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Newspapers

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Number 74

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AROUND TOWN

Special event

Wayne-Westland Special Olympics is holding a fund-raiser at Applebee's, 36475 Warren Road at Central City Parkway, Monday. Give an event flier to your server and 20 percent of your bill will be donated to Special Olympics and assist local youngsters in participating in athletic events. The fliers are available at Westland City Hall, the Bailey Recreation Center and at Applebee's.

Appointments

The Westland City Council has confirmed the appointment of Douglas Vaughn to the Westland Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term. His term will expire on July 20, 2010.

The Planning Commission, which meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall, reviews and recommends to the City Council all applications for amendments to the zoning ordinance or zoning map, applications for special land uses, site plan approvals and planned unit developments. Vaughn is a licensed builder.

The council also confirmed the appointment of Michael Weck to the Westland Library Board to fill an unexpired term. The term is set to expire June 20, 2014. Weck also serves on the Tax Increment Finance Authority/Economic Development Corporation board.

Coffee hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns.

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt for refreshments and an informal fire-side chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at the William P. Faust Public Library. Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576 or send an e-mail to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold district coffee hours to meet with constituents on Monday in Westland. No appointment is necessary. Anderson will be at the William B. Faust Library in Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, 9-10 a.m. Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; phone: (866) 262-7306; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Council limits citizen comments to 3 minutes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Anyone wanting to bring an issue before the Westland council may have to be a little concise or talk faster.

Under the policies and procedures adopted by the council last week, speakers will be limited to three minutes — that's down from the current five minutes, monitored by a LED timer on the wall.

The change was adopted on a split vote by the council, but citizens who attended a study session were unanimous in opposing the shorter time at the podium. There were complaints the council was attempting to restrict First Amendment rights although the change only addressed the length of time allowed for speakers.

"I seldom get up and speak, but I don't like the three minutes. I've learned a lot from speakers. It's been a real healthy thing over the years,"

said resident John McGuire. "You don't have to clip our wings. Five minutes isn't that long. It's real good to have citizens get up and speak."

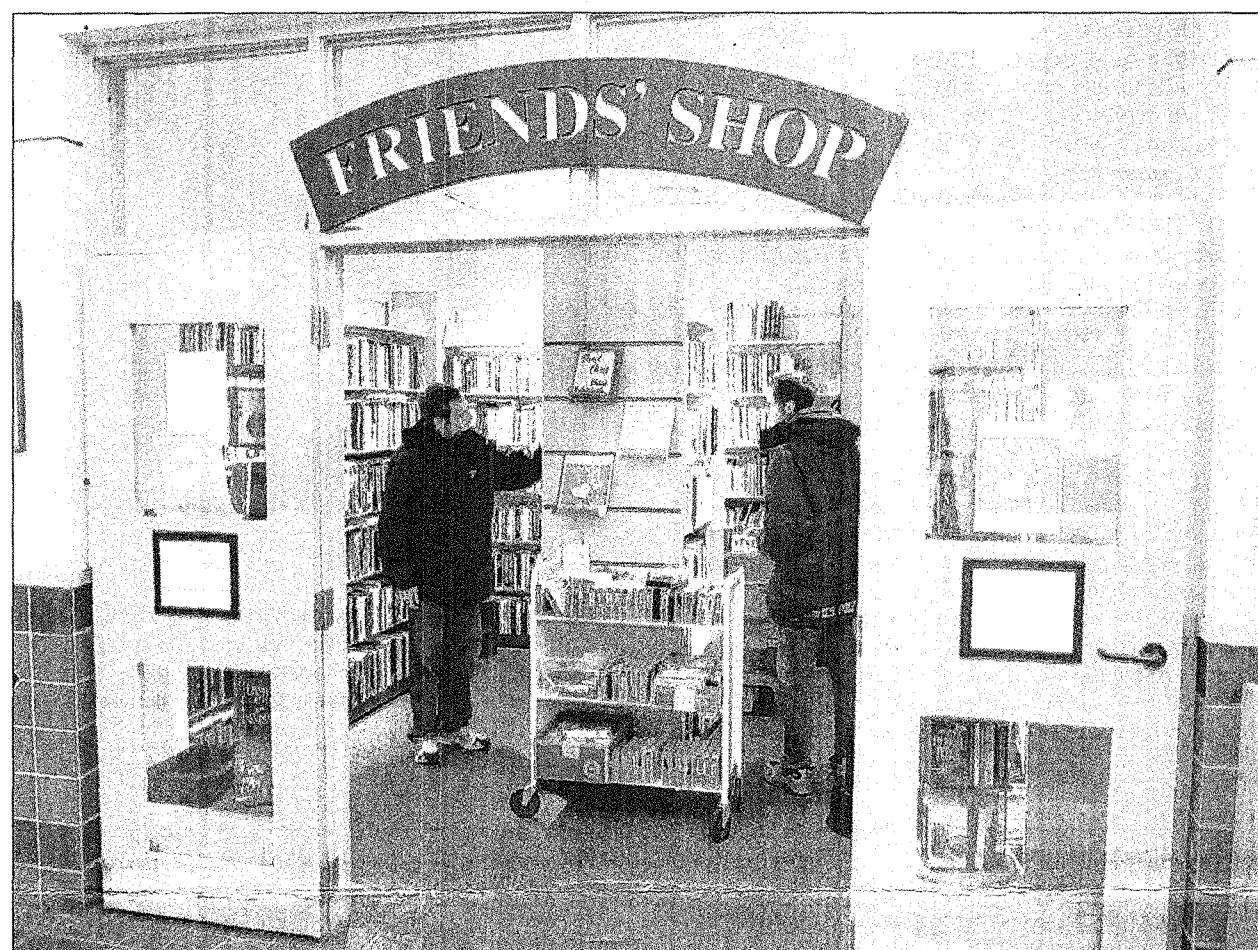
Other residents who spoke against the three-minute limit were regulars who talk at most council meetings.

"When I get up to speak, I feel I have something important to say — I could use more than five minutes," said resident Mark Rodriguez. "If you're concerned about meetings with a lot of people attending, then

have special circumstances when you can limit speaking at a busy meeting."

The council adopts its policies and procedures every two years after incoming council members take office. A council subcommittee reviewed the policies and procedures and made recommendations which were discussed at a study session prior to the council meeting. The

Please see **COMMENTS, A2**



Robert and Andrew Haarer of Westland shop at the bookshop operated by the Friends of the Library during library hours.

Library leaders know they've got Friends

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Westland Library has some darned good Friends.

"Very important to the library," Diane Mehl, circulation department head and Friends of the Library liaison, said of the group. "They raise money used for all of our programming." The financial support helps in these tough times, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland staffer added.

"So it is very important," Mehl said. You're welcome to join the Friends of the Library, with different costs for families, seniors and students. A short form to fill out is available at the library, on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford roads. "And they're in. It's that simple," Mehl said.

One major project is the bookshop, open at the library during all

regular hours. "We sell a lot of materials from the Friends shop," Mehl said. That includes donated materials as well as items "weeded" from the library collection.

"We do get a lot of donated material," Mehl said, adding there's a dropoff site near the library entrance and donations are welcome.

Library Friends go beyond financial support, with many regulars at library programs, said Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services. "They are very supportive in making sure the library has everything it needs to function properly," Kwik said.

Friends President Meriem Kadi attended the opening of the library back in the 1990s and thought, "I'd really like to get involved." She recalls seeing library leader the late Ernie Johnson at a signup table.

"It's been a really great experi-

ence," said Kadi, a Realtor and Westland city councilwoman. "It's just a great way to give back. It's just a really cool thing. We'd like to get more people involved."

The Friends support the library's Summer Reading Program for youngsters, and sponsor used book sales four times a year, with one coming up soon.

The Friends 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 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13. You can 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.

Please see **FRIENDS, A2**

Nursing home worker charged with embezzlement

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman has been charged with embezzling more than \$100,000 from a local nursing home and an additional felony charge is pending.

Michaeline Meek, 46, is charged with the 20-year felony for more than \$100,000 that was stolen from Westland Convalescent Center from March 2008 through August 2009. A not guilty plea was entered for Meek when she was arraigned in 18th District Court and she was released on \$5,000/10 percent bond. She waived her preliminary examination and Judge Sandra Cicirelli ordered her bound over to Wayne County Circuit for trial where she was arraigned Jan. 28.

Employed by Westland Convalescent Center since the 1980s, Meek worked in the business office where her duties included handling accounts payable.

"She would tell clients to pay with cash. She would take the cash from the clients and not deposit the money — she'd put it in her pocket or purse," said Westland police Sgt. Thad Nelson. "She'd give them receipts, so the clients weren't ripped off. The money was stolen from the business."

The amounts of money not deposited varied a great deal, Nelson said, from \$55 to \$1,000. The largest sum was \$20,000 missing in one month for a total \$170,000 missing in a 17-month period, he said.

A second warrant charging Meek with embezzlement under \$100,000, a 15-year felony, is expected to be issued shortly. That warrant relates to money

Please see **CHARGED, A2**

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Seminar markets rehabilitated homes in city

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Would-be homebuyers can learn about opportunities to purchase rehabilitated vacant, foreclosed homes at a Neighborhood Stabilization Program seminar Tuesday at Westland's Dorsey Community Center.

"The seminar isn't restricted to Westland residents but the houses that are being rehabilitated are in Westland," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "A recent seminar in Livonia drew 70 people and about half were Westland residents."

Westland has contracted with two companies — Home Renewal Systems and Guy Construction — to purchase, rehabilitate and sell vacant, foreclosed homes to qualified low to middle income buyers. Home

Renewal Systems will be participating in the seminar, which will be held 6-7:30 p.m.

Goals for the federally funded NSP are to reduce housing vacancy rates, reverse the decline of housing values, increase the stability of neighbors and reduce blighted housing in neighborhoods hardest hit with abandoned homes. NSP provides opportunities for individuals and families meeting income guidelines to purchase a newly renovated home.

For example, a one-person household must have annual income below \$58,700. A percentage of the homes are earmarked for people making \$24,450 annually or \$470 weekly (\$11.75 hourly). A four-person household must have annual income below \$83,900. A percentage of homes are specifically designated for families with an

annual income below \$34,950 or \$672 weekly (\$16.80 hourly).

Down payment and closing cost assistance are available through the program as well as credit counseling, as needed.

"People can use both this program and get the homebuyers' tax credits," said Inglis.

Information available at the program requirements would be applicable in other communities. Specific homes will be available in Westland.

As part of the Westland Mission: Green initiative, each home in the program will be evaluated for energy efficiency and upgraded where possible.

The Dorsey Community Center is at 32715 Dorsey, Westland. To register for the seminar, call (866) 996-9754 or visit www.homerenewalmi.com.

