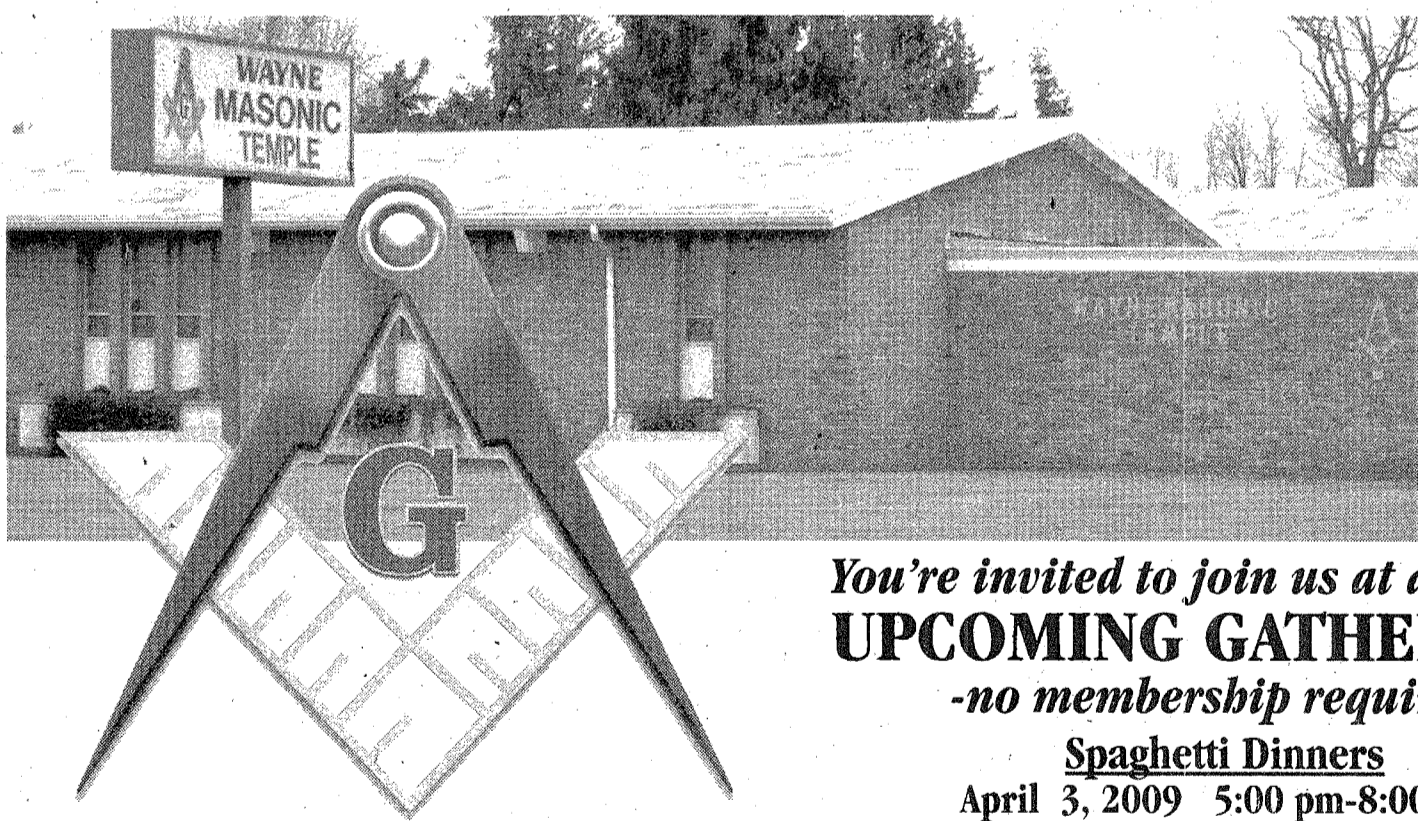
Sunday, March 22, in the St. Sebastian Activity Center, 20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. There will be door prizes, raffles and much more.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$75 now through June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and

other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

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

WAYNE MASONIC LODGE #112 Celebrating 150 Years Of Service To The Community In 2009



You're invited to join us at any of the **UPCOMING GATHERINGS** -no membership required.

Spaghetti Dinners

April 3, 2009 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
June 19, 2009 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Pancake Breakfast

March 29, 2009 8:30 am-1:00 pm
April 26, 2009 8:30 am-1:00 pm
May 17, 2009 8:30 am- 1:00 pm

Charity Poker Game

April 15, 16, 17, & 18 Watch for Details

Ladies Tea

May 2, 2009 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Masons. Live better.™

What are Masons?

The Masons are a non profit voluntary association of men who believe in a system of moral conduct as a way of life. It is a fraternal society which is religious in its character, yet does not care what your individual faith is. Masons pursue excellence and seek to make good men better teaching morality. Masons fulfill this mission through charitable philanthropic duties to the people and communities they reside in. Masonry is not a forum for discussion of religion, politics or partisan affairs, seeks no advantages for its members and is not a secret society concealing its purpose.

Some of the Local and Statewide projects we sponsor are:

- Michigan Child ID/Program
- Beacon Reading Project Volunteer Readers
- Scholarships/Student Assistance
- Pathways Senior Living Facility & Youth groups

Our Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay for Boys youth groups provide guidance and instill knowledge, inspire community involvement and encourage self improvement in today's youth.

Use this coupon for **\$2.00 OFF ANY SPAGHETTI DINNER** (Includes salad, roll & beverage for \$6.00) No limit • Bring the whole family!

Contact us today to be a part of our great mission... **734.721.7950**

Do you...

...look for more in life than just financial success?

...believe that a man has a responsibility to act with honor in everything he does?

...believe in God and allowing others to believe in "their" God?

...believe you have a responsibility to leave the world a better place than you found it?

...believe it is better to give than receive and show a willingness to help your neighbors?

...strive to be a good citizen and feel a moral duty to be true to the nation we live in?

...believe men should show compassion and goodness of heart toward human values and strive to lead a brotherly life?

If you answered yes-you should consider becoming a Mason!

Dine with yoga stars of metro Detroit

Dining with the Stars sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* takes a special twist this month. The winner will dine with the yoga stars of metro Detroit.

The group includes Katherine Lucas, founder of Karma Yoga, Inc.; Sara Davidson, ERYT-500; Aaron E. Fenton (ASHTANGA) Yoga Room; and Linda Kay of Yoga Shelter.

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have lunch with yoga stars at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 31.

The contest winner will be treated to a limo ride from Class



MONNI MUST

Pictured are Matthew Darling (right back), Sara Davidson (middle front), Katherine Lucas (front), Buddy's owner and student, Robert Jacobs (center); Linda Kay (back left) and Aaron Fenton (left). Davidson, Lucas and Kay are participating in this month's Dining with the Stars contest.

Plus Limo, a makeover courtesy of Christine from the Beauty Salon in Birmingham, a \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Robert Jacobs, owner of Buddy's Pizza and an 18-year student of yoga, says the yoga com-

munity played a major role in his recovery from Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare autoimmune disease which attacks the body's nerves. He used yoga to heal and was supported by the yoga community. His quest for health has expanded into his own business. He created a healthy nine multi-grain pizza which will be served at the yoga stars lunch.

McCotter seeks artwork for annual competition

U.S. Rep Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, has put out the call for artwork from high school students in his 11th Congressional District for "An Artistic Discovery," the 2009 Congressional art competition.

"Our community's students should showcase their talents in the fine arts by submitting their inspired works," said McCotter. "We get a lot of good work, all area original concepts, designs and executions."

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, more than 650,000 high school students have been involved in the nationwide competition. The Artistic Discovery

Contest is open to all high school students, but only those in Michigan's 11th District can be eligible for submission through McCotter's office. The over-all winner of each district will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.

"Not everyone excels in sports," said McCotter. "This is a way to let students who excel in other things have a chance to find glory."

The competition is for students in grades 9-12. The works must be two-dimensional and have a maximum size of 4 inches deep and 30 by 30 inches with matting. The entries can be paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer graphics or photography.

The artwork will be on display Friday-Sunday, April 16-19, in the Parisian Court of Laurel Park Place at Six Mile

and Newburgh in Livonia. The reception and award ceremony will be 1:30-2:30 p.m. April 19. The awards will include best of show and three awards of merit. The Best of Show artwork will be sent Washington, D.C., to be displayed, with other congressional district winners, in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol for one year. The merit winners' work will hang in McCotter's offices in Washington, D.C., Livonia and Milford.

The deadline for submitting artwork is 4 p.m. Thursday, April 9. Guidelines can be found on McCotter's Web site at www.mccotter.house.gov, by e-mailing lori.obrady@mail.house.gov or by contacting the Livonia district offices at (734) 632-0314 or the Milford office at (248) 685-9495.

The art of massage

According to a study performed by Harstad Strategic Research, Inc., "81 percent of American adults feel as stressed (45 percent) or more stressed (36 percent) now than they did a year ago and are using a variety of strategies to cope." One such strategy is massage.

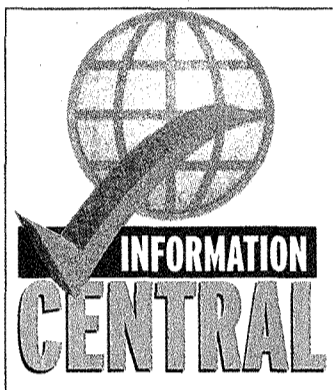
However, with even half hour massages starting at \$50 or more, not every one can afford this indulgence in today's economy. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland would like to offer a do it yourself solution: Why not learn the art of massage for yourself? You can learn self massage with a book like "Healing Self-Massage: Over 100 Simple Techniques for Re-energizing Your Body and Mind" by Kristine Weber. Or make it a date night with the DVD, "Massage Practice for Couples."

