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COMMUNITY LIFE, B6



**SUNDAY**  
February 6, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 46  
Number 74

\$1.00

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## IN BRIEF

### Used Book Sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland are holding a used book sale Friday-Sunday, Feb. 11-13, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. There will be a preview sale for Friends members 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10. People can become member of the Friends at the preview.

Regular prices on Friday and Saturday are \$1 for hardcover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records and 10 cents for magazines. There will be a special Valentine sale - specified romance small paperbacks will be 10 cents. The special will continue after the book sale in the Friends Shop until the end of February or as long as supplies last. There will be a \$4 Bag Sale on Sunday.

Money raised help fund programs at the library for all ages. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

### Tax preparation

The Westland Friendship Center is now taking appointments for anyone in the community who wishes to have their taxes prepared free of charge. The center is an e-file site only. Appointments are necessary.

Generally, the tax return service offered through AARP is for simple returns. Those individuals with lengthy returns, many rental properties or investments are encouraged to have a CPA or professional firm complete their returns. There is no age or income requirement. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete.

Taxes this year will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call for an appointment. Unfortunately, the preparers are only on site during the day the center offers the service so any tax question regarding a return must be taken by a staff person, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (734) 722-7628.

### Hockey game

Tickets are on sale for second annual Westland vs. Detroit Red Wing Alumni Hockey game on Saturday, March 12.

Join the Westland Wild Wings, including Mayor William Wild, city officials and residents as they seek a win against the Detroit Red Wing Alumni. The game will be at 7 p.m. at the Mike Modano Ice Arena at 6210 N. Wildwood.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and kids under age 3 are free. Tickets are on sale at the mayor's office in Westland City Hall, the Bailey Recreation Center and the Mike Modano Ice Arena. Seating is limited to 800 so get your tickets early.

Sponsorship opportunities also are available with a range of levels and cost. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Director Bob Kosowski at (734) 722-7620 or by e-mail at [rkosowski@cityof-westland.com](mailto:rkosowski@cityof-westland.com).

# 13 to interview for W-W board vacancy

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board will have its work cut out for it when it meets at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, after receiving 13 letters of intent from residents interested in filing a vacancy created by the recent resignation of Trustee Martha Pitsenbarger.

The applicants range from a former Westland city official and a retired high school teacher to parent volunteers and several residents who regularly attend school board meetings.

Residents had until 4 p.m. Monday to file an letter of intent with the superintendent's office. The school board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, to interview candidates and select a

new member to serve out the remaining 143 days of Pitsenbarger's term. Prior to her resignation, the veteran school board member had announced her intention not to seek re-election in the May 3 school election. She resigned Jan. 10, citing circumstance beyond her control.

The most recognizable of the applicants is former Westland mayor and

City Council member Charles "Trav" Griffin of Westland who also served a four-year term on the school board in the 1970s.

Also applying were:  
• Wayne-Westland retiree Thomas Buckalew of Westland who was with the school district for 41 years and

Please see **BOARD, A2**



Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson, Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano listen to Westland Colonial Village Apartments owner Jeffery Spoon during the city's Mission: Green Awards Ceremony.

# Plug in: Colonial Village offers electric car charge station

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With an electric car no longer treated as an experimental vehicle and soon to be built at the Ford Wayne Assembly plant, Jeffrey Spoon decided it was time for new technology at Westland Colonial Village Apartments.

The owner of the 304-unit apartment complex on North Wayne Road has installed an electric car charging station - the only charging station in the Westland, Canton and Livonia area. Spoon said it's the only charging station installed at an apartment complex in the United States.

"I believe in it, so I invested in it. The Chevrolet Volt ads are matter of fact. It's not treated as an experimental car," said Spoon, who expects his wife will be purchasing a Volt. "In five years, I think you'll see us using 40 per-

cent less foreign oil. The technology is changing so quickly."

Spoon recently received a Mission Green Business Award from Westland Mayor William Wild honoring the environmental aspect of the new electric car charging station.

Westland is proud to have the only apartment complex in the country with an electric car charging station, Wild said.

"As a green city, it is extremely important to provide residents with the tools they need to share in this initiative," he said.

The charging station is on the Charge Point America network which is being used by the Chevy Volt and Ford's electric Taurus and Transit Connect. Both manufacturers will have an application for smartphones to locate charging stations.

Please see **CHARGING, A2**



The charging station is part of the Charge Point Network.

# Westland man faces trial in theft, use of firefighter's debit card

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man is facing charges of illegally using a debit card belonging to a Dearborn firefighter, a card stolen while the firefighter was working in the aftermath of the William C. Franks Furniture store explosion.

Neil Michael Perkins, 27, was ordered bound over for trial charges of stealing a financial transaction device and illegally using a financial transaction device after being arraigned and waiving his preliminary examination in 18th District Court. No bond was set as Perkins was already in custody for unrelated charges in a neighboring community.

The firefighter told Wayne police that he had parked his truck in the Northside Hardware parking lot across Wayne Road from the explosion site Dec. 29. He reported leaving his wallet, containing the debit card with its PIN on a piece of paper and other personal items in the unlocked rear of the truck.

Westland police obtained a photograph of a suspect using two ATMs at a gas station on Wayne Road later the same day to withdraw of total of \$1,560.

The photograph was released to the public but a Westland police officer recognized Perkins from prior contacts. In fact, police said Perkins was wearing the same hoodie in the ATM and a recent police booking photograph.

Perkins was on probation through July 2012 for a number of prior convictions for breaking into vehicles to steal property, stealing financial transaction devices and fleeing police, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections. He is scheduled for Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment Feb. 10.

Furniture store owner Paul Franks of Plymouth remains hospitalized at the University of Michigan Hospital and is listed in good condition. Two store employees, salesman James Zell and secretary Leslie Machniak, both Westland residents, were killed in the explosion which is believed to have been caused by a natural gas leak but remains under investigation.

Franks, the families of Zell and Machniak and the Hope Medical Clinic, which was located in the same building as the furniture store, have all filed civil lawsuits against Consumers Energy alleging negligence. Residents living near the store had reported a gas leak and Consumers crews were investigating when the explosion happened.

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# Taylor man sentenced in murder of Westland teen

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Taylor man has been sentenced to prison for his part in the murder of a local teenager whose body hasn't been found.

On Thursday, Nicholas Cottrell, 22, was sentenced to 25-50 years in prison by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin. Cottrell had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Carlee Morse, 16. He



Nicholas Cottrell Carlee Morse

had originally been charged with first-degree murder which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without chance of parole.

Part of the plea bargain is that Cottrell testify against co-defendant Justin Yoshikawa, 19, described as a former boyfriend of Morse, who disappeared shortly after midnight Aug. 20.

Boykin had earlier granted a defense request for an criminal responsibility examination of

Please see **SENTENCED, A2**



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# CHARGING

FROM PAGE A1

"It's not the physical charging station that is the key, it's the network. You go online and if you're going to the mall (Westland Shopping Center), it shows our charging station," said Spoon. "It introduces people to our property, our complex. They might know someone who wants to rent an apartment."

Federal funds helped pay for the charging station as part of efforts to provide an electric car charging infrastructure around the country. Currently, electric cars can charge at no cost although eventually there is likely to be a cost. It takes three or four hours for a complete charge but Spoon notes drivers could top off their charge in a much shorter time.

With gas prices increasing again and electric charges costing about \$40 a month, Spoon said he began researching the electric car charging stations. So far, the only vehicle using the charging station is a Volt Spoon drove to the ceremony



Westland Colonial Village Apartments owner Jeffrey Spoon poses with a Chevy Volt plugged into the new electric charging station - the only one installed at an apartment complex in the country.

but he expects the demand will grow. "Westland is a wonderful area. I've invested nearly \$1

million in capital improvements at Colonial Village," said Spoon, who has owned Colonial Village since 2004. "I

believe in the property and the market."

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# AROUND WESTLAND

## VFW events

The Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and the Legends Show Sunday, Feb. 13. Doors open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 p.m. and the show at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, there will be a trivia tournament. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the first question at 7:05 p.m. The cost is \$20 per table. There will be cash prizes and reservations are needed.

A Game Day with a Hawaiian theme is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26. Admission is \$5 per person. The games will include Euchre, Corn-Hole, Scrabble, Scattergories, Risk, Bunco, Pictionary and Wii Bowling. Bring an appetizer or snack for the snack table. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Sgt. Romanowski Post is at 28945 Joy, Westland.

## See Me Now benefit

Joanie Givens will hold a fund-raiser 4-10 p.m. Saturday Feb. 12, at the Wayne Recreation Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne for the benefit of the See Me Now Resale Shop.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and includes, dinner, dancing, raffles, speakers and much more. All profits will go towards opening the resale See Me Now resale store in Westland. For tickets or more information on to make a donation or volunteer to help make this fund-raiser a success, call Joanie Givens at (734) 833-8291 or Kerry Partin at (734) 788-9319.

## Valentine Card Party

SS. Simon and Jude Church is hosting a Valentine Card Party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

Tickets are \$8 per person. There will be door and table prizes, 50-50 raffles, a light meal and snacks. Everyone is welcome.

The church is located at 32500 Palmer, Westland.

## Margaritaville

St. Damian School will take a trip to Margaritaville when it holds a dinner-auction fund-raiser Saturday, March at the school, located in Joy Road west of Middlebelt.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes dancing, dinner catered by Helena's and live and silent auctions. There also will be a cash bar.

For tickets or more information, call the school at (734) 427-1680.

## Scrapbooking

A scrapbooking workshop will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at St. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, in Westland.

The cost is \$35 per person for a full day and \$20 per person for a half day. Vendors are available. For more information, call Karen Kopecak at (734) 634-3934 or Sandy

Kopcak at (734) 721-4867 or contact them by e-mail at khol-lenbeck@twmi.rr.com or skop-cak@comcast.net.

## Bible talks

Bible Talks will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland at 4 p.m. Sundays, now through Feb. 13. Presenting, in simplicity, the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, no collections or literature. Everyone is welcome.

**Hockey Night**  
Mayor William Wild and the Westland Wild Wings will take on the Detroit Red Wing Alumni in an exhibition hockey game at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12. For sponsorship or ticket sale information, call (734) 722-7620 or send an e-mail to parks@cityofwestland.com.

All proceeds of the event will go to fund improvement to the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

## Metro Fibro Group

Lori Grigg will demonstrate how service dogs can help those with chronic pain when the Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, south of Ford, in Garden City.

The group also is hosting a seminar/workshop 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Dr. Howard Schubiner from Providence Hospital, and author of Unlearn Your Pain, and Dr. James Dowd, rheumatologist, and author of The Vitamin D Cure, will be the speakers.

The seminar/workshop costs \$40 per person.

The group has no dues but donations are accepted and appreciated. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com or call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519.

## Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer - mall walking.

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people who want to walk for exercise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors are locked until approximately 8.30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9.30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled.

It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers. Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service Associate or put it in the Walkers Box located on the side counter.

Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

For information about either class or other Bailey Center activities, call (734) 686-9882.

## CORRECTIONS

A story in the Jan. 23 issue of *The Westland Observer* should have identified LiveMocha (livermocha.com) as an online language learning community that can be used to practice newly-

acquired foreign language skills.

McMurdo Station was misspelled in a story in Thursday's *Observer*, headlined, "Think it's cold here?"

# SENTENCED

FROM PAGE A1

Yoshikawa. Results of that psychological examination aren't expected back to the court until March.

Cottrell testified earlier that he had met Morse through Yoshikawa, who for a period of time was a close friend and roommate at a home in Taylor. All three were making money selling marijuana, according to Cottrell.

Under a plan he testified was devised by Yoshikawa, Cottrell described luring Morse to his car with a text message and driving to a nearby location to smoke marijuana. Hiding behind the seat was Yoshikawa who strangled the slightly built teenager with a rope, Cottrell testified.

Cottrell's account of the murder and subsequent actions, including placing Morse's body into black trash bags and then into a Dumpster mirrored the

statement Yoshikawa gave to police following his arrest.

Police are continuing to try and locate Morse's body but that has been hampered by the inability of Cottrell and Yoshikawa to give a location of the Dumpster. Cottrell testified that he had been smoking marijuana and that the night after the murder, the pair had driven around without a specific destination for disposing of the body. Cottrell described the location as a church which had a grease container in the parking lot in

addition to the Dumpster.

Cottrell's mother Tina Lowe, 49, has been charged with being an accessory after the fact and interfering in a police investigation in the murder. Lowe is charged with telling a witness not to come forward with information about the murder.

A witness eventually did provide police with information about Morse's murder that resulted in Yoshikawa and Cottrell being arrested.

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# BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

taught at John Glenn High School.

Lori Miralles-Smith of Westland who had filed to file a board vacancy in 2008 and sought election to the board in 2010. She is an order processing manager with LMS North America Inc. in Troy.

Scott Davis of Westland, the general manager of Value City Furniture in Westland.

Andrea Clawson of Westland who said her "continuous attendance" at the monthly board meetings has allowed her to keep current

with the issues facing the school district.

- Aja Lavander of Westland, a claims specialist with AAA Auto Insurance.

- Susan Webb of Wayne who has volunteered at Franklin Middle School and Taft-Galloway Elementary and volunteers at Wayne Memorial High School where she is a parent representative on the district school improvement team and as a parent liaison.

- Jeffrey Hayton of Westland who is a quality assurance analyst with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

- Pamela Prough of Westland, the general manager of My Lady's Florist and a

graduate of Wayne Memorial High School.

- Wilma Jackson of Wayne who through PESG/PCMI works as a visiting teacher in the school district. She also is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School.

- Kevin Headrick of Westland, manager of materials services at Providence Park Hospital in Novi and Providence Hospital in Southfield.

- Michelle Sample of Westland who is a regular at school board meetings, has been a parent volunteer at Hamilton Elementary and currently is part of the Team at Marshall Upper Elementary and parent volunteer at Stevenson Middle School.

- Carolyn Byndas of Westland who currently is

business unit controller for SKF Bearings. She also is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School.

The school board will interview the candidates during the special meeting Monday evening at the school district's administrative offices on Marquette, east of Newburgh and south of Ford, in Westland. The board will determine how the interview process will be conducted as well as what questions will be asked of all of the applicants. Once the interviews are concluded, board members will make nominations and votes will be cast to determine who will fill the position.

