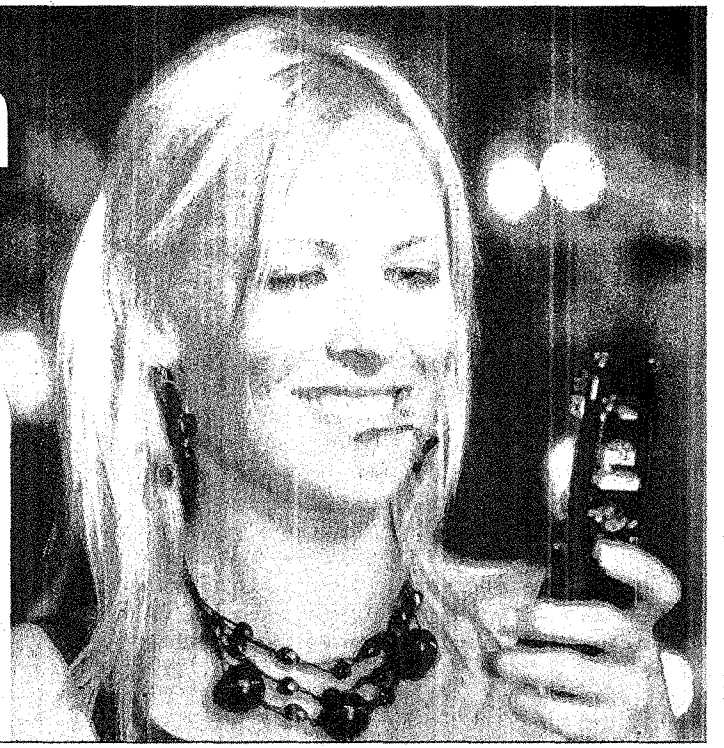


# New: Hometown Life Woman

## How to manage social media - Special section inside



**THURSDAY**  
March 4,  
2010

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75 CENTS

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## AROUND TOWN

### Get LinkedIn

The City of Westland is asking residents looking for jobs to get LinkedIn.

Last year, "Westland Works" was launched on the city's government access channel, WLND, and then expanded to the city's Web site — [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) — as a page where Westland employers could post job openings, ultimately bringing more exposure of employment opportunities to job seekers.

Recognizing the shift to social media has had on the way people communicate, the city is extending its "Westland's Works" initiative to encompass the quickly growing social network: LinkedIn.

LinkedIn is a free professional networking service where people can build a contact list, find jobs and business opportunities, post jobs, search for potential candidates and more. According to the book "Socialnomics," 80 percent of companies are using LinkedIn as their primary tool to find employees.

Residents who already a member of LinkedIn, can simply type City of Westland in the search engine and join the group. People interested in joining LinkedIn to take advantage of Westland's networking and employment resources can go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) to sign up. By joining, a resident can create a personal profile that will serve as their online resume or business card, which allows networking with other members on Westland's LinkedIn group.

Business owners in Westland and interested in posting a position on "Westland Works" and LinkedIn, can call Lori Fodale, Economic Development director, at (734) 467-3264 or contact her by e-mail at [lfodale@cityofwestland.com](mailto:lfodale@cityofwestland.com).

### Big winners

Hundreds of car owners spiffed up and polished their customs for last weekend's 58th Annual O'Reilly's Autorama, and many of them came away with awards.

Among the Westland contingent gathering honors were:

- Shawn Cummins, first place in the Sand Buggy classification for his 2007 Berrien Roadster Sunrail.
- Chris Cadotto, second place in the Super Gas 80, the current classification for his 1997 Dodge Ram.
- Dave Dershinski, first place in the Antique Custom Bike classification for his 1969 Hard Tail Motorcycle.



Vincent and Maxwell Murray, sons of Westland police Lt. Scott Murray, led in the pledge of allegiance at the Westland Police Department awards ceremony. At attention are deputy chiefs Mark Engstrom (left) and Alan Ramsden, along with Chief James Ridener.

## Police department honors its own, civilians

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Westland Police Department took time to recognize the efforts of its officers and eight civilians at an awards ceremony at the Friendship Center.

"As mayor, I'm honored to recognize the people who serve our over 86,000 residents," said Mayor William Wild. "It goes without saying that our resident enjoy living in a safe community thanks to the efforts of a cadre of trained professionals from the time a 9-1-1 call is answered."

In addition to the officers and police department employees, Wild noted the civilians receiving commendations showed the partnership of the community and the department.

A number of officers were recognized with departmental citations, certificates of merit and unit commendations. Among the awards were:

- Officer David Archambeau, who joined the department in 2004 after serving in the Detroit and Grosse Pointe Woods departments. He was honored as 2009 Police Officer of the Year. After most recently being assigned to the



Westland police Sgt. Ron Kroll (left) received the Chief's Award from Chief James Ridener (at podium) during the police department award program. Seated are deputy chiefs Mark Engstrom and Alan Ramsden.

Community Policing Unit, Archambeau recently joined the plainclothes Metro Street Enforcement Team.

• A member of the department since 1986, Sgt. Ron Kroll received the Chief's Distinguished Service Award which is presented infrequently. Over the years, Kroll worked road patrol, served as a field training officer and after being promoted to sergeant, became the FTO supervisor. He worked in the Community Police Unit and over the years was an officer with both the Westland Police Officers Association and the Lieutenants and Sergeants Association.

Since 2007, Kroll has headed the department Traffic Bureau. The last recipient

of the award, Chief James Ridener noted, was the long-retired Sgt. Peter Brokas.

"Ron personifies this award. I have worked with Ron since 1987 and Ron is a person that was always on the scene helping out other officers," said Ridener. "Whether directing traffic at an accident, completing impound tickets or giving someone a ride home, Ron would never hesitate to help out."

Recognizing that Kroll is very organized, Ridener said that was what was needed to run the traffic bureau. In addition to those duties, Ridener said Kroll also is responsible for applying for traffic-related grants, such as

Please see **POLICE, A2**

## Donations help provide funerals for fire victims

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Funeral services for two Westland brothers killed in a fire will be held noon Saturday at Fair Haven Baptist Church.

An outpouring of donations from the community are providing the funeral for Xavyer Williams, 13, and his brother, Blake, 11, who died after the Feb. 26 late night fire in their second-floor apartment. Their mother, Tasha Williams, is a full-time student and single mother and couldn't afford to pay for the funeral for her children.

Westland firefighters and the Westland Goodfellows spearheaded efforts to provide a funeral for the youngsters. Through International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1279, \$1,000 was donated.

On the day after the fire, Feb. 27, Westland police were holding a fund-raiser for emergency response team and passed the hat to raise a \$750 donation. Police chaplain the Rev. Bob McDonald of Fair Haven Baptist Church attended the fund-raiser and offered the use of his church for the service.

McDonald also worked with Uht Funeral Home, which donated the mortuary services. Santieu Vaults donated the burial vaults and caskets were donated Belfor USA. Cadillac Memorial Gardens West provided two cemetery plots to bury the youngsters, who attended Adams Middle School. Mayor William Wild donated flowers for the funeral service.

"We need money for the stones (grave markers) and clothes," said Fire Capt. John Adams, co-chair of the Westland Goodfellows.

Plans call for a viewing from 11 a.m. to noon at the church followed by the service at noon. Fair Haven Baptist Church is located at 34850 Marquette, Westland. The burial is scheduled after the service with a luncheon to be held at the Bailey Recreation Center. Local businesses are donating food for the luncheon.

## Community comes together for family

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools, along with the Westland Goodfellows, is partnering with the Westland Fire Department to collect funds for the family of two students who died in a Feb. 26 apartment fire.

In an e-mail sent out Wednesday morning, district employees were asked that all money collected be turned in to Superintendent Greg Baracy's office. The donations will be forwarded to the Westland Fire Department.

The money will benefit the family of Xavyer Williams, 13, and his brother Blake, 11, eighth- and sixth-graders at Adams Middle School, who both died of smoke inhalation in a fire last Friday night at the Pointe West Apartments, 36519 Palmer.

Please see **COMMUNITY, A2**

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## Prescription drugs: 'New' dealer in town

BY SUE BUCK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Years ago, Nancy Reagan coined the phrase "Just Say No" as part of the U.S. "War on Drugs."

It was prevalent during the 1980s and early 1990s to discourage children from engaging in recreational drug use.

Today, there is a new "drug dealer" in town — the medicine cabinet and unknowing parents, grandparents and friends. Children seek out whatever prescription drugs they can find and often even ask parents directly for pain medication.

Susan Nicholas, executive director of the Garden City Community Coalition, is working with the Livonia Save Our Youth group as a member to present a program Thursday, March 11, at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, at Five Mile and Farmington roads.

It's a short drive from Garden City and Westland but one that might provide the

fodder to enlighten families and get them out of their comfort zone, according to the Westland resident.

"I have sent out e-mails about this," said Nicholas. "The recent survey in Garden City reinforces what communities across the country are reporting. Kids are abusing painkillers, sedatives and tranquilizers at serious and raising rates."

The program comes in the wake of two unexpected drug deaths in Livonia among young people.

Lisa Schwartz, program coordinator, said the program was chosen because the parents and officers are seeing more and more prescription drug use in the schools.

"We believe it is an emerging trend with Livonia youths and youths in general," Schwartz said. "It is the gateway to heroin. We think it's a growing problem. They seem to think that because they are prescription drugs, that it's OK to take them."

Please see **DRUGS, A3**



Westland resident Sue Nicholas is urging parents to attend a Town Hall meeting March 11 in Livonia about the 'new drug dealer in town,' prescription medications.

AROUND WESTLAND

Crafters time

Are you someone who enjoys crafting but find it hard to set aside the time? Feel free to join other crafters at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6 and April 3, to work on your projects. Just bring along your scrapbooking, quilting, or any other craft projects that you'd like to work on during the time. There is a \$2 table fee.

Nursery School Olympics

Watch preschoolers "compete" in a series of fun events that are specifically designed for them at the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's 13th annual Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

The event is for children 18 months to 5 years old. Some of the activities include the Marshmallow Shut Putt, the Foam Discus Throw and the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles. Every child will receive a certificate of participation as well as prizes.

The course takes about 30-45 minutes and then afterwards the kids can take the podium to get their medals.

Registration closes at 11:30 a.m. so that the athletes can complete the course before noon. The cost is \$4 per child and parents and spectators are free. Preregistration is encouraged but not required.

For more information, please call (734) 722-7620.

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool in Westland will be hosting an Open House 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. Parents will have an opportunity to meet the teachers, tour the school, learn about its educational programs, and have refreshments. Classes are available for parent-tots, young 3's, 3- and 4-year-olds and enrichment for 4-year olds. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Coffee Hours

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

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him and Wayne County Commissioner Joan

Gebhardt for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 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.

Craft Show

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will present a "Think Spring Craft Show" from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. The hall is south of Cherry Hill, north of Palmer.

Vendor tables are \$20. Contact John at (734) 729-8930. There will be holiday-themed crafts, homemade collectibles and a bake sale. Hot dogs and Polish sausage will be served.