If you really want to become an expert, you can learn about different kinds of massage, including massage for babies or animals. Some books to consider include "Baby Massage and Yoga" by Anita Epple and Pauline Carpenter, "Dog Massage: A Whiskers to Tail Guide to Your Dog's Ultimate Massage" by Maryjean Ballner, or the video, "Your Cat Wants a Massage!"

If after practicing on your baby, husband or wife, and family pet, you decide you have found your calling, you can even find a book like "Massage: A Career at Your Fingertips: Your Complete Guide to Becoming a Bodywork Professional" by Martin Ashley. How fun would it be if your attempt to save money turned into a new career?

For these books or help finding more information on this topic, visit the William P. Faust Public Library or call us at (734) 326-6123.

Highlighted Activities



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

Join us as we discuss "Look Me in the Eye" by John Elder Robison. It was not until later in life, when John Elder Robison was 40, that he was correctly diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and so spent much of his life being misunderstood. He tells how from a young age he could not communicate with others. When he failed junior high school, he was encouraged by teachers to fix the broken audiovisual equipment and thus discovered the effects the machines had on him. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

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

This month, we're reading Jonathan Lethem's "Motherless Brooklyn." Lionel Essrog, a detective suffering from Tourette's syndrome, spins the narrative as he tracks down the killer of his boss, Frank Minna. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

Open Mic: 6:30 p.m., March 19, teens and adults.

Need a spot to let your muse run

wild, coffee shop-style? Join other local artists at this after hours event as they read, rap, sing, act, dance and soliloquy for the betterment of your senses.

Poets, writers, musicians and performers encouraged to show us what you've got! Singer-songwriter Dave Boutette emcees. All audience members welcome. This is an after hours event.

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

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.

Information Central was compiled by Bridget Sturdy, young adult librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 3/31/2009 at: 11:00 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Mark Hendrix	2069	dresser, truck cap, boxes
Nancyanne Hill	3009	tv, boxes, totes
Ebony Moore	3037	totes, washer, dryer
Erma Austin	3042	boxes, dresser, chair
Ken Beck	3084	boxes, chair, dresser
Brian Kniffin	3091	sofa, love-seat, dresser
Justin Proch	4027	boxes, bags, totes
Patrick Knight	4043	boxes, bags, totes
Antoine Murry	4051	speakers, boxes, totes
Sharrie Gardner	4058	tv, boxes, bags
Edwin Omev	5003	snow blower, boxes, dresser
Joy Lynn	5016	totes, stove, bags
Melissa Fonseca	5028	boxes, bags, totes
Michele Moore	5059	bags, tv, totes
Marla Parker	5068	ac unit, boxes, bags
George Bojarski	5106	boxes, bikes, stove
Tracie Breuer	6037	boxes, bags, tv
Michael Shepherd	6049	tires, boxes, totes
Ron Bemby	6085	boxes, bags
Nancy Emmons	6091	totes, bags, vacuum
Rosemarie Schafer	6093	boxes, totes, dresser
Steven Williams	6107	boxes, bags, mattress
Jeffrey Stonecipher	7082	totes, dresser, boxes
Brian Murphy	7118	totes, tool box, boxes
Joseph Lanzilotti	9028	mattress, box-spring, boxes

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009

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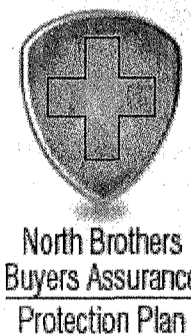
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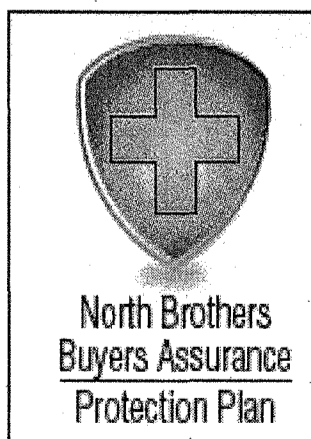
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HOMETOWN LIFE

No Mercy: Franklin girls storm into quarterfinals

Calihan Hall next for Pats

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the best kept secrets is out of the bag.

This Livonia Franklin girls basketball team is going where no other has gone before — the state Class A quarterfinals.

The Patriots captured their first regional championship in school history with a convincing 49-31 triumph Thursday night over Farmington Hills Mercy in the finals at Milford.

Franklin, 22-3 overall, advances to the Elite Eight round beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall. The opponent will be unbeaten Temperance Bedford (25-0), which advanced with a 53-34 regional win over Romulus.

"I'm in disbelief, we're one of the top eight in the state — how do you absorb that?" Franklin second-year coach Dave McCall asked. "It really hasn't sunk in."

Mercy (16-9) came in on a hot streak, winning eight of its last nine. But the Marlins' full-court press, effective during its tournament run, was shredded by the Patriots in the first half.

Franklin, making its first regional finals appearance since 1993, shot 13-of-27 from the floor and led 16-5 after one quarter and 31-11 at halftime.

"Coach (McCall) showed us how to break it and had us ready," said Franklin senior guard Briana Taylor, who had 12 of her game-high 15 points during the first half. "After the first surge I think they (Mercy) were second-guessing their passes. They were wondering whether to dribble or drive. Defensively, we knew we had to pressure and pressure them, and we got turnovers."

Mercy had difficulty solving Franklin's 2-3 zone defense, shooting only 3-of-21 in the first half while committing 14 turnovers.

"The top people in our zone anticipated well," said Franklin senior forward Brittany Taylor, who added 12 points. "Chelsea Williams got some deflections and we were able to break their offense down."

Williams, a sophomore guard, contributed 11 points and helped disrupt the Marlins' three-point shooting attack along with 5-foot-1 sophomore guard Nicole Emery.

"I think one of the things that impressed me about them was that their transition game beat us down the floor for easy baskets," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "We did not score early and they did a good job of handling our pressure. They are the best team to do that throughout the tournament."

The Marlins hit their only two triples in the third quarter, but still trailed 43-31 as Briana Taylor nailed a three with 1:21 remaining to give Franklin a 12-10 scoring edge in the period.

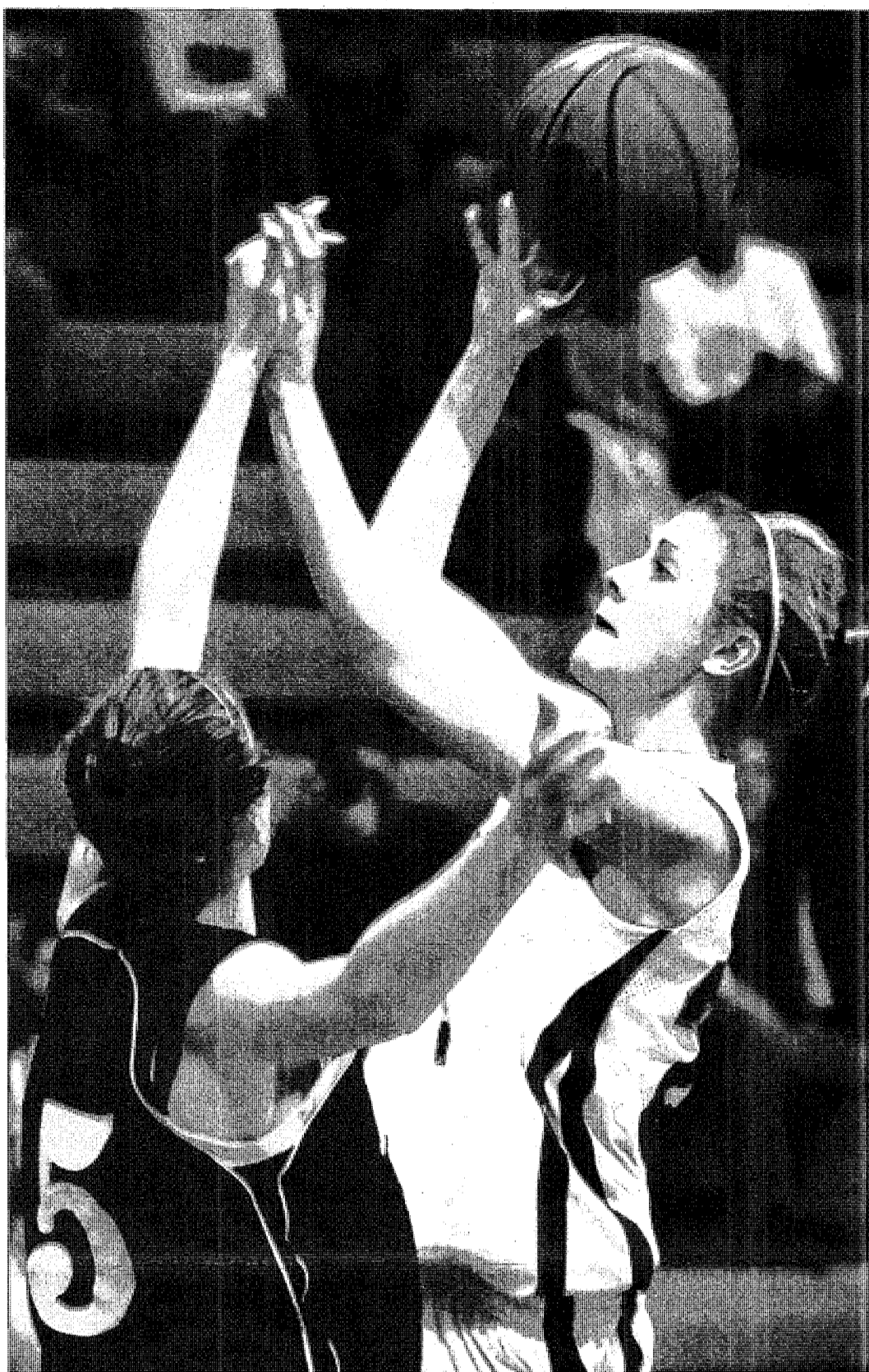
"We worked on it, focused on it and knew they'd come with it," McCall said of Mercy's full-court press. "Both Emery and Williams had to be active in our press-break, and they were."