The appointee will serve until June 30, when the term expires.

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# Mad for 'Alice'

AAUW brings 'Wonderland' to life in children's show

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



FILE PHOTOS

The last time the Plymouth-Canton AAUW performed "Alice in Wonderland," Sharon Belobraidich (left) played the Red Queen. This time the Plymouth resident is co-directing the play with Pam Dean of Canton.

The last time the Plymouth-Canton AAUW performed *Alice in Wonderland*, Sharon Belobraidich played the Red Queen.

This year, the Plymouth resident has a totally different role and she couldn't be happier.

"I don't like this play," said Belobraidich, who is co-directing the annual production. "I like to be the antagonist and the only one in this play is the Red Queen and she's more rude and obnoxious. I've never been one to be a goody two-shoes."

Belobraidich is partnering with Pam Dean of Canton in co-directing the branch's children's theater production, which will be presented Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 10-12, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium.

Pulling parts from six different scripts, Belobraidich has crafted a production that caters to the younger crowd. She's beefed up the jury scene at the end of the play and built up the Humpty Dumpty character. She's also added the Dodo Bird to the cast.

"I always try to find something else we can do," she said. "The last time we did the play, we had a wonderful tea party scene and then it went into the jury trial. It was very blah, so I pulled what I

## CHILDREN'S THEATER

**What:** Plymouth-Canton AAUW's 'Alice in Wonderland'

**When:** Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 10-12

**Where:** Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City

**Tickets:** Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. The Thursday performance is sold out. Tickets are available for the 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday shows and a limited number is available for the 11 a.m. Saturday show. Advance tickets are available at Fanatic U, 30409 Ford, Garden City; Sideways, 505 Forest Ave., Plymouth; and Perkos Shoes, 33426 Five Mile, Livonia. Check the website [www.aauw-pcmi.org](http://www.aauw-pcmi.org) for availability.



Mickey Edell of Canton will play the part of the White Rabbit in the annual Plymouth-Canton AAUW play.

cast has been fine tuning its performance for five weeks.

Playing the lead of Alice is Lisa Noel of Redford, who stepped in after the original Alice had to drop out. Playing her adversary, the Red Queen, is Sue Bellows of Garden City, while Mickey Edell of Canton is the White Rabbit.

Also appearing in the pro-

duction are Dawn Parker as the Cheshire Cat, Kathryn Bellows as Tweedle Dee and Mary Beth Riblet as Tweedle Dum, Kathy Sharpe as the Dodo Bird, Monica Nick as the White Queen, Becky Copenhaver as the Duchess, Elaine Bain as the Caterpillar, Julie Brown as the King of Hearts, Melissa Uhl as the Mad Hatter, Sandy Finn as the March Hare, Michelle Churchill as the Dormouse, Karen Landers as Alice's sister Sarah, Esther Nelson as Humpty Dumpty and Kay Paupore, Laurie Kenpisty and Shirley Zaetta as the Flowers — Lily, Rose and Daisy.

Playing the cards are Marissa Ryan, Helene Lusa, Kristal Kish, Kathy Kish, Janet Blumberg, Lena Packard and Andrea Witkowski.

This is the 51st installment of the branch's children's theater production. The plays started out as a branch interest group aimed at bringing live drama to children in Plymouth. It has now become the major project of the branch, which is known around

the state for it. The plays also are a drawing card for new young members, Belobraidich said.

"A majority of members in the AAUW in the U.S. are over age 65," she said. "The push now is to bring in young people, and we bring in more members to the branch because of the plays."

The branch has a repertoire of seven plays it performs, ranging from *Peter Pan* and *Pinocchio* to *Cinderella* and *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, although the latter play most likely will be dropped because of its lack of popularity.

"The kids don't know it because there isn't a movie," Belobraidich said. "All the others they know very well, but we have a hard time getting them to come and see *Jack and the Bean Stalk*."

The plays are kept to about 45 minutes in length and include some audience participation. There's also a chance for youngsters to meet the cast in the theater lobby after the show. Many youngsters also dress in costume for the show.

The plays are popular with the

Girl Scouts, who are able to work on a badge by spending time with the cast and crew and seeing the production. It was started several years by Finn and has grown by leaps and bounds. The Thursday night performance for Girls Scouts is sold out and only a limited number of tickets is available for the 11 a.m. Girl Scout program Saturday.

"It's great for the Scout leaders," Belobraidich said. "The Scouts come here, learn about the theater and earn a badge. They come from all over — Redford, Ann Arbor, Livonia. It's also a great connection for us. Those are our next members."

Tickets are available in advance at Fanatic U in Garden City, Sideways in Plymouth and Perkos Shoes in Livonia at \$5 each. They also are available at the door for \$6. Tickets will be sold at the door for the 11 a.m. Saturday show as long as they are available. Check the branch's website at [www.aauw-pcmi.org](http://www.aauw-pcmi.org) for availability.

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# EDUCATION

Sunday, February 6, 2011

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## The green stuff

### W-W's innovative Hydro Volt wins science center honor

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In 2008, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Hydro Volt was the toast of the town, collecting six trophies in the Convergence Foundation's biennial Innovative Vehicle Design competition.

Two years later, the student-built retro Rat Ride is still collecting honors, the latest the presented by Don Nicholson of Don Nicholson Enterprises, acknowledging the vehicle, a flat black scaled-down 1940s fuel cell/plug-in hybrid pickup, for its involvement in the Detroit Science Center's 2010 Future Cruise and the center's commitment to going green.

"The trophy cases are filled with trophies from that little car," said Jim Schirmer, the center's automotive technology instructor. "It's a pretty cool thing. I'm still amazed at how well it's done."

"I invited the car to show for a specific class, it was the only hydrogen fuel cell there," said Nicholson, whose name is synonymous with car cruises in and around western Wayne County. "The school was the winner of the Green Class for Future Cruise."

Future Cruise was a pre-

miere event for the Detroit Science Center. Held Aug. 19-22, the four-day event celebrated what makes Detroit the Motor City with an advanced technology car showcase and competition designed to award trophies and prizes to independent car enthusiasts who have successfully designed, fabricated or modified, and implemented the most advanced technology into their rides.

Hydro Volt was part of the promotion for the event and shared the limelight with a Model T built at a factory in Detroit. Known as a Tin Lizzy, Nicholson said the car was too good to be called that.

"We called it Elizabeth, it was too beautiful to be called Lizzy," he said.

#### GREEN CLASS AWARD

Since representatives of the center couldn't be there for the awards presentation, Nicholson went to the school last week to present them with the trophy. Designed by the Detroit Science Center, the award featured a beaker, representing science, filled with trees standing for the green award.

"We do a lot of green around the building," said Assistant Principal Sue Wilk. "We use going green as an

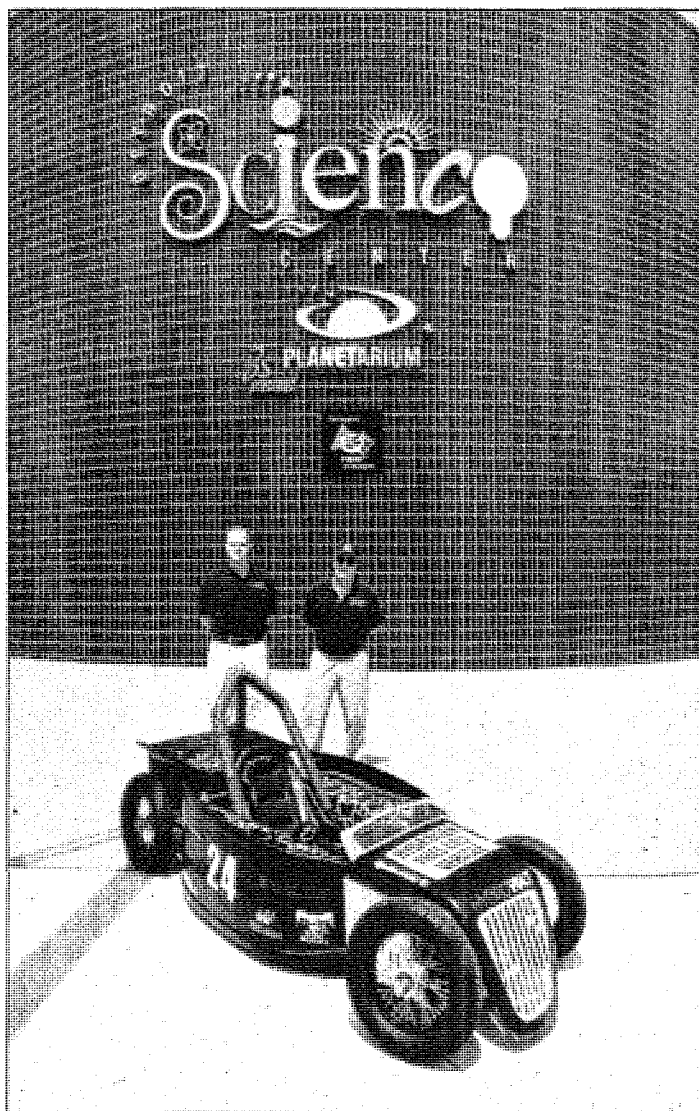


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

William D. Ford Career Technical Center Principal Steve Kay (right) and Jim Schirmer, automotive technology instructor, pose with the Hydro Volt in front of the science center in advance of the four-day Future Cruise.

extracurricular activity, we've become a well-knit building because of it."

The Hydro Volt won six trophies in the former Convergence Education Foundation, now the Square One Education Network. It's traveled to conferences in Wisconsin and in Detroit and

has been in and out of Cobo Hall and the RenCen so many times that "we know every freight elevator," Wilk said.

It was featured at Autorama where organizers were so impressed that they made a \$500 contribution to further the work being done at the center.

"It had a lot of good support," said Schirmer. "It was the perfect storm with the kids, the contacts, the ideas. It was something else."

Dozen of students spent



William D. Ford Career Technical Center Principal Steve Kay (left) is joined by Don Nicholson- presented award; Jim Schirmer (second from right), automotive technology instructor, and Len Sheko (right), automotive technology teaching assistant, and the students from Automotive Technology in receiving the Detroit Science Center Green Class Award for the Hydro Volt vehicle from Don Nicholson of Don Nicholson Enterprises.

two years designing and building the car for the Convergence Innovative Vehicle Design competition. Wilk and Schirmer credit graduates Angela Czarniowski and Mike Paonessa, lead students on the IVD project, with their role in the project. Building the IVD lit Czarniowski's "fire" and motivated her to go on to college. The same with Paonessa who focused on the hydrogen fuel cell. He researched it and came back to push for its use in the car.

"That was his passion, he really believed in it," said Schirmer. "When you have a hands-on project like this was, the students realize why they need science and math."

#### FOSTERING INTEREST

Nicholson sees what they're doing at the center a little bit differently. His concern is that the interest in restoring cars, like building hot rods years ago, is a dying art. Technology is making it difficult for people to work on their own vehicles.

"When I was young, you got your training in the garage from your dad or your neigh-

bor," he said. "You could sit under the hood and work on the engine. You can't now, there's no room because of all of the electronics."

"Cars today aren't like the hot rods, there's so much electric now," he said. "You have to be knowledgeable today, that's what's so important about what they're doing there. They're preparing the kids for what's coming."

The Hydro Volt was two years in the making and was designed and fabricated from scratch by students in a variety of programs at the Career Technical Center. Its notoriety has overshadowed a gas-electric hybrid students built for the last two-year competition.

"Don Nicholson is a promoter, he really likes getting involved in cars," said Schirmer. "He thinks restoring them is a becoming a lost art. A hands-on project like this seems to work with a lot of students."

"The students really worked really hard on this, I think it's been our best effort to date," added Wilk.

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# Rec department rolls out midwinter break programs

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The midwinter break activities offered each year by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department attract plenty of youngsters but most of them aren't signed up too far in advance.

"They usually don't sign up until the week before. I don't know why — maybe they're waiting to get baby sitters lined up," said Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski.

Parks and Recreation is offering different activities each day of midwinter break Monday-Friday, Feb. 21-25.

"We do this each year, but we've added some things this year to keep it fresh," said Kosowski. "The programs are very affordable."

New this year is Zumbatomic, a version of Zumba aerobics aimed at youngsters. The week kicks off with a traditional favorite, a bowling party.

Here's the lineup:

• Monday, Feb. 21 — Bowling party 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. The cost is \$5 per person and includes three games, a hot dog and soft drink. It's open to kids 5-14 years old and parents are encouraged to participate.

• Tuesday, Feb. 22 — Fun Start Carnival Tennis Camp for youngsters 6-10 years old. The camp costs \$50 per person and runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All equipment is provided and youngsters should wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothing as well as bringing a packed lunch.

• Wednesday, Feb. 23 — Zumbatomic 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for kids ages 6-12. The cost is \$7 per person or \$6 per person for groups of five or more.

A Rockers Soccer Clinic for kids 6-14 will be held 1-3 p.m. at a cost of \$16 per person or \$15 per person for groups of five or more.

As a special offer, young-

sters can sign up for both Zumbatomic and the soccer clinic for \$20 per person.

• Thursday, Feb. 24 — Learn to skate 12:30-1 p.m. at Mike Modano Arena Wildwood at Hunter. The lesson will be followed by open skating 1-2 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person and the program is open to youngsters ages 6-12.

• Friday, Feb. 25 — High Velocity Ballers Basketball is offered 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for youngsters ages 5-12. The cost is \$20 per person.

The High Velocity Sports Sampler 1-4 p.m. will offer a variety of sports, including volleyball, kickball, floor hockey, fleeing and dodging games, for youngsters 5-12 years old. The cost is \$20 per person but both programs can be taken for \$35.

Preregistration is required for the classes. Call (734) 722-7620 for information or stop by the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, to sign up.

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

# Guardian holds martial arts seminar

Guardian Martial Arts and Fitness is hosting a Modern Arnis And Balintawak Seminar Saturday, Feb. 26.

The seminar will be 1-5 p.m. and will be held in conjunction with progressive Tactics and Fluid Force Martial Arts.