Need your tax refund check now? Don't have the time to do your taxes? Families earning under \$50,000 a year can save some money this tax season and qualify to receive free tax preparation services.

Free tax Preparation

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and the Wayne County Asset Building Coalition have once again partnered to provide free tax services to families throughout Wayne County.

Wayne Metro's Free Tax Preparation is available through April 15 with permanent and mobile sites located throughout the county. Many offer night and weekend hours, making it convenient for families in need of assistance.

Families living in the western Wayne County communities can get their taxes done at Dartmouth Square Neighborhood Networks Computer Learning Center, St. Clements Episcopal Church, New Birth Church, all in Inkster, or at the Wayne County Library for the Blind and Handicap in Westland. Dates and times vary by location. Appointments are offered on a first come, first serve basis and are strongly encouraged to ensure efficient service. Walk-ins are also accepted at various locations.

Appointments can be made by calling (734) 284-6999. A complete list of dates, times, locations as well as additional information on the program can be found on Wayne Metro's Web site at www.waynemetro.org.

Pancake Breakfast Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is holding a Spring Fling Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, at the church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$5 per person.

Eight civilians honored for getting involved

Eight civilians received commendations at the annual Westland Police Department awards program.

Jeffrey Frazee was recognized for helping officers administer CPR to a woman injured in a traffic accident.

Amanda Gorsline called police when she returned home from work during the overnight hours and saw men

removing the tires and rims from a neighbor's vehicle.

Cory Ewing noticed a man loitering at his apartment building where there had been several break-ins. Ewing questioned the man who said he was visiting a friend and shortly was joined by a second man carrying a bag from which electrical wires were extending.

After a call to 9-1-1, officers arrested the two men and a third man who was waiting nearby.

Others recognized for being alert, getting involved and contacting police when witnessing apparent crimes were Sean Bowman, Dennis Davis, Timothy Nally, Kathleen Shepperly and Kenneth Wardell.

POLICE

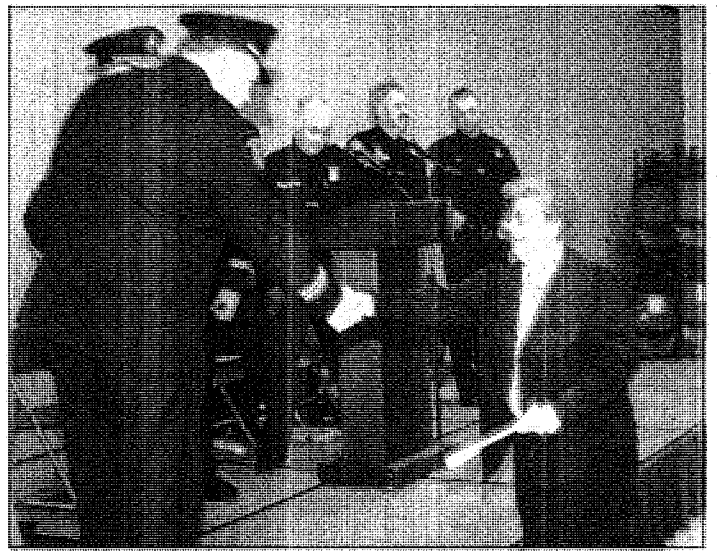
FROM PAGE A1

Click It or Ticket, You Drink, You Drive, You Lose and Youth Alcohol Enforcement. Kroll administers and tracks the grants and the Youth Alcohol Enforcement on behalf of Garden City and Wayne.

Officer Burke Lange received the Police Heart Award. Lange was recognized for managing to arrest a suspect despite breaking his leg while jumping over a wall during the foot chase.

Dispatcher Dina Benyo received a Life Saving Award for her handling of two incidents. In one, Benyo assisted when a call came in about a nine months pregnant woman who was bleeding heavily. Benyo kept the male caller on the phone for six minutes coaching as the child was born not breathing. She stayed on the line until Fire Rescue arrived.

Three weeks later, Benyo coached a caller on performing CPR on a man who wasn't



Westland police Chief James Ridener presented Detective Bureau secretary Sharon Konfara with a Departmental Citation honoring her work assisting detectives in their investigations. Konfara is referred to as Detective Sharon by the officers.

breathing.

Also receiving Life Saving Awards were Officers Mark Mills and John McIntosh, for their efforts assisting an injured woman who needed CPR following a traffic accident.

Officers Robert Wilkie and Jason Brassfield were recognized for their efforts rescu-

ing a woman trapped inside a burning room at the Park Lane Motel in Wayne. Wilkie used his baton, attempting to clear burning material in the doorway which blocked the woman's escape while Brassfield located a fire extinguisher.

irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE A1

Their mother, Tasha Williams, wasn't injured but an unidentified man was hurt and had been hospitalized with second-degree burns and broken ribs.

"She needs money. We are trying to put together a funeral and we're getting good cooperation," said Westland Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Tenniswood. "She is a full-time student and mother, she had nothing and she's lost her boys."

The Westland Fire Department and Westland Goodfellows are spearheading fund-raising efforts to pay for the funerals and assist Tasha Williams, who has been staying with an aunt after being released from the hospital.

"People can drop off donations at the fire administration building (37201 Marquette) or the Mayor's Office in City Hall," said Tenniswood. "They could mail donations to the Goodfellows, but dropping it off would be quicker. The need is right now." "There is a lot to buy and

it will be expensive," said Tenniswood, adding Tasha Williams also lost all of her possessions in the fire. "My wife went to the store and bought her clothes -- she was in her nightgown when she went to the hospital."

Wayne-Westland school officials had a crisis team in place at the school Monday morning at Adams Middle School. Principals at Schweitzer and Madison elementary schools, where the boys had been students also, were notified about the tragedy.

"It was a terrible tragedy, our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family," said Baracy.

The family was asleep when the fire was reported at 11:11 p.m. -- the cause has been listed as a halogen type light coming into contact with combustibles. The light in the living room was being used to keep a pet snake warm.

The adults were outside when firefighters arrived and reported the boys were trapped inside. Xavier and Blake were found in their bedroom by firefighters.

"The older boy was on top of the younger boy like he was trying to shield him," said Tenniswood. "This was a tragic

accident. I do believe under the circumstances, the mother and her boyfriend could not get the kids out."

Blake was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital Friday night. Xavier died at Children's Hospital in Detroit the following day. Both boys died of smoke inhalation, Tenniswood said.

The Williams family had lived in the apartment complex for a couple of years and were well-liked, Tenniswood said.

"The mother walks with a leg brace. I went to get it from the apartment and the maintenance man let me in," Tenniswood said. "He didn't know the status of the kids. When I said Blake had died, he just broke down. He said Blake had been the only kid who came out and helped him with the snow. His nickname was the Mayor -- he was very personable."

The apartment managers are also helping with fund-raising efforts. Fire Capt. John Adams, co-president of the Goodfellows, is coordinating the fund-raising efforts. Adams said checks should be made payable to Westland Goodfellows. He can be reached at (734) 467-3261 for more information.

NOVI VEIN advertisement featuring a woman's legs and text: 'We bring legs back to life. No downtime, no stripping. Eliminate leg pain and fatigue. NEW TREATMENT. Only provider of Veinwave™ in the state of Michigan. A new safe and effective treatment of rosacea and facial veins. HOUR DETROIT MAGAZINE'S TOP DOCS+ Jeffrey H. Miller, MD Board Certified Interventional Radiologist Board Certified Phlebologist'

6th Annual Westland ATHENA Chocolate Fantasy Ball advertisement: 'Saturday, March 6, 2010 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Hosted by Joy Manor 28999 Joy Road - Westland. Cocktails: 6:00 PM, Hors d'oeuvres: 6:30 PM, Nominee Recognition: 7:30 PM, Dessert Extravaganza. Cash Bar • Silent Auction • Semi Formal Attire'

ATHENA Award advertisement: 'The prestigious International ATHENA Award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession, contributed time and talent to help improve the quality of life for others, and assisted women in realizing their full leadership potential. Tickets are \$20 per person. To purchase tickets please call one of the following: Meghan Giersdorf, MPG Consulting: (248) 255-8241, Women of Westland: (734) 467-9113. Partial proceeds to be donated to the Barbara Douglas Scholarship Program and celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community. Sponsors: Westland Mayor William R. Wild, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers'

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS advertisement: 'WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD. GANNETT. HOW TO REACH US: Home Delivery/Customer Service: 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737), Newsroom: (313) 222-2223 Fax: (313) 223-3318, Classified Advertising: 1-800-579-SELL (7355), Display Advertising: (734) 582-8363. visit us online at hometownlife.com. 615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226'

Mix & Match advertisement: '5 hamburgers or mini fries...any combination for only \$5.00. Serving breakfast 7 am - 11:30 am daily AND Friday's & Saturday's Midnight till 2am! Any Breakfast Sandwich \$1.79. Open Daily 7am-Midnight Open Fri. & Sat. Until 4am. BRAY'S Hamburgers 35650 Ford Rd. • 2 Blocks West of Wayne Road 734-722-2950'

LIBERTY TAX advertisement: '303 Inkster Road (SE corner of Cherry Hill) • Inkster 313-730-0161. 29540 Ford Road (in front of Kmart) • Garden City 734-425-4620. ★ Fast, Friendly & Accurate ★ Loan on Refund in 1 Day or Less (in most cases) ★ Year Round Support ★ Free Electronic Filing ★ Money-Back Guarantee ★ Free Consultation'

25% OFF Any Tax Preparation advertisement: 'With this coupon and paid federal return • Exp. 4-1-10 We accept competitors coupons www.libertytax.com 1-866-871-1040'

CITY OF WESTLAND 2010 ANIMAL LICENSES CORRECTION advertisement: 'Licenses must be obtained on or before Monday, March 1, 2010 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Starting March 2, 2010, a \$2.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at: WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36601 Ford Road OR MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marquette. EILEEN DeHART, CMC WESTLAND CITY CLERK. Publish: March 4, 2010'

# Westland man charged in assault of party goers

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man is facing multiple felony charges stemming from an assault at a party early Feb. 27.

Michael Hufstetler, 27, has been arraigned in 18th District Court on charges including home invasion, being a felon in possession of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, felonious assault and felony firearm. A not guilty plea was entered for Hufstetler, who was being held on a \$100,000 cash bond.

Police were called just after 4 a.m. after the host of the party reported that Hufstetler, who was a guest, had assaulted two other guests with a liquor

bottle. Two men were reported to have been struck on the head. One man, described as bleeding heavily, had left before police arrived and the second man didn't wish to press charges.

The party host and other witnesses said that Hufstetler had left but soon returned armed with a handgun which he pulled from his waistband and pointed in the air. The party host said her boyfriend struggled with Hufstetler over the gun.

Witnesses told police Hufstetler's wife assisted him in fleeing from the home — he was reported to have dove out a second floor window damaging a window air conditioning unit and the screen.

Officers located Hufstetler at his home on Cheboygan. Officers said he told them he had an argument with another party goer who indicated he was getting a gun from his truck. Hufstetler told police he then went to his home to retrieve a gun, registered to his wife, and went back to the party.