Franklin then took their biggest lead of the game, 47-22, on a Williams basket with 4:00 to go. The Patriots then cruised home and began their celebration.

"Chelsea's a 15-year-old sophomore who has really matured for us the last five games," McCall said. "She's realized you've got to play tough and you've got to play hard."

Jordan Mueller, Mercy's 5-foot-6 senior guard, had a team-high seven points before fouling out late in the game. The Marlins shot just 7-of-37 from the floor (just under 19

Please see **FRANKLIN, B2**



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Chelsea Williams rises up for the shot attempt over Mercy defender Abbey Lovat during Thursday's Class A regional girls basketball final at Milford. The Patriots won handily, 49-31, to move into Tuesday's state quarterfinal.

GAME WRAPS

Class D boys hoops

PCA 60, HURON VALLEY 47: Justin Govan scored 12 points and Spencer Wiard contributed 10 Friday to spark host Plymouth Christian Academy (12-11) to the Class D district boys basketball crown over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (15-8).

Huron Valley's Aaron Howell led all scorers with 20 points, while Chad Fielek contributed 10 for the Hawks.

District semifinals

PCA 70, LUTH. WESTLAND 68 (2 OTS): Brett Zinn scored a game-high 25 points and Justin Govan added 22 Wednesday to propel host Plymouth Christian Academy (11-11) to a double-overtime victory over Lutheran High Westland (11-8).

The Warriors had three players score in double figures led by Ryan Rakovalis, who finished with 14.

Sam Ahlersmeyer and Austin Baglow added 13 and 10, respectively.

HURON VALLEY 68, WESTSIDE 54: Aaron Howell pumped in 23 points Wednesday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (15-7) rolled past Detroit Westside Christian (1-12) in the Class D district semifinal at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Bryan Gruenewald and Chad Fielek added 15 and 10, respectively, for the victorious Hawks.

Dwayne Denham led the Warriors with 19 points, while Jalen Johnson added 14.

Class B district

CLARENCEVILLE 87, HAMTRAC 60: On Wednesday, host Livonia Clarenceville (15-7) advanced to the Class B district finals with Wednesday's semifinal win over fellow Metro Conference foe Hamtramck (5-14).

The Trojans were paced by Jamie Stewart (21 points, 10 rebounds) and Corey Reynolds (18 points, 14 rebounds).

But Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry cited the play of both Josh Robinson and Matt Garant, who combined for 16 points (eight each).

"Josh and Matt really gave us a big spark off the bench tonight," McKendry said.

Anthony Mrecaj led the Cosmos with 13 points.

Class A districts

ROMULUS 56, JOHN GLENN 35: DeAndray Buckley and Derek Kinney each tallied 10 points Wednesday as the state-ranked Eagles (17-5) posted a Class A district semifinal victory over Westland John Glenn (10-11) at Wayne Memorial.

Marquise Graves and Austin Anderson each scored 10 for the Rockets, who shot only 12-of-22 from the foul line.

Romulus, which jumped out to a 15-4 first-quarter lead, was 6-of-7 from free throw stripe.

BELLEVILLE 62, GARDEN CITY 26: In Class A district semifinal Wednesday at Wayne Memorial, it was no contest as Belleville (18-3) stormed out to a 27-4 halftime lead and cruised to victory over their fellow Tigers (12-9).

Leading the way for the Tigers was Booker Stoudmire with 16 points and Vinnie Boyd with nine.

Senior forward Ronald Pummill scored nine points for the Cougars (12-9), who made just 10-of-48 field-goal attempts.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson seniors Kendal Snow (12), Brian Rowe (32) and Ricky Chrzasz celebrate with their teammates after receiving the Class A district championship trophy after edging rival Churchill, 53-51.

Stevenson fends off Churchill for district trophy

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson needed all of its ducks in a row to claim its second Class A boys basketball district title in three years.

Senior Brian Rowe came off the bench to score 15 points as the Spartans held off rival Livonia Churchill for the crown, 53-51, at Livonia

Franklin.

Stevenson, now 14-9 overall, moves into Monday's regional semifinal to face Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (18-5), which cruised past host Novi, 72-53. The Spartans and Shamrocks square off at 5:30 p.m. in the first game at White Lake Lakeland. The nightcap of the double-header features Hartland and Orchard Lake

St. Mary's.

Rowe, a 6-foot-1 forward, scored five points in the opening quarter to stake the Spartans to a 20-9 advantage. And in the final quarter he connected on a field goal and made 5-of-7 free throws to help stem a late Churchill rally. "Brian's instant offense for us if we're struggling," Stevenson coach Mike Allie

said. "He played poised tonight and made some big free throws like a senior should do."

"I've been working with him for four years and all he wants to do is get better. He deserved to hoist this district championship trophy Friday night."

Junior guard Bobby Naubert, the hero in

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

Livonia Blue girls state runner-up

Livonia Blue was rock-solid Friday in Rockford, earning a runner-up finish in the MHSAA girls gymnastics team finals.

Coach Lisa Fierk's squad, coming off a first-place showing March 7 at the Plymouth regional, placed second with a total of 147.375 points.

Grand Ledge repeated as state champion with an aggregate total of 150.85.

Rounding out the top 10 teams were: Farmington Unified, third, 147.275; Sturgis, fourth, 146.425; Troy Athens, fifth, 145.70; Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills, sixth, 145.475; Northville, seventh, 144.675; Canton, eighth, 142.225; Muskegon Mona Shores, ninth, 140.850; and Portage, 10th, 140.525.

Grand Ledge posted scores of 38.275 (vault), 36.800 (uneven parallel bars), 37.675 (balance beam) and 38.075 (floor exercise).

Livonia Blue's best efforts came on floor (37.925) and vault (37.650). The Kensington Lakes Activities Association champions posted scores of 36.550 and 35.250, respectively, on the uneven bars and beam.

Division 1 and 2 individual competition continued on Saturday in Rockford.

For the latest results, visit www.hometownlife.com

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

Wednesday's overtime win over Farmington, tallied 10 of his 12 points in the first half as Stevenson led 28-16.

"We felt like the kids were ready to play," Allie said. "We said this district was a war and this was battle number three of three battles. Coming out we shared and shot the ball well."

Churchill (10-12), meanwhile, was completely out of sync offensively during the first half shooting just 5-of-20 from the field.

"We're were really impatient, just working the perimeter," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We wanted to go inside and back outside, make them work on defense. We knew what Bobby (Naubert) could do and we let him do it."

The Chargers, however, reas-

serted themselves during third period, cutting the deficit to 37-32 as junior guard Tony Frezzell scored seven points, including a three-pointer as time expired.

Churchill chipped away in the final period behind the play of 6-6 junior forward Adam Bedell (16 points, 15 rebounds).

His two free throws with 1:21 remaining following Scott Senczysyn's triple trimmed the deficit to 50-49.

Rowe then made a pair of free throws with 44.7 seconds to go to push the Spartans' lead back up to three, 52-49.

Cameron Norscia's only basket of the night with 16.9 seconds to play made it 52-51 and Rowe was immediately fouled where he split a pair to with 14.7 seconds left to give Stevenson a two-point cushion.

Churchill, out of timeouts, rushed the ball up the floor. Ryan Woods (13 points) took a short jumper near the left

baseline and missed. Bedell grabbed the rebound in a melee of players, but his attempt didn't get over the rim as time expired.

"Ryan Woods was 10 feet from the basket and we had a putback — I'll take those odds any day," Solak said. "It just did not happen for us, but I'm proud of the way we came back. We really battled, but we dug too big a hole early."

Senczysyn added 10 points for the Chargers, who shot 19-of-49 from the field (38.7 percent) and 7-of-14 from the free throw line (50 percent).

Junior Jordan El-Sabeh and senior Ricky Chrzasz each contributed eight for the Spartans, who made 18-of-48 shots from the floor (37.5 percent) and 12-of-22 free throws (54.5 percent).

"The second half we were able to stop Naubert," Solak said. "But credit Rowe. He stepped up like seniors do and I thought (Jordan) El-Sabeh hit some big shots."

Allie was happy for his four seniors — Kendal Snow, Rowe, Chrzasz and Mark Grisa.

"We had the toughest draw of all six (district) teams, but we prevailed," Allie said. "I'm proud of the four seniors, and in my opinion, they'll go down as one of the best Stevenson teams in the last 20 years."

Stevenson now gets Catholic League A-B Division runner-up CC, guided by former Spartan coach Bill Dyer.

"I played for him, he's my mentor and teacher," Allie said. "It should be fun."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

3rd time's a charm: Chargers rout Pats

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS DISTRICT HOOPS

The state basketball tournament can infuse new life into a team.

That was the case Wednesday night as Livonia Churchill avenged a pair of regular season losses to beat host Livonia Franklin, 72-49, in a Class A district semifinal.

Churchill, now 10-11 overall, faces another rival in Livonia Stevenson (13-9) for the district crown, 7 p.m. Friday at Franklin.

"We lost on this floor a couple of weeks ago and we said, 'Let's get back and make some noise in the state tournament,'" Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "The kids really responded."

The Chargers bolted out to a 13-0 lead before the Patriots could respond on a Hudson Cadet dunk with 2:10 left in the first period. Churchill led 20-6 after eight minutes before Franklin cut the deficit to 22-17 with 2:30 left in the first half.

The Patriots then received a technical for having too many players on the floor and never got closer the rest

of the way as the Chargers' leading scorer, senior guard Ryan Woods, split a pair of free throws.

After leading 29-20 at intermission, Churchill came out and made its first five shots of the third period, highlighted by a pair of dunks from 6-foot-7 Cameron Norscia, to build a 15-point advantage.