Datu Tim Hartman and Guro Rich Parsons will be the instructors.

Hartman started training as a teenager and he was a personal student for more than 16 years of the late Grand Master Remy Presas. He earned his

sixth-degree black belt in 2000, making him Presas's top ranked student in the United States. He also awarded Hartman the title of Datu - chieftain or leader. There have only been six people in the world awarded this title by Presas.

Parsons began his Balintawak training in 1998. He trained with Manong Ted Buot of Southfield weekly and also with other students of Balintawak in Flint, Buffalo, Philadelphia and anywhere else he could to better improve

his understanding of the art. He currently works out with the Flint group and also teaches privates to several of Buot's students.


Both men will teach sessions to help the beginner and advanced students develop and improve their martial art.

The cost is \$6 for those who register by Feb. 14 and \$75 at the door. Registration forms are available on the events page of [www.progressivetactics.com](http://www.progressivetactics.com) or at Guardian Martial Arts, 30942 Ford Road, Garden City.



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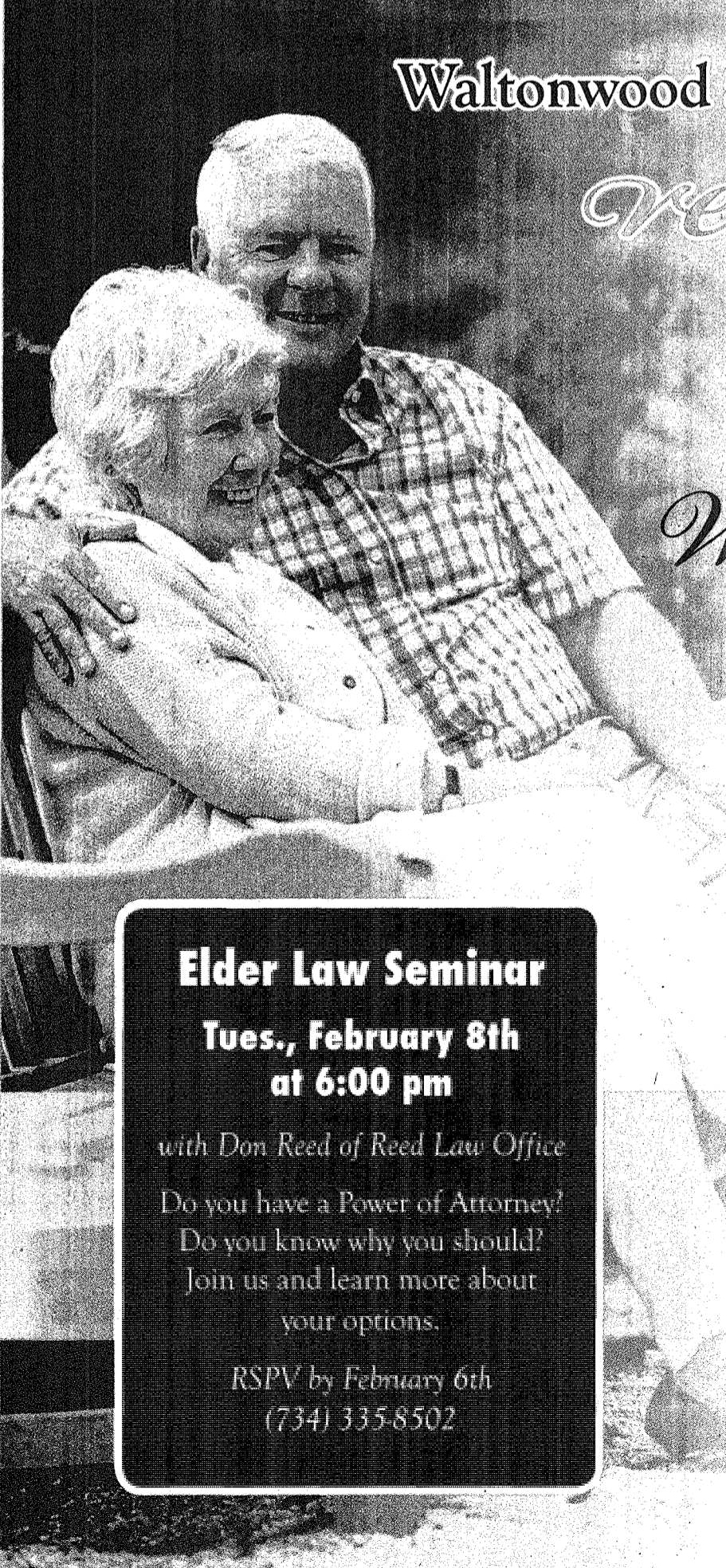
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# Poker room could be jackpot for charities

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If Ed White's plans for his new Canton poker room pan out, nonprofits and charitable organizations in the area could be the ones hitting the jackpot.

White, with 22 years of gaming experience, including a stint as the poker manager for Detroit's Greektown Casino, has opened Trip Kings, a poker room in the Golden Gate Shopping Center on Lilley south of Joy Road.

While all similar rooms in the state must have the charity component, White's Trip Kings is a little different in that it's a stand-alone poker room (many others, including rooms he owns in Garden City and in Woodhaven) are set up in other establishments such as bowling alleys, and this one comes with a goal: Raising \$1 million for charity.

"We thought Canton would be a perfect fit," said White, who opened Trip Kings last week with a benefit for the American GI Forum. "We wanted to make it as top-notch as possible."

Like all other poker rooms in the state, Trip Kings (by law) caters to charitable organizations, each of which has to procure a license to use the room. Charities can schedule either a three- or four-day event, and can sell up to \$15,000 worth of chips per day.

At the end of the day, the charity walks out with 50 percent of the money, and Trip Kings gets the other half, with all expenses borne by Trip Kings. On a good day, White said, charities can make as much as \$1,500.

So far, in addition to the American GI Forum, the men's club from St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford and Frost Middle School in Livonia have benefited from Trip Kings. The money raised this weekend for Frost will help pay for a trip to Washington, D.C., for the school's eighth-graders.



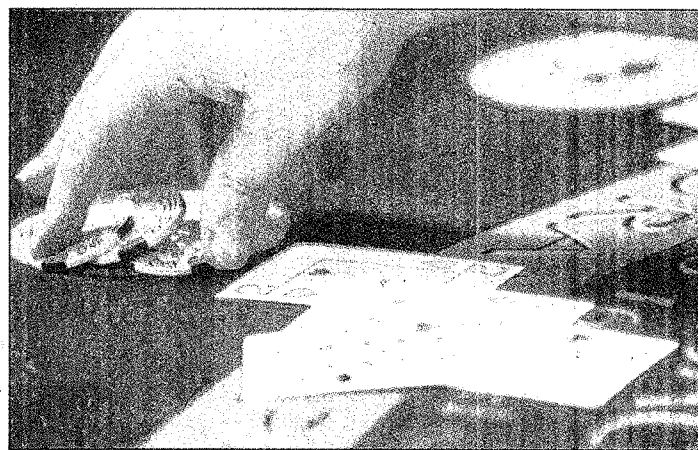
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed White hopes to raise \$1 million for charity with his new Trip Kings Poker Room in Canton.

Rich Roberts of Canton, who coaches Team Michigan, a wrestling team that just brought home a national title from Tulsa, Okla., said the money raised in Trip Kings — his team has had events at the Garden City room — has been invaluable to the team's success.

"We've consistently raised good money ... funds that make it affordable for our parents," said Roberts, a 19-year Canton resident who noted Team Michigan's trip to Tulsa cost some \$12,000. "Without these rooms, our kids might never make it. Whether it's wrestling or drama or choirs — whatever activity — we're giving those kids the opportunity to fund-raise to alleviate some of the (financial) pressure on parents."

Trip Kings is a spacious, clean facility with brand-new everything, from the crown molding to the tables and the deli. It took White some three months to get through the regulatory process of opening — he



The cards started flying at Trip Kings last week.

had to buy a liquor license from Carl's Chop House in Detroit and transfer it to Canton, for instance — and now he's ready to roll.

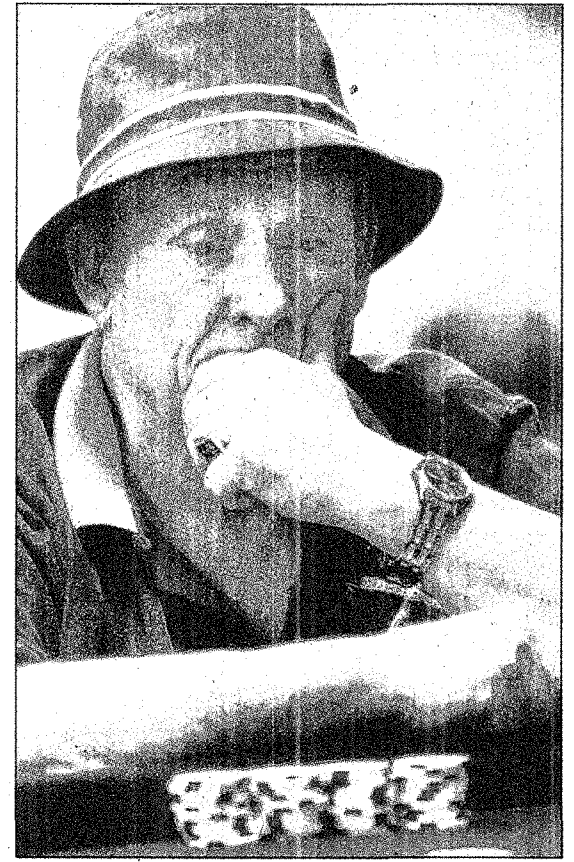
The room includes a "high-limit" room, which is adorned with a variety of sports memorabilia, including signed jerseys from athletes such as Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood, a Plymouth resident, Tigers

pitcher Joel Zumaya and hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, whose jersey is autographed by players who've scored 500 goals or more in their careers. The memorabilia is for sale (the Gretzky jersey goes for \$2,500) through a partnership through sporting goods giant Fanatic U.

Trip Kings brings some 40 jobs to town, including bartenders, wait staff and dealers



Dealer Ghada Sirghani has one of some 40 jobs Trip Kings brought to Canton when it opened last week.



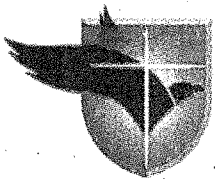
Lanny Hall of Taylor contemplates his cards during an evening at Trip Kings.

"We're very excited to be putting people to work," White said — and hopes to build something special in Canton.

"There wasn't anything like this out here," White said.

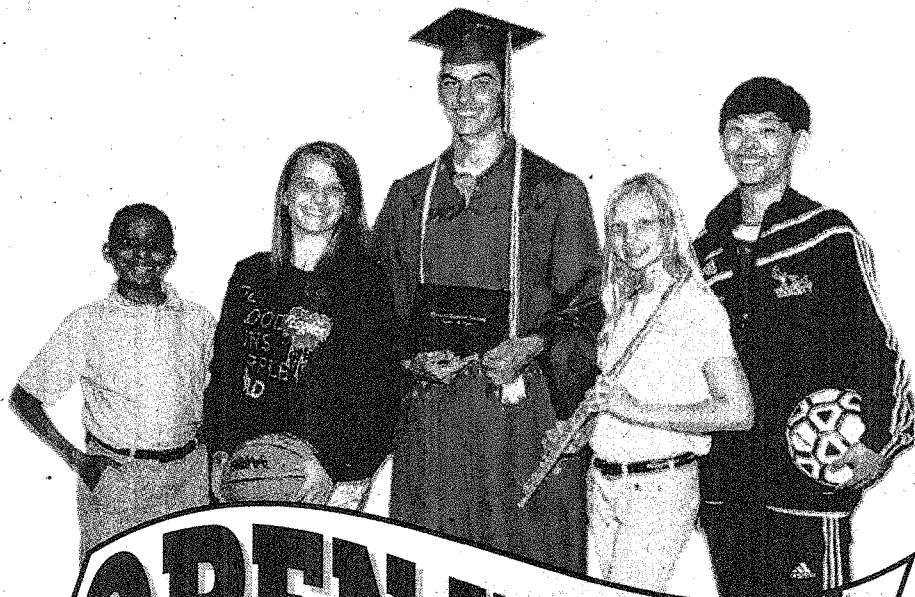
"There are a lot of great charities in the area, and it seemed like a great place to come and raise a million dollars."

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Roger Fox works with physicians and members of the health care team at Four Seasons to care for patients with a range of breathing disorders including congestive heart failure, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and exacerbation of COPD, emphysema, pneumonia, pulmonary fibrosis, and tracheostomy.

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# Diaper dandy

Canton mom finds a way to change the world

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton mom Marybeth Levine smiles and shrugs off the post-college, idealistic years she spent in Washington, D.C., working as a congressional special assistant and as a higher education lobbying association employee.

"I was going to change the world," she said.

She became disillusioned and left the nation's capital, yet Levine, now 42, has found a way to change southeast Michigan — one disposable diaper at a time.

As the unpaid executive director of the Detroit Area Diaper Bank, Levine started a nonprofit agency that, since last April, has donated 356,833 diapers to 45 organizations such as Starfish Family Services, the Redford Pregnancy Counseling Center, First Step domestic violence shelter, The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps and the Westland-based Wayne County Family Center.

Levine has tapped into a small army of donors — civic groups, businesses, charitable foundations, Canton Township employees and many others — who sponsor diaper-collection drives that ultimately help jobless, single mothers, recession-ravaged families and sickly people, mostly the elderly, who have become incontinent.

"This is the most fulfilling thing I've ever done," Levine said.

She used to store diapers in the Canton home she shares with husband Steve, a Ford Motor Co. purchasing project



Marybeth Levine runs the diaper bank from a donated storage locker.

manager, and sons John, 8, David, 6, and Nathan, 4. She delivered diapers to charitable agencies in her 1997 Ford van.

## COMMUNITY HELP

As the diaper bank grew, Levine's project became unwieldy for home; and now she houses as many as 40,000 diapers in a storage unit at a Canton company, Extra Space Storage, lets her use for free. Another local business, MSA Delivery Service, has helped her by receiving shipments of donated diapers.

