



The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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75 CENTS

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

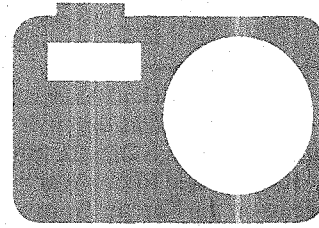


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SUNDAY January 24, 2010 . online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## AROUND TOWN

### Sooner scholar

Jessica Marie Erlingis of Westland is among University of Oklahoma Norman campus honor roll students for the fall 2009 semester.

In most colleges, students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale to be included on the honor roll. Students in the College of Architecture are recognized with a 3.3 or better, and students in the College of Engineering are recognized with a 3.0 or better.

Erlingis earned a 4.0 (A) grade point average and is also a President Honor Roll student.

### Relay for Life

The kickoff party for the Westland Relay for Life will be 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Wayne Recreational Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. The kickoff is a complimentary event, with food and refreshments to be served.

This year's Westland Relay for Life will be May 22-23 in Jaycee Park. Those attending on Feb. 23 will learn about the Relay and how they can fight back against cancer. For information, visit [www.RelayForLife.org/WestlandMI](http://www.RelayForLife.org/WestlandMI).

You may also contact Sarah Sherwood at (248) 663-3403 or via e-mail at [Sarah.Sherwood@cancer.org](mailto:Sarah.Sherwood@cancer.org).

### Democrats meet

The Westland Democratic Club will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey at Venoy (between Palmer and Michigan) in Westland. The board meets at 6:30 p.m.

Club meetings are held regularly on the last Tuesday of the month. The address is P.O. Box 851304, Westland, MI 48185. Mike Short, treasurer, is at (734) 788-1550.

E-mail is [WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com](mailto:WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com).

### Rummage Sale

The PTO at Jefferson-Barns Elementary School will host a Rummage Sale Feb. 1-5. It will be daily after school, during the Feb. 4 movie night and all day Friday, Feb. 5.

The school is accepting gently used clean clothing for children and adults, including coats and shoes. Other items needed are: holiday decorations, toys, sports equipment, household items, furniture, books and miscellaneous items. Setup will be the week of Jan. 25 at the school, 32150 Dorsey.

If you would like to bring donations to the school, call the office at (734) 419-2680 to set up a drop-off time.

# Teens see reality of prison life



Michael O'Gorman, who recently retired from the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan (left), chats with Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz.

## O'Gorman lauded for youth work

A Westland resident was recognized Monday before the Westland council for his efforts working with young people in the Youth Assistance Program.

Michael O'Gorman, who retired last month from the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, had spent the last 18 years of his career as a counselor. He initiated the Juvenile Awareness Group (JAG) in which young people including teens from Youth Assistance visited the prison and talked with inmates.

"I think the world of this gentleman. He always took special care of Westland," said Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz. "He got those incarcerated who got across the message that prison isn't a place you want to be. He's met with hundreds of kids through the years."

Motz presented a certificate of appreciation to O'Gorman, who will continue to be involved through Youth Assistance, on behalf of Mayor William Wild.

"You have a gold mine in him (Motz) and I hope you know that. It's overwhelming the love he has for these kids," said O'Gorman. "You have to give credit where credit is due."

Now that O'Gorman is retired, JAG will continue under his successor. Motz is has plans for O'Gorman.

"He'll be a great mentor for someone with a chip on their shoulder," said Motz.

—By LeAnne Rogers

## Inmates key to awareness effort

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

People being incarcerated might seem to spell job security for a prison employee, but Michael O'Gorman has devoted himself to showing young people that being locked up is no way to spend their life.

"I literally want to put the fear of God in their soul. It's the worst place in the world to be — prison," said O'Gorman, who retired last month after spending his career working at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan. "I'll do this 'til the day I die."

Having served eight years as an Air Force law enforcement specialist, O'Gorman began working at the prison in 1987 as a correctional officer. Five years later, he became a prison counselor and started a Juvenile Awareness Group in which teens visit the prison and talk to inmates.

"I like to think of it as a sanitized *Scared Straight* — you've got to watch the antics the prisoners do in there," said O'Gorman, a Garden City native and Westland resident.

Since 1992, when the JAG program

Please see **PROGRAM, A2**



Westland resident Michael O'Gorman has met with hundreds of Westland youths through a program he initiated and ran at the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan.

# Police warn of Internet dangers following Westland arrest

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A tip from a youngster in Battle Creek has resulted in a Westland man being charged with eight felonies related to possessing and distributing child pornography over the Internet.

Andrew Peter Bergeski, 39, was scheduled for preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court on the charges, including four counts of using the Internet to commit a sex crime, two counts of possession of child sexually abusive material and two counts of distributing the materials. He has entered a

not guilty plea.

The preliminary examination was delayed to allow Bergeski to undergo a competency evaluation. Bergeski, who is not in custody, is due back in court April 1 for a competency hearing. He had received two years probation, scheduled to be completed in July, after pleading guilty to malicious use of telecommunications equipment.

The investigation began after a youngster in Battle Creek received a friendship request through an online social network from someone purporting to be a 14-year-old girl, but later identified as Bergeski, Westland

police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

"This girl looked at the profile page (of the would-be friend) and saw inappropriate nude photos were posted," Miller said. "She notified Battle Creek police. They did the background work and traced the address to Westland."

Officers executed a search warrant for a computer at the home on Ritz where Bergeski lives with his parents. There was no evidence that Bergeski had tried to set up a meeting with the girl, Miller said.

"This girl definitely did the right thing reporting this to local police. They were able to back track the records to the home in Westland,"

Miller said. "This is a perfect example for parents. He (Bergeski) had a lot of friends on his social networking page. Parents should check on their kids' computer use. It's amazing the stuff you can find out about people on the social networking sites."

People, especially youngsters, should be careful about accepting friend requests on social networking sites, Miller said.

"It seems like it's a race to see who can get the most friends. They are essentially inviting people into their lives," he said.

[lrpgers@hometownlife.com](mailto:lrpgers@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-5428

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## Gift from the heart

Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Novack (left) and his family are staying at a luxury apartment during a visit home thanks to the efforts of Scott Allen, president of the Fourmidable Group, which manages the Fort Shelby Tower Apartments. For the story and more photos, please see A5 inside.

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DECEMBER

# Appointments get council nod

A number of mayoral appointments were approved by the Westland council Monday.

Bruce Thompson and Robert Kosowski were reappointed as planning director and parks and recreation director, respectively, through Dec. 31, 2011.

Council members also confirmed the reappointment of Angelo Plakas and Associates as city attorney, also through Dec. 31, 2011. The firm has represented the city since 1976.

"I'd give Angelo the microphone but this would take far longer. He has done an outstanding job for the city and I look forward to that as we move forward," said Council

President James Godbout.

Plante Moran and Associates was reappointed as the city's auditors through Dec. 31, 2011.

Reappointed to two-year terms on the Nankin Transit Authority were Michael Harris and Godbout, who serves as council representative.

Michael Keck was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA. The term will expire Jan. 22, 2014.

Appointments/reappointments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council included Timothy Bailey, David James, the Rev. Tony Keeling, Earl Lamp, Bud Prough and Michael Rawson.

## Adopt a Soldier

Stop by Skateland West 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, for a fund-raiser to benefit the Adopt a Soldier program but leave your skates at home. Skateland West is teaming with Harold's Hoppers Moonwalks for the event. The \$5 admission brings hours of jumping. All military personnel in uniform will be admitted free.

The first 50 kids will receive a free hot dogs, bring your own camera for free princess photos and there will be other giveaways.

Enjoy a ride in a Hummer with a soldier for \$2.

Skateland West is located at 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland.

## Autism fund-raiser

The Michigan Indigo Children and Families Network will be hosting a 10 band benefit at Last Chance Bar & Grill, Warren west of Inkster Road in Westland, 1-8:30 p.m. today (Sunday). The event will feature bands from the area including: Animilistic Frenzy, Wisteria, Snake Oil, Madam Trolley, Dear Maybe, Yankeeville & Scratch, The Groove, Cruizin Jupiter, Shattered Sky and Sean Moylan.

There will also be raffles, karaoke, and give aways. Admission is \$5.

Proceeds will benefit the Michigan Indigo Children and Families Network which is an Autism, Aspergers and ADD/ADHD support group. For more information, contact Neil Carrick at (734) 469-0234 or neilpatrickcarrick@gmail.com.

## Vegas night

Try your luck at Black Jack, Let It Ride, Roulette, the Money Wheel and an hourly Texas Hold 'Em at Vegas

Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5-6 at St. Theodore Parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. It is a smoke-free event with \$2 admission. There will be 50/50 drawings each hour and the maximum win is \$500 per person.

For more information, call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice-mail #10).

## Action for Earth

The Westland William P. Faust Public Library, along with Mission: Green, the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum and Project S.N.A.P. are coming together for an exciting new program at the library called Action for Earth. It's a family event that combines art and the environment that culminates in an Earth Day event and a mural that will include the children's art work at the library. Visit projectsnap.com to see an example. The first event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 30.

For more information, contact Andy Schuck at the library at andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org or (734) 326-6123.

## Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold district coffee hours on Monday, Jan. 25, in Livonia and Garden City. No appointment is necessary.

From 9-10 a.m., Anderson will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Talk to Anderson 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; phone: Toll-free (866) 262-7306; or e-mail:

SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

## Hoe down

The Annual Daddy/Daughter and Mommy/Son Western Hoedown at the Bailey Recreation Center is scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5. The couples will learn to square dance, as well as featuring special dances for the kids which mom and dad can dance, too. There will be a special hoedown snack and a photos will be taken.

All ages are welcome. The cost is \$15 per couple including dance, snacks, gift bag, and photograph with a \$7 charge per additional child. Pre-registration by Feb. 3 is required.

## Homebuyer Tax Credit

Westland and Century 21 Dynamic Realty is hosting a seminar on the recently extended and expanded HomeBuyer Tax Credit 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 at the Friendship Center, Newburgh south of Ford. The credit is no longer restricted to first-time buyers.

There will be representatives from the Westland Housing Department, the Michigan State Housing Development Administration, local banks, H & R Block and Devon Title.

The seminar is free and everyone is invited. Pre-registration is requested at (734) 728-8000 or century21dynamic.com.

## Game time

Seniors can stop by the Westland Friendship Center 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays to play on the Wii video game system, donated by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. The Wii will be set up each week in Hall B for various games.

The Friendship Center has

put the Wii to good use with numerous bowling events. The Wii is a wonderful tool for social interaction and a great way to keep active. The Friendship Center is located on Newburgh south of Ford.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

## Census jobs

If you are out of work or looking for some part-time employment, the 2010 Census may be your answer. Contact their office currently located in Livonia at (734) 437-4120 to set up an appointment for a basic skills test required to apply for a Census Taker Position.

## Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale Friday through Sunday, Feb. 12-14.

Friends members can shop at a preview sale 3-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. You can join to become a Friend at the preview sale.

The sale will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13. Go Green with the Saturday Bag Sale — for \$6, shoppers can fill their own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag with books.

From noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, there will be a \$4 bag sale — bring your own bag.

The regular sale prices are: \$1 hardcover books, DVDs, CDs; 50 cents large paperbacks; 25 cents small paperbacks, videos, cassettes, records; 10 cents magazines; and \$2 green reusable Friends bag.

Money raised help fund programs at the library for all ages. The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway.

For information, call (734) 326-6123.

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## PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

was initiated, O'Gorman said more than 20,000 teens have gone through the program, meeting with prisoners to hear their stories. The young people, 12-18 years old, came to the program from all over metro Detroit, including the Youth Assistance Programs in Westland, Garden City and Livonia.

"We start off with a meeting with me — it sets the tone. I have to make it a negative experience. I'm good at depressing them," O'Gorman said. "I couldn't disagree more with (the perception that it is) Club Fed. It's ugly. You don't get to own TVs like they do in state prison. You watch TV in a small room with 200 other men. You're jammed into a small room."

Prisoners who met with the teens were carefully screened

by O'Gorman, meeting three criteria. "They couldn't be a snitch, a child rapist or molester and they had to give me their word of honor that they would do this until they day they died," O'Gorman said. "They had to convince me of all three. I made it difficult to come on board."

One inmate who served on the panel was Patrick, who asked that his last name not be used. Released in 2004 after serving 12 years, nine months and three days, Patrick continues to talk with young people about his experiences through Youth Assistance and other programs serving Plymouth and Canton through 35th District Court.

While serving part of his sentence in Wisconsin, Patrick said he had participated in a JAG program and sought out O'Gorman when he arrived at Milan.

"I wanted to give back to the community — to society. You hope to change some of them.

If you talk to 80 young people, realistically you're not touching all of them," Patrick said. "Some of them need a prison door to wake them up. That's a small percent."

During his talks with young people, Patrick emphasizes the idea that actions and the people with whom you associate have consequences.

"You hope to make a change in the direction of their lives. There are consequences that affect them and their families — their parents and siblings," said Patrick, whose sentence for conspiracy to deliver narcotics was overturned after a lengthy appeal process. "It's easy to get into trouble and hard as hell to get out."

Patrick describes O'Gorman, who he calls OG (Original Guard), as a mentor. "He guided me in a difficult time. If not for a guy like him, it would have been difficult to get through it. There aren't a lot of guys like him," Patrick said. "(Prison is) not rehabilitation

— it's just warehousing human beings."

The prisoners who participate in JAG receive nothing tangible in return — federal prisons don't offer good time sentence reductions. In fact, O'Gorman said the prisoners have to be strip searched prior to meeting with the teens and often are given a hard time by other prisoners for their efforts.