"We put in a couple of changes offensively because the first two times we played them (Franklin) we struggled to score," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They really executed. We had to get them out of their zone because they really run it well."

Several players contributed to the win as the Chargers shot an even 50 percent from the floor (29-of-58).

Woods finished with 16 points and four assists, while senior guard Scott Senczysyn added 15 points. Tony Frezzell chipped in with 13 points and four assists, while 6-6 junior Adam Bedell had seven points and 20 rebounds. Norscia had eight points.

"We were also very unself-

ish and that was a huge key tonight," Solak said. "We had four players with at least two or more assists. And the guys really finished. The seniors stepped up."

The Patriots, by contrast, shot 40 percent from the field (22-of-55). Franklin's two seniors, Jeff Poole and Connor Leidal, scored 19 and 12, respectively.

"I told Coach Solak after the game they exposed a lot of our weaknesses," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team bowed out at 8-14 overall. "It's not that they hit 'threes,' it was his defense which got us out of our zone and it forced us to shoot outside. And we shoot poorly from outside."

"They took away our going to the rim, which is what we do best. Then we had to go to a man-to-man defense, which we're not good at. They had so many energy and they played one of their best games."

Churchill, ironically, beat Stevenson, 65-58, on Dec. 12. "Stevenson is playing really well right now and the kids are looking forward to it," Solak said.

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FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE B1

percent). "We had trouble getting into our offense against their extended 2-3 zone," Morris said. "Then we'd shoot and miss. They pushed it and got out on the break."

"Franklin's efficiency on offense and their ability to push the ball were two of the keys. And we picked a bad time to have a bad game. Franklin tonight was the better team."

It marked the final game for four Mercy seniors including Mueller, Bridget Hickey, Marion Rodriguez and Danica Verderbar.

"We started 6-0," Morris said. "Then lost seven-of-nine, went 1-7 in our division and lost some tough games and had some tough times. But the coaches never gave up on the players and the players didn't give up on each other or the coaches. We came back to win eight-of-nine and win a district and be in the regional finals. I'm very proud of the kids."

Franklin, meanwhile, survived a tough second-round district test against rival Livonia Churchill and now is one win away from the Final Four.

"We were 15 points down in the Churchill game and it was a maturing game for our team," McCall said. "We learned you just can't show up and that you've got to play your butts off from the opening tip to the end of the game. And I think what helped us is that we played in one of the strongest leagues (the Kensington Lakes) against teams like Canton, Salem and

Brighton." McCall hopes the Patriots will have a bigger following for Tuesday's quarterfinal at Calihan Hall against Bedford than they did at the Milford regional.

"It would be nice if we have fan support," he said. "It would be good to have a student body instead of just parents and relatives."

Brittany Taylor echoed McCall's sentiments. "Get the word out," the 5-9 senior said.

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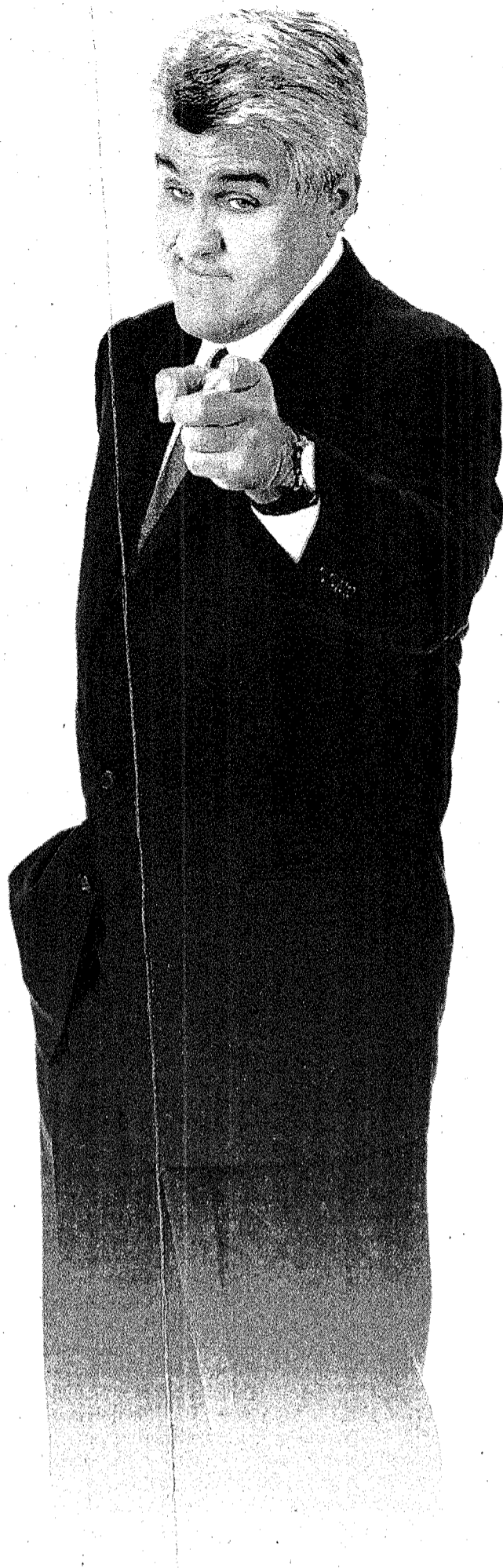
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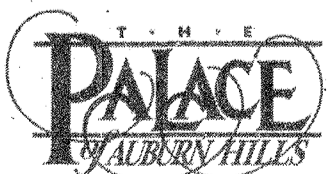
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Oak Park Academy too much for C'ville in 'B' district final

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Home cooking tasted good for the early going Friday night at Livonia Clarenceville.

But after breaking out a 9-1 lead and staying in front until midway during the second quarter, the Trojans hit a brick wall against Ferndale Academy of Oak Park Mendota in the Class B boys basketball district final.

The visiting Rams roared back to lead 37-35 at halftime and outscored the Trojans 42-26 after intermission for an impressive 79-61 victory - advancing them to the Beverly Hills Detroit Country-Day-hosted regional.

"With them, they're just so relentless," said Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry, whose Metro Conference champions finished with a 15-8 record. "We prepared for this and I think it showed. We came out early and did a great job breaking it (Rams' pressure). But as we started to get tired we kind of lost focus of what we needed to do to get the job done."

McKendry added that Academy of Oak Park (15-7) with its size and speed, taught the Trojans a thing or two about finishing the job.

"We started to try to do too much on our own," he noted. "If you don't play 32 minutes of basketball, they will really make you pay, because they score points in a hurry."

According to Rams' coach Bobby Thompson, whose team captured its first district, he calmed his players

down after Clarenceville's early spurt.

"We were too anxious, I just told them to relax," he said.

The Trojans, however, still seemed in the driver's seat toward winning a district for the first time since 2006.

It was 20-13 after the first, with an attack featuring seven points from senior forward Jeremy Gainer (he finished with seven points and 10 rebounds) and six from senior guard Jamie Stewart (18 points, 10 rebounds).

But Academy of Oak Park caught fire shortly after Trojans' senior guard Darryl Whitaker (six points) nailed a triple from the right flank to make it 25-17 with six minutes left in the half.

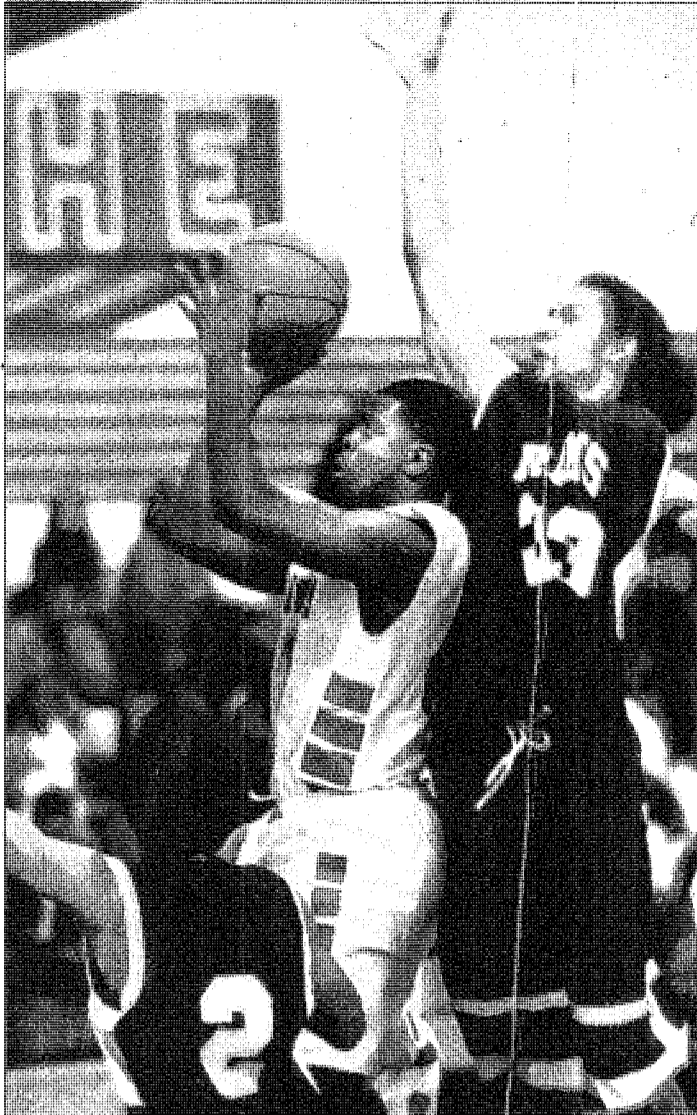
In particular it was the shooting of junior wing guard Kendrick Ward (18 points, eight assists), who connected on three triples in less than two minutes to deadlock the game at 30-30.