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Officials find city, schools missing in speech

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Westland Mayor William Wild, what was most striking about Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State speech last week was what she didn't mention.

"As mayor, I didn't really hear anything in there for cities. She touched on some positives around the state but never mentioned state shared revenues," said Wild, who attended the speech with state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.

State shared revenues, the city's second largest sources of revenue after property taxes, were down \$341,781 in 2009-10 and have been regularly cut in recent years as the state attempts to deal with financial shortfalls.

"The governor talked about creating jobs. Jobs would be in the cities. I've said before that if you want a strong state, you need strong cities," said Wild.

Among the positives in the speech, Westland Council President James Godbout said he agreed that Michigan needs to diversify its economy.

"We are starting to get more diverse businesses. A lot of companies are still auto-centric like the battery manufacturers," said Godbout. "More diversification is needed. Some of that came in, like Pfizer with their research facility in Ann Arbor, and were hurt by the economy."

In the wake of several local projects derailed when previously approved financing fell through, Godbout and Wild

agreed that efforts need to be made to free up lending.

"We need to make more money available. The government bailed out the banks but they're not making the money available," said Godbout. "The financial institutions, in my opinion, aren't doing their part to stimulate job creation."

Legislation to create jobs and jump-start the economy, rein in state spending and reform government, and help struggling Michigan families needs to be passed, said state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

"Despite our state's struggles, there have been some bright spots in our economic growth. A123 Systems' investment in Livonia, mentioned in the speech, represents exactly the sort of job growth that is

possible, if we work to create an environment favorable to growth," said Anderson. "We need to keep working to create a good economic environment and use the resources we have, such as our experienced workforce and manufacturing infrastructure, to create jobs and support growth in businesses like A123."

"I also believe we must begin implementing government reforms to increase transparency in Lansing and make sure taxpayer dollars are going towards solid investment in our communities," he said.

A123 Systems Inc., a manufacturer of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, will launch their future headquarters and production facilities in Wayne

County, including their flagship site in Livonia. Incentives offered by the state and supported by Anderson helped secure the company's expansion in Michigan, including investing more than \$600 million in the project. The company's investments in various projects in Michigan are expected to create 5,000 jobs.

"We recognize the successes that we have had over the last year and we know what needs to be done to continue fostering Michigan's economic revitalization," said Anderson. "I am committed to doing what needs to be done."

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy, who found little about public education in the governor's speech, is anxious to see the

details when the governor rolls out her proposed budget on Feb. 11.

"We'll have a better idea of which way she's going then, we have to see the line items that are attached to her concepts," he said.

Baracy is keeping his fingers crossed. Last year, Granholm lined out close to \$7 million in enhanced school aid the district receives, but thanks to the efforts of LeBlanc and Anderson, the language was put back in the school aid budget.

"We're trying to be optimistic about the whole situation," he said. "We hope the governor and both sides of the aisle will come together on this budget."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Pancake breakfast

The City of Westland Senior Resource Department will host its monthly all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for only \$4 8:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. Stop by the Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh Road to enjoy a hearty breakfast.

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

Classes starting

New sessions start this week for gymnastics, yoga and Studio K dance classes at the Bailey Recreation Center. Parents can bring their kids in to learn gymnastics or put on their dancing shoes to learn multiple styles of dance including ballet, tap and hip hop. Also, ages 13 and up can learn the art of yoga and improve flexibility, strength and relaxation.

Call for more information at (734) 722-7620 or visit <http://ci.westland.mi.us/>.

For information on dance classes, call Kristi at (734) 604-2580.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinocle and euchre games at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinocle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

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.

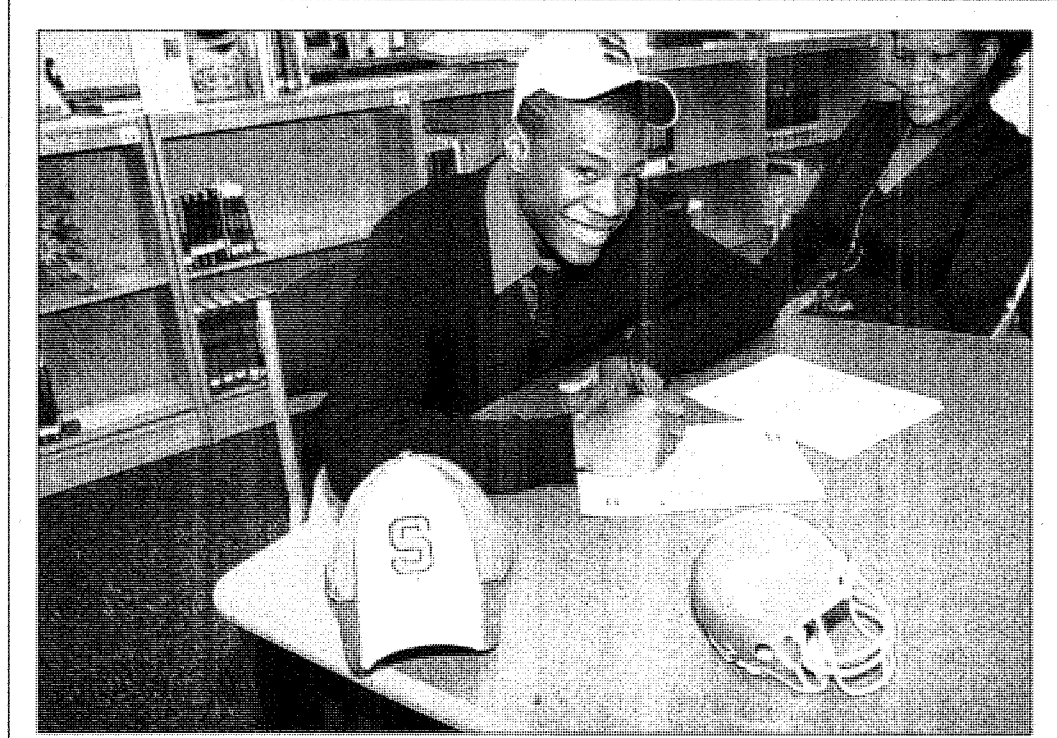
Trivia for Tatas

Help raise money for the annual Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and show off your smarts at Trivia for Tatas Sunday, Feb. 28, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road. The cost is \$15, if paid by Feb. 14, and \$20 at the door. Registration begins at noon with the games beginning at 1 p.m.

All ages are welcome and there will be cash prizes with bonus questions to earn more prizes. Bring your own team or come on in and join a team

Buffalo Wild Wings will also donate 20 percent of all food and drink sales with event flyer 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds go to benefit the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

For more information, contact Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or e-mail downt@doubledepress.net.



Future Spartan

Westland John Glenn's Jeremy Langford, along with his mother Shamene, is all smiles after signing a National Letter-of-Intent on Wednesday at the school library to play football at Michigan State University. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound running back and defensive back was a Dream Team All-Stater and first-team All-Observer pick after rushing for 1,934 yards and scoring 25 touchdowns for the 8-2 Rockets.

CHARGED

FROM PAGE A1

missing from Westland Convalescent Center over a period dating back to 2005.

"She (Meeks) was in charge of billing and accounts, they trusted her. There were no checks and balances," said Nelson.

The embezzlement came to light after a client died and a family member tried to contact Meek about paying

any outstanding balances at Westland Convalescent Center. When Meek failed to return calls, Nelson said the family member sent an e-mail to the center's chief financial officer, triggering an investigation.

"Obviously this is in court,

so I can't go into detail. At no time was patient care affected and that's most important," said Judy Caroselli, Westland Convalescent Center administrator for 39 years. "I worked 30 years with this person, so you can imagine the devasta-

tion. It's so heart-wrenching for myself and my co-workers. We were friends and did things socially as a group."

For patients and their families, Caroselli said she wanted to emphasize the problem was limited to the business office.

"We are still who we are and we are still here. We are known and have had a reputation in the community as being an excellent facility," Caroselli said.

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FRIENDS

FROM PAGE A1

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

library has joined the city in "Go Green" efforts boosting reusable bags.

The regular sale prices are: \$1 hardcover books, DVDs, CDs; 50 cents large paperbacks; 25 cents small paperbacks, videos, cassettes, records; 10 cents maga-

zines; and \$2 green reusable Friends bag.

For information, call (734) 326-6123.

"We're always looking for volunteers," Mehl said, noting some Friends members are regulars. Volunteers stock the shop. For the quarterly sales,

they sort and box donations. "That alone is a huge job," Mehl said.

Some volunteers with pickup trucks help with hauling donated books, she said, as do city volunteers from the parks and recreation department. The library offers a home-

bound delivery program that also relies on volunteers.

Kadi is glad she worked her way on up through committee posts and such. "The library touches so many different entities, people of all ages," she said. "We get a lot of compliments on the services,

the location." That's true of those coming from beyond Westland as well as residents.

"I'm so thankful that we are able to have the money," especially now, Kadi said. "It keeps the library alive with all the different things we're able to offer."

COMMENTS

FROM PAGE A1

three-minute public comments was based on survey of neighboring communities, many of which had a similar time restriction.

"We're here to voice our opinions and take part in the proceedings. If we can't speak here, where can we speak?"

said resident Elenor Swistak. "I can't speak in Lansing or Washington, D.C. This is where you come, you get to know us."

Noting that she received 1,000 votes in an unsuccessful run for mayor, Swistak said that she didn't just speak for herself at the council meetings.

Charles Pickering, a former mayor and most recently a council member, said that he preferred that the five-minute

restriction be maintained. Under the current agenda format, citizens can speak on agenda items early in the meeting and again on non-agenda items once council business is completed.

"There hasn't been a problem with long meetings. The meetings have been short the last few years. We've had short agendas and few citizens who speak," said Pickering. "Those who don't come

regularly might struggle to tell their story in five minutes."

The only explanation for the change offered by council members was that keeping individual comments shorter would allow more citizens to speak at the council meetings.

"If this is an All-American City, then let people speak. It's been five minutes, keep it at five minutes," said resident Judy McKinney, who had a heated exchange with Council

President James Godbout during the study session.

The revised policies and procedures were adopted without opposition initially. Councilwoman Christine Cicirelli Bryant had expressed opposition to reducing the time allowed for an individual citizen's comment.

When Godbout asked if there was opposition to the motion adopting the policies and procedures, Bryant didn't

speak. Godbout was moving on to the next agenda item when Bryant indicated she wanted to vote no.

On Bryant's motion, the council agreed to reconsider the vote. When a second vote was taken, Bryant voted against the adoption along with Councilwoman Meriem Kadi, who also had changed her vote.

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OLYMPIA GROUP



Robert Young shows off drawings he did in support of the Detroit/Windsor area hosting the 2020 Olympics.