In his statement to police, Hufstetler said he was assaulted by several other party guests but added that he was very intoxicated so his recollection of the events might have been inaccurate. His preliminary examination is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, in 18th District Court.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

## DRUGS

FROM PAGE A1

The town hall meeting will be 7-9 p.m. and feature James Geldof of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Dr. Mark Menestrina of Brighton Hospital and Michelle Moccia of St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Prescription drug abuse is a problem among area teens today and education is the key to stopping it, Nicholas said. Teens say that it is easier to get these prescription drugs than illegal drugs from a dealer.

In an earlier survey, area high school students have admitted that they use prescription drugs without prescription which compares to national findings.

Kids are prescribed painkillers for sports injuries, too. They find they can get a pain pill just by asking family and friends.

"Sometimes they are involved in stealing them," Nicholas said. "Typically, they just ask for them. Kids are so street smart now. They can go online and learn about various drugs. Some drugs used to detoxify patients are also medications to get 'high' on."

Students also can carry pills in their pocket without detection because there is no odor.

"They can shelter their drugs easier than they can shelter their beer," Nicholas said.

Alcohol is another demon in the community which can prove deadly when taken with unauthorized prescription drugs.

"Alcohol is the No. 1 problem in Garden City and across the country," Nicholas said. "Underage drinking is a serious problem."

Nicholas, who doesn't like to be the center of attention, has proven that her drive and commitment is without boundary.

The coalition is operating under a federal five-year \$125,000 drug-free communities grant for five years with a chance for a five-year extension. She is still seeking volunteers so that she can do a program on underage drinking. These forums are the "natural next step," she said.

Even as a young adult she became attuned to others' problems.

"I had a best friend whose father was a physically abusive, alcoholic," said Nicholas. "This friend remained seriously depressed throughout most of his life but was able to resolve his traumatic past with his

parents after much therapy."

She also lost a close friend in a car accident in 1984.

"He was the drunk driver on the wrong side of the road, resulting in his death and that of five others including a small child. These circumstances reinforced my interest in addictions."

Her "drive" comes her first 15 years of clinical work with chemically dependent people and their families, said Nicholas, a social worker.

"I have seen the suffering, the scope of damage to society is huge and greatly minimized in part because of longtime social norms and economics."

Nicholas, trained in a Family Systems approach, noted the intergenerational nature of addiction in most of her previous clients.

"So, I am invested in looking at strategies that are most likely to facilitate breaking the cycles of addiction," she said. "This evolved naturally into more of a community organization view. The mission now is to emphasize the power of community to facilitate change by engaging everyone in assessment, problem solving and action which in the long run is more likely to have broader impact."



### Growth spurt

The lawn of Jeff Williams' house on Bison in Westland may be one of a few almost devoid of snow. The reason: he and daughter Alexa used most of it to build a snowman 16 feet tall and 12 feet around. How did Williams accomplish it? "With a shovel," he said.



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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Gunmen hold up Allied Cash store

Approximately \$2,000 was reported stolen by two armed men from Allied Cash Advance, 1633 S. Merriman, Feb. 24. Two employees told police they were working behind the counter at 3:30 p.m. when the two men entered. One of the men said, "Hello ladies" as he entered and produced a silver colored semi-automatic handgun. The employees said the man appeared to rack the gun as he entered.

The other suspect warned the women not to press any buttons and placed a gun to the back of one woman's head. She said he ordered her to open the cash drawer and safe. The other gunman took the second woman to the rear of the store and ordered her to lay on the floor.

Both suspects fled on foot after getting the money. The employees said both gunmen were wearing knit hats pulled over their faces with eye holes cut into them. One of the clerks told police the men may have been involved in a prior robbery of a nearby tobacco store.

### WESTLAND

**Break-in**  
A resident of an apartment in the 8400 block of Woodcrest told police Feb. 26 that someone had entered his apartment through an unlocked rear door. Reported missing were a Nintendo Game System, a Wii controller and an iPod valued at \$380.

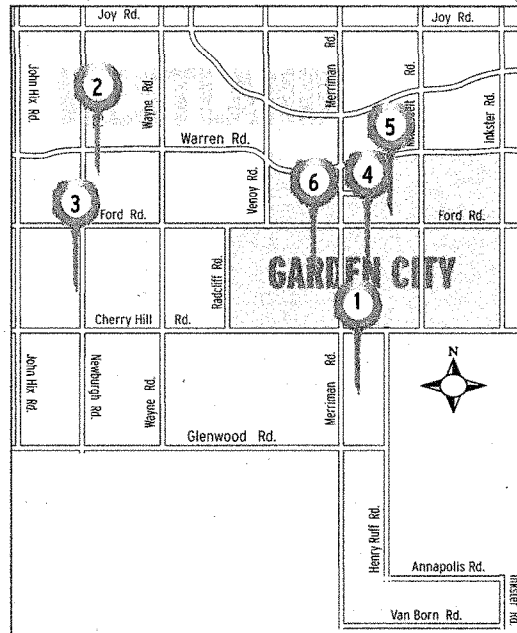
**Retail fraud**  
Police were called to Meijer, 37201 Warren Road, Feb. 28 about a suspect who had just stolen three bottles of liquor and fled on foot through the parking lot.

When officers arrived, witnesses reported the man was crossing Warren. The officer spotted him running across the road and into the Mobile gas station.

The suspect was hiding behind a display case, placing one of the bottles of liquor behind a cookie display, the officer said. The other two bottles were subsequently found there also.

The suspect, a Garden City man, was arrested for retail fraud and held on three warrants. The three recovered bottles of vodka were valued at \$90.

**Break-in**  
On Feb. 26, a resident in the 37000 block of Barkridge Circle told police that she had been watching her sister's home, located next door, while the sister was out of town for a month. After being at the home cleaning the night before, she said the front door



was locked. The following afternoon, the door was standing open with muddy footprints inside.

The officer noted the door appeared to have been pried open. The bedrooms were found to have been ransacked with jewelry and a DVD player valued at \$1,150 reported missing.

The homeowner's niece told police she got up around 3 a.m. to smoke and saw lights on in the home but thought it was her cousin who sometimes stays at the home.

**Drunken minor**  
Police were called to the area of North Wayne Road and Nankin Boulevard at 4 a.m. Feb. 27 about someone attempting to break into a vehicle. A Bed, Bath & Beyond employee told police she arrived back at her vehicle which was parked at the front of the store with two associates and they found a man sleeping in her car which she thought had been locked.

The suspect, who the woman said appeared very young, awoke while they were waiting for police. He seemed very intoxicated, began yelling at them and ran away.

Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle and it did not appear to have been ransacked.

The officer located the suspect, an 18-year-old Westland man, staggering through the Bank of America parking lot. He was arrested.

- By Lane Rogers

## Shoplifter escapes following police chase

Garden City police called off their pursuit about 4 p.m. Feb. 28 after chasing a male driver and his female accomplice.

A man and woman who were at the CVS store, located at 29901 Ford, fled after the man stuffed five six-pack boxes of Dove Soap into his coat. When the clerk observed this, she informed him that she was calling the police.

"Go ahead, call the police," he said.

Garden City police located the Nissan Altima with an Illinois license plate on southbound Middlebelt at Marquette. When the fully marked police car activated its lights, the car took off. The officer said that the driver exceeded the 75 mph that he was traveling.

The driver disregarded a red signal at Avondale and Middlebelt and drove southbound in a northbound through lane. The officer ended the chase at Michigan Avenue and Middlebelt.

Inkster police called to say that they last saw the suspect at southbound Henry Ruff and Michigan.

The registration on the vehicle came back "No record."

The CVS store employee said that she saw the couple in the store before but couldn't say if they ever took anything those times.

**Robbery**  
A thief who stuffed three bottles of Grey Goose vodka, valued at \$150, into his coat about 8 p.m. Feb. 23 shoved the employee at Rite Aid out

### GARDEN CITY

of the way as he exited the store, located at 29447 Ford.

He left in a grey, older model Intrigue. The man has been in the store many times, according to the police report.

**Retail fraud**  
A teen, one of four who were truant from School for The Performing Arts in Inkster, was arrested about 2 p.m. Feb. 24 for stealing an air soft pistol from Kmart, 29600 Ford.

**Property destruction**  
An orange was blamed for damaging the window of 1991 pickup truck parked in the 29400 block of Marquette about 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23.

**Stolen car**  
A 75-year-old member of Merriman Road Baptist Church told police that during the four-hour time frame - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 28 - someone took her car keys from her coat which was hanging on a hook and stole her car.

An observer saw an unknown man who doesn't attend church there walking around the building about that time. He was wearing two coats and carried a lunch box.

**Stolen car parts**  
Lee's Auto at 6969 Middlebelt reported March 1 that car parts were stolen within the past week. A right taillight was stolen from a Pontiac Grand Prix and a

front grill was stolen from a 2003 Mitsubishi.

Together the parts totalled \$200.

**Dog Bite**  
A man was bite while trying to get a pit bull mix dog back into a home in the 32600 block of Alvin after it had escaped. The man was bit on the hand during the incident which happened at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 27.

He was treated for an open wound at Garden City Hospital.

The 19-year-old victim was helping a 45-year-old woman from whom the dog ran away. She said that she was letting out the dog for her friend who lived there. He was watching the dog for his niece.

The dog was quarantined and the owner was ticketed.

**Broken mirrors**  
A resident in the 970 block of Helen and another resident in the 1000 block of Helen reported that someone broke the outside mirrors of their cars which were parked on the road before 9:30 a.m. Feb. 28.

**Retail fraud**  
The police arrested an 18-year-old Inkster woman for stealing items from the Kmart store, 29600 Ford, at 6:45 p.m. Feb. 28. She removed the tags from a Kmart purse and placed everything in that purse. She made no attempt to pay for the items as she exited the store.

- By Sue Buck

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For more information on these  
or any other events visit  
[www.schoolcraft.edu/webcalendar](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/webcalendar)

**Wine Glow & Spaghetti Dinner**  
March 9  
Benefit for Transition Center scholarships.  
Tickets: \$35 per person (\$18 tax deductible).  
Wine Glow 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. in the  
VisTaTech Center. Tickets and information at  
734-462-4443 or [www.schoolcraft.edu/transition](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transition).

**Collage Concert**  
March 13  
The college's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble,  
Jazz Improvisation, Choral Union, Synthesizer  
Ensemble and soloists perform at 8 p.m. in the  
VisTaTech Center. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for  
students, \$3 for children under 12 and senior  
citizens. Tickets available at [www.scboxoffice.com](http://www.scboxoffice.com)  
or 734-462-4403.

**Kids can discover their creative side**  
March 16  
Open House for Kids on Campus Summer  
Camp programs at 5:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech  
Center. Parents and kids (grades 1-12) can meet  
instructors, see demonstrations, and sign up for  
summer sessions. More information at  
[www.schoolcraft.edu/koc](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/koc) or 734-462-4448.

**Eminuella Boisvert and Pauline  
Martin in concert**  
March 19  
Violinist Boisvert and pianist Martin perform as  
part of the Friday Evening Concert Series at  
8 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Tickets: \$20 per  
person (\$10 for students) available at  
[www.scboxoffice.com](http://www.scboxoffice.com). More information at  
[www.schoolcraft.edu/music](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/music) or 734-462-4403.