The Rams were up 37-33 just before the horn, but Stewart sliced the lead to a deuce at the break. He stole the ball at midcourt and took it in for the dunk.

It was all Rams in the second half, however, thanks to the combination of pressure defense and shadowing Stewart (three points in the final two frames) and others.

"We talked about it, but when you see that kind of pressure, it's hard," McKendry said. "They're a very good team, they're one of the best pressing teams I've coached against."

"And their length really gave us problems at the basket. We were getting to the basket, but we weren't finishing like we normally do because they're up above the rim as much as we are."



BILL BRUESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarenceville's Nathan Clark shoots between Academy of Oak Park defenders Dennis Mason (33) and Denzell Grace (2) in Friday's Class B district final.

ishing like we normally do because they're up above the rim as much as we are."

One Clarenceville player who almost single-handedly brought the Trojans back to life was senior guard Nathan Clark, who tallied 25 points and four steals.

Clark's trey at the end of the third made it a 53-45 Rams' lead and he drove through the lane for a layup to open the fourth, making it a six-point difference.

But just like that, the Rams went on an 8-0 run to make it 61-47 to pretty much finish off Clarenceville.

"Nathan Clark is a great player," McKendry said. "Just because we have Jamie he kind of gets overlooked."

"But he showed tonight that he's as good as advertised. He can score, he was

our emotional guy out there tonight trying to hold us together."

Also in double figures for Academy of Oak Park were 6-4 junior forward Demetrius Abner (14 points, 16 rebounds), 6-5 senior forward Dennis Mason (12 points, 14 boards) and senior Martell Briscoe (11 points). Collecting six points and eight steals was junior point guard Denzell Grace.

"They're a really good team, we prepared hard for them," Gainer said. "At the beginning of the season, we knew it would come down to the situation of us playing them. It came down at the end to who made more plays and who was able to keep the ball longer."

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2323

Clutch shot Naubert's 'trey' saves Spartans vs. Farmington

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a reason it's called March Madness.

Livonia Franklin's district boys basketball semifinal Wednesday night between Livonia Stevenson and Farmington was certainly Exhibit A.

Stevenson, after squandering a 10-point lead midway through the final quarter, needed a desperation three-pointer from junior guard Bobby Naubert at the buzzer to force overtime and the Spartans regained their composure en route to a 62-54 triumph.

"The kids have worked hard all season and deserve to play in the district championship on Friday night," said Stevenson coach Mike Allie, whose team improved to 13-9 overall.

Using a full-court press, Farmington (10-10) rallied in the final period with a 20-14 run after shooting a woeful 34 percent (10-of-29) from the floor through three quarters.

Jason Wilson's short bank shot in lane with only 41.7 seconds left in regulation gave the Falcons its first lead since the opener quarter, 42-41. Darrin Jackson followed with another basket with only 15.8 seconds to go to give Farmington a three-point cushion, 44-41.

Stevenson missed three different attempts in the waning seconds only to get a timeout with 1.2 seconds remaining and the ball out-of-bounds.

Junior Austin White, inbounding the ball just to the side of his own basket, found the Naubert across the baseline with a pass into the deep corner. The lefty caught it, took a step back beyond the three-point stripe, and swished it to send the game into OT.

"The play was to get the ball to Brian Rowe around off a double pick," said Naubert, who finished with a game-high

17 points. "He did not get open so... Austin got the ball to me as soon as possible. I just let it go. It felt good the whole way through. I thought it was going in. We were trying to get the 'three.' It's the first time I've ever done that."

Stevenson then outscored the Falcons 18-10 in the four-minute as junior forward Jordan El-Sabeh scored seven of his 16 points. Rowe, a senior guard, chipped in with 13 on the night.

Charles Anthony and Eugene Jackson each scored 12 to lead Farmington. Wilson added 10, while Andrea Tillman scored eight.

The Falcons trailed 24-14 at halftime and 30-24 after three quarters.

"The two keys were that we were outscored at the free throw line - they were 20-of-30 and we were 10-of-16," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said. "We also did not shoot free throws in the first half. We settled for jump shots. They had too many dribble-drive layups and we let them split us. We did not cut them off and they had way too many offensive rebounds the first half."

Farmington appeared dead when Stevenson went up 38-28 with only 4:24 left on Naubert's hoop before rallying with a 16-6 run.

"We showed a lot of heart and made some plays," Norgrove said.

But if there was a play the Falcons would like to have back, it was Naubert's game-tying shot at the end of regulation.

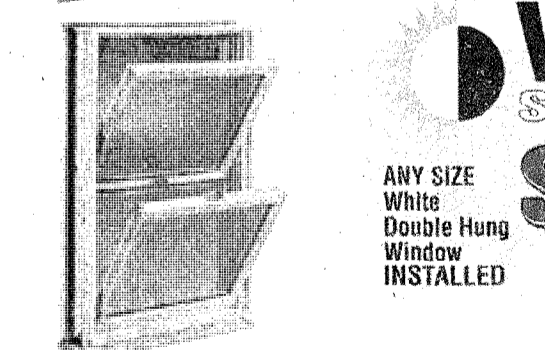
"We knew (Stevenson) just had enough time to catch and shoot it," Norgrove said. "We wanted all five of our guys around the three-point line - and stay there. But they cut a guy in and one of our guys bit down. We should have let him stay. We did not want to let their perimeter players touch the ball. It was disappointing to let him touch the ball, but he (Naubert) hit a tough shot."

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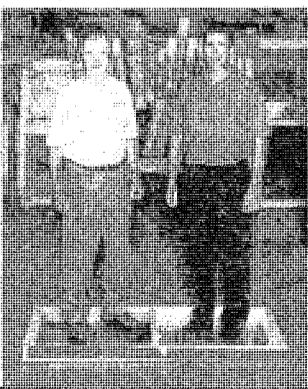
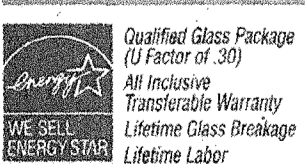
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Tigers' triples sink Wayne, 77-48

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne Memorial started its boys basketball season on Dec. 9 with a 70-64 loss at Belleville.

And the Zebras ended their 2008-09 campaign with a 77-48 setback March 9 at home to the same Tigers in the opening round of the Class A district tournament.

Vinnie Boyd scored a team-high 19 points, including four 3-pointers in the first quarter, to catapult visiting Belleville, which improved to 17-3 overall.

The Tigers shot a blistering 57 percent from the field (31-of-54) as Boyd, a 6-foot senior guard, had plenty of help as Belleville nailed a total of 10 triples on the night.

Senior guards Booker Stoudmire and Kourea Hayes added 15 and 11 points, respectively, while 6-7 junior center Mohamed Conde contributed eight.

"The same kid (Boyd) hurt us last year early on," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "And he scored 19 against us last year."

Wayne, which finished its season 14-7 overall, stayed close

for nearly 11 minutes.

Joe Barton's triple with 6:39 left in the half pulled the Zebras to within two, 21-19, but Belleville went on a 15-4 run to lead 36-23 at intermission.

The Tigers, who connected on eight first-half triples, then broke it open with a 20-7 third-period surge by hitting 10-of-16 shots from the floor.

"We've guys who can shoot it," Belleville coach Don Hickman said. "I'm not sure if we've ever had 10 (three-pointers). If it's not a season-high, then it's right there. And after they (Wayne) went to a zone (defense), we hit some 'threes.' And I think that took it out of them."

Junior center Daniel Hill led Wayne with 19 points, while junior forward Derric Horton contributed 12.

Belleville put the clamps on the Zebras' leading scorer Robert Woodson, a senior point-guard who finished with only five points.

Woodson had 25 in the first meeting.

"Not to make excuses, but Woodson turned his ankle (last week)," Woodard said. "But he was O.K."

"Conde (Mohamed) got 21

the last time and I thought Hill played him to a stalemate. But Stoudmire and Boyd got 27 (points) in the first half, which is way too many."

Hickman was also pleased with his team's execution on the offensive end.

"Any time you turn it over you're going to lose, but if you turn the ball over at this time of year you're going home," the Belleville coach said. "I'm proud of the way we took care of the basketball."

Belleville's defensive game plan was the limit Woodson's drives to the basket.

"They like to spread it out and shoot 'threes,'" Hickman said. "We wanted no drives and kick-outs, especially by Woodson. We wanted them to put the ball first on the floor and shoot it."

By comparison, Wayne shot 19-of-52 from the floor (36.5 percent). It was just not the Zebras' night. But of course, Belleville had a lot to do with it.

"They're a good team," Woodard said. "We would have had to play our best to beat them. They beat Saginaw - come' on."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

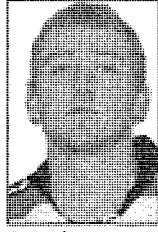
Swenders lifts Cards

Joe Swenders III, a 2005 Livonia Churchill High graduate, had an assist on the game-winning goal in the third period to help Saginaw Valley State defeat Florida Coastal University, 3-2, in the American College Hockey Association's Men's Division III finals held March 7 at the ISL Sports Centre in Rochester, N.Y.

The national tournament featured a total of 132 teams.

The Cardinals, who finished 27-6 overall, also defeated Grand Valley State (2-1), Northern Arizona (7-2) and the University of Florida (8-2) en route to the title.

The Livonia forward, who is majoring in Business Management, posted a five-point game (three goals, two assists) during the regular



Swenders

season. He was also a member of the Livonia Hockey Association Sharks, which captured the 2005-06 Michigan Amateur Hockey Association title in Negaunee.

All-Star gridders tabbed

Four area players with Observerland ties were named to the East squad for the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game, which will be played on Saturday, July 11 at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium.