Teen's drawing promotes Detroit as Olympics host

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Robert Young, 13, a seventh-grader at Burger School for Autism in Garden City, has a simple message.

As a supporter of the Olympics, he wants to let everyone know the future will be bright for Windsor and Detroit, said his teacher Ted Raynush.

It's also to send a clear message to the Olympic committee that the Detroit/Windsor area can host the Olympic games successfully, even though both cities are going through a

rough time right now.

Both teacher and student believe that it would be "a fantastic international event in 2020."

Young created a colored hand drawing which represents Michigan in 2020. The blue star represents Windsor, HOMES represents the great lakes, the blue lines represent the Detroit River and the multicolored ribbon is the Olympic ribbon.

On the Olympic ring drawing, the orange and yellow represent Windsor and Detroit, the blue lines represent the Detroit River, the star in

the middle represent all the Olympic colors, except for purple and orange which again represent Windsor and Detroit in a different way.

The blue, red and yellow squares represent the continents of North America, South America and Europe.

The Olympic flag he created to help the effort of the Detroit/Windsor 2020 Summer Olympic bid.

Raynush is a long-time substitute at Burger who is replacing Young's permanent teacher, Catherine Amatucci.

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Dealers see some foot traffic after Toyota recalls

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether Toyota recalls will have an upside for American auto dealers is an open question.

At North Bros. Ford in Westland, president Doug North said his dealership hasn't seen any fallout from problems at Toyota. But he said the dealership did have a good sales week.

"I think that we will see some Toyota customers, but it might take another 30 or 60 days," North said. "I think that right now they have some consternation about Toyota."

Perhaps more important long term, North said he believes that the recalls will dispel the notion that somehow the foreign car is superior to a domestic one.

"Disappointed and disheartened" — that's how Susan Ianni, general manager of Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City, described

Toyota customers who are coming in in the aftermath of the recalls.

"We have had some come in," she said.

And the dealership sold a Chevrolet to one customer — his Toyota was leased, she said.

The problem for the dealership is that they don't want the Toyotas either, if someone is trading in.

"What are we going to do with them?" Ianni said. "We don't want them. We don't feel safe selling them to anyone."

The trade-in question presents a real quandary for dealerships, Ianni said.

Most of the Toyota customers that she has spoken to feel betrayed, Ianni said.

Those in the car industry picked up on the safety issue early.

"We have known about this for a long time," Ianni said.

At Victory Toyota of Canton, employees are working longer hours to repair

eight models recalled for gas pedal-related problems, and dealership officials said they remain confident they will keep their customers despite a global public relations nightmare.

"We are here for you today, tomorrow and years to come," Victory Toyota General Manager Rick Hodges said, seeking to reassure customers of Victory Toyota's service by promising that "we're more committed today than ever before."

Toyota dealerships everywhere have been besieged by customers who became scared of their own cars amid a recall of more than 8 million vehicles for issues including gas pedals that could potentially get stuck in floor mats or fail to return to position even when no pressure is applied.

Staff writer Darrell Clem contributed to this story.

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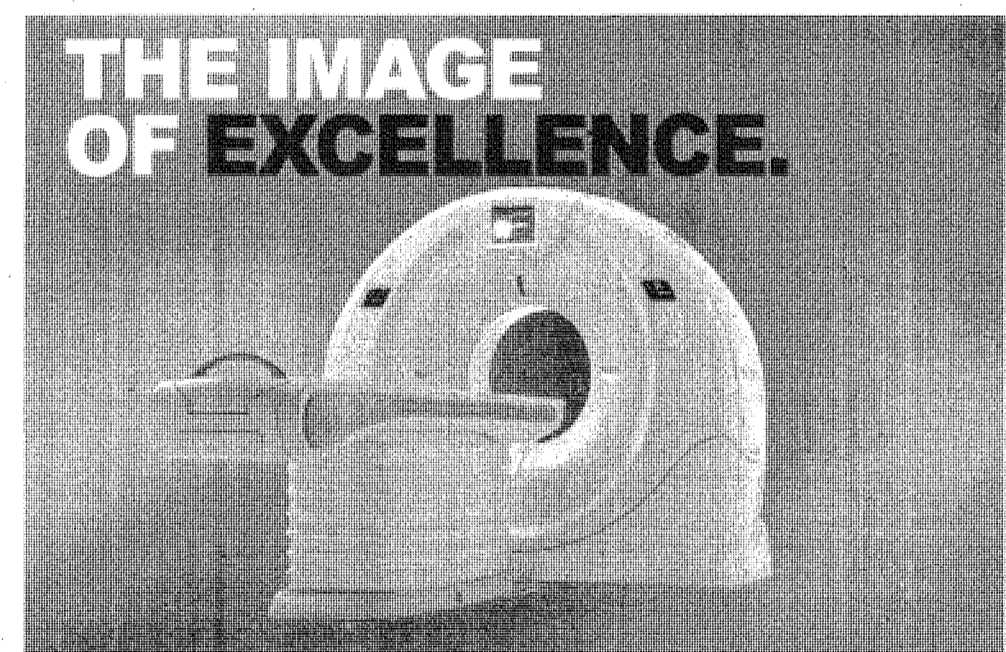
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EDUCATION

Career-tech center open house highlights emerging fields

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ginny Kowalski's looking forward to showing off the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center at a Tuesday, Feb. 9, open house.

"Typically we will see around 400 people," the center principal said of the annual open house, to be held 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the center, 36455 Marquette, between Newburgh and Wayne roads in Westland.

Traditional career-technical programs like HVAC and welding will be highlighted, but there will be newcomers like vehicle design technology and game design and programming as well. The alternative energies technology program includes wind, solar, biofuels and more.

The open house is held in conjunction with National Career and Technical Education Month. It's done on a drop-in basis with reservations not needed, and will include food and highlights of the 22 programs.

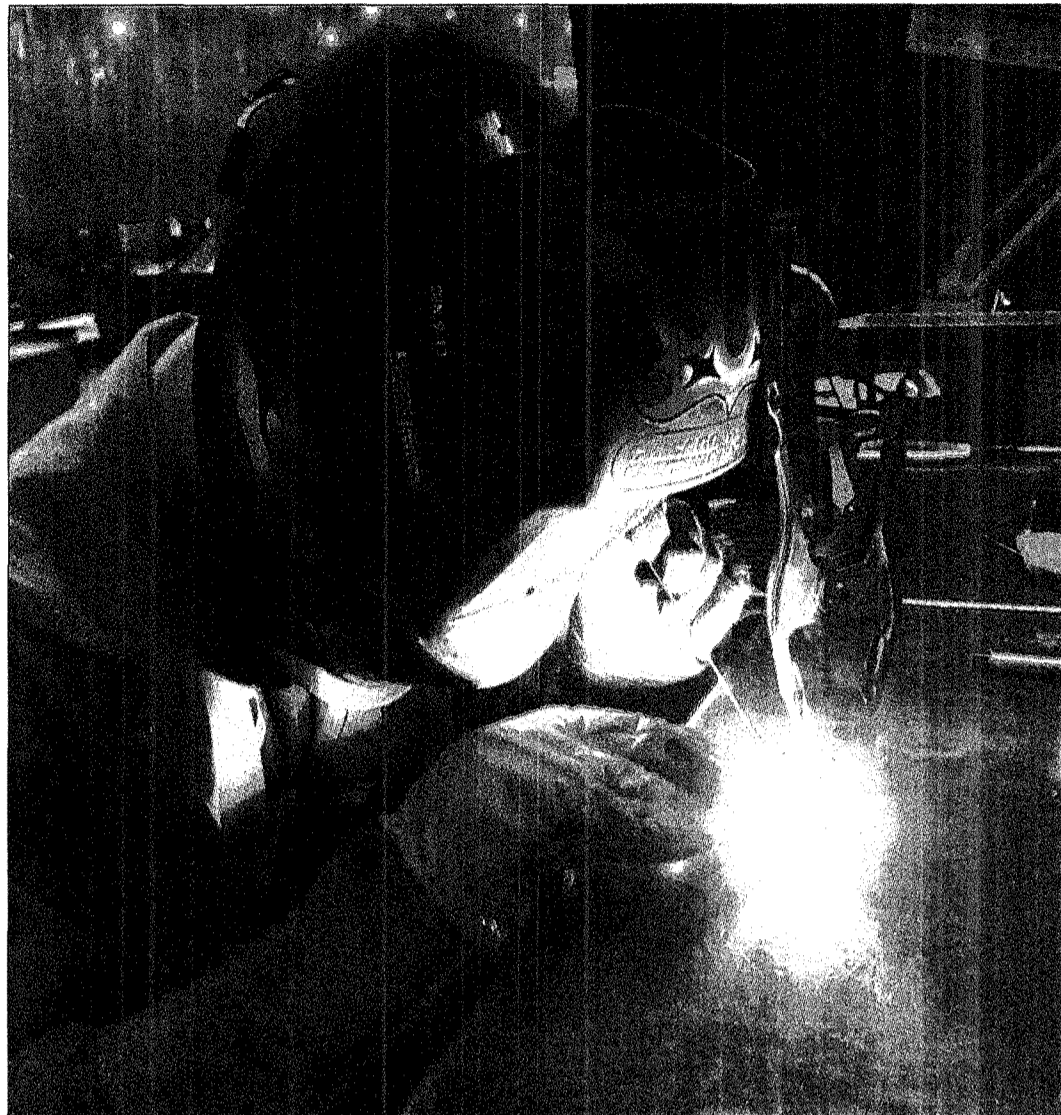
"We like to feature our programs," Kowalski said. In addition to high school students, the programs are open to community adults who then register in July and start coursework in the fall.

"It gives them an opportunity to see things," she said. "Right now, we're in a huge transition. They are telling us green jobs are coming."

For vehicle design technology, the focus is on electric vehicles and hybrids. Two students will design a vehicle on the computer, do clay modeling and paint it from the auto body shop.

"By the end of the year it will be fully functional," she said of the smaller vehicle each student team will build. "That's pretty cool."

That came out of the



Students can learn such skills as welding in programs offered at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland.

Innovative Vehicle Design program after school, for which students often had transportation problems. It was moved to daytime as a credit offering.

On Tuesday, the National Technical Honor Society will hold its induction ceremony. "We will have cooking demonstra-

tions," she said of the culinary arts program.

Instructors will be available to answer questions as parents and students walk through career-technical center labs.