**"King Lear"**  
Weekends in March and April  
Tickets for the Dinner Theatre performances  
March 19-20 and 26-27 are \$24 per person.  
Dinner 6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center,  
performance 8 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Theatre.  
Tickets for the April 9-10 performance only are  
\$12 per person. Tickets and more information at  
[www.scboxoffice.com](http://www.scboxoffice.com).

**Exhibit and author visit explore  
1967 riots**  
March 8-26  
"Smoldering Fire of Civil Unrest" exhibit, on loan  
from the Detroit Historical Museum, weekdays  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center.  
"Motown Burning" author John Jeffery speaks  
March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center.  
More information at [www.schoolcraft.edu](http://www.schoolcraft.edu) or  
734-462-4422.

CELESTINE

# Sandwich earns All Saints student slice of the finals

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like the old Frank Sinatra song says, Stephanie Hosko's "little town blues" will be melting away when she heads to the Big Apple as a finalist in Jif's "Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest."

Stephanie, the 10-year-old daughter of John and Lauren Hosko of Plymouth, learned last week she'd been chosen among the top five finalists in on-line voting in the contest, which concluded Feb. 12. At stake is a \$25,000 grand prize, with \$2,500 scholarships up for grabs for the four runners-up.

It'll be the first trip to New York for Stephanie, a fifth-grader at Canton's All Saints Catholic School.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I can't believe this,'" Stephanie recalled of getting the news. "It was so unreal."

Stephanie's sandwich - a "chickenchita" she developed with her grandmother, Diane Roslinski - features grilled chicken, sauteed red peppers, crushed pineapple, pineapple juice, lettuce and soy sauce, along with the requisite peanut butter, on a flour tortilla.

Now Stephanie gets to take the creation to New York, where she and the other four finalists will each individually demonstrate their sandwich creations during a live judging event March 19 before a panel of judges that includes parenting author Miriam Weinstein, Good Housekeeping Senior Food Editor Genevieve Ko, Jif Mom's Voice their Choice Winner, Lisa Roberts; registered dietitian and nutritionist Marissa Lippert and MomCentral.com founder and CEO Stacy DeBroff.

The whole story - which started when Roslinski, a dental hygienist, found out about the contest from a patient - just keeps getting



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Hosko, with mom Lauren, takes her 'chickenchita' to New York for the finals of Jif's Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich contest. Stephanie's creation finished in the top five in on-line voting.

more and more surreal. After reading about Stephanie's creation, Bill Sorenson, who owns Nassau Bar and Grill in Plymouth Township, made the sandwich a featured menu item. Now comes the trip to New York.

"It's really strange how it started off as a whim, and it just got bigger and bigger," said Stephanie's dad, John.

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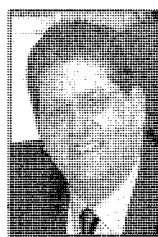
## Documentation needed for small business loan

was watching the business news shows over the weekend and the topic was small businesses and the problem they are having obtaining financing.

For many small businesses, credit is their life blood and they cannot operate without the ability to borrow. Although, it is difficult for a small business owner to obtain financing, it is not impossible. Money for small businesses has been set aside by banks as well as credit unions. In fact, credit unions have become very friendly to the small business person.

If you are a small business person or if you are thinking of starting your own business and need financing, there are things you can do to improve your chances of obtaining a business loan.

The key is to be organized and ready to present your case to the lender. It is important to have a business plan when you are seeking financing. A business plan is nothing more than an outline as to how the business runs and how the loan proceeds are to be used. A business plan shows that



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

The owner has given thought to the business and how the loan proceeds will be used. There is no universal outline for a business plan. There are many different ways of preparing them and, in fact, it actually has become easier over the years because there are a variety of software packages to use. However, a good business plan should contain certain information so the lender has a complete picture of your business situation. One issue that should be addressed in the business plan is cash flow. Lenders want to see projections for money coming in and how that money will be spent. Although, you don't have to show where every penny goes it is important to provide some sort of detailed information.

I would be nice if having solid financial projections and a good business meant

it is easy to obtain financing. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In today's world where banks and other financial institutions are somewhat risk-averse, lenders are looking for ways to secure the loan. In that regard, you should address how you intend to repay the loan and what type, if any, collateral you have to secure the loan. From the financial institution standpoint the most important issue in approving the loan is reimbursement.

It is unfortunate that small businesses have such difficulty obtaining financing. However, it is not impossible and the one thing that most small business owners are successful at is overcoming obstacles. Financing is just one of those barriers that must overcome. By being prepared and organized, you will have the upper hand. Good luck!

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

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**MARCH 22, 2010**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on March 22, 2010 at 6:59 p.m. regarding the proposed creation of a new eligible activity to be funded with 2008 and 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The proposed project involves an estimated \$85,000 for the demolition ("clearance") of blighted structures in Garden City Park (the vacant log cabin and unused in-ground swimming pool).

The primary objective of the CDBG program is to fund eligible activities and projects that benefit low and moderate income persons; aid in the prevention or elimination of blight and slums; and/or address an urgent community development need. The proposed project would aid in the elimination of blight.

All interested citizens are invited to attend and provide comments on the proposed project. For additional information on the program or the proposed project, please contact Ms. Sarah Traxler at (734)793-1663.

ALLYSON BETTIS,  
CLERK

Posted: February 23, 2010  
Publish: March 4, 2010

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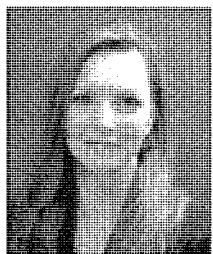
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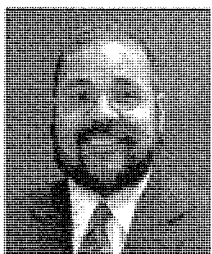
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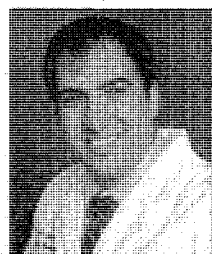
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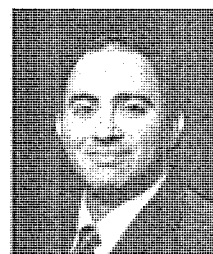
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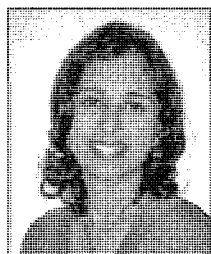
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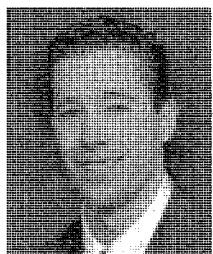
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## OUR VIEWS

### Application for grant is a good sign for park

Physically, we can't make our news pages do a happy dance, but mentally that's what we're doing. We're happy to see the remediation of Central City Park about to become a reality.

Granted, it still may be awhile before kids playing will replace part of the fencing that has encircled the park since January 2007, but when city officials start talking about grant applications for things like soccer fields, a walking path and picnic shelter, we know it's not too far off.

It's been more than three years since the problems with the park surfaced and it was fenced off as city and state officials probed the scale of contamination that existed on the 64-acre site.

Owned by the county and leased to the city, the park area at one time had been a dumping ground where

**Owned by the county and leased to the city, the park area at one time had been a dumping ground where Wayne County disposed of catch basin cleanings and street sweepings. It wasn't until photographs surfaced that state and city officials realize the problem extended to illegal dumping in the area.**

Wayne County disposed of catch basin cleanings and street sweepings. It wasn't until photographs surfaced that state and city officials realize the problem extended to illegal dumping in the area.

We knew that cleaning up the mess would not be easy, and the

same goes for healing the wounds created when residents, whose children had played in the park, found out city officials had known about the contamination for years before doing anything about it. The city did well to calm their fears, but with each new round of state-mandated testing, it seemed a new fear and a new obstacle surfaced. Mayor William Wild acquired the park problems when he took office in January 2007 and has been proactive in dealing with the situation ever since. We believe he and his staff's strong commitment to resolving the park problems has played a big role in getting a plan approved by the state to clean up an initial 12 acres.

We realize there's still a lot more park to be cleaned. It's like a child learning to walk, it's one baby step at a time. The first phase of remediation — capping the contaminated soil — is the first baby step in the restoration of a park that had been the crown jewel of the city's park system.

We can't wait to see the remediation work begin — we're keeping our fingers crossed that it starts this spring. And we can't hear the sounds of kids playing on the soccer fields. When that happens, it will be a good day for the city, for the residents and for the kids.

### Donations needed for family who lost children in fire

A fatal fire Friday night claimed the lives of two children, Xayver Williams, 13, and his brother, Blake, 11. Their mother, Tasha Williams, faces a difficult task.

A nursing student, due to graduate in December, she has lost everything — her children, her clothing, her personal possessions. She now needs the help of her community to get by.

We extend our condolences to her and ask residents to help in her time of grief and need. The Westland Fire Department is accepting donations for the family through the Westland Goodfellows. We urge residents to donate to the fund. Cash or checks, made out to Westland Goodfellows, can be dropped off at the Mayor's Office in Westland City Hall, or at the Fire Administration Building at 37201 Marquette.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### How has technology changed your life?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Library in Westland.



**"Pretty much the cell phone - I rely on it for scheduling, doing my shopping, I keep a to do list. I'd be lost without it right now. The same with the computer. I use it for school. It's a necessity."**

Cherise Matthews  
Westland



**"We really can have more fun like with video games."**

Chase Woodworth  
Westland



**"I don't know. I really don't use a cell phone. But it is changing a lot of things."**

Giovanni Banguela  
Westland



**"I can't live without my phone, and I come to the library for the Internet. It seems I can't live without, especially keeping in touch with family overseas."**

Angela Southworth  
Canton

## LETTERS

### An out-of-touch politician

An open letter to our Congressman: Congressman McCotter,

People in our district are starving, struggling to maintain health care, struggling to put food on the table, yet you continue to stand clearly in the way of bi-partisan reform or any attempt to achieve it. The current health care system is broken, no Republican plan has been put forth that will stop or even slow down the crisis. Yet you continue to "just say no!" Furthermore your written word and speech to the American people really shows how aloof you are as you continue to use your command of the English language to speak over the heads of many of your constituents with your choice of words and political double speak - "obfuscate," "devolves," "abet." Really, Congressman? Is this how you think those in your district really speak? Your intelligence is clear but your pushing it is painfully alienating.

Congressman McCotter has published a piece on RedState.com in which he says Republicans "must not accept" an invitation from President Barack Obama to attend a health care summit.

In the editorial, McCotter writes: "Designed to obfuscate this truth and devoid of any attempt to establish a shared, bi-partisan principle for reform, the Obama Administration's summit constitutes a ShamWoW! infomercial for incrementally socialized medicine that threatens Americans' health care; imposes double taxation on most Americans who are

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

responsibly trying to save for their future during this painful recession; devolves private health insurance companies into government-dictated utilities; and further erodes the public's waning faith that their government institutions are truly representative.