The storage unit has given Levine a place where charitable agencies can pick up the diapers they need, though she still makes some deliveries. On a bone-chilling winter morning, Levine bundled up, stood inside her makeshift office and waited for Edward Washington, a 20-year building maintenance worker for Detroit-based Matrix Human Services Center, to arrive.

"I think this is awesome," Washington said, loading diapers into an old school bus. "We've got so many babies who need help."

Levine helps people such as low-income mothers who often don't have access to laundry facilities to wash reusable diapers. On a wintry night last November, Canton Public

Library Director Eva Davis collected diapers by camping in a box truck donated overnight by a Canton-based catering company, Fat Chef in a Little Coat. Davis commended Levine's efforts.

"I admire her tenacity and her energy," Davis said Thursday. "She cares about people. She's so articulate and passionate, yet she's practical at the same time. She doesn't just point out a problem. She looks inside herself and does something about it. It says a lot about her as a caring person."

## HER BACKGROUND

Levine grew up in a military family, earned a degree in political science from Penn State University, worked in the nation's capital and ran her own recruiting and staffing firm in Virginia Beach, Va. She went to Tucson, Ariz., for a friend's wedding, met and fell in love with her eventual husband and lived in Arizona before he was hired by Ford Motor Co. in 2003.

Levine was driving her car in Tucson when she heard a radio announcement about a diaper drive. She bought diapers, dropped them off and has since learned that government-assistance programs, such as food stamps and Medicare, don't cover diaper costs.

## ONE BABY AT A TIME

**Who:** Marybeth Levine  
**Where:** She lives in Canton  
**What:** Executive director, Detroit Area Diaper Bank, which has donated more than 356,000 diapers since April 2010

**Family:** Husband Steve; sons John, 8, David, 6, and Nathan, 4.  
**Education:** Degree in political science, Penn State University  
**Background:** Grew up in a military family, Washington, D.C., and ran her own recruiting and staffing firm in Virginia Beach, Va.

"This was one of those light bulb moments," she said.

After moving here, Levine saw a definite need for a diaper bank, but she put her idea on hold while her sons were younger. She launched the nonprofit Detroit Area Diaper Bank last April, marketed it on Facebook and Twitter, formed a small board of directors and drew support from dedicated helpers like Canton resident Bruce Will, a Ford Motor Co. retiree and Gleaners Community Food Bank volunteer.

Levine has received help from small children who had birthday parties and asked for disposable diapers as gifts. Her diaper bank has received \$5,000 grants from Bank of America, Pepsi Co. and Art Van Furniture. And a diaper collection is set for Joe Louis Arena when the Detroit Red Wings roll out their "Hockey for Huggies" benefit during their Feb. 24 game against the Dallas Stars. Donors also may text the word "Wings" or "Redwings" to 501501 to donate \$5 to the diaper bank, Levine said.

For much more information on diaper drives and ways to donate, go to [www.detroitareadiaperbank.org](http://www.detroitareadiaperbank.org). Checks or money orders, made payable to The Detroit Area Diaper Bank, Inc., also may be sent to 45361 Indian Creek Drive, Canton, MI 48187.

Levine shrugs when asked how many hours each week she volunteers her time. It doesn't seem to matter.

"This is something that needs to be done," she said.

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-2238

# Refinancing makes sense in the right situation

**Q: Dear Rick: I've been approached about refinancing my home and I want your advice. I refinanced a few years ago and I have been making extra payments since. If I keep making the same payment, the house will be paid off in 12-13 years. If I refinance, according to my mortgage person, it would cut my payments by a little less than \$100 a month. My strategy — if I did refinance — would be to continue to make the same payment. I figure that would save about a year or two in payments. The problem is it will cost about \$1,700 out of pocket to refinance. What do you think? I have no intention of moving. I plan to be in my house forever.**

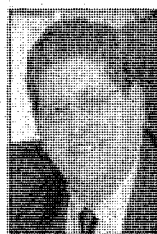
**A:** In reviewing your situation, it makes sense to refinance.

When reaching that conclusion, a number of issues entered into my thought process. The first is you plan to be in your house long term — one of the most critical issues in deciding whether to refinance. For someone who plans to be in their house for a couple of years, I may not recommend refinancing.

In addition, the type of mortgage you select also depends upon your time frame and situation. In most situations, I would not, in today's environment, recommend an adjustable-rate mortgage. However, for someone who plans to be in their house for a short period of time, an adjustable-rate mortgage may make sense.

The next issue is how long will it take to recoup the cost of refinancing. In your situation, about 18 months. After that is when the real savings come in. My general rule is to recoup costs within a two-year period. Since you are going to be in the house for the long run and can recoup costs in less than two years, it makes good economic sense to refinance.

With mortgage rates near record lows, there are oppor-



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

tunities for people to refinance a mortgage. However, this is a different mortgage industry than it was a few years ago. A few years ago, a customer who could walk and talk at the same time would be approved for a mortgage. That's no longer the case. It is more difficult to obtain mortgages than in the past. However, I'm not so sure that's a bad thing. I like the idea that the mortgage industry is getting back to basics.

If you have good credit scores and your home appraises out, there are some very good opportunities to refinance.

One lesson we should all have learned from the past is that it's important to deal with quality people. Check the mortgage company out with the Better Business Bureau and get referrals from family and friends to make sure that you deal with a professional — someone who can assist you in the very complex world of mortgages.

One problem with the mortgage industry in the past was that brokers were very aggressive and in many situations failed to give an individual the proper amount of time to review their various options. All too often, people got mortgages and they had no idea of the true terms. One of the keys of a good mortgage person is that he/she takes time to explain your rights and obligations and to answer your questions. If you're dealing with someone who doesn't want to answer your questions or is too aggressive, then you're dealing with the wrong person.

There are many qualified mortgage individuals and companies, so there is no reason to deal with someone who doesn't act as a professional.

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).

# Ohio speaker highlights 'Mad Hatter' tea

Ever wondered if your ancestors would embarrass you today?

Jana Broglin of Swanton, Ohio, will talk about "Hookers, Crooks, and Kooks. Aunt Merle Didn't Run a Boarding House" during the Plymouth Historical Museum's Mad Hatter Tea on Sunday, Feb. 27. Broglin is a professional genealogist with more than 30 years of experience.

Museum officials said Broglin's talk will follow a Victorian-style tea complete with scones, tea sandwiches, and other fare.

The tea that will be served is the museum's signature "Mary's Blend," a tantalizing cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store.

Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Plymouth Historical Society members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by Feb. 15 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at [www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html) using PayPal.

Ticket holders who come

early that day are also invited to enjoy the museum's new special exhibit, "Rediscovering the Civil War." Ticket holders are also encouraged to wear their craziest hat to the Mad Hatter Tea!

The Plymouth Historical Museum is at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

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# Ballet has long history in America

Feb. 4 marked the anniversary of the first ballet performed in America. Englishman Henry Holt and his dance company performed "The Adventures of Harlequin and Scaramouch," with the Burgo-master Trick'd on Feb. 4, 1735, in Charleston, S.C. An official ballet company did not exist in the United States until 1933, when the San Francisco Ballet first opened.

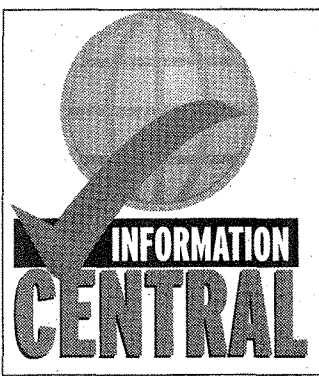
The San Francisco Ballet performed the first American productions of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and "The Nutcracker." In October 1938, Lincoln Kirstein's Ballet Caravan premiered "Billy the Kid," the first American-themed ballet. It was performed at the Chicago Civic Opera House.

Ballet began as a dance interpretation of fencing. It originated in the courts of Italy during the Renaissance and later developed into a concert dance in countries like France, England and Russia. Different styles of ballet have developed over the years, from the rigidly structured classical ballet to contemporary ballet, a form influenced by modern dance that allows a greater range of movement.

Interested in learning more about ballet? The Public Library of Westland owns many books on the topic. Try "Step by Step Ballet Class: The Official Illustrated Guide" by the Royal Academy of Dancing, "The Ballet Book" by Nancy Ellison, or "The Living World of Dance: Artistry in Motion." There is also the DVD, "The Classical Art of Ballet." For more information, visit the library or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also search the online catalog at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org).

### Highlighted Activities

**Friends Book Sale:** 3-6 p.m. Feb. 10, (Preview Sale for Friends mem-



bers), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 11-12, and noon-3 p.m. Feb. 14

Get books for great prices! All proceeds go to the Friends of the Library.

**Fight Foreclosure One-on-One Counseling Session:** 5-8 p.m. Feb. 7

Homeowners can schedule a private, 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Program. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment. Space is limited. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County program providing you an expansive network of certified counselors who help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure. Additional counseling dates are scheduled through April. Call the library for more information.

**"My Voice, My Choice"**

**Advanced Care Planning:** 6 p.m. Feb. 8

This program is presented by Oakwood Healthcare System Clinical Ethics Center and features nurse Edie English, clinical manager. Learn how to prepare your own advance care plan. Patient Advocate Designation documents and materials will be provided for all attendees. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to reserve your seat or register online.

[westlandlibrary.org/events](http://westlandlibrary.org/events).

**Friday Night Movies:** "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World," 7 p.m. Feb. 11, age 18 and up

Love movies? Join us as we watch projected Oscar nominees for the 2011 awards. Tonight's movie is "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World." Scott Pilgrim must defeat his new girlfriend's seven evil exes in order to win her heart. Doors open 6:30 p.m., movie starts 7 p.m. Refreshments available.

**Job Seekers Lab:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

**Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library:** 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

**Chess Group:** 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays  
Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

Information Central was compiled by Young Adult Librarian Liz Waun. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

# Police: Drunken man gets return trip to hospital

### Resisting arrest

Garden City Fire/Rescue reportedly returned a drunken man to Garden City Hospital at 6 p.m. Feb. 2, shortly after he was released from the hospital.

His transport followed his arrest at the Burger King restaurant at 28333 Ford.

The manager called police after the 52-year-old Novi man reportedly refused to leave the restaurant after spending two hours there without ordering anything. At one point, the man appeared to be sleeping in a booth.

The man asked for a glass of water and then spilled it on the floor. He also reportedly asked to use the restroom and then loitered there smoking a cigarette.

Police arrested him for trespassing and resisting arrest. When police arrived, they asked him to step out of the booth but he only moved closer to the wall. He resisted arrest by not allowing the police to handcuff him, police said.

### COP CALLS

Police finally were able to arrest him and put him in the back seat of a police car. That's when they found paperwork showing he had just been released from Garden City Hospital.

### Theft

A woman who lives in the 1300 block of Ralph suspects an acquaintance may have stolen jewelry from her house. There were no signs of a break-in at 9 a.m. Jan. 31, but two pieces of jewelry were reportedly missing: an emerald ring with diamonds valued at \$5,000 and an onyx ring valued at \$2,500 which was 60 years old.

Police advised her to look at area pawn shops for the missing jewelry.

### Traffic complaint

A woman said when she was turning on Middlebelt at 1:30

p.m. Feb. 2, a Wayne County snowplow threw snow onto her vehicle and broke the rear window of her 2002 Chevy Malibu. She said the truck continued driving down the street.

Police believe the employee probably didn't realize what happened.

### Fraud

The owner of McGaughey's Auto Shop in Louisville, Ky., told police someone fraudulently cashed two checks which he did not issue at the Chase Bank located at 28925 Ford.

The checks were for \$1,200 each and were cashed in January.

Police suspect two Detroit women. In one attempt, one of the women tried to cash a check but when the teller saw an alert on the account, the woman ran out of the bank leaving her check and her driver's license behind.

By Sue Buck

# Friends of Rouge hold photo contest

Friends of the Rouge, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River, is celebrating its 25th anniversary throughout 2011 and is getting the public in the festivities.

"One way we are celebrat-

ing our 25th anniversary is through a photo contest," said Cyndi Ross, the River Restoration Program Manager for the Friends. "The Rouge River's natural beauty and the wildlife found within the river's corridor provide a scene just waiting to be captured by professional and amateur photographers alike."

The Friends' "25 Years, 25 Photos" contest is designed to promote awareness of the Rouge River and the spirit of the volunteers who work to protect and restore this pre-

cious natural resource through the programs coordinated by Friends of the Rouge.

The top 25 photos will be posted on the Friends of the Rouge website. Photographers of the top three photos will receive a prize. The photos will be judged by members of the Friends of the Rouge 25th Anniversary Committee. Prints of the 25 top photos will be displayed during Friends of the Rouge's 2011 annual meeting and will be auctioned to help raise funds for Friends of the Rouge through a silent auction fund-raiser.

The contest is open to professional and amateur photographers. Photos must be taken in the Rouge River watershed in southeast Michigan. The "25 Years, 25 Photos" contest takes place now through July 29. Photos taken before Jan. 20, 2011 are eligible.

An official entry form and contest rules and regulations as well as a list of anniversary activities is available at [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org).

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Enlarge Prostate is a common condition generally affecting men over age 60. Men suffering from an enlarged prostate experience the following symptoms; sudden urge to urinate, weak or interrupted urine flow, and frequent need to urinate. Enlarged prostate is not life threatening, however, if left untreated it can lead to more serious health problems such as the inability to urinate, urinary tract infections or kidney damage.

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Contact Dr. Harb for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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Austin Klotz, with younger brother Hunter, was honored late last year in the Observer & Eccentric/Buddy's Pizza Good News, Good Chews Campaign.

## Good News campaign: Westland teen honored for making a difference

Austin Klotz, 13, of Westland, is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.

That's why Austin was honored late last year in the *Observer & Eccentric*/Buddy's Pizza Good News, Good Chews Campaign.

Austin's "good news" efforts were sent it by his sister, Nicole White of Walled Lake.

White said her brother has been making a difference in the lives of others for at least four years.

"It started at his family's parish, St. Robert Bellarmine, in Redford Township," White said. "Every year around Christmas, he would take a card off of the tree for the needy and buy mittens and gloves, with his own hard-earned money."

"This led to helping out his elderly neighbors by mowing lawns and shoveling snow. He also passed out fliers, door-to-door, to collect winter coats, hats and gloves for the underprivileged."