One newer area is digital media, preparing students for the film work being done in

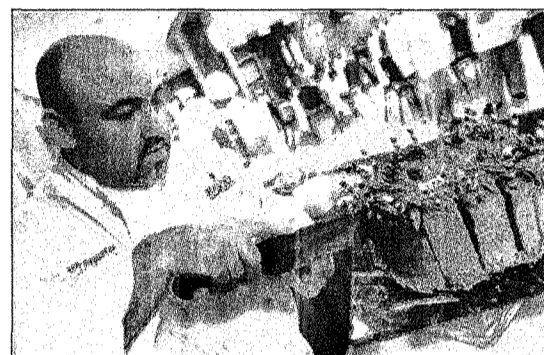
Michigan. Kowalski, completing her eighth year as principal, is proud of the center and its staff and students.

"Administration supports this building so much," she said. "Our administration is, I think, very forward-thinking in allowing us to create these new programs."

Career-technical programs require expensive equipment, she said, and some districts have cut those and absorbed students into regular high schools.



Videographer Lee Higginbottom explains how a Glidecam can be used to students in a digital media class at the center.



Chef Tony Paquette is the culinary arts instructor who works with students in preparing food served at the center's Café Marquette.

The Wayne-Westland center is in transition, now offering Algebra II and the senior-year math requirement. Wind turbines incorporate a lot of electronics, Kowalski said, noting electronics has declined in student popularity.

The Ford center received a \$100,000 government grant for alternative energy, one of 15 such schools in Michigan. Staffers have partnered with Solar Way Forward, a California company, on alternative energy teaching in the curriculum.

"The career-technical center is one of the most exciting educational institutions in Michigan," said Greg Baracy, school superintendent. It enhances the district's academic performance, he said.

"It certainly gives our students an edge out in the real world when they're competing for jobs," Baracy said. "These are the types of skills people need to be employable." He described the Ford center as "state of the art" and encouraged residents, including students, to attend Feb. 9.

He noted the growth of "green" jobs as well as those in gaming and medical fields. "It deals with some of the most sophisticated automotive technology," Baracy said, agreeing the education offered has changed in the last generation or so.

For information on the open house or the career-technical center, call (734) 419-2100.

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marvac.org

Save documentation of charitable donations

Q: Dear Rick: I'm preparing my 2009 tax return. The instructions state in order to deduct charitable contributions you must make the contribution in that calendar year. I thought I read something that said you were allowed to deduct charitable contributions on your 2009 return as long as a contribution was made before February 2010. Is this correct?

The way our inheritance tax laws work is when you inherit money that was not in some sort of tax qualified retirement account, you inherit the money income tax free. On the other hand, if you inherit an IRA, 401(k) Plan or an annuity there are income tax consequences to you.

documentation. Good luck!

Q: Dear Rick: Last year I inherited \$250,000 from a friend's estate. It was a CD outside of his IRA. How should I report this for tax purposes? I'm not sure it's important but I do my tax return using a software package. I know I have to report the money, I just can't figure out where it goes. Can you help?

A: Based upon the fact that you inherited non-retirement money I have good news for you. The \$250,000 you inherited is not subject to income taxes and does not have to be reported on your tax return. All that money is yours and you do not have to report it to the Internal Revenue Service.

The way our inheritance tax laws work is when you inherit money that was not in some sort of tax qualified retirement account, you inherit the money income tax free.

On the other hand, if you inherit an IRA, 401(k) Plan or an annuity there are income tax consequences to you. The exception is a Roth IRA. When you inherit a Roth IRA, since it is a tax-free account, there are no income tax consequences upon death.

Good estate planning takes that into consideration — not

only estate taxes but also income taxes. For example, you would want someone in a lower income tax bracket to inherit retirement accounts and someone in a higher tax bracket to inherit non-retirement accounts. By doing it this way, you can reduce income tax consequences to the beneficiaries.

Sometimes, there is confusion between estate taxes and income taxes. One really has nothing to do with the other. Estate tax deals with how the estate itself is taxed while, generally, the income tax deals with how the individual beneficiary is taxed. Obviously, one of the goals of good estate planning is to reduce and eliminate both estate and income taxes.

Keep in mind that there are

differences between inherited money and money gifted to you. Gift taxes, if any, are the responsibility of the person giving the gift not the person receiving the gift. However, there are different income tax consequences involving gifting money and inheriting it, particularly when it comes to determining your basis in the property.

I am frequently asked is it better to gift to someone or leave them an inheritance. There is no one right answer. It all depends on a variety of factors. However, something you should always consider is that when you leave an inheritance you never get to see how that inheritance affects someone's life. On the other hand, when you gift money during your lifetime you get to see how that money is used. Good luck!

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

Nominations sought for ATHENA Award

Since 1982 the ATHENA Award has been presented to more than 5,000 deserving women and men all over the United States. The organization's mission is "supporting, developing and honoring women leaders," "inspiring women to achieve their full potential" and "creating balance in leadership worldwide."

On March 6, a new recipient will be awarded for their outstanding achievements at the sixth annual Women of Westland ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball.

In order to be eligible for the award, the candidate must exhibit excellence, creativity and initiative in their line of work. They must put forth time and effort to better their communities and be active in assisting women realize the leadership potential that they have.

Both men and women can

be nominated for the award.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Feb. 12. They can be sent to the Mary Denning Cake Shoppe, President, Women of Westland, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan 48185-1110.

The winning recipient will receive the traditional ATHENA Award sculpture and will be recognized by state and local dignitaries.

The Chocolate Fantasy Ball is being hosted by the office of Mayor William R. Wild, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Women of Westland.

For more information about the ATHENA Award and the organization, visit www.athenafoundation.org.

For more information about tickets, sponsorships and nominations, visit www.womenofwestland.com or call (248) 255-8241.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: Like most things when it comes to tax law, there are always exceptions to the rules. Last week Congress passed, and the president signed, new legislation that dealt with the Haiti relief effort. In order to encourage Americans to contribute to Haiti, Congress passed legislation that does allow you to deduct contributions for the Haiti relief effort on your 2009 tax returns as long as they are made by the end of February. This exception applies only to charitable contributions for the Haiti relief effort.

One last note regarding charitable contributions. In general, it is important to save documentation. It is no longer sufficient to just save the cancelled checks. You also need to save receipts received from the charitable organization. As I've always said, the best way to beat the IRS if you're audited is to have the proper

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The era of the Harlem Renaissance

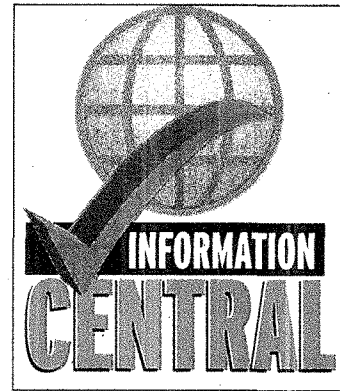
The Harlem Renaissance was (and is still) considered a re-birth and re-awakening of African-American contributions to popular culture, including but not limited to literature and art. Starting soon after the First World War in 1919, the Harlem Renaissance lasted a full 10 years until the Great Depression took hold of the country.

With the onset of the Industrial Revolution in Northern cities like Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York, many Southern blacks made their way north in pursuit of a better life. With this, many discovered a newfound social freedom not present for them in southern life. Places like Harlem, New York, soon became cultural hotbeds for African-American writers, musicians and artists.

A major event that hit home for many black families during the Harlem Renaissance was the continued mistreatment of black soldiers returning from World War I. If blacks could travel overseas and die for their country, their question began, how could they not receive equal treatment in relation to whites at home? This issue galvanized much of the black community in favor of better treatment and rights.

Major American writers and artists emerged from this Renaissance of black culture, including poets like Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Bennett and Claude McKay, artists like Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden and Aaron Douglas, and thinkers like W.E.B. Dubois, Alain Locke and Marcus Garvey.

The Westland Public Library is proud to present two events celebrating the Harlem Renaissance: The Harlem Renaissance Traveling Exhibit, a multiple tapestry exhibit detailing the major figures of the Harlem Renaissance, in the library from Feb. 16 through Feb. 28, and, a special opening for the traveling exhibit featuring the Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance as performed by four



area poets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, followed by a performer reception).

If you have any questions regarding the exhibits or performances or would just like more information about the Harlem Renaissance, please contact the Westland Public Library at 734-326-6123 and ask for the Reference Desk.

Highlighted Activities

Friends of the Library Book Sale: Preview Sale Feb. 11, 3-7 p.m., general Public Sale Feb. 12-14.

The Preview Sale is a chance for members of the Friends of the Library (or those who wish to join) to get first pick in this month's book sale. The Book Sale will be open to the general public. Call the library (734) 326-6123 or visit our Web site - westlandlibrary.org - for hours.

February Friday Night Movie Extravaganza: 7 p.m. Feb. 12

Stop by the library every Friday evening in February for a screening of Golden Globe nominated movies. This week's movie is "Hurt Locker," a riveting, suspenseful portrait of the courage under fire of the military's most unrecognized heroes: the technicians of the bomb squad, who volunteer to challenge the odds and save lives in one of the world's most dangerous places. Three members of the Army's elite Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) squad battle insurgents and each other as they seek

out and disarm a wave of roadside bombs on the streets of Baghdad. This movie is rated R. Everyone age 18 and over is invited. No registration is required. This is an after-hours program. Library doors opens at 6:30 p.m.

Job Seekers Lab: Every Tuesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 1-4 p.m.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job related activity? Stop by the library where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help.

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

Everyone welcome. There will be a demo: How to Make an I-Cord. Materials Provided. (Knitters will meet Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Starbucks on Central City Parkway.)

Added hours for the Chess Group: Every Thursday 7-8:45 p.m. and Saturday 1-4 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Everyone's Reading: Feb. 15-April 28

Book Selection is Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent." Stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book and find out book discussions and many other programs. Or go online to westlandlibrary.org or everyone'sreadinginfo.org.

Information Central was compiled by Andy Schuck, reference librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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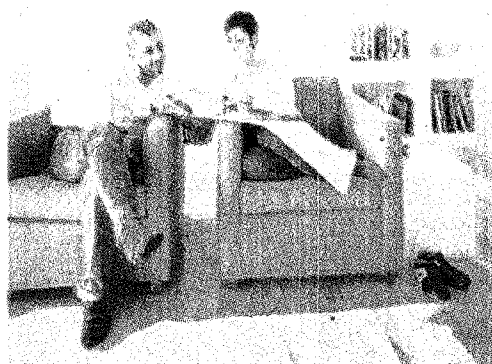
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

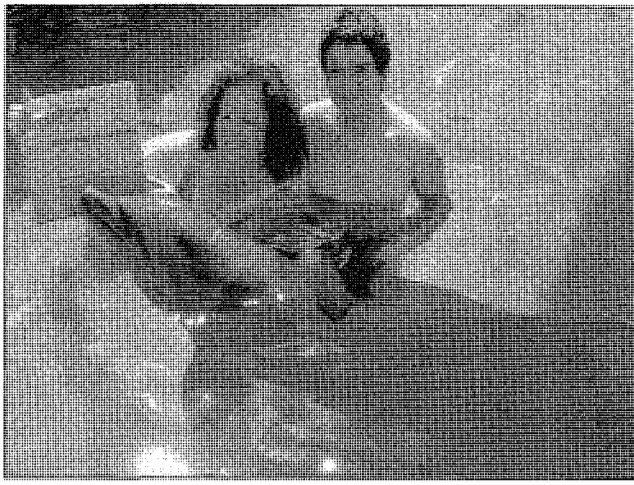
UPCOMING EVENTS

Toastmasters
Location: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M.