"Consequently, with due respect for the President and ultimate respect for the American people, the Republican leadership has no choice. It must NOT accept the administration's disingenuous summit invitation to 'negotiate.'

"To accept would abet a deceit upon the people; and violate the principle that transparency in government exists to reveal the truth and promote the public's confidence in their representative institutions, not

to foster misconceptions and subvert the public's confidence in their representative institutions."

The latest effort of Congressman McCotter is to stand clearly in the way of a bi-partisan effort by the President to find a solution to the health care crisis. During a recent meeting with Republican legislators, President Obama was constantly reminded by them that he had campaigned on an idea that health care discussions should be open and televised. Well, he listened. He is now having an open discussion with legislators from both sides of the aisle in an effort to get some combined bi-partisan solution to the health care crisis that is causing some to see up to 39 percent increases in their premiums. Great. About time right? Not according to our Congressman.

Congressman McCotter has opted to urge his fellow Republican legislators to stay home and refuse the offer! His use of the key phrases, such as "socialized medicine," "doubled taxation" and "threatens Americans' health care," are further examples that our Congressman chooses the road to divide American voters with scare tactics and hot blooded phrases rather than look at the issue and offer solutions. A true example of an out of touch politician that needs to be replaced!

Derek Pennington  
Livonia  
Michigan 16th District

## De-Greec(ing) state, building a New Michigan

Greece is teetering on the edge of insolvency. To make a long story short: the country is spending more than they take in and masking their financial troubles.

It does not matter if you are in Greece or Michigan — when you have a hole in the roof, pretending to fix it does not keep the rain out.

Michigan has spent the better part of the "lost decade" using one-time budget gimmicks, smoke and mirrors, cuts and, lately, federal stimulus dollars to paper over the fundamental structural budget mess the state is wallowing in.

To her credit, Gov. Granholm has cut more out of state government budgets than all previous governors combined, but it is still not enough. The state is facing another \$1.8 billion short fall for the new fiscal year.

When costs continue to rise while revenue declines, simply cutting won't get the job done. What is required is not a simple addition and subtraction, but a complete change of equations.

The sooner we can make the necessary reforms to truly balance Michigan's books to our new economic reality, the sooner we will have a solid foundation upon which to begin building the "New Michigan." Michigan needs a budget that makes us competitive and is not about appeasing special interest constituencies.

Why haven't we been successful to date in our rebuilding efforts? The answer is as

simple as it remains elusive. For political reasons our elected leaders on both sides of the political aisle have avoided making the tough structural changes that the state's new economic reality dictates. One cannot build anew on a foundation in the clouds.

As Greece struggles to get its financial house in order and avoid a financial domino effect on other European Union countries, it is confronting a wave of strikes, tax hikes and painful austerity programs. It will take a major financial tourniquet to stop the hemorrhaging of Greece's economy. Ultimately, the people will have to pay additional taxes, suffer government cuts and change their behavior and expectations as the adjust to the taxes, cuts and reforms. They will be angry. Change and pain has no constituency.

Michigan will surely face similar opposition when we finally stop papering over the necessary changes in how government at all levels operates. What is required is not a simple "nip and tuck" but an "extreme makeover."

There is momentary relief that public education, community colleges, universities, revenue sharing for cities and townships will be "protected" under the governor's proposed budget. However, smart leaders of these institutions might well liken the governor's budget to Christmas morning: unlikely that they get everything they were promised. Further, with escalating costs, staying even is falling behind.

Any leader of our public institution that doesn't assume further reductions and restructuring are just beyond the horizon ought to be removed for malfeasance.

The question is not WHETHER these changes will come — but WHEN. And will

our lame duck elected leaders get the job done this year, or once again, kick the problem down the road for future leaders?

Will Gov. Granholm, a late advocate to reform efforts, find the political muscle in her final months in office to make her "grand bargain" of reforms, cuts and new taxes a reality?

Longtime Lansing political watchers are betting against her. The Republican side of the aisle is unlikely to lift a hand to help and those in her own party, who might conceivably be expected to row in her direction, seem more intent on dropping anchor.

The sooner we make the cuts, serious and fundamental structural reforms and raise the revenue (aka taxes) to enable Michigan to truly invest in programs and services (primarily education, job training and 21st century infrastructure) the sooner we will find the solid footing necessary for competing on the world stage.

With the financial issues facing the state of Michigan, doing business as we always have is not the sensible solution. The status quo is quickly disappearing as a thoughtful strategy. We have arrived at a time in Michigan when the unthinkable has become inevitable.

Change is hard and is often avoided, until it can no longer be avoided. We need only look at Greece, GM or Toyota's predicaments to see the results of avoidance.

There is no time like the present to act.

Tom Watkins has served the citizens of Michigan under three governors: as state superintendent of schools, 2001-05 and mental health director, 1986-90. He can be contacted at tdwatkins@aol.com.

WESTLAND  
OBSERVER

GANNETT

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Susan Rosiek  
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Families in Action

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 11-May 13, and Sept. 16-Nov. 18  
**Location:** Heritage Hospital, 10000 Telegraph Road, Taylor  
**Details:** NAMI Metro is sponsoring Families in Action, designed to help families deal with grief and how to help their loved one move toward recovery from mental illness. A nominal fee of \$20 per person and \$30 per couple will be charged. Registrations can be sent to Families in Action NAMI Metro c/o Mary Ellen Judd, P.O. Box 852, Northville, MI 48167. E-mail Judd at [mejudd@comcast.net](mailto:mejudd@comcast.net).  
**Contact:** For information, call (248) 348-7197 or (734) 427-1435

Crafting at the Kirk

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6 and April 3  
**Location:** Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Are you someone who enjoys crafting but find it hard to set aside the time? Feel free to join other crafters at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church the first Saturday of each month to work on your projects. Just bring along your scrapbooking, quilting, or any other craft projects that you'd like to work on during the time. There is a \$2 table fee.

YMCA Mom-2-Mom Sale

**Time/Date:** 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 21. Early bird admission is at 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Livonia YMCA, 14255 Stark Rd., just north of I-96 in Livonia  
**Details:** Admission is \$1 and early bird admission is \$2. Large item room; gently used children's clothing. Event proceeds to benefit the YMCA Strong Kids program.  
**Contact:** (734) 261-2161

12-hour Crop event

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 20  
**Location:** Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City  
**Details:** Garden City High School Project Graduation is sponsoring the cropping fund-raiser. The cost is \$30 per person and includes food and drinks.  
**Contact:** Cindy Phillips at (734) 427-7549, Lisa Chambo at (734) 427-4485 or Karen Boyd at (734) 427-2447

St. Patrick's Party

**Time/Date:** 3-8 p.m. Saturday, March 13  
**Location:** Don Hubert VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford  
**Details:** Enjoy corned beef and cabbage or large corned beef sandwiches, served at 5 p.m., and live entertainment. Beer, wine and mixed drinks will be available. The cost is \$8 per person and advanced tickets are recommended. Public is welcome and carryouts are available.  
**Contact:** (313) 538-6294 or (313) 538-1806

Toastmasters

**Location:** Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower

level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

**Details:** Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

**Contact:** For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

Open House

**Time/Date:** 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16,  
**Location:** Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Come meet the teachers, tour the school, learn about the educational programs, and have refreshments. Programs available include Parent-Tots, young 3's, 3- and 4-year-olds, and enrichment for 4-year-olds.  
**Contact:** (734) 326-0078

Craft shows

**Wayne AMVETS Post 171**  
**Time/Date:** noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 13  
**Location:** Wayne AMVETS 171 Post Hall, 1217 Merriman, between Cherry Hill and Palmer, Westland.

**Details:** The show will feature holiday crafts, homemade goods and collectibles. Vendor tables are available for \$20 each.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact John at (734) 729-8930.

St. Linus

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday March 13  
**Location:** St. Linus activity room, 6466 Evangeline, north of Ford and east of Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** St. Linus Spring Craft Show, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will feature homemade crafts to home base vendors, a 50/50 drawings and Tin Can raffle. There also will be a refreshment stand and raffles. Admission is \$1, children under 12 years of age are free; Ticket will be given for each paid admission to enter the Tin Can drawing.

Trainorama Extra 2010

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, March 21  
**Location:** Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Sponsored by the Redford Model Railroad Club. A special flea market for train buffs of all ages featuring scale model railroad equipment and supplies (new and used), toy trains (new and antique), plus a wide variety of railroad oriented antiques and collectibles (lanterns, dining car china and silverware, signs, paintings, station clocks, locomotive builder's plates, old train schedules, old railroad stock certificates, etc.) Admission \$5; children under 12 free with paid adult admission.  
**Contact:** (313) 565-1027 or (734) 953-2546

Fish Dial-A-Ride

**Location:** Garden City, Livonia and Westland  
**Details:** Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have

no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive.  
**Contact:** Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels

**Details:** Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance nonprofit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.  
**Contact:** [www.earthangelsontour.org](http://www.earthangelsontour.org) or by e-mail to [eangel1986@comcast.net](mailto:eangel1986@comcast.net)

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.

**Details:** All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.  
**Contact:** [www.post251.org](http://www.post251.org) or call (734) 326-2607

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.  
**Details:** Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.  
**Contact:** [www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com](http://www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com) or call (734) 722-3660

VOLUNTEERS

First Step

**Details:** First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.  
**Contact:** (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

Drivers Needed

**Details:** Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings.  
**Contact:** (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208

VNA Hospice

**Details:** Visiting Nurse Association

of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.  
**Contact:** (248) 967-8361, [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org)

Seasons Hospice

**Details:** Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.  
**Contact:** (800) 370-8592

Literacy Council

**Details:** The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.  
**Contact:** (734) 416-4906

**Details:** Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.  
**Contact:** (888) 973-1145

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.  
**Contact:** Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918



One of the things the Friends of the Rouge will be showing at this weekend's Water Quality Symposium are kayak trip videos.

Friends promote quiet sports in Rouge watershed

Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit organization dedicated promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River is participating in the 15th Annual Water Quality Symposium for the second consecutive year.

"We are happy to participate in the symposium at the Michigan State University Pavilion on Saturday, March 6," said Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager Sally Petrella. "Friends of the Rouge has been promoting canoeing and kayaking on the Rouge over the last few years as water quality has started to improve."

The Quiet Water Symposium celebrates non-motorized outdoor recreation and a shared concern for the Great Lakes environment. This year's program will include seminars on outdoor activities such as canoeing, camping, hiking and general outdoor skills.

Along with those seminars, there will be interactive displays manned by enthusiasts and experts on topics such as wooden boat building, camp cooking, cycling, kayaking and protecting the watersheds and environment. In addition to

displays many vendors will be available to help participants chose the right gear or classes with which to get the proper start.

High fuel prices and ecological concerns have increased the interest in non-powered outdoor sports and spurring the sales of canoes, kayaks, and sailing vessels as well as bicycles and other human powered conveyances. The 2010 Quiet Water Symposium will continue to focus on those areas as it has done since 1996.