"Last year, he sent 20 bags of clothing and other donations to the Our Lady of Good Counsel, PBJ (Peanut Butter & Jelly) Outreach Program."

"Austin has volunteered much of his free time with the PBJ Program on Saturday

mornings with his grandmother, his mom and our younger brother, Hunter," White said.

"Thanksgiving weekend, Austin's family helped to serve a turkey dinner to over 200 people in downtown Detroit."

"I am so very proud of my brother because he strives to make a heartfelt difference in people's lives. I look up to him for all of his accomplishments and his continuing efforts."

"We are proud of Austin, too," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza. "That's why Austin and his family were treated to dinner at the Buddy's in Livonia in December."

Austin's efforts are what the Good News, Good Chews Campaign seeks to support and promote, Brontman said.

"It's great that someone so young has shown such compassion to help others less fortunate," Brontman said.

To submit your good news for consideration, e-mail a story in 150 words or less to [goodnews@hometownlife.com](mailto:goodnews@hometownlife.com). Include a photograph (jpg format) and a daytime phone number if we need to contact you. One story will be selected each month throughout 2011. The winner will receive lunch or dinner for four at any Buddy's Pizza restaurant.

## Good News, Good Chews: Buddy's, O&E team up to honor Warner student

Margaret Amshay of Farmington Hills is only 10 years old, but she's already keenly aware that some people don't have enough to eat.

The Warner Upper Elementary School fifth-grader was visiting relatives last year in Arizona when she found out about a program called One Can A Week (go to [onecanaweek.blogspot.com](http://onecanaweek.blogspot.com)).

The community service program not only collects food for the needy, but helps foster good citizenship and neighborhood involvement.

"She was so taken with the concept," said her mom, that she came home and started the program in her neighborhood. Margaret asked neighbors to donate one can or box of food each week. She collects the donations every Sunday and, with the help of her parents (Ann and Mike Amshay), delivers them to Neighborhood House at the Jon Grant Community Center in Farmington Hills.



Margaret Amshay

for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*/Buddy's Pizza Good News, Good Chews Campaign.

"We are pleased to start 2011 by naming Margaret and her local One Can A Week program as the January good news story," said Susan Rosiek, publisher of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. "We hope that by publicizing Margaret's good news story that others will join her in helping to feed the hungry in southeast Michigan."

Margaret and her family will be treated to lunch or dinner at the Buddy's restaurant of their

choice in metro Detroit. Since last August, Margaret has collected more than 450 pounds of food. "She an amazing girl," said Ann Amshay, who nominated her daughter's story

choice in metro Detroit.

"Buddy's is especially pleased to honor Margaret's good news project because we too are involved in helping to end hunger," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

Since 1977, Buddy's Pizza has donated more than \$1.2 million to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen of Detroit through its "Slice For Life" benefit.

Margaret hopes that others will help her spread the One Can A Week program.

"She wants to publicize the program to get other neighborhoods involved, so that she can meet her goal," Ann Amshay said. "I would love to see her encouraged to continue to do such great things, but we also hope to get the program spread throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills. We have many neighbors who are participating and hope others will take up the cause."

Margaret is a typical fifth-grader, according to her mom.

An all-A student, she loves school and her friends. She enjoys gymnastics. She plays the violin and is learning to play the guitar.

"She is an amazing little girl who loves to help others," her proud mom said, adding that last year a bake sale Margaret organized helped raise \$450 for children in Haiti.

For more information or to join Margaret's effort, e-mail [amshaya@hotmail.com](mailto:amshaya@hotmail.com).

Share your good news story at [goodnews@hometownlife.com](mailto:goodnews@hometownlife.com). Those selected as the top story of the month receive dinner or lunch for four at any Buddy's Pizza restaurant in metro Detroit.

Neighborhood House is a nonprofit clearinghouse that brings those in need in contact with those who can provide the necessary help. It is in the Jon Grant Community Center, (connected to Fire Station #3), 29260 Grand River Avenue (at Middlebelt Road), Farmington Hills, (248) 871-2848.

### GARDEN CLIPPINGS

#### Passport to Africa

In celebration of Black History Month, Wayne County Community College District's School of Continuing Education in partnership with The Michigan Citizen is presenting Passport to Africa 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the 1001 W. Fort St., Detroit.

The event will feature African cuisines, an authentic African marketplace, African music and dance, a Best African Attire contest, fashion show, storytelling and more.

To register for the program, call (313) 496-2704. A registration form also is available on the Garden City Public Schools' website, [www.gardencityschools.com](http://www.gardencityschools.com), under the superintendent's office in Files and Document. The form can be mailed to the Wayne County Community College District, attn: School of

Continuing Education, 801 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226 or faxed to (313) 962-1643.

#### Free testing


As a service to the community, the staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Testing will be available at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.

#### Office hours

Need to talk with Garden City Mayor Randy Walker? You'll find him Tuesdays at Garden City Hall. Walker will hold office hours 4:30-6 p.m. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling Administrative Assistant Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-1660.

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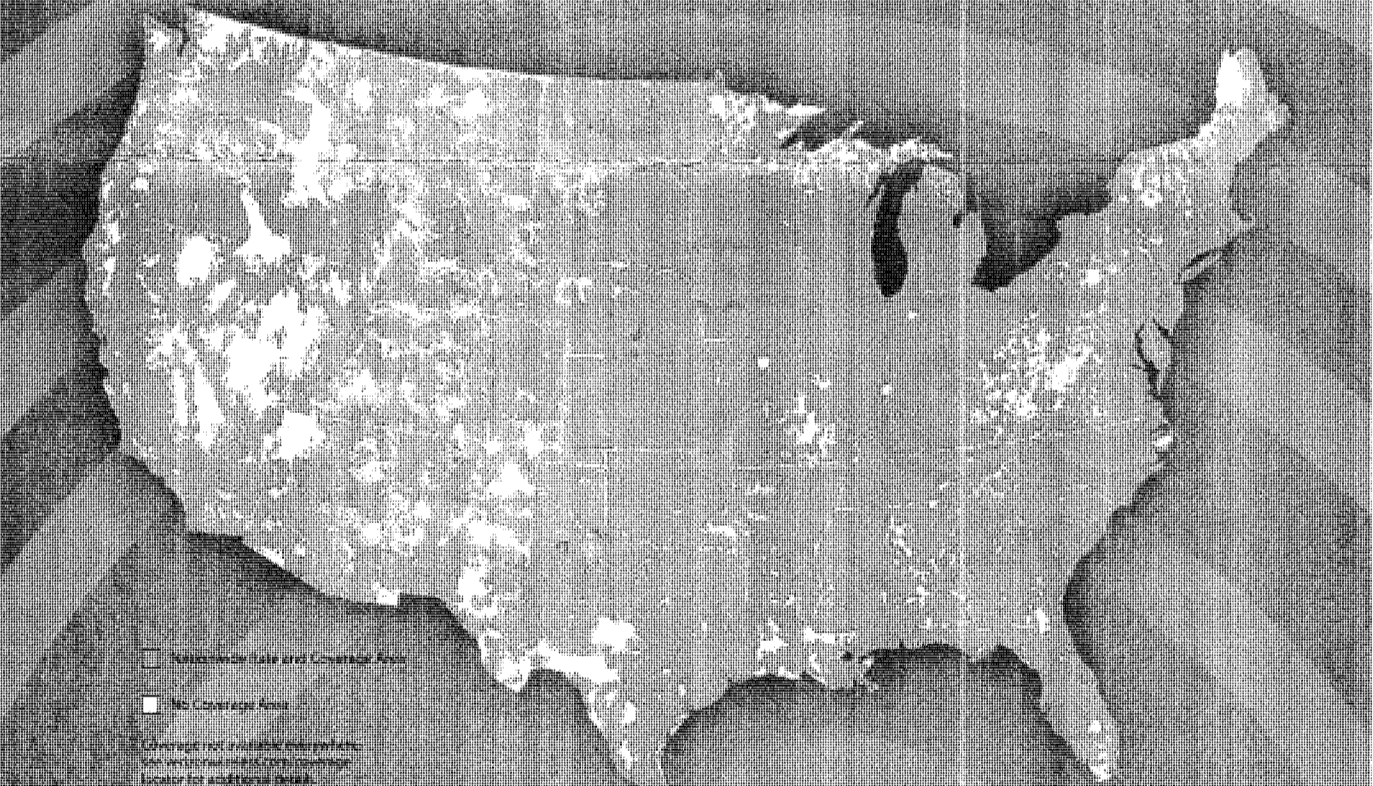
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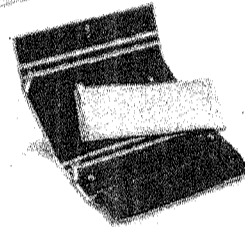
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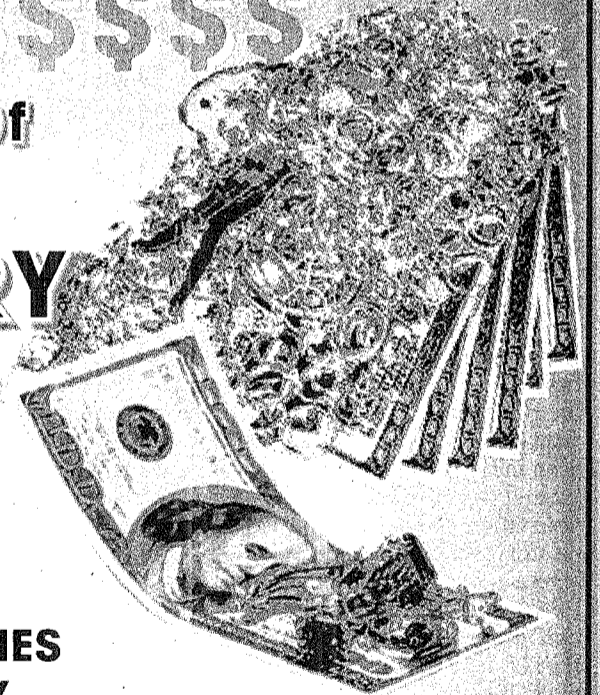
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# Stevenson regains form, freezes Chargers, 6-2

## Spartans improve to 13-3-2

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Boys hockey rivals Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill hadn't seen each other on the ice since Nov. 24.

The two teams renewed acquaintances Friday night at Edgar Arena and the rematch was all Stevenson as the Spartans skated to a convincing 6-2 triumph.

In the previous meeting, Stevenson rallied from a third-period deficit to stun Churchill with just under nine seconds left, 4-3.

This time the Spartans made a 3-0 first period lead stand up as they improved to 13-3-2 overall and 8-1-1 in the KLAAs Central Division.

Stevenson was coming off a disappointing 4-3 setback Jan. 29 to Farmington Unified after squandering a 3-0 advantage.

And Tuesday's scheduled game with Plymouth was also postponed giving coach Gerry Vento time to reflect and ponder.

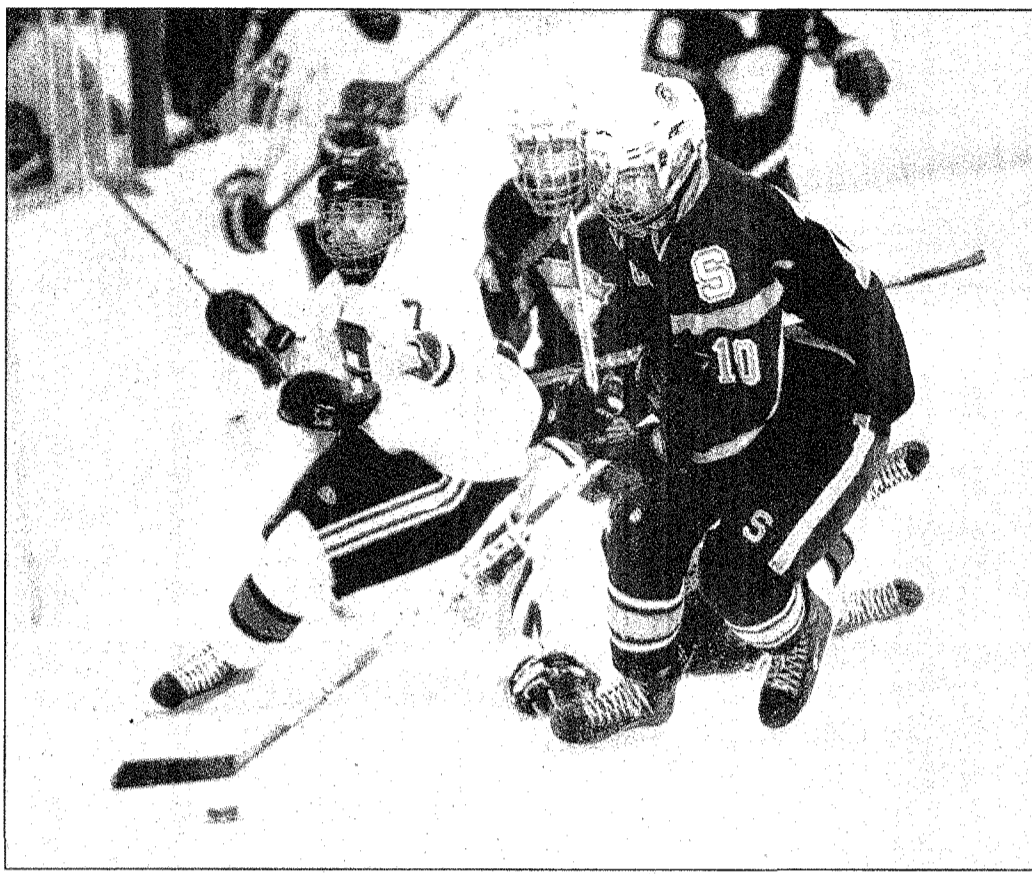
"It was a little tough because we were off almost the entire week for this game, but we had some good practices beforehand," the first-year coach said. "I think the boys learned from the previous game and they were ready to play a complete game."

The Spartans did just that as Ryan Urso set the tone 1:04 into the opening period when he swiped a puck out the Churchill zone, swooped in and fired a quick wrist shot past Charger starting netminder Alex Estes.