"My view is that this is to educate kids on what can happen if they make poor choices and let them know it doesn't necessarily take a lot of poor choices to have a life of grief and doom," Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz said. "The prisoners share their stories. They also stress education and that family is more important than friends who will turn their backs on you in a minute to help themselves. I don't know that I'd do time for a friend."

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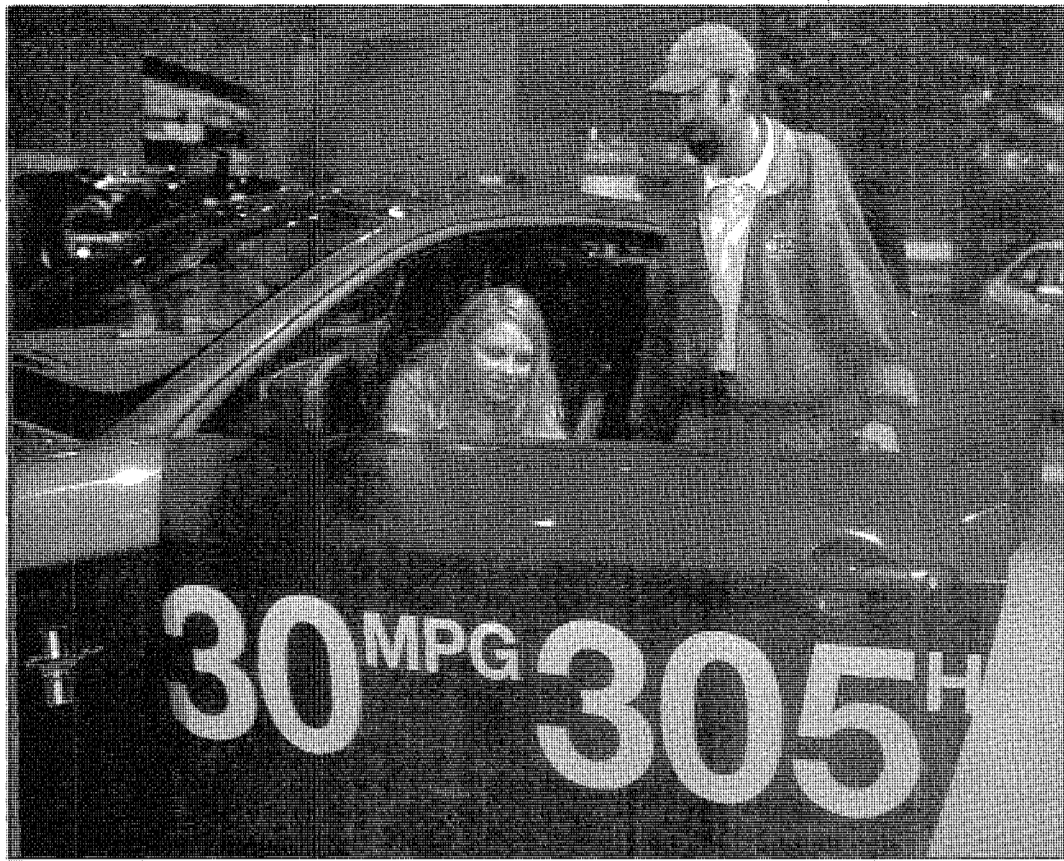
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Crowds impressed by dazzling, practical cars at auto show



Lori Williams and Jon DuBois of Westland look over a Ford Mustang.

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Vicki Soto's face lit up when she described taking a ride on Electric Avenue.

Soto and husband Mike Soto of Westland were among the many, driven by curiosity, to take a ride in an electric or hybrid car in the Electric Avenue elaborate exhibit at the North American International Auto Show on Thursday.

"It was really quiet," she said of the eco-friendly Volkswagen Golf. The Sotos strolled through Cobo Center keeping an eye out for the amazing - and for the practical.

"We're thinking about getting a new car," said Vicki Soto, noting she likes the Chevy Equinox and the Chevy Cruze. "My dad worked for GM, so we always buy GM."

Jon DuBois of Westland can't get enough of cars - he works at the Ford Brownstown Parts Plant.

"I took the day off to come and look at the cars," he said, noting, of course, he was most impressed by the massive Ford exhibit. Dan Schwartz and his son,

More auto show coverage on pages A8-9 and online at hometownlife.com

Michael, 8, of Canton, were all about the interactive displays at the Auto Show.

"We took the day off to come down and check things out," said Dan Schwartz, noting they stayed busy going from one exhibit to the next. "If there's a screen to touch, he'll probably want to touch it."

Michael was impressed by something he may not see on the street.

"I liked the car that parked itself," he said.

Over at the Ford exhibit, Michele Nalepa and her son, Michael, 11, of Redford were continuing their trek through the high-tech maze of awesome autos.

Michael said his dream car would be lime green Mini Cooper.

"It can go up to about 40 miles per gallon," said this aspiring smart consumer.

They "stood in awe" of a wind/solar powered street lights in the Electric Avenue exhibit, where they took a ride in an eco-friendly SUV.

"It was very interesting," said Michele Nalepa. "It wasn't very different, but it was quiet."

Don Sutherland of Farmington Hills strolled through Cobo Center Thursday with son Phil Sutherland and grandson Jake Sutherland of Brighton.

They visit the show "most years," said Don Sutherland, but this was their first three-generation trip. Jake is just 9 months old, but he's learning the "cool car" factor already.

His grandfather is a Ford retiree and was impressed by the Ford product line.

"The best product is the new Ford Fiesta," he said, noting it's been produced in Europe but soon will be produced in the Detroit area. "It's a really smart looking, small car that will sell, for a change. I like the entire Ford line-up."

The auto show closes at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for seniors 65 and up and \$6 for children ages 7-12; kids under 6 are admitted free. Visit www.naias.com.

Library has many tools to help with personal finance

With New Year's resolutions fresh in everyone's minds, personal finance is a much sought-after topic in the winter months. There are so many different tools available that can help you to spend sensibly yet continue to have some spare cash for recreation.

It's always good to know that you are not alone in your money woes. There are so many different resources you can use to reorganize your spending practices to ensure maximum benefits. If learning about and managing your finances online appeals to you, take a look at sites such as money.cnn.com and mint.com. CNN's financial portion of the Web site offers valuable information and financial advice, which is critical for those who are just learning about the subject. Mint.com is a website that actually helps you manage your money by categorizing your balances and transactions so your spending and income is displayed in very clear, helpful charts to give you a better understanding of where exactly your money is going.

If you prefer to rely on the written word where your money is concerned, then come to the library and see what we have to offer in personal finance resources. We carry the popular authors, of course, like Suze Orman and the Rich Dad series by Robert Kiyosaki. For financial planning basics, we have books such as Lim's Financial Planning Demystified, or Smart and Simple Financial Strategies for Busy People, by Jane Quinn. You may also like to check out Rich's Make your Paycheck Last to help budget weekly expenses as well as ABC's of Getting out of Debt, by Garrett Sutton for some advice on moving forward after trying times.

Be sure to stop by the Westland Library for finan-

cial information, and we'll be glad to point you in the right direction. And the library is always a great place to begin your search when money is concerned because everything you find here is free! For more information, please visit the Public Library of Westland or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also search the online catalog at www.westlandlibrary.org.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

NEW PROGRAM: Urban Fiction Book Club, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., Come join us as we kick off our new Urban Fiction Book Club for adults. We will start with Push by Sapphire. Push recounts a young black street-girl's horrendous and redemptive journey through a Harlem inferno. A limited number of copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

Fiction Writing Group, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., 18 and up If you would like help developing your fiction or enjoy reading new and exciting fiction, please join us for one of our sessions. Two new stories will be covered each month by the group. Check with the Reference Desk for this month's stories or e-mail: andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org.

Loom Knitting Demonstration and Hands-on, Jan. 26, 7 p.m. Join Kris Rehtzgel, Hobby Lobby loom knitting instructor, for a hands-on loom knitting demonstration. Bring your own loom if you have one, but don't worry if you don't! Looms will be available for you to test out your skills and get hands-on experience.

Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Join us for a discussion of Walter M. Miller Jr.'s A Canticle for Leibowitz. This book opens with the accidental excavation of a holy artifact: a creased, brittle memo scrawled by the hand of the blessed Saint Leibowitz, that reads: "Pound pasta, can kraut, six bagels - bring home for Emma." All are welcome.

HOBBY LOBBY advertisement grid featuring various craft supplies, fabrics, and home decor items with prices and discounts.

JSA Coney Island advertisement for breakfast and lunch/dinner specials, including a \$2.99 breakfast special.

# EDUCATION

## LPS teachers voting on agreement to save jobs

BY KAREN SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools administrators and teachers union officials have reached a tentative agreement on concessions that would prevent the layoff of all 83 teachers union members who received pink slips in December, Superintendent Randy Liepa said Tuesday.

The agreement will be voted on by the 1,100-member Livonia Education Association by Monday, he said.

Administrators have also negotiated a tentative agreement with the district's 48-member principals union and continue to meet with its four other employee groups, Liepa said.

"Our hope is to bring back all employees," he said.

Liepa declined to share specifics of the tentative agreements, saying members had not yet been informed of the details. He also declined to say how much money the district will save if the agreements are approved. He said he and his cabinet members would match the cost savings.

Joanmary Menninger, president of the LEA, could not be reached for comment Wednesday morning.

The school board in December slashed \$4.3 million from this school year's budget because of unexpect-

ed reductions in state funding. It was the first time in recent memory the board has had to pink-slip employees midyear.

In addition to the teachers, about 30 nonteaching staffers received pink slips this month.

The teachers and other employees are slated to be laid off at the start of the second semester on Feb. 1, said Donna McDowell, administrator of communications.

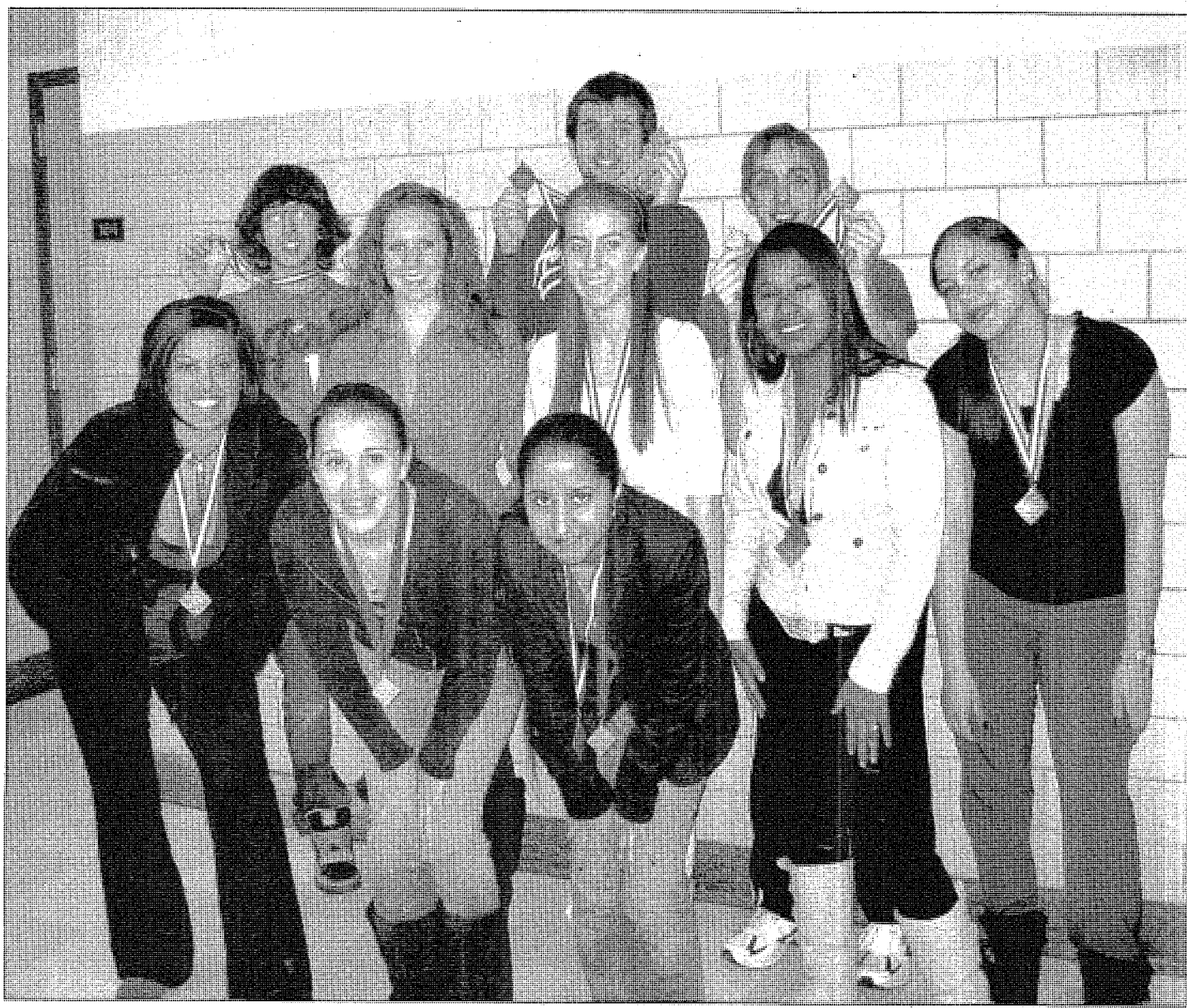
Liepa said cost savings will be needed from all unions to keep all employees and all educational programs. He said he doesn't know if that can be accomplished before Feb. 1. "Our goal is to bring back as many people as quickly as we can."