Friends of the Rouge promotes recreation on the Rouge River and sees the Quiet Water Symposium as an opportunity to expose more people to the idea of recreating within their own watershed. Friends of the Rouge will have a brand new display and attendees will be able to view canoe and kayak trip videos and learn about opportunities for recreation in the Rouge River Watershed.

For more information on the Quiet Water Symposium, go online to [www.quietwatersymposium.org](http://www.quietwatersymposium.org). For more information about Friends of the Rouge, visit its Web site at [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org) or call (313) 792-9621.

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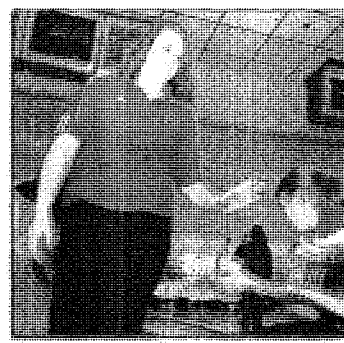
Girls basketball district semifinal results at hometownlife.com

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD

SECTION B  
(WL)

# HOMETOWN LIFE

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



Bowlers qualify for states, B2

## Stevenson takes care of rival Churchill icers, 5-2

BY BRAD EMMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the Division 1 boys state tournament starting Monday, Livonia Stevenson boys hockey coach David Mitchell had reason to be leery despite 9-1 and 4-0 victories earlier this season over rival Livonia Churchill.

"With a program like Churchill, they just keep coming and keep coming," Mitchell said. "They've been so hot lately. They've scored 60-some goals the last 10 or 12 games, so we knew they could score and we knew we couldn't let up."

Andrew Palushaj's unassisted short-handed empty-net goal at 4:10 of the final period gave his team a three-goal cushion and Spartans went on to post a 5-2 pre-regional triumph over Churchill at Edgar Arena.

"Any win in the state tournament is a good win," said Mitchell, whose team is 20-3-2 overall. "It's tough when Stevenson and Churchill draw each other first round because I think both teams are capable

of making a run. It's tough to play in that first round, but those are the breaks. You do what you can do to survive, and move on."

Stevenson's Cole Rochowiak opened the scoring just 47 seconds into the game off assists from Jake Poynter and Justin Shureb, but the first period ended 1-0.

Stevenson was also able to fight off two Churchill power plays during the opening period.

"We knew they were aggressive with their forecheck," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Every time they came down we wanted to counter. I thought first period we were able to that and the shots were pretty close. We got away from it second period, dug ourselves a hole, got back into it the third period."

Mike Woynick then got the Chargers on the board early in the second period on a power-play goal from Thomas Carey and Jake Otto.

But Stevenson countered with two straight rebound



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Andrew Palushaj (16) scored an unassisted short-handed goal on Churchill netminder Aaron Crouse to make it 4-1 in the third period en route to a 5-2 pre-regional win at Edgar Arena.

Please see **STEVENSON, B3**

## SIDELINES

### MU adds cager

Madonna University men's basketball coach Noel Emehiser announced the signing Monday of Derek Lennen, a 6-foot-6 forward from Schoolcraft High School.

Lennen helped Schoolcraft to a runner-up finish in the state Class C finals where he scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds during the championship game in a 73-67 loss to Melvindale Academy.

Lennen also helped Schoolcraft to the Kalamazoo Valley Association crown as well as district and regional titles.

A member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the High Honors achievement, Lennen is in his second season on the varsity squad for coach Randy Small.

"Derek has shown that he is willing to do what is necessary to be successful in the classroom and on the basketball court," Emehiser said. "Derek's skills, work ethic, and attitude make me confident that he will be very successful both academically and athletically here at Madonna."

Lennen is the third signee this year for MU joining Matt Jenkins (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard) and Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson).

### Moccia lifts WMU

The Western Michigan University women's tennis team ended a three-match losing streak last Friday with a 4-3 win over host Michigan State as junior Amanda Moccia (Livonia Stevenson) clinched the match at No. 3 singles with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Amy Barton.

Moccia is 11-11 in singles and 11-9 in doubles so far this season for the Broncos (7-5).

### AAU girls hoops

Tryouts for the 14-and-under Michigan Celtics will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Ladywood High School, 14680 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

The tryout fee is \$14. For more information, e-mail Andrea Gorski at coachgorski@gmail.com.

### March Madness

Local cable outlet Bright House is offering its customers a free preview of the CBS College Sports Network in time for March Madness.

The network will be available on Channel 557 and 657 in HD from March 8 to April 5.

In addition, NCAA March Madness Central brings viewers exclusive in-progress game highlights, live look-ins and press conferences from every team at every site from the first-round through the championship game.

## SC women reign again as champs

It took only a half for Schoolcraft College to leave little doubt who was No. 1 women's basketball team in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

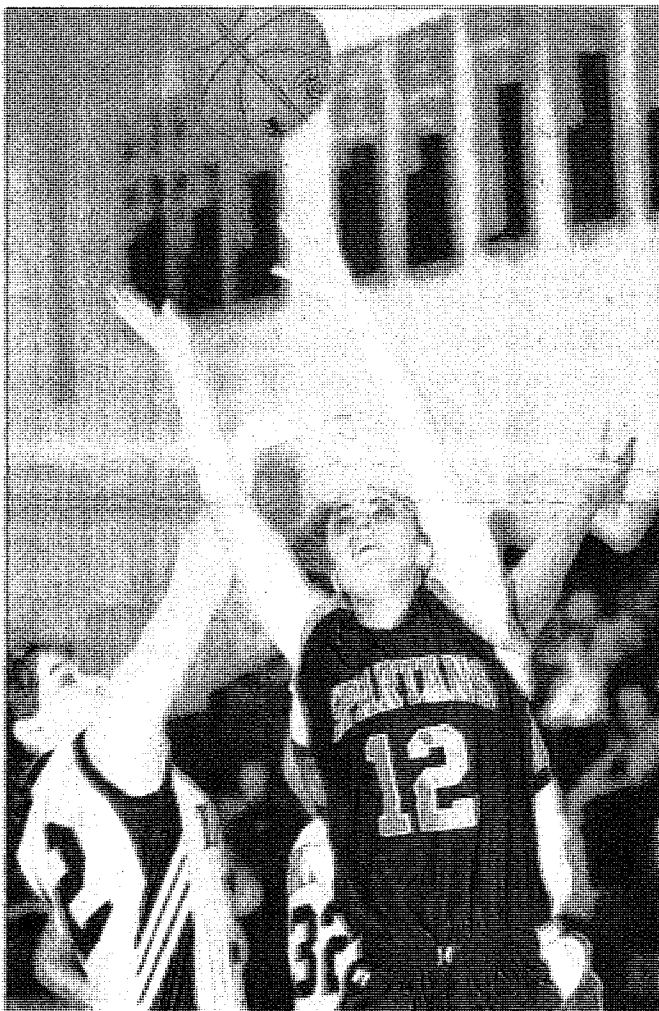
The Eastern Conference champion Lady Ocelots jumped out to a 32-10 lead after 10 minutes and 37 seconds and rolled

to an 85-54 victory over host and Western Conference champ Lake Michigan CC.

The Lady Ocelots, now 28-1 overall and ranked fifth in NJCAA Division II, captured their third straight state title and fifth under coach Karen Lafata.

Schoolcraft blitzed the Indians during the opening 20 minutes, making 7-of-9 three-pointers to take a commanding 53-26 halftime lead.

Please see **SCHOOLCRAFT, B3**



Stevenson sophomore Jorden York rises above a trio of Thurston defenders in state tournament action Monday night. York scored 11 points to help a balanced Spartan attack in a 73-55 Class A district hoop victory over the Eagles.

## Spartans ground Eagles in district

BY JIM TOTH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Not wanting the season to end, the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team dug down a little deeper than normal Monday night.

And the Spartans came up with an impressive 73-55 victory over Redford Thurston during the opening round of the Class A district tournament at Livonia Ladywood.

Stevenson, who improved to 7-14 overall, squared off against the host Blazers, 11-10 overall, in Wednesday's semifinals (visit [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)).

The Spartans used a balanced scoring attack to subdue the Eagles led by junior center Kristen Balhorn's 17 points.

Sophomore guard Molly Knoph slithered her way around the court to added 12 points, while fellow classmate Jorden York netted 11 points. Senior forward Emily

Hollandsworth contributed 10 points, while Anastasia Newton and Sarah Smith chipped in with eight and six, respectively.

"We had a rough season and I told them it's time to peak," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "We have a lot of young talent and I'm just really proud of the way they performed."

The Spartans jumped all over an Eagles' squad that seemed a step slow on both ends of the court.

A 16-9 lead after one quarter became a 34-23 advantage at halftime as time and again the Spartans wound up beating Thurston defenders down the court for an easy layup.

Thurston (10-11) fought back in the game in the third period as Ashley Wheeler, who had a game-high 22 points, and Sommer Lemie led the charge that trimmed the deficit down to just four points.

Please see **SPARTANS, B3**

## Rocket boys make way to D-1 finals in Battle Creek

Westland John Glenn is on a roll heading into this weekend's MHSAA Division 1 boys bowling finals in Battle Creek.

The Glenn boys, coached by Ron Brusseau, captured last Friday's regional at Westland Lanes by edging Salem five a mere five pins for the team title, 4,045-4,040.

Brownstown-Woodhaven placed third with 3,935 and will also be headed to M-66 Bowl. Matches start at 8:25 a.m.

In Saturday's individual boys regional, Glenn's Jordon Hornes was the champion with a total of 1,375 pins on

### PREP BOWLING

games of 237-213-183-246-220-276.

Wayne Memorial's Elliot Arnold also posted a top 10 finish in eight place and qualified with a 1,183 total on games of 179-215-171-164-221-233.

### Glenn rules KLAAs

The Rockets fought their way back from the sixth seed to captured the Kensington Lakes Activities Association Tournament championship, Feb. 19, at Town 'N County Lanes in Westland.

Glenn defeated Waterford Mott in the Baker game finals, 209-177 and 248-235.

The Rockets ousted KLAAs Central Division co-champ Salem, 190-228, 211-176, 227-225, in the quarterfinals and Howell in the semifinals, 216-178, 173-237 and 233-168.

Despite senior captain Kyle Hamlin being out of the lineup with an illness, Glenn qualified sixth with match games of 1,063-998 and a two-game Baker set of 184-216 for a total of 2,461.

Waterford Kettering's Billy Eller threw a perfect 300 game in the first qualifying game of the tournament.

Notable scorers for the Rockets included John Cleavenger, 225-247; Thomas Brusseau, 227-223; Derrick Ammons, 247; and Hornes, 207.

### Division 3 regional

In last Saturday's Division 3 regional singles at Flat Rock Lanes, Livonia Clarenceville's Cody Kissandi placed eighth to qualify for the state finals with 1,183.

Flat Rock's John Leroux was regional champ with 1,448.