Among those selected include: Jeremy Gainer, 6-2, 215-pound linebacker, Livonia Clarenceville; Ronnie Goble, 6-3, 225, tight end, Plymouth; Andrew Grabowski, 6-3, 285, offensive guard, Salem; and Justin Sneddon, 5-10, 215, offensive guard, Canton.

The MHSFCA also named Livonia Churchill's Grant Morgan and Livonia Clarenceville's Derek Robbins to the honorable mention Academic All-State team.

Waza Flo wins finale

On March 8, Derek Garrambone scored four goals and Ryan Mallord added a hat trick as Detroit Waza Flo earned a 15-7 Professional Arena Soccer League win over the St. Louis (Mo.) Illusion at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Player-coach Dominic Scicluna recorded the team's 100th and 101st goals of the season, while Steve Bach also scored twice for Waza Flo, which finished 7-9 in the Eastern Division of the PASL after 1-6 start.

Adam Nesbitt, Daniel Troser and Tom Stark also scored for Waza Flo, which finished with three consecutive victories and a 6-2 home record.

Waza Flo and the Illusion (8-8) will square off in the semifinals of the US Arena Open Cup at a date and time to be determined.

For more information on Waza Flo, visit www.wazafc.com/pasl.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
STATE CLASS A QUARTERFINALS
at U-D MERCY'S CALIHAN HALL
Tuesday, March 17: Livonia Franklin (22-3) vs. Temperance-Bedford (25-0), 5:30 p.m.; Detroit Renaissance (21-3) vs. Grosse Pointe North (21-4), 7:30 p.m. (Winners advance to the state quarterfinals, 2:50 p.m. Friday, March 20 at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center).

BOYS BASKETBALL
CLASS A REGIONAL DRAW
at WHITE LAKE LAKELAND
Monday, March 16: Livonia Stevenson vs. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 5:30 p.m.; Hartland vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, March 18: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state

quarterfinals Tuesday, March 24 at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall vs. Wyandotte Roosevelt regional champion.)
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT
at ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE
Thursday, March 19
Schoolcraft vs. Louisiana (N.C.) or North Arkansas, 8:30 a.m. (CST).
COLLEGE BASEBALL
Sunday, March 15
Madonna at Spalding (Ky.), noon.
Friday, March 20
(at College of Ozarks, Mo.)
Madonna vs. Coll. of Ozarks, noon.
Madonna vs. Missouri Baptist, 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 21
(at College of Ozarks, Mo.)

Madonna vs. Missouri Baptist, 2:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Coll. of Ozarks, 5 p.m.
Sunday, March 22
Madonna at Coll. of Ozarks, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Thursday, March 19
Madonna at IU-Southeast (2), 3 p.m.
Friday, March 20
(Campbellsville-Lindsay Wilson Classic)
Madonna vs. Travecca Nazarene (2), 1 p.m.
(Campbellsville-Lindsay Wilson Classic)
Saturday, March 21
Madonna vs. Martin Methodist, 9:30 a.m.
Madonna vs. Union (Ky.), 4:15 p.m.
Sunday, March 22
(Campbellsville-Lindsay Wilson Classic)
Madonna at Campbellsville, 10 a.m.
Madonna vs. Union (Ky.), 12:15 p.m.

Crusaders bop Spalding, 12-6

Second baseman Ryan Morrow went 3-for-5 with five RBI to propel the Madonna University baseball team to a 12-6 victory Friday over host Spalding (Ky.) University at Derby Field in Louisville.

Kevin Zerbo (Farmington Hills Harrison) also went 3-for-5, including a homer, and three

RBI as the Crusaders improved to 13-2 overall.

Aaron Hacias, Scott Boyer and Tarik Khasawneh (Canton) also added two hits apiece for MU.

The Crusaders used two pitchers with Kyle Bolton going 7.2

innings, allowing six earned runs on 11 hits. Bolton, who improved to 3-1, struck out four and walked two before giving way to freshman reliever Chris Kangas (Westland John Glenn), who retired all four batters he faced in 1.1 innings.

The loss drops Spalding to 2-16 overall.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

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NEIGHBORS

Rays of hope

Series offers tips to survive economic madness

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The human spirit is incredibly resilient. Tracy Faraoni lost her job in February 2008 but keeps sending out resumes in hopes of finding employment so she can keep making payments on the condo she purchased 12 years ago. The Westland woman follows one lead after another searching for help to survive until she can find office work or billing. On Monday, March 2, she attended the March "Economic" Madness series at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia for information on home foreclosure.

Faraoni already knew about the Michigan State Housing Development's foreclosure assistance program that Cindy LaFond and Tracey Emmanuel of the Livonia Housing Commission spoke about at the series.

"I did get assistance with the MSHDA program, but the bank doesn't want to help you. For four months (the MSHDA program) is going to cut my mortgage payments in half. I'm going to challenge the (property) taxes but I don't know what to do. A couple of my neighbors just walked away," said Faraoni. "I cut cable and try not to put the heat on only when absolutely necessary. I put blankets on instead and I'm careful with lights. I'm trying to sell stuff and doing cleaning to keep going."

A recent survey of Livonia revealed 30 to 50 homes in each of the 38 sections of Livonia were abandoned or had foreclosure stickers in the window, according to

Emmanuel, housing assistant. She and LaFond, community development supervisor, told of resources for owners in trouble with their mortgages. They were joined by Keith Owens, director of community outreach for the Wayne County Treasurer's office, and Mary Mifsud of the HUD-approved New Hope Detroit Counseling Center. All stressed the importance of not waiting. Write a hardship letter the first month a mortgage payment is missed. Do not avoid phone calls and letters from the lender. Keep a log of dates and names and make notes of the topics discussed.

"They need to communicate with their lender and use HUD-approved counseling," said Emmanuel. "Develop a budget. Speak to someone in the loss mitigation department and fill out a workout form and send by certified mail. If you miss the fourth month's payment the time expires for the foreclosure process and starts with an attorney to schedule the sheriff's sale, in some cases. It can be too late but anything's possible. There are Web sites, places to go because there is help available. Every day is a new day."

Like Emmanuel, La Fond believes in seeking HUD-approved counseling. Mifsud said if someone tries to charge for it, leave. At New Hope, all services are free.

UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS

"You have to know the timeline of foreclosure, what to expect and what to do," said LaFond. "Because of ARMS (adjustable rate mortgages), unemployment, the cost of maintaining a home, fuel



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Julie Puggini, career counselor at Schoolcraft College, talks about the transition from one job to another.

costs, everything skyrocketed. Banks have to be willing to work with people."

The Wayne County Treasurer is more than willing to assist property taxpayers. The county can foreclose on a home even when mortgage payments are up to date. Taxes become delinquent three years after the due date. Approximately 21,000 owners whose taxes were delinquent in 2006 will be foreclosed this March.

"There is a hardship assistance program that gives one additional year if you meet federal income guidelines," said Owens, "but people need to call us. If the phones are tied up, come down. Nine times out of 10 we can help. They can go online to set up a budget plan to make payments, including partial."

Julie Puggini suggested a number of ideas for those like Faraoni who are struggling through an involuntary job loss. A career counselor at Schoolcraft College, Puggini spoke at the second session on the series at Newburg United Methodist Church. She told of WWJ holding a Michigan

Money Summit on managing money in difficult times March 28, at Schoolcraft College, and resources such as the Career and Transfer Center, and Transitions Center on campus. Operation Able holds its Ability is Ageless Job & Career Fair 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Aimed at those over 40 facing unemployment, the fair includes resume preparation information and computerized job assessment. Call (313) 832-0922 or visit www.operationable.org.

"Think about transferable skills. Have you thought of starting your own business?" said Puggini. "It's a time of reinvention. It's so much about being positive. It's all about envisioning, empowering, encouraging."

VOLUNTEER AND TRAIN

Puggini, who's also a clinical psychotherapist with a practice in Mount Clemens, says job loss affects the entire family, that's why it's important to seek help in dealing with emo-

tions when necessary. "It reverberates throughout the household causing panic attacks, substance abuse, an increase in stress levels in kids," said Puggini. "Even people with jobs don't feel secure."

Puggini recommends taking a mental health minute before resuming that job search and to network, volunteer and pursue skills training. The right combination could be key to opening the door to a brighter future.

March "Economic" Madness continues 6 p.m. Monday, March 23, with Sue Sweeney, department of gerontology, Madonna University, redefining retirement. Rick Bloom, *Observer & Eccentric* columnist, closes the series by focusing on Investing in a Down Economy on March 30. For information, call (734) 422-0149. Newburg United Methodist Church is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia.

Puggini's psychotherapist practice can be reached at (586) 260-7135.

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

RESOURCES TO HELP PREVENT FORECLOSURE

The Livonia Housing Commission provided this list of help for participants at the March "Economic" Madness series at Newburg United Methodist Church.

- Foreclosure Prevention/Assistance**
- Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program - www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com or (313) 833-2948 or (877) 693-6199
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority - www.michigan.gov/mshda or Save the Dream foreclosure assistance program, (866) 946-7432

- HUD-approved housing counselors**
- New Hope, (313) 255-6275, Greenpath, (888) 860-4167, ECHO, (866) 394-2874, Lighthouse Community Development, (248) 920-6200, and Homeownership Preservation Foundation, (888) 995-4673

Legal Resources

- Michigan Legal Services (low-income clients), (313) 964-4130; (313) 962-3171
- Detroit Metro Bar Association for lawyer referral if not qualified for free assistance

Wayne County treasurer

- Call (313) 224-6105 or visit www.treasurer.waynecounty.com for information on property taxes.

City of Livonia Community Development Block Grant

- Emergency utility assistance, (734) 466-2538
- Major home rehabilitation, (734) 421-6450, Ext. 103; Minor home repair, (734) 421-6450, Ext. 105
- Mental Health Counseling, (734) 421-6450, Ext. 102

Wayne Metro Community action Agency

- Homeless prevention, (313) 843-2550, links to Homeownership Program www.waynemetro.org.