Nick Barr's goal from Devin Cragin and Nate Sink at 9:47 of the same period made it 2-0 and Max Humitz added to the Stevenson advantage with a goal coming at 14:29 from J.J. Petterson on a four-on-four situation.

"We played real tentative," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said of his team's opening period. "We didn't do a very good job of taking care of the puck."

Please see **SPARTANS, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Devin Cragin (10) beats Churchill defenseman James Lelekatch to the puck during Friday's KLAAs clash at Edgar Arena.

## SIDELINES

### GLIAC grid signees

Three schools from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announced the signing of three area football players.

Livonia Clarenceville's DeOndre Hogan, a 6-foot-1, 230-pound All-Observer selection, is headed to GLIAC champion Grand Valley State. The two-way standout recorded 72 solo tackles and 49 assists, while gaining 847 yards rushing.

Westland John Glenn running back Rico Cole, a second-team All-Area pick, signed with Ferris State University. The 5-foot-7, 150-pound Cole rushed for 731 yards and five touchdowns, while adding 374 yards on kickoff returns including two TDs.

Livonia native Justin D'Agostino, a 5-11, 214-pound linebacker-fullback from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, is headed to NCAA Division II playoff qualifier Hillsdale. D'Agostino was a member of CC's Division I state championship team as a junior and earned Association Press Division 1-2 All-State honors.

### WYAA baseball

Baseball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road and west of Venoy).

The WYAA has openings for all age groups, including: Co-ed T-Ball (5-6), Co-Ed Machine Pitch (7-8), Mustang (10-and-under), Bronco (12-and-under), Pony (14-and-under), Colt (16-and-under) and Palomino (18-and-under).

Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt and Palomino age divisions involve local travel with inter-locking leagues with other cities.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours (or leave a message) or visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org).

### SHS orientation

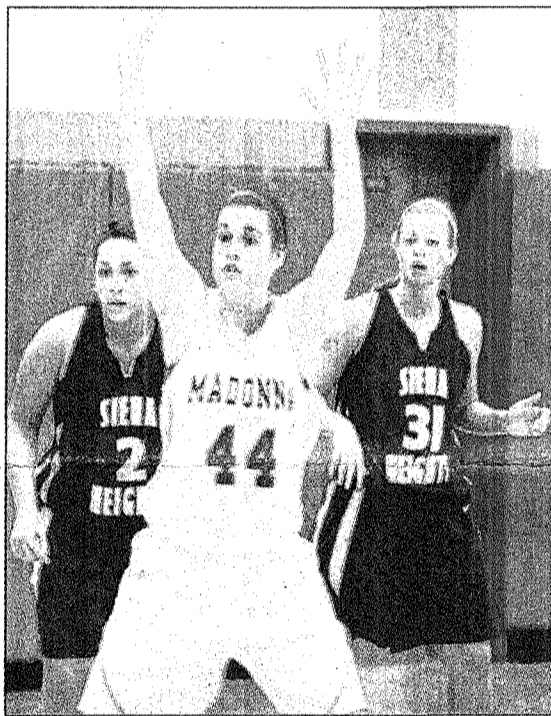
Livonia Stevenson will stage its annual incoming ninth-grade orientation night for all eighth-graders, including private or parochial students, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10.

All students must be accompanied by a parent.

A portion of the program includes meeting athletic department coaches and current athletes for all sport programs at the Stevenson competition gym. Co-curricular clubs will be in the north cafeteria.

Sports program information about practice and try-out dates, along with sign-up sheets, will be available along with physical exam cards and coupons for physicals.

For more information, call the Stevenson athletic office at (734) 744-2660, ext. 48116.



ANNA GATT | MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University junior center Becca Wojcinski (44) fights for post position against Amand Duke (2) and Chandler Levit (31) of Siena Heights during Thursday's WHAC game.

# MU women march by Saints

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Keep an eye on the Madonna University women's basketball team once the postseason rolls around.

The Crusaders are beginning to put the pieces together after taking down Siena Heights, 77-66, Thursday night at the MU Activities Center.

Six players scored in double figures as MU evened its record at 10-10 overall and 6-6 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

MU avenged a 67-56 setback to the Saints (9-14, 4-7) back on Dec. 11 and moved into sole possession of fourth place in the WHAC. The Crusaders have won five of their last eight.

"We're fighting with everybody at this point," MU coach Carl

Graves said. "This league is so jumbled up the middle. I think one and two are pretty much decided, but everything beyond that is up for grabs."

"Part of it has to do with their cohesion and work ethic. Practice has gotten a lot better. I have some smart girls, but they don't like to lose. So that's always nice when they respond to that. They don't want to lose basketball games, so they're playing a lot better."

The Crusaders found themselves in a 22-7 hole to start the game and trailed 34-30 at halftime.

But reserve center Becca Wojcinski gave MU a lift with eight first-half points. She finished with a career-high 13 points and added five rebounds.

Wojcinski's basket with 16:46 left in the second half gave MU the lead for keeps, 37-36. The Crusaders then opened up an 18-

point advantage before coasting home.

"She's done some wonderful things this season, but she's been up and down," Graves said of his 6-2 junior backup center, a transfer from Oakland Community College. "We've just got to find a way for her to be consistent. She's getting better as we go and it's nice to be able to have her on the floor with (Kaylee) McGrath."

McGrath, a 6-1 sophomore center from Livonia Stevenson, posted her fourth double-double of the season with 14 points and a career-high 14 rebounds.

"When they both play, they're tough to match up with," Graves said. "We're hoping that's going to be a big key for us in the playoff run. We're going to lean on those two as much as we can."

Please see **CRUSADERS, B4**

# Competitive hunger

## Ex-Stevenson grappler Fischer going pro in MMA

BY MIKE ROSENBAUM  
CORRESPONDENT

Jason Fischer didn't take up mixed martial arts with visions of wealth.

Rather, the former wrestler was looking to satisfy his competitive hunger after graduating from Central Michigan University.

That led him to Redford's Mash Gym, then to a successful MMA amateur stint and, in two weeks, to his first professional MMA fight.

"It was kind of a hobby at first, something that interested me," he said. "I wanted to still compete after high school. And I fell in love with it. The more I trained, the more I wanted to learn, the

more I wanted to travel. And I just figured this is one of the best ways to do it."

He's turning pro now because "I'm doing so well as an amateur, and I have such a great team. I feel very blessed and very grateful that I can have that opportunity to represent the sport and my family and my hometown."

Fischer won all seven of his amateur bouts and earned two championships, the TXC (Triple Extreme Cage Fighting) lightweight belt in December 2009 and the Gladiatorial Games 155-pound championship in February 2010.

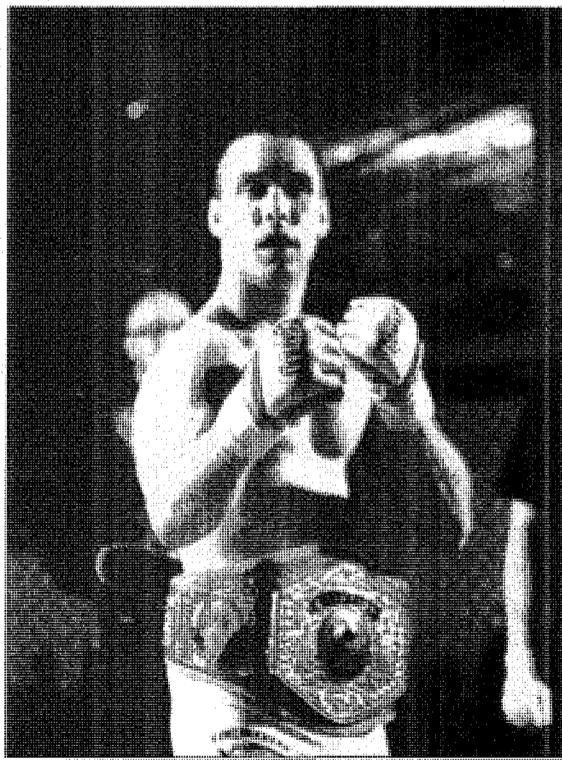
He'll make his pro debut Friday, Feb. 18, at The Palace of Auburn Hills in a 155-pound

lightweight fight against Ivan Wolshlager of Kalamazoo, who's also fighting his first professional bout.

Fischer wrestled at Livonia Stevenson for four years before graduating in 2003. He took up Muay Thai while at Central Michigan and helped start the Mayhem Combat team, with which he occasionally trains. But at 26 he's gravitated back to Livonia. In addition to his MMA career, he does personal training at Mash.

MMA includes elements of boxing, wrestling and martial arts, so Fischer's training encompasses a variety of disciplines. At

Please see **FISCHER, B2**



Livonia native Jason Fischer will make his MMA professional debut Feb. 18 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



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PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 19 CANTON 11 Feb. 3 at Super Bowl John Glenn scorers: Thomas Brusseau, 205-235-440; Brian Monty, 193-173-366; John Cleavenger, 188; Jordan Hornes, 183; Darriel Ammons, 182; Steven White, 180; Mark Kassab, 158; split score, 173. Team totals: 949-921-1,870 (15 points); Baker games: 140-176-316 (4 points). Canton scorers: Casey Bindas, 104-193-397; Andrew Champagne, 198-172-370; Kurt Kowalski, 181-161-342; Ross Terrasi, 200; Ryan Washburn, 195; Andrew Klein, 166; split score, 148. Team totals: 949-869-1,818 (5 points); Baker games: 167-168-335 (6 points). Dual match records: John Glenn, 12-0 overall, 9-0 KLA Central Division; Canton, 7-5 overall, 4-5 KLA Central. WAYNE MEMORIAL 17 PLYMOUTH 13 Feb. 3 at Super Bowl Wayne scorers: Elliott Arnold, 215-226-441; Jeremy Brown, 239-139-378; Tony Lave, 181-191-372; Scott Franklin, 173-169-342; Zack Huffman, 181-156-337. Team totals: 989-881-1,870 (13 points); Baker games: 162-205-367 (4 points). Plymouth scorers: Justin Thompson, 178-232-410; Eric Thompson, 236-165-401; Rob Korstjens, 147-222-369; Evan Grimme, 191-161-352; split score, 151-164-315. Team totals: 903-944-1,847 (7 points); Baker games: 157-228-415 (6 points). Dual match records: Wayne, 9-2 overall, 6-2 KLA Central Division; Plymouth, 7-5 overall, 5-4 KLA Central.

FISCHER FROM PAGE B1

Mash Gym, he works under head instructor Don Richard, a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Judo black belt, and Matee Jedeeptak, a champion Muay Thai fighter from Thailand.

MULTIPLE ABILITIES

Fischer's training includes work on each MMA discipline, but also features MMA classes, "which are specifically for these MMA fights," he said. "So those help us get ready for the fights and kind of prep us. It mixes everything together. You don't work on your boxing (alone) or just your striking or just your ground game. It's everything put together. It's good to get them split up individually; then, it's also good to work on everything as a whole." In the ring, Fischer doesn't point to any aspect of MMA as a particular strength, pre-

ferring to develop a well-balanced style.

"I like to mix it up a lot," he said. "There's no real style that I go to. I feel that anywhere the fight goes, I'm comfortable enough. Even if I'm in a bad spot - I might be losing - you never can count yourself out. There's always a chance to pull off a win, whether it be a knockout or submission.

"I look to finish fights all the time. I don't like leaving fights in the judges' hands. Fifteen minutes or less, you put it all on the line in that amount of time and try to do your best to put on a good show and keep yourself safe. And, hopefully, win the fight without having to go to the hospital."

THOROUGH TRAINING

The key to success in MMA, he adds, is to train so thoroughly that you don't have to think about your moves while in the heat of battle.

"They always say, if you think, then you're too late.

You have to react," he said. "So that goes back to your training. The training is when you have the time to think and break down your technique. In the fight, you have to just react. It has to be there; it has to be instinct more than anything."

As a trainer, Fischer promotes mixed martial arts as a sport "for everybody," even those who don't want to compete. Some people, he says, take up the sport for fun or for fitness.

"We have women that do it now and they enjoy it. It's a great exercise," he said.

Conversely, Fischer says MMA competition "is not for everybody. You have to have a lot of dedication; you have to have a lot of heart and ability."

SPORT HAS CHANGED

He fears, however, that some may confuse the sport with "the old-school cage fighting, where it's no rules and anything goes. People

don't realize that this sport has evolved. It's no longer a barbaric event. It's actually a sport that people train hard and practice every day how to do.

"So we're trying to get that bad image out of there and try to open people's minds to the fact this is a combination of mixed martial arts, not just a brawl, guys out there to beat each other up."

Fischer has no definite plans beyond his first pro fight, but he knows he'll remain involved with MMA in some way, whether as a fighter, trainer or both.

"Win or lose, I'm still going to be back in the gym working hard, training, training other people and just trying to keep improving every day," he said.

"I see myself being in the sport for a while. I always told myself, if I can't make a career of it, fighting, I want to train people that want to fight. Either way, it'll work out OK with me in the end."