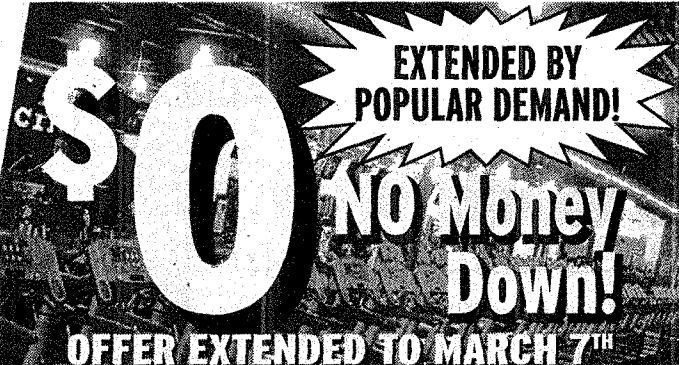
The Division 3 singles start at 8:25 a.m. this Saturday at Airport Lanes in Jackson.



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# FILTER

## Get home projects in gear with help from Canton expo

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Find answers to your home improvement questions and get inspired about "going green" at the ninth annual Canton Home Improvement Expo this weekend.

More than 120 vendors will be on hand for the two day event that is expected to draw about 7,000 visitors.

John Weyer, building official, said the event is second in attendance only to the community's annual summer Liberty Fest.

"We started out from a one-day workshop exhibition ... residents could come in and talk to the inspector and staff," said Weyer. "It was a way the public could get home improvement answers in a one- or two-hour quick shot. We had probably 1,000 to 2,000 people come through that one-day show."

"And then a year later I brought in Joe Gagnon, the 'appliance doctor' and he provided some entertainment. I thought why not put them both together, make it educa-

tional and entertaining?"

Weyer has included vendors, live broadcasts, and children's activities ever since.

The expo runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6, and 11-5 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, south of Cherry Hill, between Beck and S. Canton Center Road; (734) 394-5460. Admission, parking and refreshments are free.

Gagnon, an *Observer & Eccentric* columnist, will broadcast his show, heard on 1600 WAAM, live from the expo. Murray Gula, host of *Your Home with Murray Gula*, heard on 1130 WDFN, also will broadcast live.

New this year, Chris Edmonds and Stacey DuFord will broadcast 104.3 WOMC's *Sunday Brunch* live, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prizes, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, will be raffled throughout the weekend.

Rapid Roofing will give away a free roof to one lucky expo visitor. The second place

winner will receive free roof shingles.

All Expo attendees also will receive a free, reusable canvas bag. Those who bring their bag from last year's expo will receive a free day pass to Summit on the Park.

"This year I tried to showcase it as 'going green' with green tips," Weyer described this year's show. "Outside of the building there will be solar panels on display and wind generators."

"Part of the reason we're doing this is to remind people to shop around and do their homework and ask good questions of the exhibitors." City staff members will be on hand to answer questions about construction requirements such as permits.

For the third year, a children's activity center, co-sponsored by Home Depot, will give youngsters an opportunity to make a wood project.

Here's the schedule of demonstrations and workshops:

- **Saturday, March 6**
  - 10 a.m. — What to do in an emergency, by Aaron's Solar Roofing Systems
  - 11 a.m. — Design Trends for 2010, by Interiors by Decorating Den
  - Noon — Tiling Floors & Walls - Easy Installation, by Home Depot
  - 1 p.m. — Affordable Ways to Revamp your Deck, by N.A. Mans Lumber & Mill Work
  - 2 p.m. — Lawn and Garden Know-How, from Home Depot
  - 3 p.m. — Live Demonstrations of Michigan's
- **Sunday, March 7**
  - Noon — Turf & Ornamental Fertilization: Question & Answers, with Turf Pro, Inc.
  - 1 p.m. — Ask a Pro Workshop: Brick Pavers,



Larry Milewski and his children, Aidan (left) and Jenna work on a project during a previous Canton Home Improvement Expo.



Murray Gula will broadcast his home improvement show from the Canton expo this weekend.



Visitors make their way through aisles of vendor displays at a previous Canton Home Improvement Expo. More than 120 vendors will be on hand for the event this weekend.

- **Solar Energy by Mechanical Energy Systems**
  - 4 p.m. — Electrical Safety in Your Home: Questions and Answers, by Van Buren Electric
- **Lighting Upgrades by Home Depot**
  - 4 p.m. — Crown Mouldings: Enhance your Home, by Home Depot

- **Patios & Walkways by Michigan Pete Landscaping**
  - 2 p.m. — Retaining Wall Seminar with Rock Shoppe
  - 3 p.m. — Energy Efficient

- **Lighting Upgrades by Home Depot**
  - 4 p.m. — Crown Mouldings: Enhance your Home, by Home Depot

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## Learn about the heavens at annual expo

Amateur astronomers and beginning star gazers alike will find activities, learning seminars and observing equipment to suit their needs at the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club's seventh annual Astronomy Expo and Swap.

The event runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 6, in the gymnasium at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Admission is \$5. Pizza, hot dogs, wraps, cookies and drinks will be available for purchase.

The activities schedule includes:

- 10 a.m. Astronomy 101
- 10:30 a.m. High Resolution Lunar and Planetary Imaging
- 11 a.m. Climbing the Learning Curve - Astrophotography with a DSLR
- 11:30 a.m. Our Star, The Sun
- 1 p.m. Backyard Observing
- 1 p.m. New Frontiers in Astronomy: Discoveries - Surprises
- 2 p.m. No Charge Astronomy
- 2 p.m. Exploring Hubble Sequences in the Spring Sky
- 3 p.m. To be arranged

Planetarium lectures also are scheduled for 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, with more than 160 members, is dedicated to encouraging the study of Astronomy and related subjects. Members' interests range from simple naked-eye sky gazing to observing Messier and deep-sky objects, variable star observing, the use of computers, and astro imaging.

The club was founded in 1992 as a part of the Ford Employees Recreational Association within Ford Motor Company. Today the group is open to all astronomy enthusi-

asts. Dues are \$30 for new member families and individuals. Renewals are \$25. Membership benefits include a subscription to the Star Stuff newsletter, discounts on subscriptions to *Astronomy* and/or *Sky & Telescope* magazine, after-hour use of the observing sites at Island Lake and Lake Erie Metro Parks and discounts at selected area astronomical equipment retailers.

The organization also welcomes the public to its general meetings at 5:30 p.m., the fourth Thursday of the month, at Henry Ford Community College (HFCC) Administrative Services and Conference Center, 5010 Evergreen, Dearborn. Its astronomers offer weekly star shows at 7:15 p.m., most Tuesday nights, at the Henry Ford Community College Planetarium. Visit the group's Web site at [www.boonhill.net/faac/](http://www.boonhill.net/faac/). The phone at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is (734) 427-1414.



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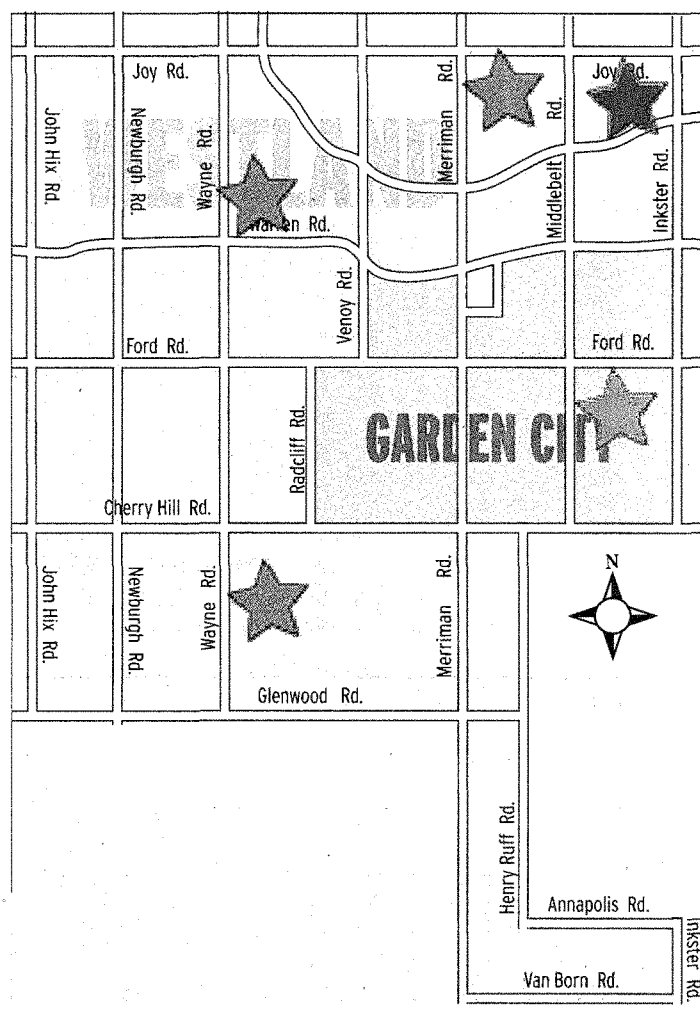
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# Local Strictly Business

## BUSINESS MILESTONES



### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### A smooth addition

**Time/Date:** Starting March 1  
**Location:** McDonald's restaurants across southeast Michigan  
**Details:** McDonald's restaurants have unveiled their newest beverage - McCafé Real Fruit Smoothies. Available in strawberry banana and wild berry, the smoothies come in 12-, 16- and 22-ounce sizes. Real Fruit Smoothies are made from a blend of real fruit - strawberries, bananas, blueberries and blackberries - and low-fat yogurt. Real Fruit Smoothies are also available without yogurt.

#### DQ goes 'green'

**Time/Date:** During the month of March  
**Location:** Dairy Queen of Garden City, 28825 Ford,

**Garden City**  
**Details:** As green as the Emerald Isle, the Mint Oreo Blizzard Treat is now available at the DQ throughout the month of March. The Mint Oreo Blizzard is a flavorful mix of Crème de Menthe topping, Oreo cookies and creamy DQ® soft serve. "Mint Oreo is a seasonal favorite and one of our most popular Blizzard flavor combinations," said Michael Keller, chief brand officer for International Dairy Queen Inc. "It has become a DQ tradition to feature the Mint Oreo Blizzard in March."  
**Contact:** (734) 427-7850 or visit the DQ Web site at [www.DairyQueen.com](http://www.DairyQueen.com).

#### Paradime performs

**Time/Date:** noon to 2 a.m. Wednesday, March 17  
**Location:** Token Lounge, 28949 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland

**Details:** The Token Lounge will be transformed into Pair O'Dimes Irish Pub presented by Paradime and Beats at Will Records on St. Patrick's Day. The all out

party celebrates Paradime's favorite holiday and the release of his latest EP Redford to Wexford. Pair O'Dimes Irish Pub will have loads of Irish fare, including Irish cooking and bagpipes along with some of Detroit's best emcees and DJs. The St. Patrick's Day bash will feature performances from some of Detroit's favorites, including Paradime, The Gorilla Funk Mob, Hush, Street Justice, U Stylez, Abrasive Method, Mu, Phathom, Cancer, Pony Boy and Knox Money. Also on hand will be DJ AMF, DJ PDog and DJ K-Fresh to provide sounds from the turntables all night. Cover

is only \$5, those age 21 and older are welcome.  
**Contact:** (734) 513-5030 or go online to [www.thetokenlounge.com](http://www.thetokenlounge.com)

#### Irish Comedy Tour

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Sunday, March 14  
**Location:** Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, Garden City  
**Details:** The Irish Comedy Tour - they're Irish, they're American and they're holding nothing back - will be making a stop at Albert's as part of a fund-raiser for Relay for Life. Tickets are \$20.  
**Contact:** (734) 525-5231

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### Good news for retailers

Michigan retailers began 2010 with an upswing in sales and confidence, according to the latest Michigan Retail Index survey, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The survey found that more than 40 percent of retailers increased sales in January, the highest level since November 2007. In addition, 49 percent project better sales for the rest of the winter and early spring, the best since March 2008.