Approximately \$2 million in cuts would still be made to the budget, even if all employee groups agree to concessions, Liepa said. But those cuts would be in supplies and other areas that wouldn't directly impact student programs.

The teachers are in the middle of a one-year contract; the principals, assistant principals and coordinators are in the final year of their contract but their salary had not yet been negotiated, Liepa said.

The agreement is for a letter of understanding with the teachers union.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2096



The Wayne Memorial DECA students have reason to be proud.

## Wayne Memorial High DECA students shine at conference

Wayne Memorial High School DECA sent 23 students to Eastern Michigan University for the District 5 Conference on Jan. 8. Prior to the conference, they all took a comprehensive exam online as part of the competition. The students have been preparing since September by studying and practicing role plays after school and on their own time. Once they

arrive at EMU there is an opening session and then students report to their area for the role play portion of the competition.

The students choose what area of marketing they would like to compete in. During the role play, students are presented with a business scenario and the participants have a certain amount of time to prepare and then present

to a judge. All students have to dress in business attire and present themselves in a professional manner.

Medal winners and state qualifiers are: Jasmine Moody - role play medal and State qualifier (Accounting Applications), Jered Smart - role play medal and State qualifier (Restaurant and Food Service Mgmt.), Amanda Bowie - State qualifier (Sports and Entertainment Marketing), Kevante Grimes - Technical Sales State qualifier, Josh Estep - Technical Sales State qualifier, Ishpreet Kaur - comprehensive test medal and State qualifier (Principles of Hospitality), Sarah Carney - comprehensive test medal (Travel and Tourism).

The teams of: Tinesha Sims/Tiana Tatum - role play medal and State qualifier (Hospitality Services

TDM), Josh Bradford/Connor Daley - role play medal and State qualifier (Sports and Entertainment Marketing TDM), Sommer Tuttle/Darian McEwen - role play medal and State qualifier (Travel and Tourism TDM).

DECA meets after school, once a week with advisor Beth Johnson and co-adviser Pam Husson. "All of the kids have worked very hard this year and put in many hours preparing for the conference. I am proud of each one of them," Johnson said.

The qualifying students will now compete at the DECA State Conference which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn. It is a three day conference from March 12-14. If students qualify at that time they will continue on to the International Conference in Louisville, Ky.

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# Donated deluxe quarters a hit with sergeant, family

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The last time Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Novack came back to visit Westland, he didn't have a wife and son — and his parents hadn't sold the family home to downsize.

"I called my mom — I didn't know where we were going to stay. They have a small house," said Novack, a 1999 Westland John Glenn High School graduate.

Thanks to a connection his mother made, Novack, wife Bobbilyn and son Lance, 2½, are staying in style at the Fort Shelby Tower Apartments in downtown Detroit free of charge. It's the first Bobbilyn and Lance have met members of Michael Novack's family.

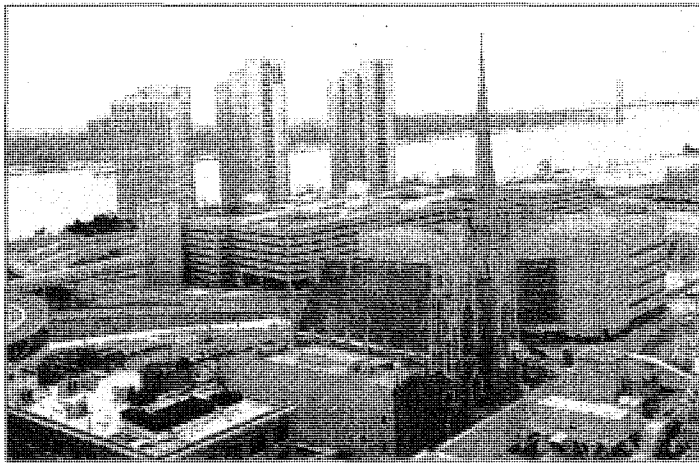
"I thought the apartment was amazing — it's really nice. It has great views," said Novack, adding the \$2,500 per month 17th floor apartment was a definite upgrade from military housing. The apartment has views of the Detroit River, the Ambassador Bridge and across the river to Windsor.

"It's pretty — I love it, especially at night with the lights," said Bobbilyn Novack. "Lance has lots of room to run around. The bed is so big and comfy — I love the bed."

His mother, Lauren Novack, has been a bartender at the Detroit Yacht Club for 19 years. As it happens, she mentioned the family's housing dilemma to Scott Allen, a yacht club board member and president of the Fourmidable Group, which manages the Fort Shelby Tower Apartments.

"Lauren mentioned that Michael and his family were coming home. This worked out fine. The owners of the building were involved and glad to do it," said Allen. "The owners of the hotel were glad to support Michael. He and all the others in the military do a tremendous service to our country. We're glad he is here and wish him well."

The apartments are located



The Fort Shelby Tower Apartments have tremendous views of the Detroit River waterfront.



Scott Allen is president of the Fourmidable Group.

on floors 11-22 while the lower floors are hotel rooms — Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby. The building on West Lafayette reopened a year ago after a complete remodeling. Hotel amenities are available to the apartment residents.

"You can order room service, there is valet parking, a fitness center, the bar and restaurant — it's a full service building," said Allen. "You can arrange for housekeeping."

Living in a big city isn't a new experience for Novack, who was twice stationed in Japan including time in Okinawa and twice in Korea where he met his wife.

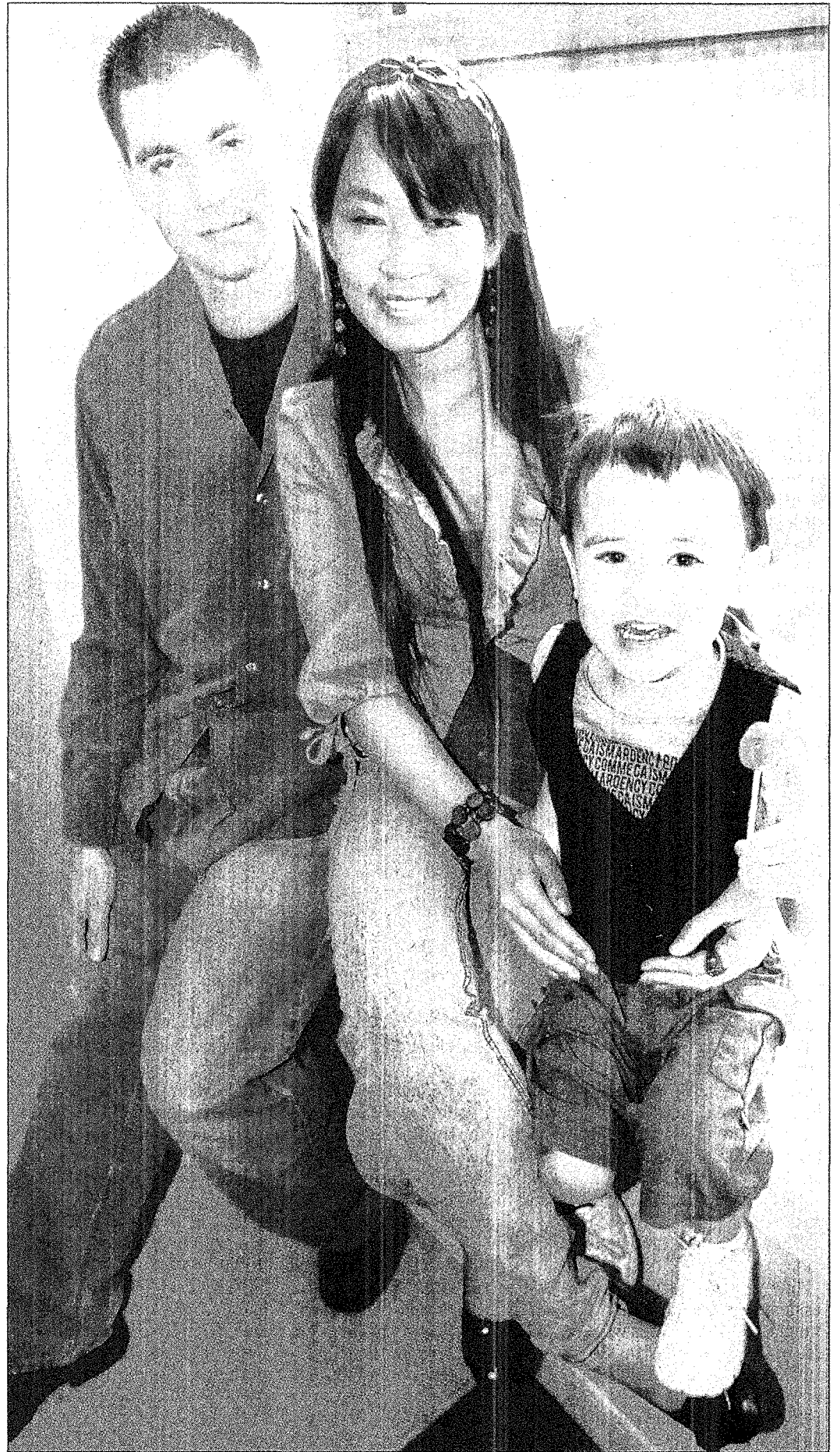
"Coming from a large city, it's not that different being in the heart of the city. What's different is that I haven't drive

in the U.S. in about five years," said Novack. "I was surprised when my mom told me we'd have a fully furnished place. It's great that we have a washer and dryer — we weren't able to bring that many clothes."

A mechanic who repairs equipment like generators and air conditioning, Novack also spent four months in Afghanistan and time at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. The family will be stationed in Florida after their visit wraps up Feb. 5.

While the Novacks are in Detroit, they primarily planned to relax with family and friends but a trip to the Detroit International Auto Show was also on schedule.

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Westland native Michael Novack, his wife, Bobbilyn, and son Lance are enjoying the views from a 17th floor apartment at the Fort Shelby Tower Apartments, provided at no charge by the building owners.

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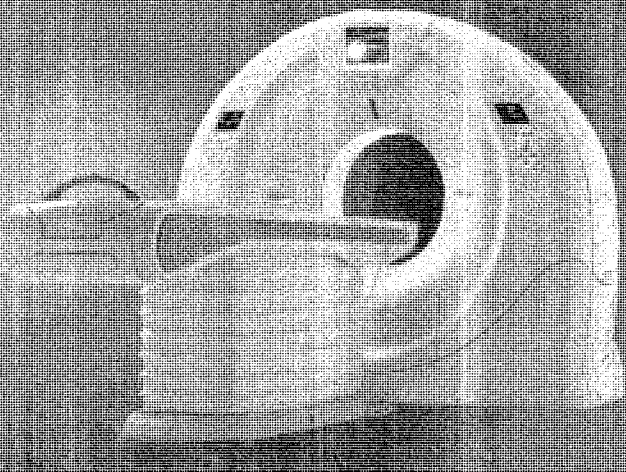
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# Bargains, smiles abound at 'friendliest' thrift store

BY SUE BUCK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eileen Eleson likes to match customers with the items they are looking for at the thrift store located at Maplewood Community Center.

"I like to match things up with people if I feel it is something that they would really like, a hat and a style," said Eleson, a Garden City resident.

She is one of eight volunteers. Garden City residents Shirley Fattore is the manager, Lois McAlister is the treasurer and Ruth Short is the president and secretary.

Fattore has been involved with the shop for 15 of the 20 years that the shop has been at the center.

There's a variety of items including a 50 cents clothes table

"It's a money maker but we have very cheap prices," Fattore said. "If you have ever had a garage sale, you use your own judgment about price."

She checks out dollar stores. "Don't charge \$2 if they charge \$1 at the dollar store," she said.

"If it doesn't have a price, the ladies give a price," Fattore said.

The last full week of the month the store has a \$2 bag sale. Customers can fill a regular grocery store brown bag with whatever fits.

Books, puzzles, electrical items, and anything else can be found at the shop. Sometimes they give items away.

Garden City resident Wendy Browne said that she likes the puzzles and the books and added that "all the prices are reasonable."

"They are super," Browne said.

Nine-year-old Garden City residents and friends Erika Browne and Erin Marks were also in the store with Browne's aunt. They attend Farmington Elementary School.

"Every time we go to the library, we stop in here," said the aunt, Wendy Browne.

"The puzzles are the best," Brown said.

The family puts the puzzles



Erika Browne shows off a shirt to her grandmother, Sylvia Browne.

together and when they are finished, they donate the puzzles back to the thrift store. Usually all the pieces of the puzzles are in the box. "If they aren't, it's still fun," Wendy Browne said.

Erika shopped and bought her Grandma a mug for 75 cents.

"A good week is when we raise more than \$100," Fattore said.

The Maplewood Thrift Shop is known as "a year round garage sale," reaping benefits for the Maplewood Community Center.

Proceeds went to a variety of causes in 2009.

The United Needy Family Fund received about \$400.

About \$700 went to the Lighthouse to provide shelter

and food for the homeless.

All the pictures on the walls of the Maplewood Community Center were paid for by the Volunteer Committee for the center.

They helped to buy exercise equipment and heaters for the thrift shop.

They donated for the great haunted creepy mechanical Halloween decorations and Lunch with Santa.

These devoted women, all friends, provide the fun decorative items and special food items at parties for children and seniors. They also serve the food at these events.

The shop hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The women also participate in a flea market held at the center the first Sunday of the month where they also host a bake sale.