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 106 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 80 Feb. 3 at Churchill 200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Jake Ferguson, Joey Wakeford, Paul Gutu, Dave Vader), 1:52.65; 2. Churchill (Brad Johns, David Vincentini, Kenny Densteadt, Franklin Oiu), 1:52.78; 3. John Glenn (Jacob Burcicki, Pat Kemp, John Kukulka, Ryan Boes), 2:06.6. 200 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 1:55.88; 2. Derik Atzinger (LC), 2:05.11; 3. Tim Moran (WJG), 2:11.1. 200 individual medley: 1. Vincentini (LC), 2:15.79; 2. Nick Stevens (WJG), 2:34.0; 3. Densteadt (LC), 2:38.28. 50 freestyle: 1. Oiu (LC), 24.81; 2. Dave Vader (WJG), 25.08; 3. Boes (WJG), 25.61. 1-meter diving: 1. Alan Robinson (LC), 176.40 points; 2. Chris Sharp (LC), 160.60; 3. Connor Monroe, 151.55. 100 butterfly: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 1:01.23; 2. Johns (LC), 1:12.7; 3. Kukulka (WJG), 1:16.18. 100 freestyle: 1. Oiu (LC), 54.14; 2. Gutu (WJG), 54.15; 3. Vader (WJG), 56.38. 500 freestyle: 1. Ferguson (WJG), 45:12.2; 2. Atzinger (LC), 53:49.7; 3. Moran (WJG), 5:56.75. 200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Gutu, Steens, Vader, Josh Wakeford), 1:40.55; 2. Churchill (Vincentini, Oiu, Linus Ziemba, Atzinger), 1:43.4; 3. John Glenn (Nick Stone, Cody Hodges, Rory Kemp, Boes), 1:46.93. 100 backstroke: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 59.45; 2. Johns (LC), 1:04.44; 3. Jared Quick (LC), 1:10.73. 100 breaststroke: 1. Vincentini (LC), 1:07.32; 2. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 1:11.64; 3. Stevens (WJG), 1:17.84. 400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Gutu, Hodges, Ferguson, Joey Wakeford), 3:51.94; 2. John Glenn (Aaron Alholinna, Moran, Brad Alholinna, Kukulka), 4:02.43; 3. Churchill (Ziemba, Densteadt, Atzinger, Johns), 4:05.01. Dual meet records: John Glenn, 6-1 overall, 4-1 KLA South Division; Churchill, 3-6 overall, 2-3 KLA South.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS CANTON 143.80 LIVONIA RED 133.15 Jan. 3 at Plymouth H.S. Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (C), 9.35; 2. Ayana Lewis (C), 8.9; 3. (tie) Alex Fideler (C), Shannon Diaz (Red) and Meghan Lark (Red), 8.55 each. Uneven bars: 1. Lewis (C), 9.45; 2. Fideler (C), 9.4; 3. Melissa Green (C), 8.7; 4. Lucas (C), 8.55; 5. Lark (Red), 8.35. Balance beam: 1. Fideler (C), 9.2; 2. Lewis (C), 9.1; 3. Kall Pierce (C), 9.0; 4. Rose Preboba (Red), 8.75; 5. Green (C), 8.6. Floor exercise: 1. Fideler (C), 9.45; 2. Lewis (C), 9.2; 3. Green (C), 9.0; 4. Brooke Granowicz (C), 8.95; 5. Lark (Red), 8.85. All-around: 1. Lewis (C), 36.65; Fideler (C), 36.6. Livonia Red's dual meet record: 4-5 overall.

Franklin baseball camp

The fifth annual Franklin Future Stars spring baseball camp for boys and girls in grades 3-6 will be Saturday, Feb. 12 at the high school fieldhouse, located at 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1, consisting of hitting, base running skills and infield work, will be from 9-11:30 a.m.

Session 2, consisting of pitching, catching, outfield and defensive kills, will be from 12:15-2:45 p.m.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Each camper will bring his or her sack lunch. Campers and instructors will eat a supervised sack lunch together in the bleachers of the fieldhouse.

The cost for each session is \$25, or \$45 for both sessions.

E-mail Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livonia-publicschools.org; or call (734) 968-0499.

Spartans baseball clinic

Learn the basics of throwing, pitching, hitting, infield-outfield play at a youth baseball clinic (grades 2-6) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Livonia Stevenson High School fieldhouse.

The cost is \$30 for the first 60 enrolled.

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

T-Ball, Coach-Pitch

Mail-in registration for 2011 Livonia Parks and Recreation co-ed instructional T-Ball (ages 5-6) and Coach-Pitch (ages 7-8) will be through Feb. 11.

Walk-in and fax-in registration will also be available through Feb. 11, or until the enrollment limit (640 participants in each division).

Registration forms can be picked up at area schools or the Livonia Community Recreation Center. You must be a resident of either the Livonia or Clarenceville public schools.

Late registration will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 9, at the Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. Non-resident registration begins at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 at the Parks and Recreation office.

Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until April 29.

The season runs from May through July with T-ball scrimmages on Monday evenings and Coach-Pitch on Thursday evenings.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident) for Livonia and Clarenceville district residents.

Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

Girls slow-pitch signup

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage open registration for 2011 girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball - through Feb. 25 (mail-in) and through March 4 (walk-in or fax-in) - or until enrollment reaches 160 participants in each division for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

Registration forms are available at local schools or be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Late registration for school district residents is from 9 a.m. until noon beginning Saturday,

April 9, at the Rec Center. Non-resident signup starts at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident), while late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

Learn to Skate IV

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its seven-week Learn to Skate winter session IV beginning the week of Feb. 28 through the week of April 11 at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon.

Walk-in registration is from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents), Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (at Five Mile Road).

The fee is \$55 (residents) and \$67 (non-residents).

Each Monday class is 25 minutes and will be offered for: Ages 4 and up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m.; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m.; and 3-year-olds - 5 p.m.

No equipment is needed for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks are used. There is a limited skate rental available at no cost.

Private lessons are also available for all levels. For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

CAP Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill athletic patrons will stage their ninth annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Italian American Club, located at 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees will be former football and track coach Bob Armstrong, baseball and hockey player Ron Griffin (1976) and the 2005 and 2006 varsity gymnastics teams coached by Christa Hinderliter and Kelly Grodzicki.

Tickets are \$35 each (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

For more information, call Neal Houghan at (734) 634-5524; or e-mail nhoughan@seasons.org.

Advertisement for Hometown Life newspaper subscription. Text: 'A New Year's resolution that you can keep! SHOP LOCAL START HERE Stay connected with a subscription to your local hometown newspaper!' Price: '\$31.92 for 26 weeks That's over 35% off the newsstand price!' Includes a \$10 gift card and lists participating retailers like Speedway, Target, Meijer, etc.

Advertisement for Farmington South baseball/softball/teeball registration. Text: '2010 SOUTH FARMINGTON BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/TEEBALL REGISTRATION For boys and girls ages 5-18 New player registrations must provide a birth certificate. Online Registration ONLY!!! Registration open now through February 15 Season runs April-June Go to www.sfbf.org to register Questions? www.sfbf.org or ckorczyk@prodigy.net'

Advertisement for Detroit Pistons vs. San Antonio Spurs basketball game. Text: 'DETROIT PISTONS vs. SAN ANTONIO SPURS TUESDAY, 2/8 • 7:30 PM SEE THE PISTONS TAKE ON TIM DUNCAN AND THE NBA-LEADING SPURS FOR AS LOW AS \$10! Pistons Notepads to first 5,000 fans courtesy of meijer THIS FRI, 2/11 vs. HEAT • 7:30 PM SEE THE PISTONS TAKE ON MIAMI'S BIG THREE! Ben Gordon Mesh Jersey Backpack to first 5,000 fans courtesy of Meijer 248-377-0100 / PISTONS.COM / ticketmaster'



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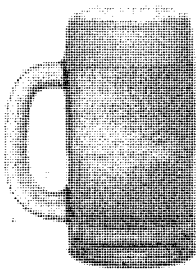
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Day	Time	Entry Fee	Starting Chips	Blinds	Re-Buys	Add-on	Prize Pool (Based on 50 players)
Monday	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$30	\$30,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
Tuesday	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$30	\$30,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
Wednesday	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$30	\$30,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
Thursday	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$35	\$35,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,400
Friday	1:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$30	\$30,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,400
Saturday	1:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	4:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
	7:30 pm	\$35	\$35,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,400
Sunday	1:30 pm	\$25	\$25,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,000
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	7:30 pm	\$35	\$35,000	20 min.	None	None	\$1,400

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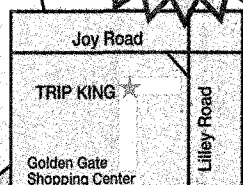
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# COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, February 6, 2011

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BECOME A FAN TODAY

## Cold medal event Polar Plunge athletes earn funds for Special Olympics Michigan

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Imagine walking outside without a coat in today's freezing temperature.

Now replace that coat with a skimpy Cupid outfit, a Peter Pan costume or thin Goldilocks pinafore.

Add the icy Detroit River and jump in.

Shivering at the thought? You've got some idea what's in store for Shawn Rowley of Canton this month.

"It's a shock to your system," said Rowley, who has jumped into frigid water while costumed every February for the past four years. "Once you get in it's get out as quickly as you can because it's cold."

He'll do it again Feb. 19 at Milliken State Park along the Detroit River. It's one of 24 jump sites for Special Olympics Michigan's annual "Polar Plunge" that raises money to support athletic training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Last year the events, which consist of costumed participants collecting donations and then plunging into lakes and rivers, raised approximately \$480,000 for the cause.

Rowley, retired as Southfield's deputy police chief and now director of campus safety at Baker College in Allen Park, has been involved with Special Olympics' law enforcement torch run for 25 years. The



Shawn Rowley poses pre-jump in a Goldilocks costume with "Baby Bear," his brother, Tom, (left) and children, Chris, as "Papa Bear" and Amanda as "Mama Bear" at the Polar Plunge last year.

750-mile, non-stop relay that starts in Copper Harbor and ends in Sterling Heights, will celebrate 30 years in September.

The Plunge was another way to increase involvement in the organization. The first year he donned a Cupid costume and convinced one co-worker to participate in the Plunge with him at Belle Isle in the Detroit River.

"At Belle Isle you had to wade in and wade out. That changed when they took it to the Roostertail. You'd get wet all at one time."

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY

He also has jumped off the

dock at the Moose Lodge on Belleville Lake, the site of a Plunge on Feb. 12. He has hit the water in style dressed as one of the Blues Brothers, Peter Pan and Goldilocks, accompanied by the three bears, portrayed by his son, Chris, 22, daughter, Amanda, 24, and his brother, Tom.

"This year I've got nine people plunging with me. It's exciting to get more and more people involved," Rowley said. "We're tossing around a couple of ideas, leaning toward Wizard of Oz or Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Michelle Alexander isn't certain how she'll dress



Polar Plunge participants jump in formal wear, casual digs and bare-chested attire.

### POLAR PLUNGE

**What:** A fund-raiser for Special Olympics Michigan

**When:** Saturday Feb. 12, 19, 26-27 and March 5 and 19

**Where:** Twenty four sites in Michigan, including Detroit and Ann Arbor on Feb. 19 and Belleville on Feb. 12

**Details:** Participants collect at least \$50 in pledges to jump into icy lakes and rivers. Each plunger receives a Polar Plunge long sleeve T-shirt and entrance into a Post-Plunge Party, plus the chance to win additional prizes for raising more money.

**Contact:** (800) 644-6404 or sign up to plunge at [www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge](http://www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge)

this year for her second jump into the Detroit River. Last year Alexander, who lives in Livonia and studies criminal justice and sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, dressed as Hannah Montana in a blue jean skirt and T-shirt. She's a member of Phi Sigma Sigma on campus, along with Kristin Marciw of Redford. Their sorority participated in the Plunge along with other members of the campus Greek Leadership Council.

### TRYING AGAIN

Marciw had to withdraw from the event last year because of an ear infection,

but is looking forward to plunging — possibly dressed as a penguin — at Milliken State Park this year with Alexander.

"This year I plan on finding some ear plugs. I'm getting excited and I hope it goes well," said Marciw, a senior in pre-optometry studies.

Alexander suggests that first-timers get it over with as soon as possible, giving themselves no time to wait out after watching others leap.

"All of the divers in line watch the other divers go. It would be harder to be at the end of the line," she said.

### How hard?

"There was a video of my online. I was trying to climb up the staircase in the water. I was moving so slowly," she said, recalling the images. "I remember I could feel the cold in my body. It was that — oh my gosh — that feeling of being prickly all over. It's so cold it's almost burning."

Jumping, surfacing and climbing out takes about 30 seconds, Alexander said. A hot tub and cups of hot coffee welcome Plunge participants as they return from the river.

Rowley's advice to newcomers: "If you go with multiple people, jump closest to the ladder so that you'll be the first one out."

Register online for the Plunge at [www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge](http://www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge) or at the event. For the Detroit River Plunge on Feb. 19, registration runs from 10 a.m.-noon at the Renaissance Center. Shuttle service to Milliken State park begins at 10 a.m. and the event gets underway at 11:30 a.m. Party at 1 p.m. at the Renaissance Center. Registration for the Belleville Plunge on Feb. 12 starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Belleville Moose Lodge. Dive into the lake beginning at noon and party at the Lodge at 12:45 p.m.

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# Mark Year of Rabbit with adoptable bunnies

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Rabbit and Small Animal Rescue (RASAR) of Westland will take a cue from the Chinese lunar calendar and hold a special adoption event noon to 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 12-13 at Petco, 35725 Warren Road, east of Central City Parkway.

The Chinese New Year began Thursday, Feb. 3, ushering in the "Year of the Rabbit," said to be a peaceful year and prosperous for those born under the rabbit sign on the Chinese zodiac.

Judy Durfy, a RASAR volunteer, hopes some of the organization's 25 bunnies now in foster care find

peace — and loving new homes — this year, too.

"Animal control called me with a baby Californian rabbit found outside an apartment complex. They found a purebred Mini Rex in the snow in the road two days before Christmas," said Durfy, recounting some of the circumstances in which rabbits have come into RASAR's care. "These were pets, just babies. They weren't born outside."

Durfy, a long-time animal rescuer, had been fostering dogs and cats until she took a call from Wyandotte Animal Control about a black rabbit that had been abandoned at its front door.

She took the rabbit in, found RASAR and agreed to foster "Lucy" for the group.

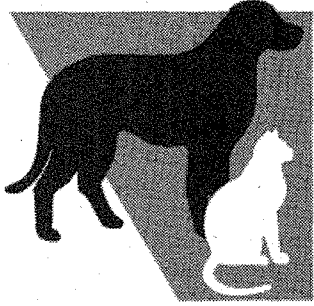
"She was never caged. She would sit on the couch. I had her over a year and she was just adopted a few months ago by a family in Allen Park," Durfy said. "She was a plain black rabbit. But we have fancy breeds — Lionheads that have a long tuft of hair like a mane and a mohawk. We have Angoras. They are like a powder puff. We have tea cup-sized rabbits. We have the Lops that everyone loves."

"We have handicapped bunnies. Rabbits are fragile and if a child drops them they can become paralyzed from a fall. Paralysis in rabbits is super common."