However, the number of retailers posting year-over-year sales decreases in January, 47 percent, outnumbered those ringing up increases, 42 percent, for the 27th consecutive month.

"Michigan's retail industry has posted better sales numbers three months in a row and shown solid improvement since its low point last winter and spring," said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan.

"We expect this trend to continue as the economy begins to slowly create more jobs and chip away at double-digit unemployment, currently the biggest problem affecting consumer spending."

The Michigan Retail Index survey for January found that 42 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 47 percent recorded declines and 11 percent saw no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 49.9, up from 47.8 in December. A year ago, the index had dropped to 29.0 in January.

Index values above 50 generally indicate an increase in positive activity, while values below 50 indicate a decrease.

Looking ahead, 49 percent of retailers expect sales during February through April to improve over the same period last year, while 29 percent project a decrease and 22 percent no change. That puts the seasonally adjusted outlook index at 61.8, up from 57.1 in December. A year ago the index had fallen to 41.6 in January.

## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

# Hospice focuses care on patients' needs

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Considering their patient base extends from Monroe County through Wayne County and into southern Oakland County, officials at Arbor Hospice felt a little land-locked in their old offices on Center Street in downtown Northville.

With their front door now just yards away from the Ann Arbor Road interchange with I-275 in Plymouth Township, hospice caregivers are finding the road to some 500 patients a little easier.

"Our office services a very large area," said Julie Richards, Arbor's vice president of community and provider relations. "The freeway access was very important to us."

Arbor Hospice now coordinates patient care out of its new space on Ann Arbor Road (40500 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 102), where they moved in October. Caregivers provide "end of life" care to patients, services that cover a wide range of areas and vary patient-to-patient.

Routine hospice care includes emotional support to families, caregivers and significant others; instructs and supports the patient and family on patient care, disease progression and treatment; manages symptoms like anxiety and restlessness and provides assistance with personal care needs for patients, while offering a respite for caregivers.

Richards said hospice workers and volunteers can perform duties ranging from singing or reading with patients to something as simple as listening.

"The beauty of hospice care is it's your choice," Richards said. "It really is about what they want to do. There's so little in life that's about you ... it's your kids or your job. This is one thing you have complete control over."

Arbor Hospice uses 23 employees, and a bank of some 500 volunteers agency-wide (their corporate office is in Ann Arbor). A typical interdisciplinary team consists of a nurse, a hospice aid, a social worker, a spiritual adviser and a volunteer.

While patients vary in age from 17 and younger to 75 and older, the bulk (94 percent) of Arbor Hospice patients, according to the agency's fiscal 2009 report, are 50 or older. Of those, some 64 percent are at least 75 years old.

While patient diagnoses include HIV and other infectious diseases, kidney disease and dementia, the largest bloc of patients suffer from frailty or decline of age (29 percent) and cancer (42 percent).

To be eligible for hospice, a patient must have certification from two physicians that, if their disease follows a normal progression they have an estimated lifespan of six months.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arbor Hospice's Julie Richards shows off Arbor Hospice hearts, designed by volunteers. A new design is chosen every year.

### END-OF-LIFE CARE

**Business name:** Arbor Hospice  
**Business Address:** 40500 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 102, Plymouth, MI 48170  
**Business Specialty:** End-of-life care that focuses on the needs and goals of all family members. Serves Monroe, Wayne and southern Oakland counties.  
**Number of employees:** 23 employees, 500 volunteers agency-wide  
**More info:** (734) 794-5350 or [www.arborhospice.org](http://www.arborhospice.org)

According to hospice statistics, though, only 37 percent of the people who die in this country have the benefit of hospice service.

"People don't have the knowledge of what hospice can give them and their families," said Marie Pierce, community outreach representative for Arbor Hospice. "It's not only pain and symptom management, but it's also comfort. It's not just when they're sick; it's afterward, helping with the grief."

"Often, you see (patients) blossom once they're in hospice," Pierce added. "Their pain and their symptoms are being managed."

Most hospice care is done in-residence, though a small portion is done in hospitals and Arbor Hospice does have a 26-bed in-patient facility in Ann Arbor. Hospice care is a Medicare benefit, and Arbor Hospice gets some 90 percent of its funding from Medicare, according to Richards. None of that matters, she said, when considering patients' welfare.

"We provide care based on a patient's need, not what we get reimbursed for," she said.

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# AAUW cast lunch a hit with thespians

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Cast members of the recent Plymouth-Canton AAUW *The Wizard of Oz* are a hard-working bunch.

The American Association of University Women branch put on the play earlier this month at Garden City High School. There's scant time each year between the morning and afternoon shows Saturday, so a cast lunch is needed.

Sue Sayers of Plymouth has coordinated that tasty lunch for more than 10 years, with the women eating outside the O'Leary Auditorium at the high school. There's no kitchen or kitchenette to work with.

"I've stuck with it because it works well," Sayers, a secretary at Madonna University's College of Science and Mathematics, said of her plans.

Other AAUW members contribute salads or desserts, although with fewer members the lunch can be a challenge. Some women who winter in Florida contribute financially. "They want to help, so they'll send some money," Sayers said.

"We really don't heat anything up," she said of the food, served earlier this month as AAUW marked its 50th anniversary of presenting live drama to area children. "It's got to be quick, easy and nonmessy."

Sayers provides much food herself, along with about 10 other women who donate food or money used for paper products. Sandwiches are a staple, made with ham, turkey and cheese. She added roasted red pepper, which was especially good with the ham.

"It's kind of like whatever the mood strikes me," she said. "That was a nice taste difference." Sayers uses focaccia, croissants and dark pumpkin for sandwich breads: "I try not to be too routine."

The women appreciate the lunch. "It's all waiting for them," she said of cast members, who eat in costume and makeup. "I think it's a real important part of it."

"You never know what's going to be a hit and what isn't," said Sayers, who's made adjustments over the years. Her group is small enough to avoid duplication, which can be an issue for larger potlucks.

Consider how long food can sit out, she recommends, and if you'll have refrigeration available. "And just try to have a variety."

## TRI-COLORED ORZO

From Cindy Naumoff of AAUW

- 1 pound orzo pasta
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus ¼ cup
- ¼ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ¼ cup dried cherries, cut in half
- 12 fresh basil leaves, torn
- ¼ cup toasted pine nuts
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, plus zest of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil over high heat. Add the pasta and cook until tender. Drain. Return pasta to pot and toss with 3 tablespoons of olive oil. Cool.

Once orzo is cool, add the basil, pine nuts, cherries and feta cheese. Mix.

In small jar, mix dressing ingredients. Pour over pasta. Stir to combine. Serve.

NOTE: If salad is mixed ahead of serving, you might need extra dressing as the pasta tends to absorb the dressing.

## PRETZEL JELL-O SALAD

This is an old recipe — but always a favorite

- 2 ½ cups crushed pretzels
- 1 (8 ounce) container Cool Whip
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 (6 ounce) package strawberry Jell-O
- ¼ cup butter/margarine
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries
- 1 cup sugar

Combine crushed pretzels with sugar and melted butter. Press in 9- by 13-inch pan. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely. Blend cream cheese, sugar and Cool Whip together. Spread on top of crust. Combine water with Jell-O until dissolved. Add frozen strawberries and stir until almost set. Pour mixture over cream cheese and put in refrigerator until set.

Can be used as a salad or dessert. Enjoy!

## CRUNCHY SPINACH SALAD

This recipe is from AAUW's Gerry Dugan

- 110 ounce package of Aunt Mid's Gourmet Classic Spinach
- 1 package shredded cabbage or pre-packed slaw mix
- ½ cup slivered almonds
- ½ cup white raisins
- Dressing
- ½ cup sugar



- ½ teaspoon celery seed
  - ¼ cup of white vinegar
  - 1½ tablespoons minced onion
  - ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
  - ½ cup canola oil
  - ¼ teaspoon salt
- Pull spinach leaves from stems, tear into bite size pieces. Rinse in colander, drain well. Meanwhile prepare dressing by combining all ingredients with a whisk.
- In a large bowl mix spinach, cabbage, almonds, and raisins. Toss dressing with the salad just before serving.

## GREEN BEAN PECAN SALAD

This recipe is from AAUW's Dorothy Grant, who also provided the Spaghetti Salad recipe

- 1+ pounds fresh green beans
- 1 cup pecans toasted & chopped
- 1 cup red onion, chopped
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- Dressing:
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon minced dill
- ¼ teaspoon salt

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Trim and cut green beans. Boil until crisp and tender, about 4 or 5 minutes. Drain and plunge in cold water. Drain again and pat dry. Combine dressing in blender or small jar. Toss all together and enjoy.

## SPAGHETTI SALAD

- 2 pounds thin spaghetti, cooked, rinsed and drained
- 1 large red onion, diced or chopped into small pieces
- 2 large green peppers, diced or chopped
- 2 large tomatoes, diced or chopped
- Bottle (2.75) McCormick Salad Supreme dry seasoning
- Bottle (16 ounce) of Seven Seas Viva Italian dressing

Add onion, pepper and tomato to spaghetti and mix well. Pour dry seasoning over ingredients. Toss with Seven Seas Viva Italian dressing.

Note: Use the dressing and seasoning to your taste. This makes a very large spaghetti salad. It's enough to feed the entire cast and crew with some left over.

## CITY BITES



The dining room of the Titanic.

### Titanic dinner

**Farmington Hills** — The Pine Tree Grill in Farmington Hills will recreate the opulence of the luxury liner, Titanic, with a special evening of sumptuous dining and elegant service.

The RMS Titanic Dinner, a first-class, seven-course meal, will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17 in the "Dining Salon" of the Pine Tree Grill, located in the clubhouse at the Farmington Hills Golf Club, 37777 11 Mile Court.

The evening will be a "Night to Remember," with an elegant atmosphere recreating the grand style enjoyed by first-class passengers. The dinner will feature authentic recipes taken from the Titanic's menus, nautical entertainment, a captain's table, starched white

linens, china, crystal, and silver service. A special room will be available with cigars and brandy, following the meal.

The evening will commemorate the famous RMS Titanic, which struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14, 1912, and sank two hours and 40 minutes later. At the time, the Titanic was the largest steamship in the world, surpassing all others for luxury and opulence. First-class passengers feasted in style in a dining room that was 114 feet long and spanned the full width of the ship.

Proper formal attire is requested and reservations are required for the RMS Titanic Dinner. The cost is \$65 per person, which does not include alcohol, tax or tip, and must be prepaid to guarantee a reservation. Call (248) 476-5193.

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