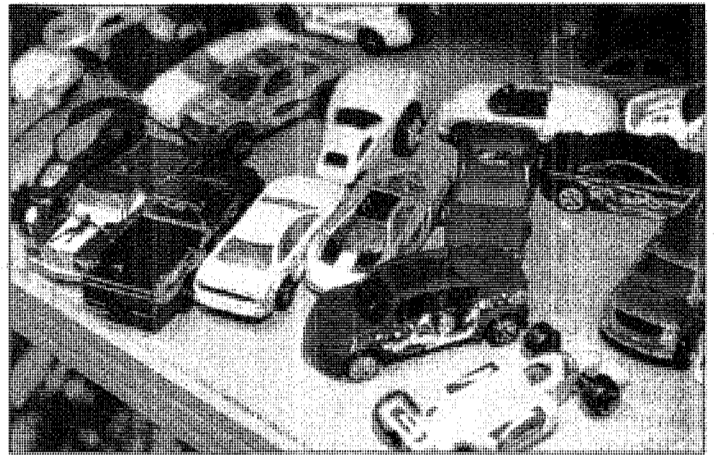
"Putting a smile on somebody's face is better than getting a paycheck at the end of the week," Fattore said. "This is known as the friendliest center around. People come in and everybody is so friendly. They get a hug. We're the huggingest people."

The Maplewood Community Center is located on Maplewood, west of Merriman. For more information, call (734) 793-1600.

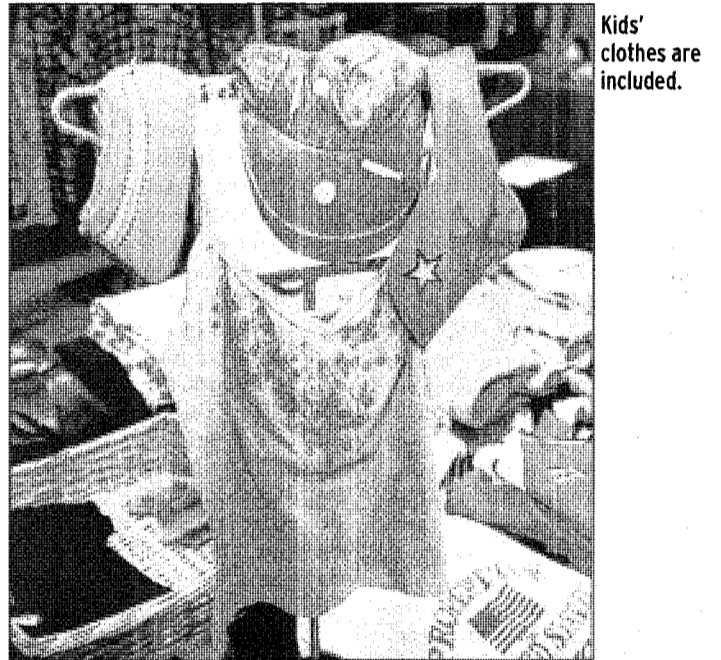
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Shirley Fattore is the manager.



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# What to do when a mutual fund changes managers

**Q:** Dear Rick: About a month or so ago, I learned that in one of my mutual funds the portfolio manager left the company. A notice from the company said the manager has been replaced and the fund will continue to run as it has in the past. On the whole, I have been happy with the performance of my mutual fund.



Money Matters

I don't know if I should stay with it because it now has a new manager. Do you have any hard and fast rules about what should to do when a mutual fund manager leaves?

**A:** I do not have any hard and fast rules. So much depends upon the individual mutual fund.

Most mutual funds are most likely not run by an individual manager, per se, but rather by a team. On the other hand, some funds are run by an individual manager. In the case where a fund is run by an individual manager and he/she leaves, generally I recommend selling the fund. When the manager leaves, I treat the mutual fund as new. Typically, I don't invest in mutual funds that are new. I prefer funds that have a track record. If the main manager leaves, as far as I am concerned, the track record goes with them.

Most mutual funds, however, are managed by a team. In those situations, I generally do not sell the fund. However, I keep a closer tab on it. If the fund begins to underperform, I generally give it a shorter leash than I would a fund that has stability of management.

When it comes to mutual funds, one thing to look for is a fund with management consistency. Some mutual funds are constantly changing management teams and those are funds I avoid. I prefer funds that have management teams in place for many years. In addition, I prefer funds managed by a team. I have found that funds managed by a team generally have a well-stocked bullpen of individuals who can take over and are familiar with the fund and its

strategies.

The next issue goes hand in hand with your question and that is what about the fund that the manager is going to? If that manager had a good track record, do you automatically follow them?

My answer is no. The track record doesn't necessarily follow the manager. The new fund may have different policies and strategies than the one he/she left.

The same is true if that fund

manager starts a brand new fund. Once again, that new fund may have different policies, procedures and resources. My general rule is I do not follow the manager. It's sort of like in professional sports. A player may do well with one team and then when he leaves that team and joins another, his fortunes don't follow him. There are all sorts of reasons why but suffice it to say, it happens.

One of the mistakes mutual

fund investors and, in fact, all investors make, is they will buy a fund or an investment and then forget about it. It is important to monitor your investment and to make changes where appropriate. Remember, buy and hold does not mean buy and ignore. On the other hand, some investors are the exact opposite in that they are constantly buying and selling investments. That doesn't make sense either.

We live in a world and an

economy that is going through incredible changes. As investors, however, we cannot overreact.

Investing has become more difficult over the last decade and I do not believe it will get easier anytime soon. That being said, I do not believe that investors can put their head in the sand and ignore the changes occurring.

It is important for every investor to have a strategy and

a discipline and don't overreact to every bump in the road. Investing is not easy, however, putting your money in the bank and forgetting about it is not a viable alternative.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).



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# NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

## Auto show created a buzz; dealerships ready to compete

BY PAT MURPHY  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Customers are ready — now it's up to individual dealerships and manufacturers.

That seems to be the message area auto dealers are taking from the North American International Auto Show that ends at 6 p.m. today (Sunday).

"We've already had customers come in after visiting the auto show," said Douglas North of North Brothers Ford in Westland. They say they're ready to buy, he said, and they're looking for the best deal.

Kit Tennyson of Tennyson Chevrolet in Livonia said: "We've got a lot of great cars, and they all look good. The auto show always generates customers."

Customers are a lot more "excited" about cars compared with last year, said Scott LaRiche of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth. The auto show was the best in recent history, he said, and it created a real buzz. People are far more receptive to buying a new vehicle now that the economy has improved, he said, and there's an attractive array of new models.

"But it's still a very competitive market," said Bob Griffin of Bill Brown Ford in Livonia. "The auto show created some excitement," he said, but it's the cars and dealerships that draw customers into the showroom, "with quality and service."

This year's show put a spotlight on technology, Griffin said. Some vehicles can parallel park themselves, he noted, "and the technology is getting better and better."

The show demonstrated that manufacturers are more



Bob Jeannotte, of Bob Jeannotte Pontiac Buick GMC, stands with a 2010 Buick LaCrosse. The dealership is on North Sheldon Road, just off M-14 in Plymouth Township.

Please see **BUZZ, A9**

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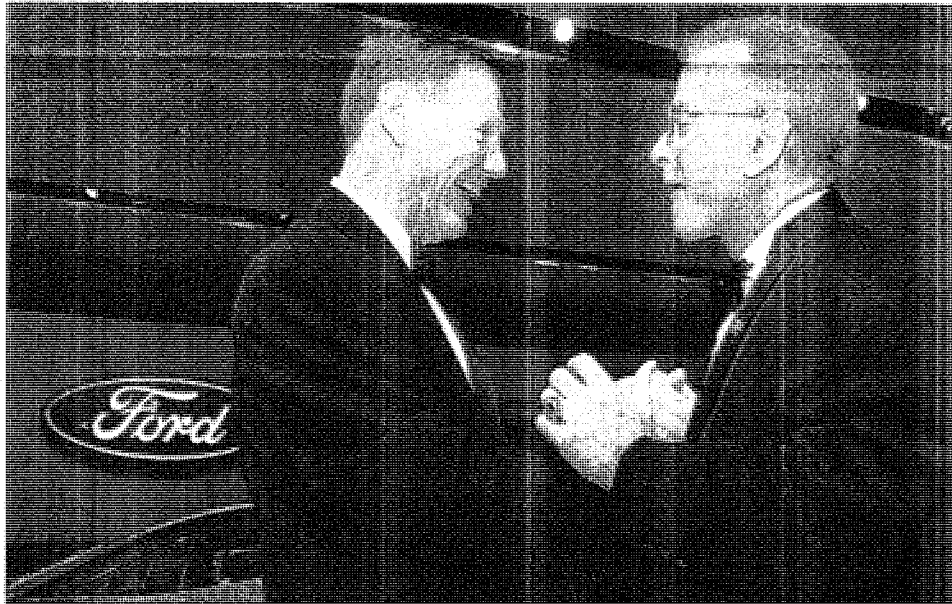
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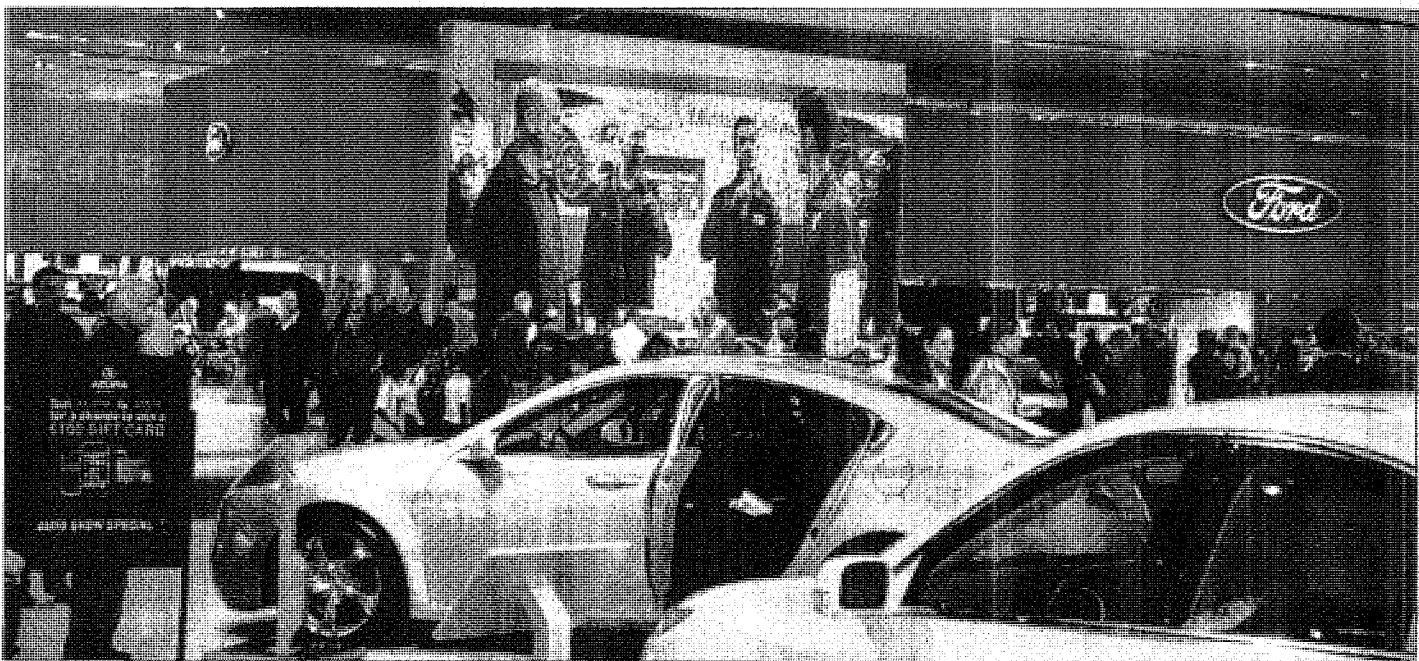
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Kit Tennyson of Tennyson Chevrolet is proud of this Camaro on display at the auto show.



Ed Brown, owner of Livonia's Bill Brown Ford greets golfing buddy and Ford Motor Chief Executive Alan Mulally at the 2010 North American International Auto Show Charity Preview.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many who visited the show last Thursday said Ford had the best display at this year's North American International Auto Show.

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# NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW



## BUZZ

FROM PAGE A8

quality conscious than ever before," said Paul Zimmerman, of George Matick Chevrolet in Redford. "Our quality is second to none," he insisted, and that will make Chevrolets — particularly the new Volt — very competitive.

"This was the best show I've seen in 15 years," said Rick Hodges of Victory Toyota in Canton. "It's obvious that people are more excited. There's a good selection of vehicles and people are ready. I think people want to start feeling good again."

This year's show put great emphasis on alternative-fuel vehicles, said John Rogin of Livonia's Rogin Buick, "and that's probably the wave of the future."

But customers are still motivated by their needs, Rogin insisted. Somebody with six people in the family is still interested in a bigger vehicle, rather than a compact.

"Fortunately gasoline is still reasonable," Rogin said, so people are still buying vans or SUVs. "If you have a hot vehicle, people will come to your showroom," particularly if your dealership has a reputation for service.

The auto show — and the buzz it generated — is part of an encouraging trend, said Richard Kujala of Don Massey Cadillac in Plymouth. Sales have been ticking upward for the last 60 days, he said. "The optimism is growing, and I think this will be a very good year."

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

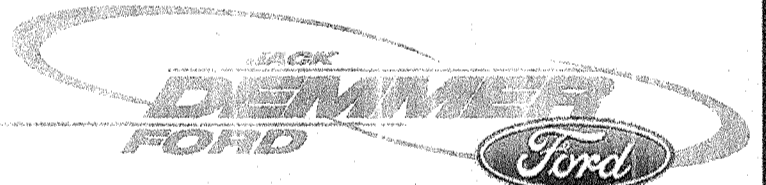
Birmingham resident Duncan Currie looks at the wheels of a Ford Focus at the North American International Auto Show on Thursday afternoon.