Trainorama Extra 2010
Time/Date: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, March 21
Location: Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

3 Day Kickoff
Time/Date: Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure Getting Started Meetings will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 13, and 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 27.

LifeCare
Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday
Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth
Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.



Wish You Were Here

Susan Patterson and her son Dylan took their Garden City Observer along during their August cruise in the Bahamas. The cruise stopped in Freeport Grand Bahama Island where they took an excursion to the Underwater Explorer's Society (UNEXSO) for a Dolphin Close Encounter during which they swam with and were kissed by a dolphin.

tion and inspiration you are looking for. At the meeting, you can get your questions answered and meet other Komen 3-Day for the Cure walkers.

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

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

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.

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
Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays.

ORGANIZATIONS

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,

optional. Participation in the group is free.
Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to shep@yaho.com

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

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
On February 16, 2010, the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles.
YEAR MAKE BODY STYLE COLOR VIN
1999 Chrysler Sebring/2 Dr Black 4C3AU52NXXE104056
2000 Dodge Ram/Van Green 2B6HB11Y6YK108340
2004 Chrysler Sebring/4 Dr Purple 1C3EL46X44N381051
1998 Dodge Ram/Cargo Van White 2B7HB11YXWK143665
1989 Ford Bronco/SW Blue 1FMU15N1KLB32489
2001 Olds Alero/4 Dr Silver 1G3NK52T81C127194
1985 Chrysler New Yorker/4 Dr Blue 1C3BT56E9FC251949
1997 Ford Taurus/4 Dr Black 1FALP52U1VG271014
2001 Ford F150/Pickup Black 1FTRW08L81KA23830
1994 GMC Safari/SW Tan 1GDDM19Z9RB522863
1989 Mercury Grnd Marq/4 Dr Tan 2MEBM74F0KX857405
1995 Ford Escort/4 Dr Red 3FASP13J0SR127919
2001 Ford Mustang/2 Dr Gray 1FAPP45X01F213456
1999 Pontiac Grand Prix/2 Dr Silver 1G2SP12K4XF218321
1997 Ford Thunderbird/2 Dr Blue 1FALP6245VH1000086
2000 Ford Windstar/SW Red 2FMZA5146YBB46900
2000 Chevy Malibu/4 Dr Burg 1G1ND52J3Y6197342
1996 Chrysler Twn&Cntry/SW Green 1C4GP54L7B172224
1988 Chevy 1500/Pickup Red 1GDCD14H1JE100918
1999 Buick Century/4 Dr White 2G4WS52M3X1569808
1995 Ford Explorer/2 Dr Black 1FMDU24XXSUB24034
1995 Ford Taurus/SW Green 1FALP5844SG287243
2001 Dodge Caravan/SW Gold 2B8GP44G71R102553
1995 Ford Windstar/SW Green 2FMDA5145SBD15399
2002 Chevy Trailblazer/SW Green 1GNDT13S52290553
1996 Olds Aurora/4 Dr Purple 1G3GR62C7T4107302
All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.
30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after March 13, 2010 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.
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Publish: February 7, 2010

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Awrey's still fires up ovens after 100 years

"I can make good homemade bread and we will sell it to our neighbors and perhaps get something started."
— Elizabeth Awrey

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Awrey and her husband Fletcher got something started, all right.

With the spartan beginnings of fresh breads baked on a coal-fired range in a house in Detroit in 1910 to a 235,000-square-foot plant on Farmington Road in Livonia housing more than 400 employees, Awrey's Bakeries continues to bake Danishes, croissants, cakes and biscuits for everyone from corporate customers to local residents who shop at the thrift store next to the plant.

On Tuesday, the company celebrates its 100th year in business.

The Awrey family no longer owns the company. The company was sold in 2005 to Hilco Equity of Chicago and Monomoy Capital to help the company emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The company is looking forward and ahead with business beyond its 100th birthday.

"(Hilco and Monomoy) are very pleased with the performance of the company and very proud to build on the Awrey legacy," said Bob Wallace, president and CEO of Awrey Bakeries.

The company has evolved and is expanding its base of national customers, according to Wallace, a Novi resident. At one time the business sold 100 percent of its products in Michigan; today it's only 10 percent, Wallace said.

Wallace is tight-lipped on the identity of some of the company's national clients as the company maintains confidentiality agreements with them. Wallace doesn't hesitate to promote the Michigan companies doing business with Awrey's.

Locally, Awrey's sells to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Phil Sanchez of Westland loads margarine on the conveyor, one of the ingredients in cinnamon rolls.

Busch's and Hiller's markets, Sysco Food Service, Gordon Food Service and Lipari.

Hiller's and Busch's do a great job promoting Michigan products, Wallace said. "If everybody spent \$10 a week on Michigan products, it would inject \$36 million into the Michigan economy," Wallace said. "People would be buying more groceries, supporting their local communities by spending more money and there would be more money (in the community) for people to buy other items, like cars. We really like that campaign."

Other customers include the military, airlines, hotels, grocery chains and national food service chains, including Sam's Club.

In June 2009, Awrey's purchased Athens Elegant Dessert in Noblesville, Ind., which specializes in the company's cheesecake and high-end desserts.

Awrey's employs 400 people. Gross sales total \$90 million. The facility mixes batters and bakes croissants, biscuits, brownies, muffins, cake layers for the high-end cheesecakes made in Indiana and sheet cakes, producing 26 million pounds of food products using 7.5 million pounds of flour and 6.3 million pounds of sugar annually.

"Most of what we produce has a 12-month shelf life because it is frozen," Wallace said. The company also has eliminated trans fats from all of its products, he said.

John Awrey, who is the stepson of former bakery vice president Betty Jean Awrey and is sales and marketing manager, said that the fact that the business bearing the family's name is continuing after 100 years is awesome. "A company that can continue to be doing business in a time of economic challenges says a lot about the family and the new management," Awrey said. "It's excellent that it's 100 years old."

Kurt Eddy, who is the nephew of Betty Jean Awrey, said Awrey's is much more than just the "Awrey" family. "It is the entire family of people that walk through our doors every day to make our fine baked goods," Eddy said. "Three and even four generations of families have called Awrey's their home away from home."

"This place gets in your blood, and you feel emotionally invested in its success, the success of the company, and for each other. We all look out for each other and the company. Awrey's is family, if it is directly or indirectly."

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SUNDAY
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2010

SECTION B
(WL)

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

Local woman will compete in state pageant as Mrs. Wayne County, B6

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE



BOYS HOOPS

Chargers' big surge trips Pats

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The alarm clock didn't go off for the Livonia Churchill boys basketball team until well into the third quarter Friday night.

The host Chargers found themselves down 29-23 against Livonia Franklin with 5:40 to go when coach Jim Solak called for a timeout.

"I reminded the guys it's now or never," said the Churchill coach, who put on a full-court press. "We strayed away from the game plan. We forgot how we wanted to play tonight. The bottom line is that we woke up."

Churchill scored 50 points over the final 13:40 and went on to a lopsided 73-46 win over the Patriots.

Senior guard Tony Frezzell scored 22 of his career-high 28 points in the second half to spark the surge.

"When Tony uses his head and realizes he's a great athlete, he can do those type of things," Solak said. "He didn't settle for the jump shot or the bad shot. When he does that — he's really good."

Senior center Adam Bedell chipped in with 16 points, while Stephen Foster and Raynord Allen added nine each as the Chargers improved to

Please see **RIVALRY, B2**



Stevenson's Justin Shureb (left) tries to elude the grasp of a Novi player during Wednesday's KLAAs Central Division clash at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tie that binds

Spartan icers deadlock Novi, 1-1, in driver's seat

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson has a vice grip now on the KLAAs Central Division boys hockey race.

All that was required was a tie, and the Spartans got it Wednesday night when they played second-place Novi to a hard-fought 1-1 draw Wednesday night at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Both state-ranked teams are 14-2-2 overall, but Stevenson leads the Central with two games remaining at 7-0-1.

Novi, meanwhile, is 5-1-1 in the division.

In a Dec. 9 non-division game, Stevenson and Novi battled to a 4-4 deadlock.

"This game turned out to be the game that counted," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "(Livonia) Churchill

helped us out when they beat Novi. The tie helps, but we still have to play Franklin (Friday) and Canton (Feb. 10)."

Novi dressed only 14 skaters, but more than held its own throughout the 51-minute battle.

The Wildcats appeared to have a 1-0 lead just 1:52 into the opening period, when Ryan McCullough knocked home

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

GAME WRAPS

Krug saluted

Michigan State University freshman defenseman Torey Krug (Livonia) has been named the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Rookie of the Week.

It is the first CCHA weekly award for the Krug, though he did earn CCHA and HCA National Rookie of the Month honors in December.

Krug had a three-assist weekend and was plus-1 in a split with Michigan.

On Jan. 30, Krug assisted on MSU's second and third goals as the Spartans fought back from a 3-0 deficit in an eventual 5-4 loss. He also drew an assist Jan. 29 in MSU's 3-2 win over the Wolverines.

On the season, MSU has turned in a 3-1 record against its arch-rival.

Krug is the CCHA's top-scoring freshman defenseman with three goals and 13 assists for 16 points, and he is tied for second nationally in scoring by rookie blue-liners.

The second-placed Spartans (17-9-4, 12-6-4 CCHA) traveled over the weekend to Fairbanks, Alaska, to take on the Nanooks in an important CCHA battle.

Crusader men lose

The Madonna University men's basketball team let a 32-29 halftime lead slip away Wednesday night as visiting Aquinas College stormed back for a 75-63 triumph.

John Lierman, who led all scorers with 22 points, sparked a 16-0 second-half run for the Saints, who improved to 15-10 overall and 5-4 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Lierman tallied 11 of those points during the surge, including three 3-pointers.

Matt Weiss added 13 points for the Saints, while Ty Motley and Zach Eddy each contributed 11.

Freshman guard Kevin Henry paced the Crusaders (4-20, 1-8) with 17 points. Junior guard Bryant Slaughter (Westland) chipped in with 13, while senior center Leroy Allen had nine points and six rebounds.

MU women fall

A dismal shooting performance was the downfall for the Madonna University women's basketball team in a 49-45 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference setback Wednesday night to visiting Aquinas College.