U.S. Government Foreclosure Prevention Plan

- www.financialstability.gov (introduced by U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in February)

General Assistance

- 2-1-1 United Way offers help in a variety of ways. Just dial 2-1-1.

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Plymouth Community Arts council makes fresh start

It's been nearly 19 years since I began writing about the wonderful programming at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. That's why I was concerned when I heard the nonprofit was "semi defunct." The rumor couldn't be further from the truth.

Arts council President Debra Madonna said the board was facing challenges a year ago before reassessing their business practices. Today the operating budget is no longer in the red. There's a new coat of paint on the walls thanks to volunteers from the

Plymouth Rotary and Kiwanis. The freshness reflects the future ahead. In the next couple of months, the art exhibits return although not monthly as the shows aren't cost-effective when changed that frequently. A summer of camps for the kids is in the planning stages, according to Tammie Trudell, who was youth program director for a Downriver YMCA before coming to the arts council. Everything from dance and pottery to slimy arts and science is going to be offered June 15 to Sept. 4.

"We welcome everybody and would love to see everybody," said Trudell on my recent visit. There are many reasons to support the arts council. The Plymouth Uptown Players, started by Jennifer Tobin many years ago, continues to provide fun and

theater training for kids. An all-volunteer corps of some 300 parents bring art education into schools in Plymouth and Canton monthly. Once again, Madonna has planned a summer of entertainment for families at Music in the Park on Wednesdays at noon beginning in mid-June. Saturdays at the Penn (theater) just concluded another successful season of afternoon performances for the reasonable price of \$3 a ticket.

"We got down to the bottom line," said Madonna. "The good news is we've been able to salvage our core programs. You just have to read the newspapers to know so many arts councils are folding but right now I'm more optimistic than ever." All of the programs, however, cost

money to run. Building expenses are being met by renting the facility to local groups like the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra which now rehearses and will soon move their offices there. Still there's a need for funding to provide arts experiences for the community. That's where Dan Nikolits comes in. The 24-year-old Plymouth resident is using his youthful flair to coordinate a fund-raiser 7 p.m. until whenever, Saturday, March 21, to celebrate the arts council's 40th anniversary. Artist Janette Fairbanks-Paul was commissioned to create a puzzle illustrating the events and programs over the years. The 600 pieces were mailed to supporters with the hope they would be returned with a donation. Everyone is invited to the cocktail party regardless

of whether they received a piece of the puzzle in the mail. "It's free but we're asking people to make a donation," said Nikolits. "We want to make it as inclusive as possible but we don't want to make it that people can't afford to come. We're hoping people bring back pieces with a donation. The idea is that everyone is a piece of the arts council and together we created this organization." The Plymouth Community Arts Council is at 774 N. Sheldon at Junction. For more information, call (734) 416-4278. Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.



Linda Chomin

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Guide to Employment

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Employment

Help Wanted-General 5000

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For retirement home in Northville. Computer skills needed. Upbeat personality. Will need a CDL license within 30 days of employment. Fax: 248-449-1422

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National Co. seeking delivery/assembly tech for the Novi, MI area to deliver/assemble exercise equip, game tables, in ground basketball systems. Must have own truck and tools. 1-800-874-1487 mhiggs@ejzinc.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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The City of Wayne is accepting applications to establish a Police Officer eligibility list. Applicants must conform to employment standards as set by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (M.C.O.L.E.S.).

APPLICANTS MUST (at the time of submitting application)

- Provide copy of your valid driver's license (with no more than 3 current points on driving record);
- Provide copy of certificate of successful completion of the M.C.O.L.E.S. Pre-employment Physical Ability and Reading Writing Skills Test;
- Provide a current M.C.O.L.E.S. certification (as certified or certifiable).

Applicants must maintain M.C.O.L.E.S. certification for the duration of the hiring process. Must possess good moral character as determined by a favorable background investigation covering school, employment records home environment and personal traits and integrity. Applications must be picked up in the City of Wayne City Hall

3355 S. Wayne Rd. Wayne, MI 48184

An application form is also available on our website: www.ci.wayne.mi.us/personnel.html

Applications must be completed in its entirety and on file in the Personnel Department by 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2009. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. No resumes will be accepted without written application form.

The City of Wayne does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Help Wanted-General 5000

PROJECT MANAGER

A large manufacturer of automotive components seeks Project Manager for its Farmington Hills, MI facility, to coordinate company's design engineering product lifecycle management (PLM) system, requiring frequent communication in Japanese. Establish and implement project strategies and manage supplier interactions to integrate technical aspects of PLM system, including oversight of product requirements negotiations. Project PLM system performance, analyze technology and resource needs to assess continued feasibility of company's PLM system. Coordinate design engineering activities with IT, Purchasing, Quality Assurance, Engineering and Sales. Requires MS in Electrical Engineering or academic equivalent, and at least 3-years of applicable experience (or BS in Electrical Engineering followed by at least 5 years of progressive experience) in design and development of automotive electronic components. Experience must include automotive ECU product development, embedded H/W design for automotive applications & design with Freescale micro controllers.

Send resume to: Hitachi Automotive Products (USA), Inc., 34500 Grand River Avenue Farmington Hills, MI 48335 ATTN: HR 2009-DESURTEP

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

PROPERTY MANAGER
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RECEPTIONIST
Veterinary experienced only need apply!! Full-time. Apply at: Strong Veterinary Hospital 29212 Five Mile, Livonia.

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For Northville law firm, full time. Candidate must possess professional telephone/hyng skills: ability to multitask and attention to detail. Please list salary req. Send or fax resume to: Callie A Demski Morello Law Group P.C. 4100G W 7 Mile Rd., Ste 200 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 347-2999

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Friendly, busy, non-smoking pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full-time assistant. 1 yr. exp. preferred. Will train. Must be detail oriented, calm, self-starter & adaptable to change. No evenings. Benefits. (248) 478-3232

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/EMT
Medical house call practice in Southfield seeks medical assistant or EMT with good phlebotomy and patient care experience. Great salary & benefits. Fax resume to 248-352-8800

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You can place your ad for only \$55/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical/Dental Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, March 29th. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Thursday, March 26th at noon. Contact one of our Representatives for more information, or to reserve your space: 1-800-579-7355 or email: oads@hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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maivarez@pvm.org

PATIENT CARE COORDINATOR
Medical practice in Southfield seeks experienced coordinator with scheduling and triage experience. LPN preferred. Mon-Fri. No nights, weekends or holidays. Competitive salary and benefits package. Fax resume to 248-352-8800.

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

BRITISH ISLES ANCESTORS

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, March 16, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. The main speaker, following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting will be Richard Doherty on "Casting the Net Over Your British Isles Ancestors." Lecture includes updated Web sites for archives, genealogical societies, libraries, and other sources of information. He is a professional genealogist and past president of the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan. The 6:30 p.m. program will be Georgia Clark presenting "Posting Queries on the Internet." She will discuss the dos and don'ts of query writing and how to get desired results. Meetings are open to the public. Guests always welcome. For information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/. Doherty also speaks 1:30 p.m. Saturday March 21, on the humorous aspects of genealogy including serendipitous occurrences, genealogical records with unusual content

and other genealogy-related items, at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club in Detroit, 2068 Michigan Ave., 4 blocks west of Tiger Stadium. Fenced-in parking available behind the building. All audiences will enjoy this free program (including non-genealogists). Doherty is director of Celtic Quest leading groups of family history researchers to Ireland and Northern Ireland. For more information, call Liam Neary at (734) 464-4645.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

The 24th annual Irish Fest with fiddles, flutes, pipes and dancers takes place Tuesday, March 17, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. Doors open at 3 p.m.

Tickets \$10; children under age 12 free. Event includes The Ardan and Flanagan-O'Hare Schools of Irish Dance and Crossroads Ceili with Wallace Hood of The Irish Rovers, Eddie McGlinchey, Ray Maguire, Mick Gavin, Mike Gavin, Colleen Shanks, Holland Raper, Kelsey Lutz, Siobhan McKinnery, Jamie Lutz and more.

For information, call (313) 537-3489.

POLISH DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

The 29th Annual Polish Dance Extravaganza will be

held Saturday, March 21, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Shows are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and available at Simply Polish, 28841 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 522-2880, or Dental Smiles of Livonia, 33044 Five Mile, Livonia, (734) 525-2552.

Approximately 60 dancers, age 3-18, perform traditional dances of Poland and American Polkas. The adult Radomaine Polish Folk Dance Ensemble also will perform.

LOVE STORIES IN MUSIC

Make your plans now to attend Beckridge Chorale's "Love Stories" Spring Concert and save on tickets purchased by March 21. Looking for the perfect date night? These songs are for women and men. Tickets \$13 and \$16. Buy three and get one free when purchased early. For more information or to order tickets visit www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.

Concerts will be held 8 p.m. Saturday, April 25, and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile.

IT'S ALL ABOUT MEOW

The dates for a fund-raiser for The Country Cat & The City Kitty Rescue have been moved to early April from late March due to scheduling problems. Feline lovers should mark their calendars for 10



Beautiful music

The Avalon String Quartet perform 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$20; \$10 for students. They're available at www.schoolcraft.edu/music or by calling (734) 462-4403. Violist Anthony Devroye, (left) cellist Cheng-Hou Lee and violinists Blaise Magniere and Marie Wang have earned international acclaim as "one of the most exciting young string quartets in America" (The Washington Post). When the members aren't performing in and out of the United States, they serve as string quartet-in-residence at Northern Illinois University, where they teach and coach ensembles.

a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 4, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

The group is looking for vendors of all kinds, including artists, crafters and collectors, to participate.