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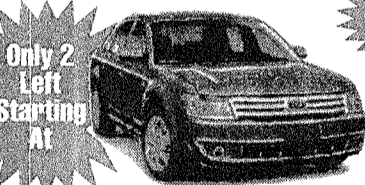


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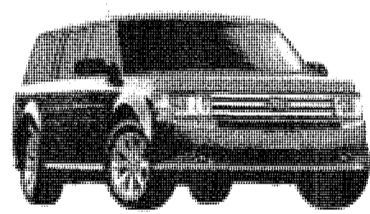
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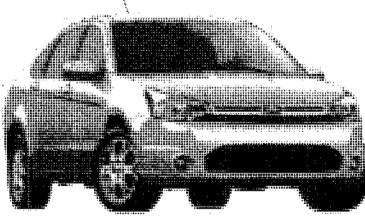
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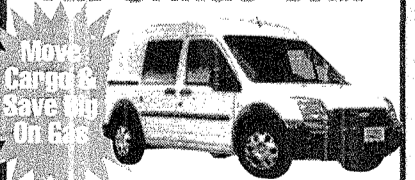
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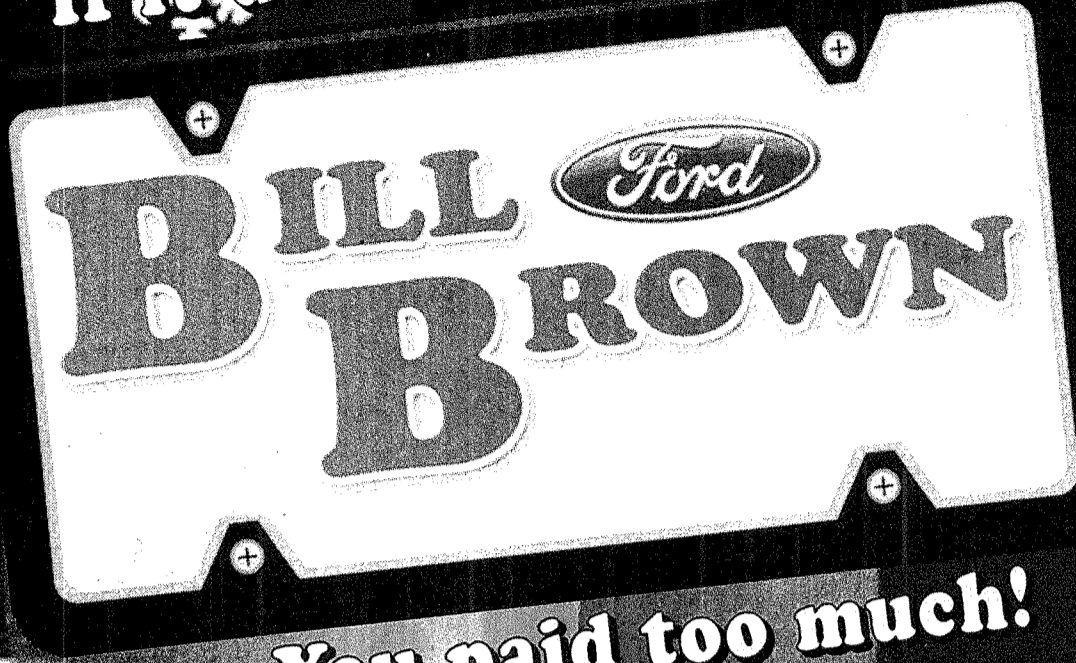
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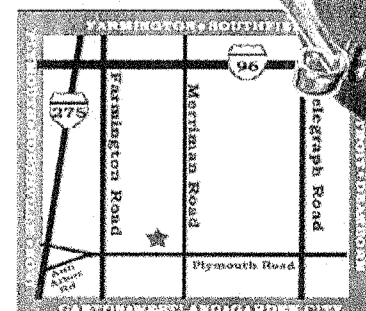


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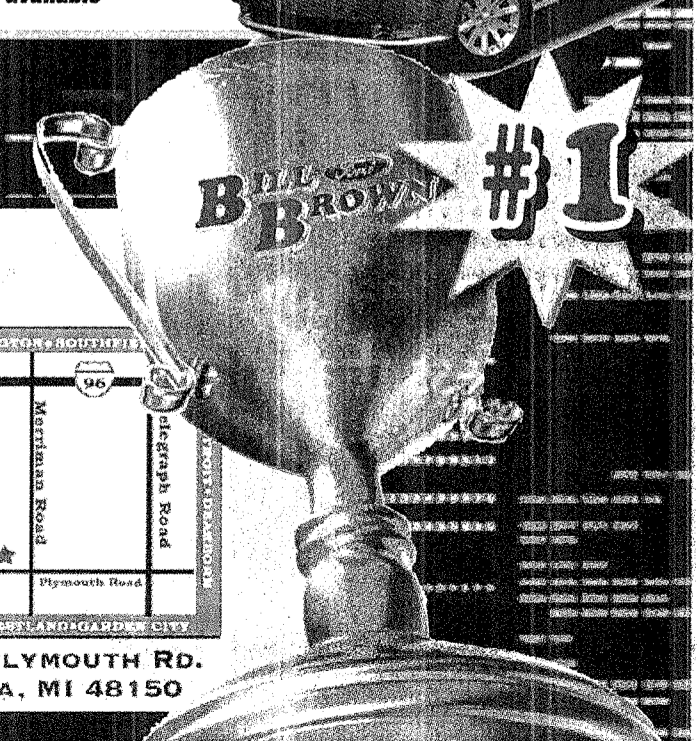
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SUNDAY  
January 24,  
2010

SECTION B  
(WL)

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

Celebrate good news - Milestones, B7

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

# HOMETOWN LIFE



## Churchill pulls out 5-4 upset

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

Livonia Churchill's hockey team pulled off one of the upsets of the season Wednesday night, rallying from three goals down to beat state-ranked Novi, 5-4, at Novi Ice Arena.

The Wildcats, ranked fourth in Division 2, took 10 minutes to get into the groove before ripping off three goals during the final seven minutes of the first period.

Sophomore Brock Krygier, junior Zach Mohr and junior Joey Ferriss had the Wildcats rolling as goalkeeper Spencer Petersen got his third start of the season in net.

After being outshot 11-8 in the opening period, Churchill came out in second and clamped down defensively while outshooting the Wildcats 7-4.

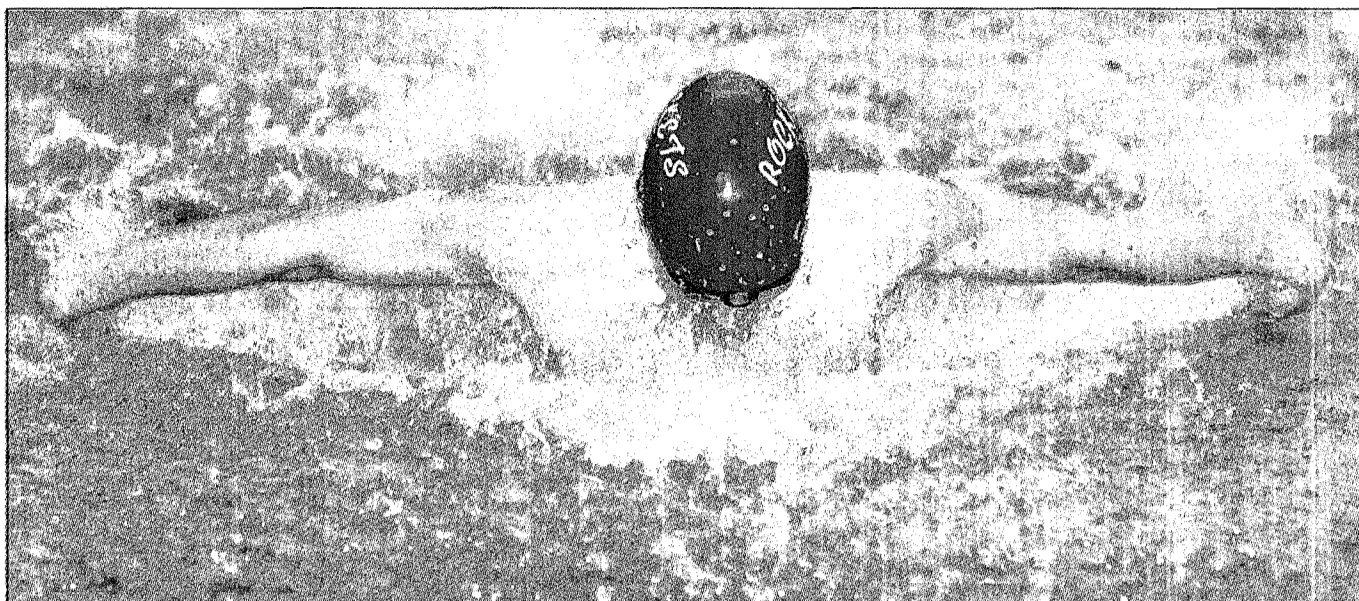
Two of those shots came off rebounds and were put in the back of the net by senior Mike Woynick and sophomore Jake Otto to cut Novi's advantage to 3-2 going into the final period.

Just 39 seconds into the third period, the Chargers had tied it on Steve Klisz's goal from Otto and Nick Proben.

Churchill forged ahead 4-3 at the 5:40 mark when freshman Matt Sinclair put back a rebound on a shot from freshman Tommy Carey during a two-on-one play developed by sophomore Jim Lelekatch.

The Wildcats battled back, earning a 13-5 shot advantage in the period, and got one past Charger senior goalkeeper Aaron Crouse to tie the game 4-4 with 2:47 remaining on a power play when senior captain Evan Dixon ripped a shot from the blue line directly off a Novi

Please see CHURCHILL, B4



John Glenn's Joey Wakeford swims the butterfly portion of the 200-yard individual medley in Thursday's dual meet against Wayne Memorial. Wakeford took first place in 2:17.18.

## Making a splash

### Rocket swimmers dunk rival Wayne Memorial

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Neighborhood bragging rights were at stake Thursday night when rivals Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial hit the pool.

And as expected, the host Rockets came away with a 99-76 dual-meet victory over Wayne by capturing nine of 12 events, including all three relay races.

"I'm very satisfied where we're at, we're working hard," said Glenn fourth-year boys swimming and diving coach Bob Harding, whose team is 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the KLAAs South Division. "We've improved quite a bit since my first year. This is the biggest team I've had with over 30 kids."

Glenn was bolstered by the one-two-three finishes in a pair of individual events - the 200 freestyle and 1-meter diving.

Individual winners for



Wayne's Josh Higgs competed in the 200 freestyle and finished runner-up in the 500 freestyle during Thursday's dual meet with rival John Glenn.

The Rockets included David Wilton, 200-yard freestyle (2:05.61); Joey Wakeford, 200 individual medley (2:17.18); Paul Gutu, 50 freestyle (23.47); Cody Roe, diving (208.25 points); Josh Wakeford, 100 butterfly (1:07.84); and Aaron Sabal, 500 freestyle (6:18.63).

The Rockets' 200 medley relay team of Jake Ferguson, Josh Jenderat, Gutu and Dave

Vader also in 1:54.79, while the quartet of Joey Wakeford, Levi Cavender, Wilton and Gutu added a first in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:38.16.

Glenn capped off the meet with a first-place showing in the 400 freestyle relay with Wilton, Ferguson, Gutu and Joey Wakeford clocked in 3:43.92.

Wayne, meanwhile, got firsts from Adam Karson,

100 freestyle (54.24); Zach Williamson, 100 backstroke (1:01.83); and Corey Robbins, 100 breaststroke (1:13.07).

"We lost our two big guys (Jacob Barnes and Steven Ogg) from last year, but we're coming," said 13th-year Wayne coach Mike Greuber, whose team slipped to 0-5 overall and 0-3 in the KLAAs South. "We have some young kids who are improving and we look forward to the end of the year."

"Going in we knew they (Glenn) were deeper and stronger, but it's about pride. A lot of them are friends. I told them to make sure they put in a good effort - and they did. We had some good swims, but not a ton."

Glenn will be taking all three of its relay teams to the Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Association Meet, Feb. 12-13, at Eastern Michigan University's Jones

Please see SWIM, B2

## SIDELINES

### Deren elevated

Livonia Stevenson grad Nick Deren was recently hired as head men's soccer coach at the University of Detroit Mercy.

A member of the Titans during his college playing days, Deren had served as

interim head coach at his alma mater since Oct. 5, when he was elevated from his assistant's role following the resignation of

Morris Lupenec. Deren is just the third head coach in the history of a program that began in 1987.

"Much careful thought and consideration went into the decision to hire Nick," UDM athletic director Keri Gaither said. "His affiliation with the Titan program, as player, graduate, and assistant coach - in addition to his knowledge of the game, leadership, and experience - made him the perfect fit for the Titan program at this time. Nick is very competitive and knows what it takes to win, and it's always special when an alumnus is your coach."

The Titans went 4-4-0 after Deren began guiding the team at midseason.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to lead the Titan men's soccer program back to the top of the Horizon League," Deren said. "I feel that the support shown by the University for the men's soccer program will expedite our climb back to prominence in the Horizon League and national recognition."

### Dubois inducted

Former track and cross country standout Ken Dubois (Livonia Stevenson) was among 10 inducted into the University of Detroit Mercy Sports Hall of Fame during homecoming basketball festivities Saturday at Calihan Hall.

Dubois, who competed for the Titans from 1984-88, capped off his career by finishing runner-up at the 1987 Midwestern Collegiate Conference cross country championship and 31st at the Great Lakes Regional.

He was a three-time All-MCC cross country runner who also excelled on the track and set the school record for 5,000 meters as a senior.