The Crusaders, who fell to 8-13 overall and 4-5 in the WHAC, connected on just 25.9 percent for the game (15-of-58), including just 7-of-25 from 3-point range.

Erin Bentley was the only MU scorer in double figures with 10 points.

Junior guard Tabatha Wydryck added nine points and 14 rebounds, while senior center Kim Olech (Plymouth) added eight points and 10 rebounds.

Taylor Sanders and Kaitlyn Lang each tallied 11 points for the Saints (17-7, 7-2), who shot only 27.3 percent (18-of-66). Lang also grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds, while Joslyn Narber snared nine boards.



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Livonia Red freshman Katie Kretzchmer, competing on the balance beam, won the all-around title in Wednesday's dual meet against Livonia Blue with a score of 36.30. She also took the uneven bars (8.95).

Livonia Red gymnasts beaming

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wednesday's Flip For A Cure gymnastics meet between rivals Livonia Red and Livonia Blue brought out plenty of pink attire in the fight against breast cancer.

And when the final team score was announced, it was the squad with Red colors beaming with joy following a season-best 141.40-138.70 victory at Churchill High School.

A clean sweep on the balance beam and a strong showing on the uneven bars carried Livonia Red, which held team scoring margins of 36.05-32.70 and 34.25-33.95, respectively.

Individually, freshman Katie Kretzchmer captured the bars (8.95) and the beam (9.0), as well as all-around honors with 36.30 in the four events to pace Livonia Red. Senior Katie St. Pierre also added a first on the balance beam (9.4).

"It was definitely one of her (Kretzchmer's) bests of the season

— actually all the girls," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "We just had an 'on' meet. The girls were motivated being it was a fund-raiser and Blue being a rival. I told them, 'No matter what, do your best and stick the beam.' And if we did that, I'd be very satisfied. We finished strong on beam, and on floor, we had a high score."

Livonia Red improved to 7-2 overall and 3-0 in the KLAAs Kensington Conference with the dual meet triumph.

"We're still a work in progress, and even though we're past the halfway point of the season, we have a long way to go," Grodzicki said. "We have the Canton Invitational (Saturday), Northville next Tuesday (Feb. 9) and Canton here (Feb. 16) on Senior Night."

Livonia Blue, which slipped to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in the conference, got an all-around runner-up finish from senior Emily Quint, who scored 36.10 overall. Quint won the vault (9.6) and floor exercise (9.45).

"It's the way the cards fall, but I'm not disappointed," Livonia Blue

coach Lisa Fierk said of the setback. "We're pushing through injuries and we're extremely tired."

"Katie Bridges had a good meet and her sister Sara as well. And (Alex) Kitz did, too. And of course there's Emily Quint. The beam was low for us. Normally our team score is around 140, but they (Red) were 'on' tonight."

DUAL MEET RESULTS
LIVONIA RED 141.40
LIVONIA BLUE 138.70
Feb. 3 at Churchill H.S.

Vault: 1. Emily Quint (Blue), 9.6; 2. Alex Kitz (Blue), 9.1; 3. Katie Kretzchmer (Red), 9.0; 4. Haley Olsen (Blue), 8.9; 5. Sidnee Mattison (Red), 8.85.

Uneven bars: 1. Kretzchmer (Red), 8.95; 2. Kitz (Blue), 8.9; 3. Katina St. Pierre (Red), 8.8; 4. Quint (Blue), 8.7; 5. Lauren Patla (Red), 8.55.

Balance beam: 1. St. Pierre (Red), 9.4; 2. Kretzchmer (Red), 9.0; 3. Sally Osentoski (Red), 8.85; 4. Brittany Swazey (Red), 8.8; 5. Dayna Esper (Red), 8.7.

Floor exercise: 1. Quint (Blue), 9.45; 2. Kretzchmer (Red), 9.35; 3. St. Pierre (Red), 9.05; 4. Katie Bridges (Blue), 8.8; 5. (tie) Meghan Lark (Red) and Kitz (Blue), 8.75 each.

All-around: 1. Kretzchmer (Red), 36.30; 2. Quint (Blue), 36.10; 3. St. Pierre (Red), 35.95; 4. Kitz (Blue), 34.70; 5. K. Bridges (Blue), 33.95; 6. Sara Bridges (Blue), 33.45; 7. Swazey (Red), 33.60; 8. Lark (Red), 33.45; 9. Mallory Dorton (Red), 30.70.

Dual meet records: Livonia Red, 7-2 overall, 3-0 KLAAs Kensington Conference; Livonia Blue, 3-3 overall, 1-2 KLAAs Kensington Conference.

New U-D coach Deren taps into area talent

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

New University of Detroit Mercy men's soccer coach Nick Deren considers his hometown of Livonia to be fertile recruiting ground.

Deren, a U-D Mercy grad who played high school soccer at Livonia Stevenson, took over the Titans' team during midseason season and guided them to a 4-4 record after longtime coach Morris Lupenec stepped down. U-D's final record was 5-12-1



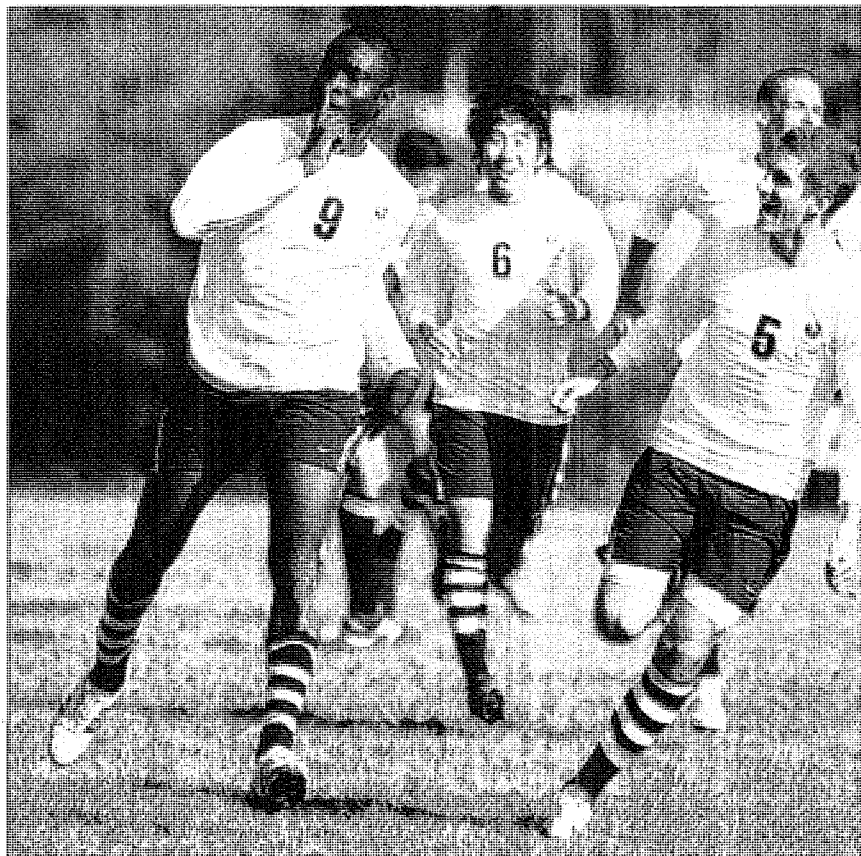
Adam Bedell Churchill

and 2-6 in the Horizon League.

His inaugural class will include Livonia Churchill's Adam Bedell, a 6-foot-6 defender who signed an NCAA Letter-of-Intent on Wednesday, and Schoolcraft College All-America forward YaYa Toure, who has made a commitment and will sign a letter later this month.

Bedell earned Division 1 All-State honors after scoring 11 goals and adding 10 assists for the 19-1-1 Chargers, who captured a district title and took the overall Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship. "Adam should be an immediate impact in the Titan lineup for 2010," Deren

Please see **U-D SOCCER, B2**



YaYa Toure (9) celebrates after scoring the lone goal in Schoolcraft's NJCAA Division I District D championship win last November over Illinois Central. Along for the ride are teammates James Cho (6) and Ognen Stemenkovic (5).

RENA LAVERTY

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

the rebound off a shot from teammate Nolan Valleau, but the goal was disallowed following a call for a Stevenson penalty.

"The ref said he prematurely blew the whistle and made a mistake," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "Regardless, it was a fantastic game played with a lot of guts and determination. The officials were excellent. They let us play."

"Stevenson will move on and win the division. I wish them the best and they've done an excellent job. Stevenson is an excellent hockey team and I'm proud of the way we played, too."

Special teams played a big factor in the outcome.

Stevenson couldn't capitalize on a five-on-three advantage midway through the opening period, while Novi failed to convert on a four-minute double-minor during the second period.

"I think both teams were disappointed with their power plays," Krygier said. "It's disappointing for us because we've done a pretty good job with it this season. Tonight we were a little lackadaisical, but it was a great hockey game and we had some great opportunities. Both teams had opportunities."

Those opportunities finally came to fruition during the final period as Evan Dixon lit the lamp for the Wildcats with 11:32 left on a rebound off assists from Zach Mohr and Andrew Moluch.

But Stevenson's Justin Shureb answered with only 8:22 left when he blocked a Novi clearing pass and scored unassisted, his 15th of the year.

The goalies did the rest as Stevenson's Danny Sager stopped 28 of 29 shots on the night, while Novi counterpart Michael Pesendorfer had 26 saves.

"Danny's been solid all year and he's such a good kid on and off the ice," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "He's grown tremendously this year. He's a solid number one goaltender for us and the reason why we have our record."

The Spartans, meanwhile, fought off six penalties.

"We did a nice job killing penalties, the four-minute kill was huge," Stevenson assistant coach Gerry Vento said. "It was a matter of our guys deciding to work hard and get the job done. On our power play they (Novi) shut us down, but we had lot of chances, a lot of traffic. Their goalie did their job and our goalie did our job. Those are the best penalty killers."

Krygier, meanwhile, was pleased with his team's showing despite being shorthanded.

"We had six guys out, but it was not a concern," the Novi coach said. "It was a coaching decision. The team actually played better than they've been playing. We put the guys on the ice we felt could get the job done."

In the first meeting between the two teams, Novi jumped out to a 3-0 advantage before Stevenson rallied to get four of the next five goals and earn the tie.

"I think we were a little more prepared for it," Vento said. "They (Novi) caught us off-guard that first game when they jumped out to the big lead (3-0). I thought we matched their intensity from the get-go, and that was the biggest difference. In that respect, it was a much more intense game from start-to-finish."