At the event there is going to be a blessing of the animals, pet psychics from the Boston tea room, cat chat with Shera Dickie, a veterinarian, many vendors, silent auctions, raffles, 50/50 raffles, items for sale and of course cat and kitten adoptions. For more information, call (248) 249-9267. Proceeds from the event go to open a no-kill shelter for cats and kittens in Livonia.

SWORDBLAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Prepare to buckle your swashes and enjoy a free swordplay and stunt demonstration on the campus of the University of Michigan. The

Ring of Steel Action Theatre presents a series of vignettes featuring swordplay and stunts for all ages 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Student Theatre Arts

Complex, 1201 Kipke Road (behind Crisler Arena). Doors open at 10:45 a.m. with a display of armor, swords and stunt equipment. Visit www.ringofsteel.org.

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Arthritis Today
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TREATING ARTHRITIC PAIN THAT COMES ON ALL OVER

Persons experiencing a sudden attack of hurting all over assume they are having a flare of arthritis. Patients turn to their doctor for a prescription of a strong anti-inflammatory medication such as cortisone, or a powerful painkiller like Vicodin. Usually the doctor cannot respond that way.

The reason is that hurting all over is not a feature of arthritis. In most arthritic conditions, a flare shows itself by swelling in one or two joints, or by symmetrical joint swelling in both hands or both knees.

Hurting in the elbows, shoulders, neck, hips, knees, ankles and feet at once is characteristic of one arthritis: fibromyalgia. Because the attacks of pain in fibromyalgia are frequent and prolonged, the use of steroids or narcotics like Vicodin is contraindicated. Long term or repeated use of these medications causes the side effects and resistance to usual drug doses.

The best way to stop an attack of pain all over is to identify the reason for it. If the pain comes from an attack of arthritis that is causing body strain on other joints and muscles, then the doctor will address the underlying arthritis. If the pain comes from emotional stress and tension, then the doctor will discuss the cause with the patient and treat accordingly. In any case, whether the problem is rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or fibromyalgia, no role exists for corticosteroids or derivatives of hydrocodone.

The best way to treat pain is to find its cause.

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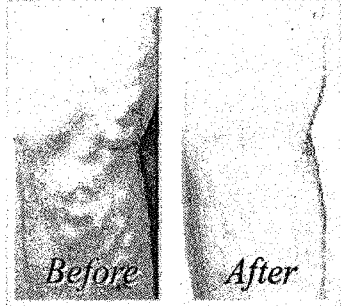
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Searching for clues

Hiller ALS center tracks patients in studies

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Dr. Jeffrey Loeb feels like research on ALS is just getting started. New concepts for following a patient throughout their illness to autopsy have given the scientific community hope for finding a cause and cure. amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, attacks the central nervous system causing cells that control voluntary muscle movement to degenerate. It was the topic of a recent educational conference sponsored by the Neurology Department of Wayne State University School of Medicine at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

Loeb is associate director of The Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics and research director of the Hiller ALS Clinic and Research Center, Wayne State University School of Medicine. His first exposure to ALS was unforgettable. A practicing neurologist, he trained in neuromuscular development at Harvard Medical School. It was during this time Loeb watched the disease progress in a man in his 20s who lived in the hospital on a venti-

lator. Loeb felt helpless as this young patient slowly died. "There are new ideas of thinking about this disease and where do we go from here," said Loeb of Beverly Hills. "We're recruiting patients to follow the course of their disease and after life as well to track what goes on to get some new clues. There's a lot more homework we have to do, even things like stem cells and gene therapy, to come up with an idea and figure out how to get it to work."

Loeb holds out great hope for the results of a new ALS study after death.

"We're trying to figure out the normal way the motor neurons talk to the cells around them. The cells don't work in isolation. They tell the muscle to contract," said Loeb. "What is the language the cells use to communicate? What goes wrong when communication breaks down?"

"Rapid Autopsy has been working in epilepsy and mapping genes. We plan to apply the same approach. This is fresh tissue. With ALS we don't get the tissue right away. We've created a protocol to do rapid autopsies so we can actually make a dent and get some clues to this disease but we want to meet them

long before then to develop a database of all we can learn from them."

Loeb believes that to be the most caring physician he has to be a good scientist. He sees patients then runs back to the lab with ideas. The Hiller ALS center allows physicians and scientists to work together as a team because they don't have the same restrictions as with federal funding. The clinic and research center opened in 2007 thanks to a generous gift from Jim Hiller, owner of Hiller's Markets.

"We can think outside the box," said Loeb. "We're a truly Michigan-born research effort, as Jim Hiller would say."

Hiller lost his mother to ALS in 2000 and doesn't want to see anyone else suffer the way she did. That's why he gave the gift to Wayne State University to create the center. The disease started by causing numbness in Harriet Hiller's tongue.

Jim Hiller owns Hiller's Markets in Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Commerce Township, Northville and Ann Arbor. His father started the business 65 years ago.

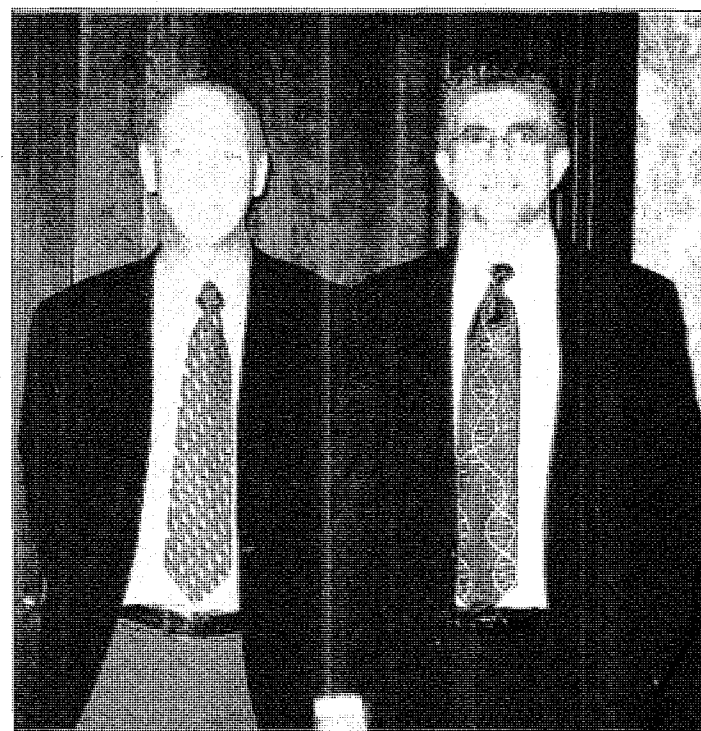
"She very quickly lost the ability to speak. After that she was

trapped in her own body. It was dreadful to see. She lost the ability to do the things she loved to do. She loved to walk, loved the outdoors. All that's left with ALS is the ability to move your eyes. Finally she just stopped breathing," said Hiller, of Franklin. "It's an unbearable thought for me that 50,000 people a year are going to go through the same thing. We need to build support in the state for this resource that provides world class care and research."

Hiller definitely thinks he can make a difference and is putting all of his energy into the center. He's also partnering with ALS of Michigan by providing the nonprofit with office space at his corporate headquarters in Southfield.

Like Hiller, Sue Burstein-Kahn, considers the clinic and research center essential to caring for patients and finding a cure. Her father died of the disease in 1986. ALS of Michigan works directly with patients and families to provide services ranging from support groups to respite care.

"We work closely with the multidisciplinary clinic which treats the whole person," said Burstein-Kahn, executive direc-



Dr. Richard Lewis (left) and Dr. Jeffrey Loeb spoke at a conference on ALS in Birmingham on March 7. Lewis is director of the Hiller ALS Clinic and Research Center at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Loeb is research director.

tor, ALS of Michigan. "Studies have shown patients who received care in this kind of clinic live 15 to 18 months longer. The biggest advance over the last 20 years is the multidisciplinary concept to deal with all aspects of the disease. Twenty-five years ago you were told 'sorry, we can't do anything for you.' Today there are treatments to help with breathing. PEG feeding tubes for those who can't swallow or chew, and an alternative communication center for speaking devices.

The first thing my dad lost was his ability to speak. Now there are speaking devices so they can communicate."

For information about the Longitudinal Clinical Studies and Tissue Donor Program, contact Stacey Masse, nurse coordinator, at smasse@med.wayne.edu or call (313) 745-6124.

To reach ALS of Michigan, visit www.alsofmichigan.org or call (248) 354-6100, or toll free (800) 882-5764.

Screenings to help individuals, community

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Dr. Vicky Savas not only wants to alert people to hidden health dangers but raise money for charities at the same time. She's holding a Health Expo with screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure and sugar, leg circulation, body mass index, and hearing 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church,

36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh, Westland.

The cost is \$35 and includes screenings, breakfast and lunch by Ginopolis and a wine tasting by Papa Joe's. For more information, call (248) 356-5033. Savas asks that participants bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope so results can be mailed to them with a personalized letter.

Savas spends her own money to provide these screenings for the com-

munity. Over the last 24 years she's detected a number of diseases.

"These screenings are worth hundreds of dollars and we have four different lectures on diabetes and diet, obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and cholesterol and heart attacks," said Savas, a Bloomfield Hills resident with cardiology practices in Southfield and Novi. "They can't eat (after midnight) before their testing so we have lunch. We'll

have free cookbooks, pedometers, glucometers. Proceeds go to help the community. We've done these for the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association. This one is for St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. It gives us an opportunity to educate the community about health. We've identified dozens of prostate cancers, two ovarian cancers, diabetes, thyroid disease over the years."

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MARCH

Empowering kids

Birmingham Bloomfield Families in Action present the workshop "Navigating the Kid World" in March. Topics include Building Confidence, 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 19. Sessions take place at The Corners, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, west of Inkster, West Bloomfield. Call (248) 626-5700 or visit www.thecorners.org. Cost: \$20 per session; \$50 for three. RSVP: www.bbfaprevention.org.

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