Dubois received the 1988 Cecil Coleman Medal of Honor as the MCC's most outstanding senior male student-athlete and was selected a CoSIDA Academic All-American (1987-88).

Other UDM inductees included Pat Adams (baseball), Jermaine Jackson (basketball), Kim Jess (track and field), Joe Kopicki (basketball), Cassandra Pack (basketball), Maria Pandeletti (tennis), Mike Pesci (baseball), Rashad Phillips (basketball) and Adam Walicki (golf).

## Taken to school

### Rockets no match for upstart Canton, 55-31

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The student pulled rank and got the teacher Friday night.

And in the process, Canton has pulled into a share for first place in the KLAAs South Division following a convincing 55-31 boys basketball win over host Westland John Glenn.

Junior point-guard Dietrich Lever, who led all scorers with 18 points, played a strong floor game and led the victorious Chiefs, who improved to 6-4 overall and 4-1 in the division.

Canton is now tied for first in the KLAAs South with Wayne Memorial, which was upset Friday at home by last place Livonia Franklin, 71-66, in overtime.

Canton first-year coach Jim Reddy played three varsity seasons under Glenn's Dan Young. Reddy graduated in 2000.

The two teams are mirror images of each other style-wise.

"Jim was one of favorites, I love him to death," Young said. "He's a great worker and does an outstanding job. It doesn't feel good to get beat. I hope to get them next time. But give them credit. They (Canton) played hard and they were just better."

Lever, a speedy 5-foot-10 senior, had 12 first-half points as the Chiefs held a 24-17 advantage.

"Dietrich has a great feel for the game," Reddy said. "He's played so much basketball, whether it's AAU, or here. He's gotten so much stronger. He does a great job creating in the lane and getting other guys shots."

Canton broke the game open with a 17-9 third-quarter run to take a commanding 41-26 lead.

"They (Canton) share the ball, play defense and showed good teamwork," Young said. "And obviously they hurt us on the boards."

The Chiefs held Glenn to 22.2 percent shooting (10-of-45) and committed only 11 turnovers.

"Our goal is to be under 12, which is good," Reddy said. "We're very similar. I played under Coach Young. We use the same motion (offense) with dribble penetration."

Kevin Weisz, a 6-6 senior forward, contributed three triples and finished with 11 points. Paul Baumgart, a 6-6 sophomore, added nine.

"We're just trying to keep pace and stay in the hunt with Wayne," Reddy said. "We have a big game coming up next week (Jan. 29) against Wayne. That's a big game for us."

Junior forward Kelly Maxwell came off the bench to score eight for Glenn, which played without starting forward Jeremy Langford, who opted to go on his "official" Michigan State football recruiting trip.

Chris Jones added seven and Marquise Graves had six as the Rockets slipped to 3-7 overall and 2-3 in the KLAAs South.

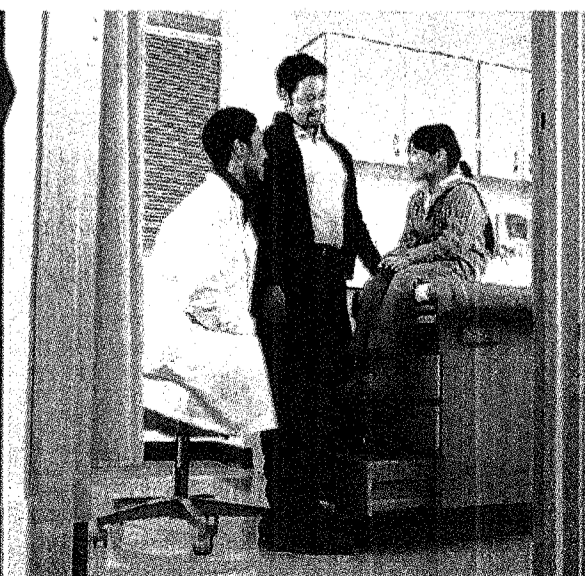
"We really had a hard time scoring," Young said. "Give them (Canton) credit, they played hard and were just better."



### Making the play

Churchill's Darcy DeRoo (right) slides a bounce pass past Plymouth's Danielle Desilets during Friday's KLAAs South Division clash. Churchill earned a 43-31 victory. See more girls basketball on Page B3.

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# NEIGHBORS

## 'Party of One'

Plymouth songwriter/guitarist releases solo CD

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Jeremy Porter has paid his musical dues for 25 years while playing in numerous bands, but has begun building a reputation as a solo artist, as well.

The Plymouth resident, who is the guitarist and singer/songwriter for the rock band, Fidrych, has performed locally and toured out of state, singing original songs and playing acoustic guitar in coffeehouses and bars since 2008.

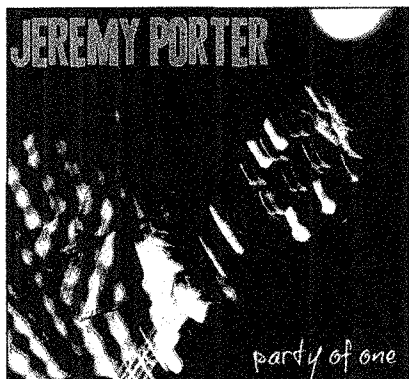
He'll release his first solo CD, *Party of One*, this week. It's on Magwheel Records, a Toronto-based independent label and copies will be on hand at Porter's performance, Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co., 884 Penniman, Plymouth; (734) 454-0178. Jeff Haskins will open the show. Admission is free.

"I've been doing a lot of acoustic shows over the last year and a half. Some of the better ones have been at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. It's a fantastic room, intimate and like setting up in a corner of someone's living room," Porter said.

"I also play in bars. I came up through the trenches playing in rock and roll and punk bands. It's louder and everyone is drinking and in general a lighter mood in a bar...but solo acoustic lends itself to the coffeehouse setting. There's more focus on the music, more give and take. It's much more rewarding to play to 20 people at a coffeehouse than 100 at a bar."

Porter includes a mix of songs at his solo performances — from his first band as a teenager in Marquette, to Fidrych to *Party of One* selections.

"My style has been fairly consistent throughout the years, whether I'm playing in a band or by myself. I work hard to write catchy songs with good



Jeremy Porter's new CD.

hooks. Lyrically my songs can get dark, but musically, not so much. I like a high energy feel.

"I do songs going all the way back to punk rock days, but it's just me. I'll work on an arrangement or slow it down."

### PLAYED PUNK

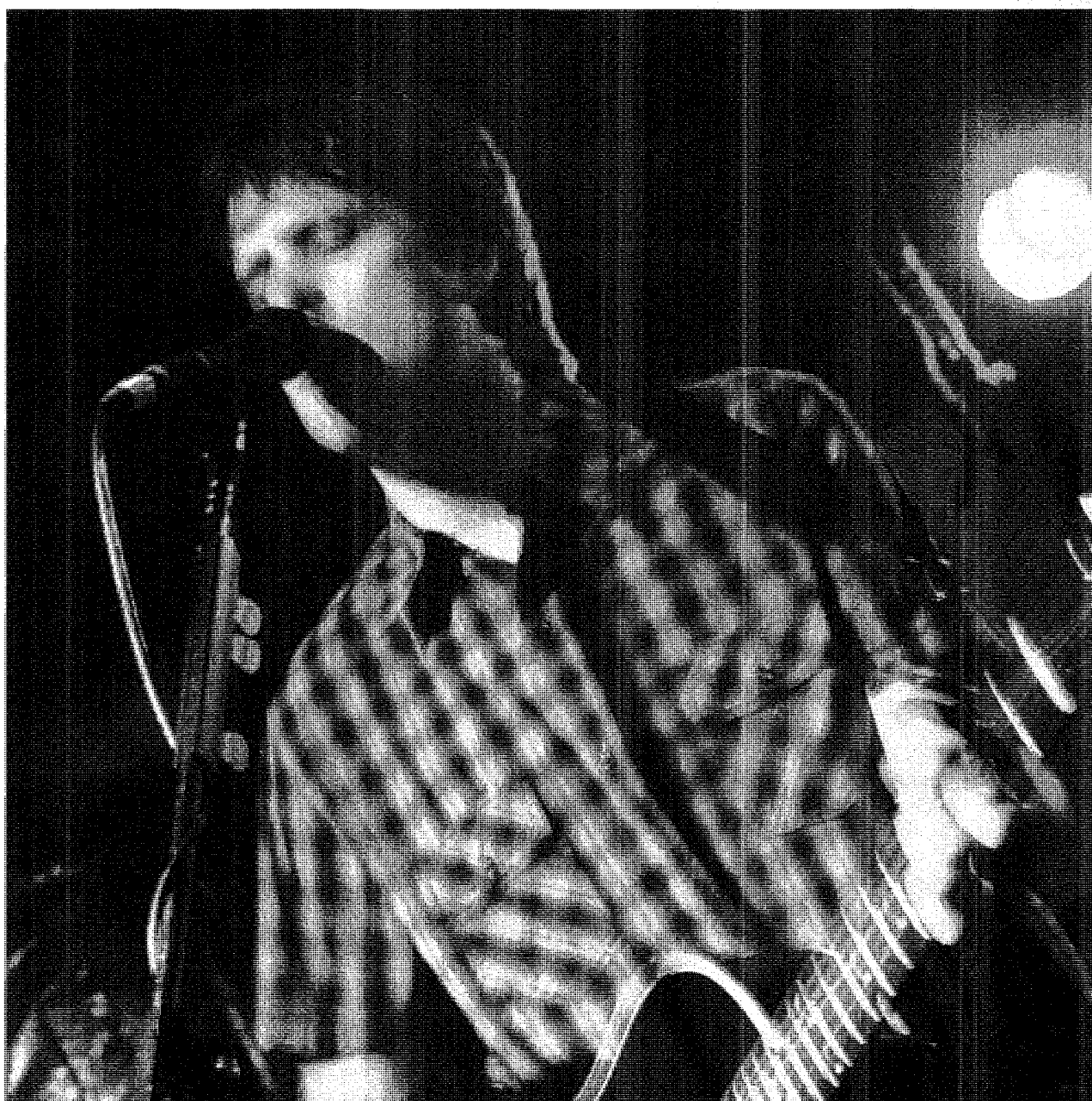
Porter began playing in rock bands in 1985 when he was a 16-year-old growing up in Marquette. He was a founding member of The Regulars, one of the upper peninsula's first punk bands.

He attended Northern Michigan University for a year before transferring to Eastern Michigan University, where he earned a degree in English language. Although he studied poetry and literature, music rather than lyrics, influences his song writing technique. He usually starts with a few chords and then "it happens organically."

"The lyrics just fall into place."

### GOING SOLO

Porter started dabbling in solo pieces while he was a member of the local band, SlugBug. He started recording tracks for a project he hoped would be a solo venture. When SlugBug ended in 2000, Porter



Jeremy Porter plays acoustic guitar.

helped found the Offramps.

In its seven years, Offramps put out two CDs and frequently performed.

"In late 2008 that started to fall apart. I didn't have anything lined up. I needed something to do. I wasn't ready to get into another band. I thought, what the hell...and I booked myself a solo acoustic tour."

Porter, who's married, works as a Web developer by day, a job that enables him to travel and perform.

"A lot of what I do is online. It's not so much going into an office," he said. "I'm luckier than most."

### NEW BAND

Fidrych, with members in their late 30s to early 50s, formed last year. The musicians have all done their time "in the trenches" and focus on "keeping it fun." They don't take every gig that comes their way.

Porter decided to make his first solo CD after a successful acoustic

tour last summer. He said it's easy to juggle both the band and solo work because music is his passion.

"I've been writing songs for 25 years. I have a day job and a great wife and friends. But there's something about picking up the guitar and writing a new song. It's what keeps me going."

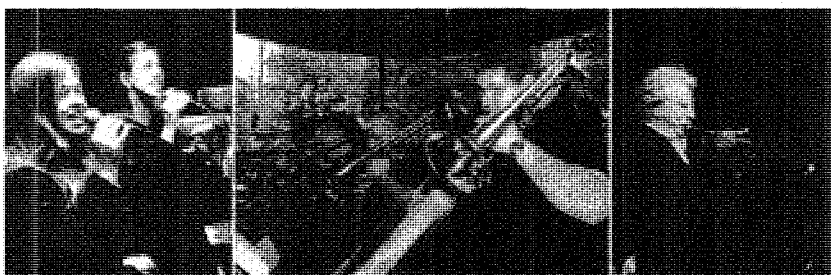
*Party of One* will be available in local record stores next month. Visit porter's Web site at [www.jeremyportermusic.com](http://www.jeremyportermusic.com) for more information.

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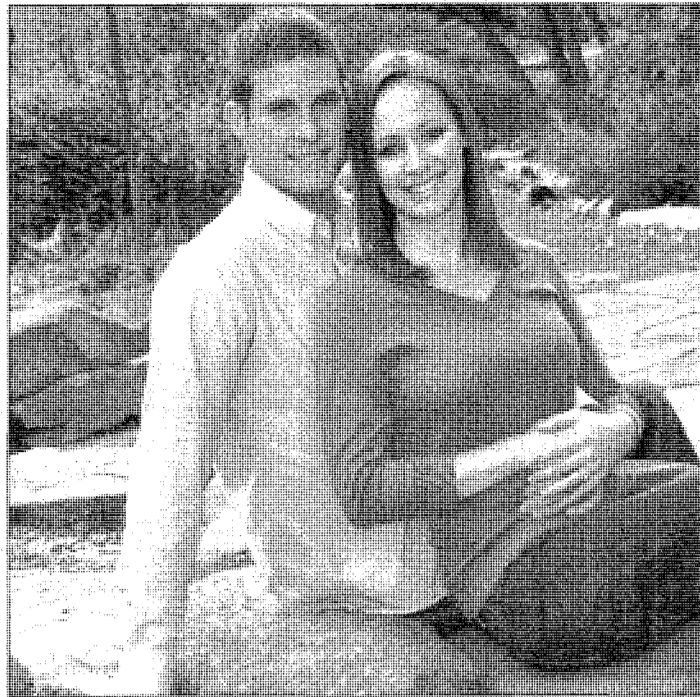
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MILESTONES

Grigg-Silker

Kelly Anne Grigg and Christopher Stephen Silker announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Steve and Gail Grigg of Livonia, is a 2001 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She earned a B.S. in accounting in 2005 and a masters degree in accounting in 2006, both from Michigan State University. She is employed as an internal auditor for the State of Michigan. Her fiancé, son of Gary and Ann Silker of Lake, graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 2002. He earned a B.S. in education from Central Michigan University in 2008. He is employed at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. A July 2010 wedding is planned in Livonia.