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851



Titan honoree

Former Livonia Stevenson High standout distance runner Ken Dubois was recently inducted into the University of Detroit Mercy Athletics Hall of Fame during homecoming festivities Jan. 23 at Calihan Hall. Dubois competed for the Titans from 1984-1988 and was a three-time All-Midwestern Collegiate Conference selection in cross country and set the school record as a senior at 5,000 meters. Dubois, holding his Hall of Fame plaque, is standing with (from left) UDM President Rev. Gerard L. Stockhausen, his son, and UDM Athletics Director Keri Gaither.

Spartans gain share of KLAA Central title

Hat tricks by Andrew Palushaj and Cole Rochowiak propelled Livonia Stevenson to a 9-0 mercy rule boys hockey victory Friday night over Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

And with the victory, the Spartans clinched a least a share of the KLAA Central Division title.

The Spartans, now 15-2-2 overall and 8-0-1 in the KLAA Central, can win the division outright with a victory Wednesday against Canton. (Game time is 6 p.m. at Edgar Arena).

Stevenson led 4-0 after one period and added five more goals during the second.

Rochowiak notched his 12th, 13th and 14th goals of the year, while Palushaj raised his season total to six.

Other Stevenson goal scorers included Evan Malick (his sixth), Steve Sudek (his third) and Adam Kleven (first-ever varsity goal).

Jake Poynter, John Strauch and Trevor Baruzzini each collected two assists in the win.

Stevenson freshman goaltender

PREP HOCKEY

Mike Kanitra, who made six saves, posted the shutout. He also had an assist.

The loss drops Franklin to 1-18-1 overall and 0-9-1 in the KLAA's South Division.

On Thursday, South Lyon Unified skated to a 9-1 mercy rule victory over the Patriots at the Kensington Ice House.

South Lyon improved to 7-10-1 overall and 2-6-1 in the KLAA Central.

ANN ARBOR 3, LADYWOOD 1: First-period goals by Rachel Freeman and Emmy Guttman carried the Pioneers (12-3, 11-2) to a Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League victory Wednesday over visiting Livonia Ladywood (4-12, 3-12) at Veterans Arena.

After a scoreless second period, Ladywood's Hannah Periera tallied a goal off an assist from Jenny Rohn to cut the deficit to 2-1.

But Ann Arbor's Julia Franceschi put it away on a goal from Guttman and Freeman.

Ladywood netminder Jessica Pavela made 27 saves, while the Pioneers' Sydney Supica stopped 16-of-17 shots on goal.

Madonna names Jeff Hodgson new women's soccer coach

After an extensive search, Madonna University Athletics Director Bryan Rizzo announced Wednesday that Jeff Hodgson has accepted an offer to become the new head women's soccer coach at Madonna University.

Hodgson replaces former MU All-American goalkeeper Jen Barker (Livonia Stevenson), who resigned after going 6-13 in her inaugural season.

"Getting someone with his knowledge of the game, experience and work ethic will only benefit our program moving forward," Rizzo said. "We feel he will be an outstanding addition to Madonna Athletics."

Following his prep days at Windsor's Riverside High School, Hodgson moved on to Western Michigan University where he was a three-year captain for the Broncos and was an All-Mid American Conference selection in 1993. That same season Hodgson picked up his second of back-to-back team MVP awards.

"I'm excited about this but also realistic of what I'm getting myself into," Hodgson said. "I want to make sure that I can provide the best soccer education to the players going forward. The opportunity to coach collegiate athletes is very intriguing to me. The team lost a lot of scoring from last year and we need to find players in the program or bring in new blood to help replace that loss and make the program stronger."

Following his graduation Hodgson moved onto the professional ranks, first in 1995 with the Tucson Amigos of the USISL before moving to the Arizona Sandsharks of the CISL (1996-97).

In 1998, Hodgson returned to the midwest and started a four-year run with the Detroit Rockers of the NPSL.

Hodgson joined the coaching ranks during his pro career, first as an assistant coach with the men's program at WMU (1994-95) before taking over the WMU women's club program for the 1995 season.

In 1999, Hodgson founded the Michigan Gators Football Club (Gators FC). Hodgson ventured into the professional ownership ranks in 2003 when he founded the Windsor/Detroit Border Stars.

Hodgson has also been a coach for the Michigan Olympic Development Program since 2002.

MU returns 14 letterwinners from the 2009 squad and will kick off the 2010 season in late August.



Hodgson

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Wednesday	7 pm	\$ 40	No	80% Pay Back	15K Chips Deep Stack
Thursday	7 pm	\$ 5	Yes	80% Pay Back	500 Start Chips
Friday	7 pm	\$ 10	Yes	80% Pay Back	3000 Chips/1 Rebuy
Saturday	7 pm	\$ 20	Yes	80% Pay Back	5000 Chips/1 Rebuy

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NEIGHBORS

Dream fulfilled

Redford woman will compete in state pageant as Mrs. Wayne County

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sarah Johnson likely will wear her talent on her sleeve — and her bodice, neckline and skirt — when she competes in the Mrs. Michigan America pageant.

Although the event doesn't require contestants to sing, dance or exhibit a spare time passion, Johnson, 25, can't help but show her skills with needle and thread. The Redford woman hopes to make her gown for the pageant, which will be held April 9-10 in Grand Rapids.

The reigning Mrs. Wayne County might even design it, too.

"There was a sewing program when I was in middle school for maybe a semester. Then they took it away. I was crushed, but I kept on sewing and learning little things here and there. I kept reading and drawing and sketching," she said.

Johnson has sewn ever since. Her husband, Kerrell, bought her first sewing machine and a best friend gave her the mannequin dress form she uses for fitting. Yards of silky-textured fabric are piled next to the machine, near more conservative suiting material that is being shaped into a coat, with sleeves designed like petals.

"I'll probably buy a gown and make a gown and then figure out which to wear," she said with a laugh. She also promised to make her daughter, Karah, 4, a gown for Metro Detroit's Largest Princess Party and Pageant sponsored by Royal Blush Events.

"It is like a mother-daughter thing,"



Sarah Johnson of Redford wears her Mrs. Wayne County crown and sash.

Johnson said, referring to the two pageants. "Hers is a natural pageant, which I really love. She doesn't have to wear makeup."

EXPERIENCE MODELING

Johnson's pageant includes swimsuit and evening gown modeling, interviews and an on-stage, on-the-spot question.

Her experience on the runway, modeling while she was in college at Wayne State,

may give her an edge at the pageant. She also has taken on print modeling assignments.

"I wasn't allowed to do this when I was younger. I just got into this. I wanted to model and I wanted to do pageants but my mother was protective because I was more of an intellectual."

Johnson, who grew up in Detroit in a family of eight, said her mother, was "very traditional" and also discouraged her from modeling.

"She didn't want me getting caught up in the sexual aspect of it. Even when I got older and started modeling, I stopped for a while because it did get to the point where it was all politics and people wanting you to do things you didn't want to do."

As a feminist in college, Johnson sometimes didn't see eye to eye with her mother. Now, as a mother herself, she understands her mom's point of view. And Johnson said her mother is happy about the upcoming pageant.

COMPETING FOR TITLES

Johnson said the Mrs. Wayne County title seemed to fall into her lap.

She submitted her application and photos, and eventually met with a pageant organizer who gave her the go ahead to serve as Wayne County delegate to the pageant in April.

While talking about the event with a friend in the clothing store where she previously worked, a customer offered to give her half of the \$500 sponsorship fee need-

Please see **MRS. WAYNE, B7**



Sarah Johnson and daughter Karah sing together.

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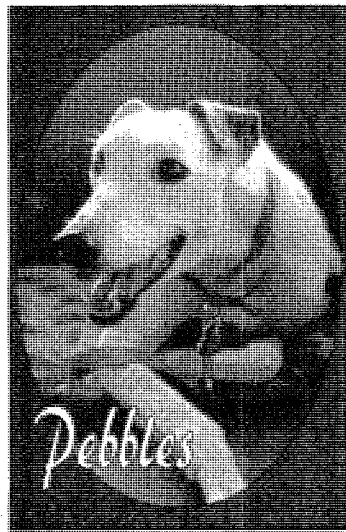
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Pebbles will be on hand at the "Meet and Greet" at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue & Adoption not only received several new greyhounds from Florida this week, it also found a new home for a monthly "Meet and Greet."

"We are thrilled that Celebrity Pets, located in Laurel Park Place," has invited us to join them on the second Sunday of the month," said Jackie Bowen, Greyheart public relations coordinator. "We will provide families an opportunity to learn about this alluring breed and get up close and personal with them."

The adoption event runs from 12:30-4:30 p.m. The first will be Sunday, Feb. 14. Laurel Park Place is located at 37700 West Six Mile, in Livonia.

"We will have with us a beautiful little girl who is available for adoption," Bowen said.

Pebbles, a white greyhound with pebble markings and deep brown eyes will be on hand.

"Come on out, pet a greyhound."

For more information, visit www.greyheart.org.

GARDEN & NATURE

Visit hometownlife.com to view the Garden Calendar in its entirety.

At English Gardens

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

- More about orchids, 1 p.m., Feb. 13; free.
- Orchid re-potting demonstration, 2:30 p.m., Feb. 13; free.

Collecting for Haiti

Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman Road, Livonia, is a collection site for items needed by Haitian Christian Outreach.

The church will collect items until Saturday, Feb. 27.

The public can help by placing goods in the donation boxes under the church canopy. Financial gifts will be accepted 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Thursday in the church, by mail or anytime by dropping the donation between the church doors.

Here are the high priority items needed: generators, work gloves, head lamp with batteries, peanut butter, meats in cans or foil packages, bottled water, medical dressings, gauze, surgical supplies, gloves, tape, suture materials, alcohol, peroxide, antibiotic cream (Neosporin), Vaseline, Ziploc bags in all sizes, crutches — including used sets as long as the hand grips and arm pads are in good shape — Tylenol, ibuprofen, antacids, Tums, cough medicine, prenatal vitamins, anti-diarrhea medication (like Imodium) in tablets or capsules, but not liquid or liquid-gels, anti-itch cream (Benadryl), eye drops that are non-medicated such as saline or liquid tears, baby cereal, powdered infant formula, empty baby bottles and ibuprofen or Tylenol liquids for infants.

Medium priority items are needed, as well. They are: children's clothing and shoes, new or used in good condition and sheets. Twin size sheets are needed most.

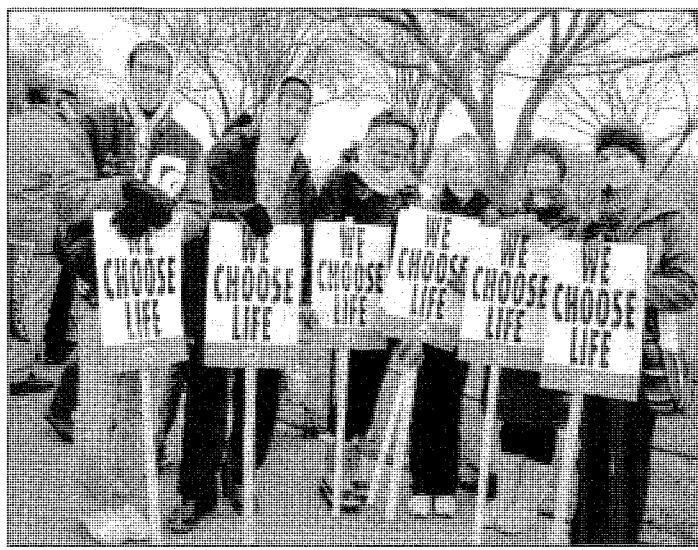
Checks may also be sent to the church to help Haitian Christian Outreach. Write "HCO Earthquake Fund" on the memo line of the check made payable to Kenwood Church of Christ.

For more information, call the church at (248) 476-8222.

Involved youth

More than 60 local young people, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Youth Group of Livonia, attended the 37th March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan. 22, to participate in the annual March which marks the anniversary of Roe v

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



At the 37th March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan. 22 are Ryan Majsak (left) and Daniel Thiesen, both of Catholic Central High School in Novi, along with Hillary Shesterkin, Laurel Cummings, Meghan Doulette, and Alex Cummings, all of Ladywood High School in Livonia.

Wade and the American legalization of abortion in 1973. "The attendance at this year's march was phenomenal," stated Patrick Cummings of Westland, who has accompanied his daughters to the March for several years. "Estimates are that the crowds were even larger than last year, numbering between 350,000 and 400,000, and it was great to see that two-thirds of those attending were college age or younger."

With a song

The HarmonyTown Chorus is still taking reservations for singing valentines. Quartets from the group will serenade your loved one with two songs for \$40. The delivery includes a rose and personalized card. To schedule a visit Friday-Sunday, Feb. 12-14, call (734) 743-1764.

Bucks for Bach

Musicians from Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras will perform the music of Bach in an artistic setting, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13, in Lotus Arts Gallery in downtown Plymouth.

Flutist Dennis Carter, Cellist Amy Kuras and Pianist Patrick Johnson, along with conductor Nan Washburn, will perform. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served throughout the evening.

Suggested donation for the event is \$35.

For more information and reservations call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouth-symphony.org

Save the date

ZONTA of Farmington/Novi and Parisian have teamed up to present the 16th annual "Steppin' Out in Style" fund-raiser for First Step, Western Wayne County's project on domestic and sexual violence.

The event will include after-hours, discounted shopping, a strolling supper and entertainment, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sunday, March 21, at Parisian in Laurel Park Place, located at Six Mile and Newburgh roads, in Livonia. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Proceeds from fund-raisers help First Step pay for such costs as client transportation, utilities, food bills and other expenses not covered by grant revenue.

For ticket and sponsorship information visit www.zontaffarmingtonnovi.org and click on "events."

Learn about DAR

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Sarah Ann Cochran Chapter will show a video about "Today's DAR" during its Good Citizen Reception, 10:30 a.m., in the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

For more information call (734) 459-4764.

MRS. WAYNE

FROM PAGE B6

ed to enter the Miss Michigan America pageant.

"He said just do it. He didn't want to know anything about me. He didn't want to know my address. This is how it's been for me since I said I wanted to be in this pageant."

Winning Mrs. Michigan would give her a platform to encourage others, especially young women, to follow their dreams. She noted that no African American women have reigned as Mrs. Michigan.

"What I really want to get across is that the impossible is possible. It's only impossible because you think it is."

View Johnson's pageant page by visiting www.MrsMichiganAmerica.com and clicking on "delegates."



Sarah Johnson of Redford in one of her modeling portfolio photos.

Arthritis Today
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FEELING STIFF

When a patient comes to a physician's office because of stiffness, the patient should be prepared to answer a number of physician inquiries. The doctor will want to know if the stiffness is worse in morning or the evening, or is the stiffness present the same throughout the day? Did the stiffness come on gradually over weeks or appear almost overnight? Does the stiffness return on arising after sitting for 20-30 minutes or more? Or does activity make the stiffness worse?

The patient's answers to these questions help the doctor decide the cause of the stiffness. Most stiffness comes from being out of shape, and is the most common type of stiffness found in people over age 70. Insufficient exercise means muscles are weak and sluggish to respond to sudden demands. Arising easily from a seated position requires both strength and stamina, the very qualities of muscle lost when an individual does not undertake regular exercise.

However, a doctor must be careful in this assessment. Another condition - Polymyalgia Rheumatica - has stiffness as its main feature. The stiffness is intense, comes on rapidly and lasts through the day, though aching is worse in the morning. The doctor wants to make a correct diagnosis of Polymyalgia as its treatment is straightforward and results in cure of the stiffness.

Finally, stiffness can be the result of strain. For example, a stiff back may reflect an arthritic knee. Poor posture because of knee impairment can create strain that the individual feels as a stiff back.

The doctor directs his questions in a manner to uncover the cause of stiffness; x-rays or laboratory tests rarely do better.

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Weight loss support group offers Valentine Day tips

Chocolates and other sweets may abound on Feb. 14, but TOPS Club, Inc., (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), says you can have a fuller heart — without a wider waistline — when the holiday ends.

The nonprofit weight loss support group offers these tips to renew your commitment to a healthy lifestyle and enhance your well-being on Valentine's Day:

- Realize how great it is that you are one of a kind. Appreciate your voice, vision, and uniqueness.
- Write down your many talents and qualities that you like about yourself.
- Get enough rest.
- Indulge in a non-food treat. Buy a bouquet of flowers to brighten up your home or pamper your feet with a rejuvenating pedicure. Valentine's Day is the perfect occasion to treat yourself well.
- Take time to write down

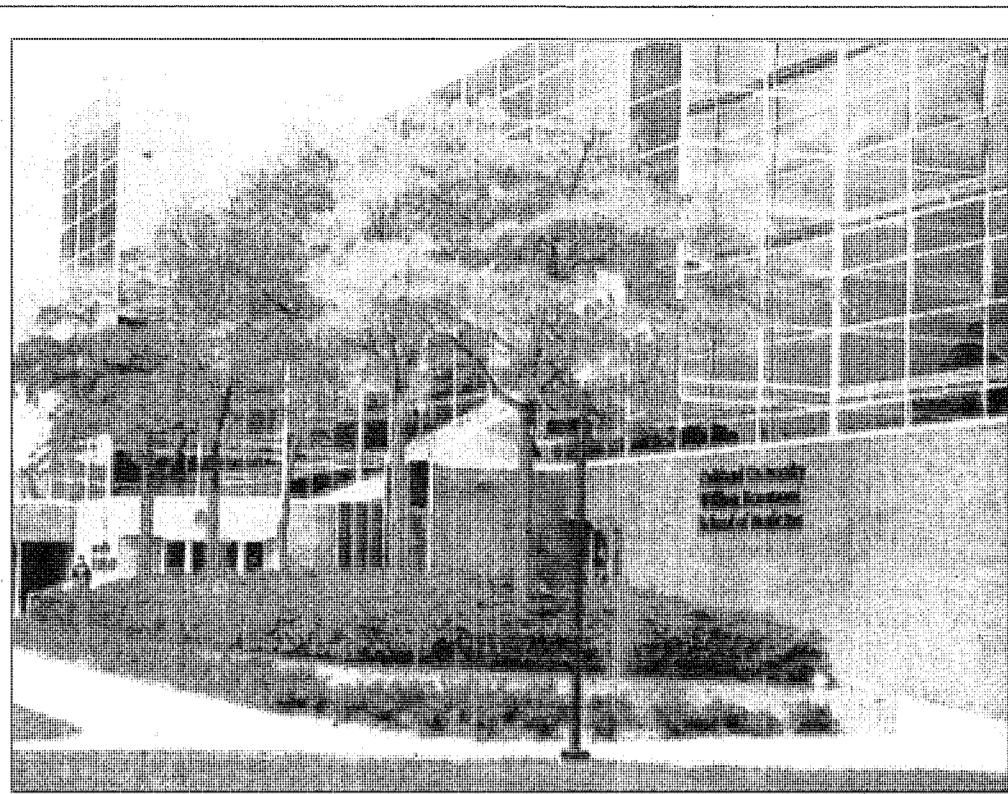
and examine your goals. You may surprise yourself. Expressing your goals specifically on paper can be freeing and open up possibilities you might never have considered. Many of them might already be within your grasp.

- Remember the special people in your life. Feb. 14 doesn't have to focus on the love you share with your significant other. Consider family members, friends, and mentors who make your life meaningful the rest of the year. Send a card to let them know how much you care or spend an afternoon just catching up.
- Try something new. Give yourself permission to take risks by exploring a new hobby, tackling that home improvement project, or training for a race. Don't let fear or excuses hold you back from your best self.
- Create a food and exercise/activity plan. Peruse healthy

lifestyle magazines for workout tips, meal plans, and delicious, low-calorie recipes. Visit the local library or surf the Web for free materials and advice.

- Count your blessings and record them in a journal every night. The habit of looking on the bright side of each day and being grateful helps create an upbeat attitude and can add a sweet touch to life.
- Relax, play, and enjoy life without guilt. Give yourself a break occasionally. Stop expecting the impossible from yourself and simply do the best you can with each day.

TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe. Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a local chapter, view www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.



Oakland University's School of Medicine

New medical school a step closer to 2011 start

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has awarded preliminary accreditation to the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

The Committee is the national accrediting authority for medical education programs in the United States and Canada. Its survey team visited Oakland University in November 2009 and the Committee this month voted to grant preliminary accreditation.

"We are delighted that the LCME has recognized the quality and value of our team's efforts to create a dynamic learning environment to produce highly competent, patient-centered doctors with a commitment to lifelong learning," said Robert Folberg, M.D., founding dean of the medical school, in a written statement. "This important milestone keeps us on track to begin instruction in August 2011."

Dr. Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the uni-

versity, called the achievement "historic" for Southeastern Michigan.

"This significantly expands our commitment to the role higher education will play in the region and the state, and it shows that we're ready and able to build an innovative, knowledge-based economy for the future," he said.

As part of the OU-Beaumont partnership, students will receive instruction in basic sciences and research at the school of medicine on Oakland University's campus in Rochester, and take part in clinical training and applied research at Beaumont Hospitals.

"Beaumont has long been a national leader in providing post-graduate residency and fellowship training for physicians," said Ananias Diokno, M.D., chief medical officer at Beaumont Hospitals. "Our involvement in this new medical school will attract even more medical talent to us and to the region — benefiting our patients and the communities we serve."

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