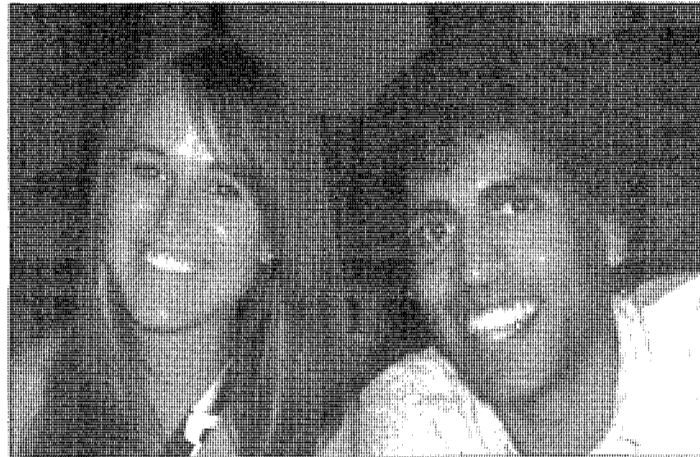
Kulczycki-Young

Ronald and Joyce Kulczycki of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah, to Robert W. Young, son of David and Coleen Young of Wayland. The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Stevenson High School and a 2008 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is employed as a finance assistant. The future groom is a 2003 graduate of Wayland Union High School and a 2008 graduate of Grand Valley State University. He teaches high school in Colorado. They both live in Colorado Springs, Colo. A July 2010, wedding is planned in Grand Haven.



Camann-Minocha

Rick and Sue Camann of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Elizabeth, to Anuj Minocha, son of Subhash and Rakesh Minocha of Durham, N.H. The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Salem High School and a 2008 graduate of Boston University, with a BA in mathematics. She is employed as an actuary with The Hanover Group in Worcester, Mass. Her fiancé graduated in 2003 from Oyster River High School in Durham, N.H. He received a degree in biology from Boston University in 2007 and is currently employed as a research associate with Monsanto Company in Cambridge, Mass. A June 2010 wedding is planned at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville.



Mass at St. John Episcopal honors new priest

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OSE STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Robert Kerr has been on the job since November 2009 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland, but received a formal welcome Thursday night. "What it's actually called is a celebration of ministry," said Fr. Kerr. "When someone has been elected and approved as a priest in a parish, particularly the pastor of the parish, normally there's a service of welcome." The Mass included guests Bishop Wendell Gibbs of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and Archdeacon George Leylegian of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The beauty of the Mass, with its grand music and pomp, drew Fr. Kerr to the Episcopal church while he was a student at Concordia College in Ann Arbor.

"I grew up in the Evangelical Church and became an Anglican in college," said Kerr, a Taylor native.

He also earned a Ph.D in counseling and psychology and has taught at Ashland Theological Seminary's Southfield campus since 2002.

The knowledge "comes in handy" as Fr. Kerr counsels parishioners through crisis.

"At some of the most critical times in people's lives, they invite me in. I get the honor to share with them."

Previous assignments Before joining St. John's Episcopal Church, Fr. Kerr served as director of pastoral care at a retirement community in Waterford for three years. He also has worked with missions, started a congregation "from scratch," and served as a hospice chaplain.

"It was a nice ministry," he said, referring to his most recent assignment, "but I felt God's call to me to parish ministry."

"I had heard about the church in Westland. The heavens didn't open and I didn't hear voices. I said (to God) I'll send in my stuff and the rest is up to you," Kerr described his job application process.

He celebrated Mass for the first time at St. John's on Thanksgiving Day last year.

LIKE HOME

"They are a wonderful group of people. They're easy to get along with and they're all friends. It's like coming home."

It's an environment Fr. Kerr hopes will continue.

"I want St. John to be a church where everyone will feel welcome."

Masses are offered at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday school scheduled for 10:15 a.m. The Eucharist and prayers for healing are shared at noon Tuesday and Thursday. Bible study meets from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Thursday. Fr. Kerr plans to lead

an "Anglican Boot Camp"

Thursday evenings during Lent. Participants will learn what it means to be an Anglican Christian and will cover such topics as sacraments, church history and sin.

"My goal as a priest is I want Jesus to be real for everybody who comes through the door and that they know they are loved by him and cared for and have a real experience of him."

"Our primary duty and calling is worship of God and to do it with all the energy and beauty we can muster."

St. John's Episcopal Church is at 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. (734) 721-5023

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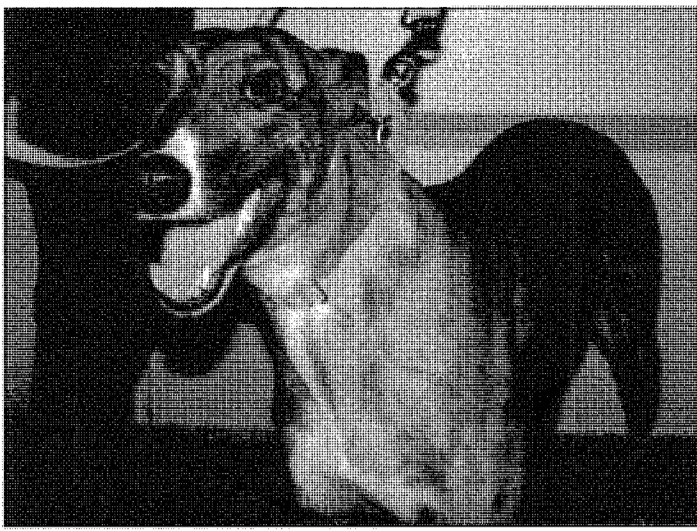
ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption received four new dogs recently.

"They came from Florida and are very thin, but our fosters will take wonderful care of them and they will fill out very soon," said Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group.

Two are featured this week. Here's what volunteers say about them:

Pebbles was called Amy when she raced, but her foster family thought her new name suited her better because of the pebble-like brindle marks on her white fur. She arrived Jan. 16 from a race track and is getting used to playing outside in the snow. She's having fun with the other greyhounds she lives with. She is 4½ years old and loves people as well as other greyhounds. She'd rather not have a small dog



Annie is living with a foster family until she can find her own home.

under foot.

Annie's old racing name was Donna Whistler but her foster family thought Annie was much cuter. She's a beautiful brindle girl, 4½,

with the sweetest face and gorgeous soulful eyes you could ever fall in love with. She just arrived in Michigan from a racetrack in Florida. She's having a great time



Pebbles arrived in Michigan Jan. 16 from a Florida race track.

with her foster family and the other greyhound she's living with but is looking for a home of her own.

If you're interested in Pebbles or Annie, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the group's Web site at [www.greyheart.org](http://www.greyheart.org).

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Career workshops

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will offer its free career workshops to the public beginning Feb. 1.

The sessions meet 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 1 and 15, March 1 and 15 and April 5, at the church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia.

Ray Blessman, regional manager at Kelly Services and an adjunct instructor at the University of Phoenix will be the guest consultant on Feb. 1.

The workshops are designed to help people in employment transition put together a useful job-hunter's tool box. The church's career team works one-on-one with job-hunters to help them build a network and use their resources to find a good job.

"This Career workshop met all last summer and fall. Toward the end of November and December we began to hear from several people who have found jobs," said the Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt, pastor. "It seems that the job market is opening up a little. Though, there are still many people out of work

and we are continuing to offer our help and encouragement."

For more information call the church at (734) 422-6038 or visit [www.stmatthewslivonia.com](http://www.stmatthewslivonia.com).

Speak confidently

The West Side Professional Toastmasters welcomes new members to its meetings held 6:30 p.m., every second and fourth Thursday, at Eastern Michigan University's Livonia Campus, room 412, 38777 West Six Mile, Livonia.

The community-based club is part of Toastmasters International. The diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications. Guests are welcome.

For more information visit [www.westsideprofessionals.org](http://www.westsideprofessionals.org) and [www.toastmastersinternational.org](http://www.toastmastersinternational.org). Or call Amy Abboud, vice president of public relations at (248) 752-2800. E-mail her at [aea248@hotmail.com](mailto:aea248@hotmail.com).

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com). Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

**Detroit Pershing Class of 1960**

50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

**Farmington High School Class of 1970**

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking

classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at [dblehn@aol.com](mailto:dblehn@aol.com).

**Oak Park High School Class of 1980**

30th reunion, July 2-4; for information e-mail to [ophighschool1980@yahoo.com](mailto:ophighschool1980@yahoo.com)

**Garden City High School Class of 1960**

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at

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

**Garden City West Class of 1970**

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

GARDEN & NATURE

If you have an item for the garden and nature calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

Livonia Garden Club

A representative of the Detroit Institute of Arts will present a slide show about flowers and other plants depicted in paintings at the DIA. The meeting will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Roads. Visitors are welcome.

At English Gardens

The English Gardens 8th Annual Orchid Festival Feb. 1-28 and includes these workshops and presentations:

- Introduction to orchids, 1 p.m., Feb. 6; free.
- Orchid basket workshop, 2:30 p.m., Feb. 6; \$29.99. Participants will create a basket filled with an orchid and

a selection of green tropical plants.

- More about orchids, 1 p.m., Feb. 13; free.

- Orchid re-potting demonstration, 2:30 p.m., Feb. 13; free.

Other sessions next month include free presentations in starting seeds indoors at 1 p.m., Feb. 20 and fresh flower arranging at 1 p.m., Feb. 27.

A Make It & Take It Workshop: Spring Bouquet will be held at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 27. It costs \$19.99 and will include everything participants need to design a fresh flower arrangement to take home.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto [www.EnglishGardens.com](http://www.EnglishGardens.com).

"... so right now on Twitter, I'm following LLNL — you know, the Lawrence Livermore National Lab — and its fusion project."

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7th Annual

# Senior Expo

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center  
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- Web Presence**  
The Senior Fall Expo special section will be featured on [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com), which receives upwards of 1 million page views per month!
- Exhibitor Listing**  
You'll be featured on the center spread of our special section plus newspaper promotion during April and May.
- Expo table plus two chairs**  
Use your space for giveaways, food demonstrations and promotional materials. Electricity available on a first come, first served basis for an additional charge.
- Food**  
Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

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The Senior Expo will be promoted in all of our trusted, local newspapers:

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Canton Observer  
Farmington Observer  
Garden City Observer  
Livonia Observer  
Milford Times  
Northville Record  
Novi News  
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at sma-son@hometownlife.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Westland Democrats

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26 Location: Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey at Venoy (between Palmer and Michigan) in Westland.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers.

Nominations sought

Details: Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is asking the community to submit nominations to recognize adults who provide exemplary service to Girl Scouts.

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month. Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Writing Group

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

LifeCare

Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9-16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots.

TOPS 869 meetings

Time/Date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

American Legion Post 251

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month. Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Writing Group

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

TOPS M128

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland

Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

TOPS 869

Time/Date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

Garden City Democratic Club

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)

Location: Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

Citizens for Peace

Time/Date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month

Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.

Contact: Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

In Harmony

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting

Contact: call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

Veteran's Haven

Location: Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne.

Details: Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

Contact: (734) 728-0527

Silver Strings Dulcimer

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass.

Contact: (734) 482-2902, http://geocities.com/ssdsociety

Garden City Kiwanis

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City

Details: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

Garden City Rotary

Time/Date: noon Thursdays

Location: Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City

Details: Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed.

Habitat for Humanity

Details: The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fundraising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

Contact: (734) 459-7744

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital Retirees

Time/Date: 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month

Location: Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne

Details: All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

Garden City Amateur Radio Club

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The club is open to people who are interested in ham radio.

Contact: Ben (WBAAA) at (734) 425-2629

Garden City Lions

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Dave Fetter at (734) 425-4382

Garden City Garden Club

Time/Date: 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: Everyone may attend to hear guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics and plan events around the city.

Contact: Della Haydon at (734) 427-9410

Genealogical Society

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. third Monday of every month

Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile

Details: Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Purple Heart

Time/Date: 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month

Location: VFW Post 7575 Hall, 33011 Ford west of Venoy, Garden City

Details: Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.

Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

Adult Day Services

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth

Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals

Contact: Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecare@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

Metro Fibromyalgia

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City

Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Menopause & More

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month

Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.

Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint

Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.

Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove

Time/Date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.

Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.

Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

EDUCATION

Willow Creek

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland

Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

St. Damian

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland

Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.

Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JANUARY

Diabetes seminar

Sanctuary at Villa Marie along with the American Diabetes Association will offer a free seminar on detecting, preventing, and managing diabetes, 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 26. Free blood sugar screening will be offered after the seminar. Sanctuary at Villa Marie is located at 15131 Newburgh, south of Five Mile, behind St. Edith Church. For more information, call Sharon Powell at (734) 464-9494 or e-mail to powells@trinity-health.org.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

"Parenting with Love and Logic" is offered for parents with pre-teens and teenagers, from 7-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 27 in classrooms 1 and 2, at the hospital, 36475 5 Mile, Livonia. The class takes a common sense approach, teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision-making in children. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162.

FEBRUARY

ALS reception

The ALS Association will present a Research Update and Celebration of Excellence Reception Feb. 2 to educate individuals about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research and to recognize individuals who have supported the chapter in a special way. ALS commonly is known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The program will start with light refreshments from 6-6:30 p.m. at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen. A research update and awards presentation to top ALS Michigan Chapter volunteers will follow. Bill Emerson, CEO of Quicken Loans, will receive the top award for his role as Corporate Chair - 2009 Detroit Walk to Defeat ALS. The event is free and open to the public, although an RSVP is requested. For more information or to RSVP, call Suzi



Emerson

Terebello at (248) 680-6540 or e-mail to susan@alsa-michigan.org.

Karmanos Work it Out

Danielle Karmanos' Work it Out, a non-profit program that features a yoga-based approach to preventing childhood obesity, will hold a fundraiser, 7-9:30 p.m., at the Museum of Contemporary Art, (MOCAD) 4454 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$50 per person; \$75 for a VIP champagne reception with photographer Brad Ziegler, whose images of Work It Out participants will be featured. The evening at MOCAD will include wine and appetizers from D'Amato's of Royal Oak, music by DJ Urban Kris and a chance to explore the galleries of the innovative museum. For more information and to register for the fund-raiser, visit www.dkwio.org/eveningout.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

• Cardiologist Roy Misirliyan will discuss heart health issues specific to women and include symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention, at "Ladies Night Out," Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the auditorium at the hospital. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m. Registration is required. There is no charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. Call the Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to register, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."  
• Beginning and intermediate Hatha Yoga classes are offered from 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, beginning Feb. 9. They run through March 16 and meet in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. Hatha Yoga increases flexibility, energy level and strength at your own pace in a non-competitive setting. Class participants need to be able to move between a standing position to a hands and knees position with ease. Cost is \$55 for the six-week session. Space is limited. To register, call (734) 655-1162 or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."  
• "Parenting with Love and Logic" is offered for parents with pre-teens

and teenagers, from 7-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, in classrooms 1 and 2, at the hospital. The class takes a common sense approach, teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision-making in children. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

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

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.oa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved

one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

U-M gets new scanner to identify brain tumor cells

Doctors will be able to scan a child's brain while operating with cutting edge equipment that will be part of the neuroscience operative suite at the new University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. The intraoperative MRI will be the first of its kind available to patients in Michigan when construction of the \$754 million hospital is complete.

"The system will greatly improve current technology for removal of brain tumors in children," said Karin Muraszko, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Michigan Health System.

"The iMRIS system brings cutting edge MRI technology into the operating room to obtain brain or spine images, in the middle of a surgical procedure, without moving the patient or compromising the surgical field," Muraszko added. "This will advance our ability to care for patients with brain tumors, epilepsy and even patients with hydrocephalus. The iMRIS system lets us obtain the best available MRI imaging in the middle of an operation to determine what's going on."

A surgeon can use the location, appearance and texture of the tissue to determine what is normal brain and what is tumor in a patient undergoing a resection of brain tumor, said Hugh Garton, pediatric neurosurgeon at the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

"But none of these tools are completely accurate," Garton stated. "There is good evidence for brain tumors that the long-term outcome is better with a completed resection than for one that is not complete."

"During procedures, we could face a difficult choice regarding tissue about which we are unsure. Removing it is risky and could cause permanent neurological injury. Leaving it

behind could risk committing the patient to a second surgical procedure and an increased risk of complications."

IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK

A neurosurgical patient may be best served when up-to-date MRI views of the surgical field are available during an operation. But getting that information without the iMRIS system, requires moving the patient from a surgical suite to an MRI imaging suite, through a non-sterile environment.

"Intraoperative MRI provides immediate feedback as to the both the nature of the tissue in the surgical field and the anatomic relationships of critical structures of the brain as they are oriented in a surgical procedure. For me, to be able to demonstrate to a surgical trainee the correlations between what he or she is seeing in the surgical field and what the MRI shows should accelerate the learning process," said Cormac Maher, a pediatric neurosurgeon at the University of Michigan Health System.

"We are excited by the research possibilities, for example, in developing agents that more accurately identify tumor cells on both the MRI and in the operating room."

No other system offers the same degree of safety for both the patient and the surgical environment.

iMRISneuro provides neurosurgeons with timely images during surgery from which they are able to make better decisions for their patients.

Peter Strouse, director of pediatric radiology at UMHS, says the iMRISneuro system is a critical acquisition for Mott.

"We have a chance to do something really good with this piece of equipment. It's really cutting edge and for neurosurgery, if we want to be the leaders and the best, it's just something we had to have," he said.

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TYPES OF PAIN

In describing muscle and joint pain, doctors use a number of terms that may have a different meaning to a patient than to the doctor. This column will discuss three of these terms, namely referred pain, radiating pain and strain.

The best example of referred pain in joint conditions is hip pain. One feels pain originating in the hip as groin pain, that is, a pain in an area just below the abdomen and going from the edge of the pelvic bone to the midline area. Why hip pain manifests itself this way has to do with the distribution of the nerves that supply the head of the hip.

Radiating pain is the pattern of pain one feels with a pinched nerve such as sciatica. In sciatica, the pain originates in the back when a major nerve, the sciatic, becomes compressed between a vertebral disk and the surrounding bone. What the person notes is a pain, sometimes burning, tingling or sharp going down the leg. This distribution of pain follows the path of the sciatic nerve itself.

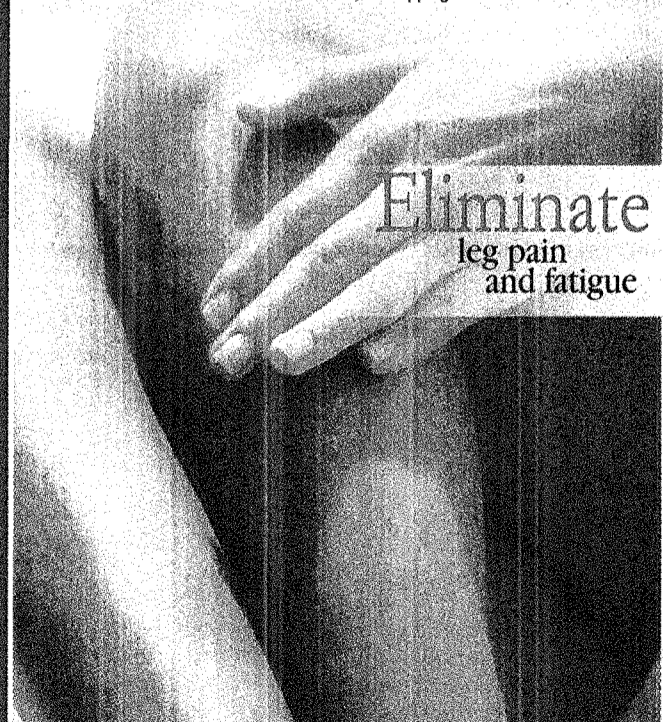
The pain from strain occurs when a muscle near an impaired joint becomes subject to undue use. Thus, when the hip experiences arthritis, the quadriceps muscle of the high may hurt because of the extra work the muscle must undertake with walking. Strain in the back of knee with knee arthritis represents the same phenomenon. The hamstring muscles are trying to compensate for an impaired knee joint.

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# Nissan Sentra: An Old Standby That Delivers Quality

Advertising Feature

## CAReport



The Nissan Sentra competes for sales with the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic. The Sentra has been a solid contender for many years due to its plethora of standard features.



By Kevin Koloian  
For Avanti NewsFeatures  
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

The Nissan Sentra offers a sharp, visually striking image. Following its larger and more upscale siblings, the Altima and Maxima, the Sentra is no longer Nissan's entry-level car now that the company makes the Versa.

Targeting the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic, Nissan hopes the Sentra, like the \$22,000 car we tested, with its many standard features, can put a dent in these best-sellers' armor.

The biggest knock against the old Sentra was its tight cabin room. Nissan designers took that into account and made the latest Sentra much larger.

Offering one of the largest interior volumes in its class, the new Sentra has a 5.9-inch longer wheelbase than the 2006 model. It is 2.3 inches longer in overall length, 3.2 inches wider and sits 4 inches taller for easier entering and exiting.

Passengers should have no problem getting into the Sentra's rear seat, but they may find foot room is limited because of the large front seat brackets on the floor. But, there's plenty of headroom and rubber door armrests are comfortable resting places for forearms.

The trunk itself is designed to accommodate long and bulky items by increasing the size of the trunk pass-through opening. Combined with the new 60/40 split double-fold rear seat, Sentra offers enough cargo flexibility for carrying snowboards, hockey sticks and even bikes.

Sentra's innovative trunk divider allows the trunk to be used for short term and long term/hidden storage. A removable divider wall, which can be positioned flat on the trunk floor when not in use, can be raised into a vertical

position, creating two separate compartments.

Other handy storage features include an integrated, removable overhead compact disc holder above the driver's sun visor which can hold up to eight CDs, net storage pockets on the upper backs of the front seats for rear seat passengers' cell phones and mp3 players, a rear seat armrest with cup holders that can accommodate a 20-ounce bottle and 32-ounce drink cup, extra instrument panel storage next to the driver's door, and a large glove compartment that's big enough to fit a large-sized map book. The center console offers multiple storage options, including an adjustable cup holder design and cell phone space.

With its tall dash and vertical center stack, the Sentra's interior design has a few elements you'd find on most SUVs. Its instrument panel is made up of alloy-like rings on the gauges and dials, while chrome accents the door handles and steering wheel emblem.

Buyers of the Sentra have a choice of five trim levels: base, S, SL, SE-R and SE-R Spec V. Standard on the base trim are 15-inch steel wheels, air conditioning, a four-speaker CD stereo with an MP3 player jack, and power windows and locks. The S trim level adds 16-inch alloys, a height-adjustable driver seat, keyless entry, power mirrors, steering-wheel-mounted audio controls and an extra pair of stereo speakers. When you spring for the SL trim, you get leather upholstery, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, keyless start, cruise control, an alarm system and a trunk divider. The Sentra SE-R is equipped similarly to the SL, but the keyless start and steering wheel audio controls are become options instead of

standard equipment. It also gets 17-inch wheels, firmer suspension tuning, larger brakes, a lower body kit, sport seats, aluminum-trimmed pedals, and oil pressure and G-force gauges. The SE-R Spec V has everything the SE-R has and adds summer tires, an even firmer and lowered suspension, and larger front brakes.

Standard options on all models but the base Sentra include a sunroof, a spoiler, an upgraded 340-watt Rockford Fosgate sound system, Bluetooth, and either XM or Sirius Satellite Radio.

The base, S and SL Sentras are powered by a 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder engine good for 140 horsepower. Base and S models are available with either a six-speed manual or a CVT transmission designed to offer smoother operation and better fuel-efficiency than a regular automatic. Sentra SL models come only with the CVT.

The CVT is also standard on the Nissan Sentra SE-R, which has 2.5-liter four-cylinder good for 177 horsepower. The SE-R Spec V gets a high-output version of this engine capable of 200 horsepower. A six-speed manual is the only transmission available on the Spec V.

Fuel economy ratings for the Sentra 2.0 SL are 29 miles per gallon in the city and 36 mpg on the highway. These figures hold up well among its main competitors and are only worse when compared to cars with smaller engines.

The Sentra has decent acceleration and its electric power steering is quick, but sometimes

it is too quick and the steering wheel returns to center with unusual force. Overall, it provides a firm ride, swallowing road bumps and potholes, although there's a lot of body roll going around corners.

Nissan has done a good job of minimizing road noise. Even when the Sentra's 4-cylinder engine is pushed to high speeds, the highway ride is surprisingly quiet.

On the safety front, the Sentra gets the usual array of airbags including seat-mounted side-impact bags and roof-mounted curtain airbags. Active head restraints come standard on the front seats to reduce the chances of whiplash from a rear-end collision. Front and rear crumple zones, side impact door beams, an energy-absorbing steering column, and a system to pull the engine down in a frontal impact all contribute to overall occupant safety.

All of these safety features earned the Sentra a five-star frontal crash rating for both driver and passenger by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Sentra is a solid entry in the compact car segment. With its strong engine, styling and interior, the Sentra should stay near the top of the class of affordable, well-built cars.

**Nissan Sentra**  
**Vehicle class:** Compact car  
**Power:** 4-cylinder engine  
**Mileage:** 29 city/ 36 highway  
**Where built:** Aguascalientes, Mexico  
**Price as tested:** \$21,085

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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$16,248							
Cash Back	-\$4,500							
<b>Buy For</b>	<b>\$11,748</b>							
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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$19,014							
Cash Back	-\$3,500							
<b>Buy For</b>	<b>\$15,514</b>							
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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$25,213							
Cash Back	-\$6,000							
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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$19,041							
Cash Back	-\$2,000							
<b>Buy For</b>	<b>\$17,041</b>							
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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$26,618							
Cash Back	-\$5,000							
<b>Buy For</b>	<b>\$21,618</b>							
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A/Z PLAN Price*	\$22,777							
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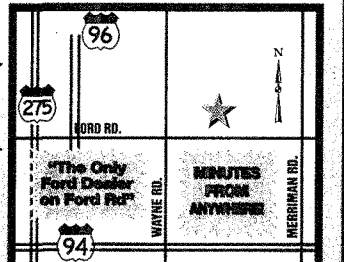
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