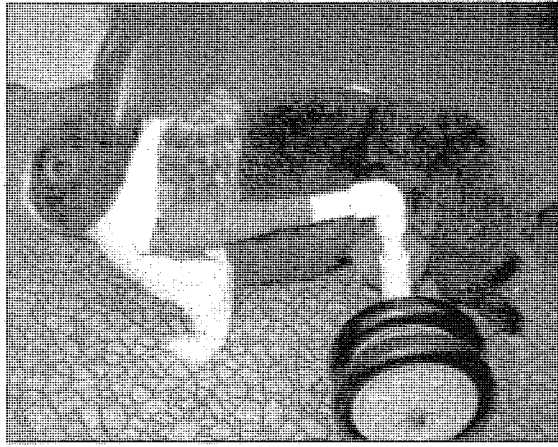
### LIKE PUPPIES

Visitors to the group's adoption event will get a chance to meet adoptable rabbits, ask questions, get advice on rabbit food, health and living arrangements and find out what it takes to adopt and care for a rabbit.

"They need two to four hours of attention a day. They need training and socialization like a puppy does. They have the intelligence and playfulness of a



### PET PROJECTS



Marie, a special needs bunny, uses a cart for mobility.

puppy. They're like having a puppy that uses a litter box. But they chew and you have to bunny-proof the house."

She said rabbits don't like to cuddle, as a dog or cat might, but don't mind petting. They also enjoy running and learning tricks.

"They can be caged for a portion of the day, but not confined day after day — like a hamster or gerbil."

"They can live 10 years or more if fed and housed properly and spayed or neutered. They bite if they aren't spayed or neutered and live only three years."

Durfy said veterinarians who routinely sterilize dogs and cats may not have experience in rabbit spay or neuter procedures. NASAR deals only with specialists and spends about \$150 per rabbit sterilization.

"Rabbits need a different kind of anesthesia. Without it there is a high rate of death."

She said new rabbit owners who buy their furry friends from a pet store may simply abandon the animal after they discover how much spaying and neutering costs.

"The reason we work with Petco is that they decided not to sell rabbits and only to do adoptions," Durfy noted. "When people get them at pet stores, they give them a tiny little cage with wood chips and food with alfalfa that kills them. Baby rabbits can eat alfalfa, but not when they are older."

RASAR holds an adoption event noon to 3 p.m. the last Sunday of the month — except this month because of the Feb. 12-13 event — at the Westland Petco. In addition to rabbits, it finds new homes for such "pocket pets" as gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, lizards and birds.

### DOGS OF THE WEEK

Abuelo and Ruby are featured adoptable dogs this week at Guardian Angels Animal Rescue, (GAAR). Here's what Sandra Mezza, director of the Livonia group, says about these two pooches:

Abuelo is a senior dog who lived in very heavy drug area in Detroit. His owner was placed in the hospital and poor Abuelo and no where to go. When Guardian Angel took him in, he was not neutered, but was very sick and thin. He has severe back arthritis and we are managing his pain with medication. He is such a loving and sweet boy; he gets along with other dog and cats. He is very gentle and deserves to live out the rest of his years in a safe and loving environment. Abuelo is about 10-12 years old. He now is neutered and is up to date on all of his vaccines. We had a full blood panel done and all came back good. We are unsure of the breed mix, but we do know

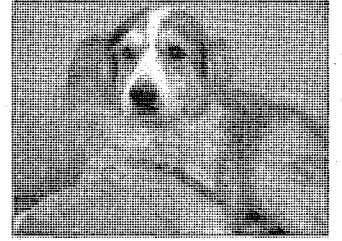
he is a very good boy and is looking for a family to call his own.

Ruby is a sweet ol' gal just looking for her retirement home. Ruby was saved twice. The first time, her family relinquished her to a high-kill shelter. Guardian Angel saved her and she was adopted by another family. After a year, they couldn't keep her and returned Ruby to Guardian Angel. Ruby is very laid back and is good with everyone she meets — dogs, cats, and kids. She weighs about 65 pounds and probably is about 12 years old. She spends most of her time sleeping and loves C-O-O-K-I-E-S and belly rubs. You'll fall in love if you meet Ruby.

If you're interested in meeting Abuelo or Ruby or any of the group's other rescued animals, call (734) 516-2171 or visit www.gaarmichigan.org.



Ruby is laid-back and gets along with everyone.



Abuelo, a senior dog, is looking for his retirement home.

# Zoo photo exhibit highlights nature's beauty

The 2010 Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, a collection of images from the world's largest and most prestigious wildlife photography competition, made its North American premiere at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center Feb. 5. The exhibition is open during zoo hours and is free with regular zoo admission.

The exhibition features 118 photographs displayed as illuminated large-format color transparencies. The

winning images were chosen from more than 31,000 entries from 84 countries. The North American premiere exhibition, which is taking place at the Detroit Zoo for the sixth consecutive year, runs through May 1.

An educational and interactive family learning guide corresponding to the 2010 Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition can be downloaded and printed from the zoo's Web site to aid visitors in interpreting

the exhibition.

A hardback commemorative portfolio book of the winning photographs is available for sale in the Detroit Zoo's Zoofari Market.

Now in its 46th year, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is owned by the Natural History Museum, London, and *BBC Wildlife Magazine* and aims to showcase the finest wildlife pictures taken by photographers worldwide.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature

The Detroit Zoo, located at Woodward Ave. and 10 Mile (1-696 service drive) in Royal Oak, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is \$12 for adults, 15 to 61, \$10 for senior citizens, 62 and older, and \$8 for children, ages 2 to 14. Children under 2 are free.

# Chorus gives valentines to military families

The HarmonyTown Chorus is accepting reservations for its annual singing valentines for delivery Saturday-Monday, Feb. 12-14.

This year, the group also will offer the service for free to loved ones of military men and women. That includes the spouse, parents or sweetheart of military personnel on deployment.

The chorus will send its quartets throughout western Wayne County and portions of Oakland County, delivering two love songs, a personalized card and a rose per visit. The cost is \$40 or \$20 if the person who requested

the valentine sings with the quartet.

Delivery times are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Monday and 1-8 p.m. Sunday. Singers have delivered their harmonious messages in homes, workplaces and restaurants.

The chorus will book valentines through Feb. 12. Call (734) 743-1764 to reserve one.

To order a free valentine for a military serviceman or woman's loved one, send delivery information to harmonymen@att.net. Or visit www.WeSingBarbershop.com for more information.

### Arthritis Today

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#### ARTHRITIS COMBINATIONS

When a doctor evaluates a patient with arthritis, the doctor looks for more than what joints or muscles are involved with pain, tenderness or swelling.

For example, in the condition of polymyalgia rheumatic it is not enough that the patient notes intense stiffness in the shoulders, and that this stiffness usually is worse in the morning. What sets polymyalgia apart from other arthritic conditions is that similar stiffness occurs in the thighs. The patient often complains about the terrible state of the shoulders, it takes questioning by the doctor to bring out that leg stiffness is also present. Once the doctor knows the pattern involves shoulders and legs then the diagnosis of polymyalgia becomes evident.

Another example of pairing in arthritis occurs in rheumatoid arthritis. One may think of rheumatoid arthritis as a condition of the small joints of the hand. Swelling of the finger joints is typical and usually symmetry exists as both hands are involved. However, rheumatoid arthritis is also a condition of the feet. In particular, the arthritis causes swelling at the balls of the feet.

Usually the patient is painfully aware of the crippling effect of the arthritis on the hands. The doctor has to ask if the patient, when arising from bed in the morning, feels like the feet are walking on marbles. If the patient answers yes, then the doctor knows that swelling of the hands in conjunction with the foot pain means the underlying problem is rheumatoid arthritis.

The same is true in osteoarthritis. If a person has osteoarthritis of the hands, then the doctor will examine the knees and watch the patient's gait as arthritis of the knees may often co-exist.

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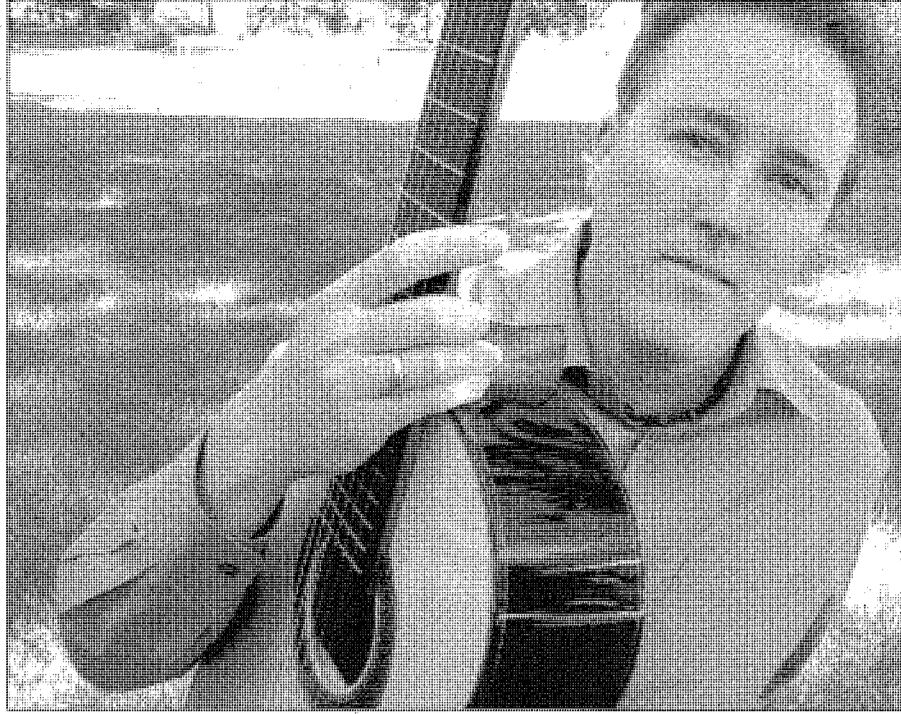
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# The journey continues

## Hills classical guitarist goes solo on new CD

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Steven Dearing, of Farmington Hills, is a classical guitarist and his new solo CD is titled, "July Recital."

The house was quiet. His children were visiting their grandparents in Canada and his wife was at a conference in Wisconsin.

Steven Dearing picked up his guitar, set up his recording equipment in his Farmington Hills living room and pressed "record."

The classical guitarist who has toured the world with his wife, soprano and accomplished flutist Abha Dearing, tuned everything else out and created a *July Recital*.

"The next thing I knew, I had a CD," said Dearing.

It's his first solo work since collaborating with his wife — the other half of the Dearing Concert Duo — in 1998. The two have recorded three albums together.

Before recording *July Recital*, on July 16, 2010, Dearing had performed a faculty concert at the University of Windsor, where he teaches classical guitar. The selections he played by composers from all around the globe were fresh in his mind, prompting him to go for it. Being a busy dad and music teacher put this long-awaited project on hold, until then.

He played each intricate and emotional piece three times and took the recording to Solid Sound Studio in Ann Arbor for mixing. He's already sold more than 100 copies since its Dec. 12 release.

Even as a seasoned performer, Dearing admits it's still a bit unnerving to hear himself play.

"I tell my students that it's like looking at yourself naked in a mirror," he said. "It's not something you necessarily relax to."

*July Recital* includes 14 pieces by French composer Roland Dyens; British composer Lennox Berkeley; Polish composer Alexandre Tansman; Spanish composer Fredrico Moreno Torroba; Mexican composer Andantino Variatio and South American composer Jorge Morel.

Dearing said the CD represents 20th century classical guitar music, which he prefers to play.

*July Recital* is \$15, plus \$2 shipping, and is available on his website [www.stevendearing.com](http://www.stevendearing.com).

### THE DISCOVERY

Dearing grew up in Windsor and didn't start seriously playing guitar until he was 23 years old. Prior to that, he played the electric guitar, by ear.

He heard a friend play classical guitar and he was hooked immediately.

"That's when it flipped, right then and there," he said, adding that he began practicing eight hours a day.

He switched his college major from chemistry to music and went on to earn a master's of guitar performance at Wayne State University, where he attended on a talent scholarship. He delved into classical guitar studies in Windsor and Toronto.

Dearing met Abha at Wayne State and the two began performing together in 1998. They toured the U.S. and Europe. Now, Abha is a music teacher at Waterford Mott High School and they have two children, ages 3 and 5.

They managed to play 40 concerts in 2010 and they're planning a New England tour in April and a Wisconsin and Minnesota tour in the fall. Dearing said their concerts offer a lot to the listener, because there are portions that feature guitar and voice; guitar and flute and solo guitar.

"I think that's why we've been as successful as we are," said Dearing. "We've been invited to play at quite a few places."

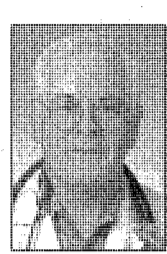
For more information and to listen to performances, visit [www.stevendearing.com](http://www.stevendearing.com) and [www.dearingconcertduo.com](http://www.dearingconcertduo.com).

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# A front load story

I would like to thank the Canton Library for arranging the seminar I did in December 2010 and the wonderful people who attended and asked some great questions on the subject of front load washers. Most people know my opinion of front load machines and if you click on the subject on your computer you can get the frustrations felt by consumers across the county.

Today's column is an e-mail from Bonnie in Livonia who spent somewhere around \$800



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

for one of these units. Before I go any further let me point out that the companies and names mentioned by Bonnie did not do anything wrong. Their actions were normal operating procedures in the appliance industry. Bonnie bought a Frigidaire HE Front Loading Washer-Model ATF6700FS2 from Sears in November 2009 and had it installed the following month. In September last year she noticed the washer wasn't completing the wash cycle. During a service call RSI Appliance service removed the front of the washer and cleared the pump, which had several smelly items trapped within it. They advised continued cleaning with bleach and hot water. She started cleaning regularly with Afresh Tablets and bleach, leaving the door open frequently for added circulation. Because the mold smell hadn't subsided, she called Sears and was told to increase the amount of bleach she used during cleaning cycles.

She asked Frigidaire how small items, such as socks, kept getting trapped in the pump and was told to safety pin socks together.

A service person subsequently tightened a hose on the washer because it had begun to leak as well as smell bad. Last month she noticed the spin cycle wasn't working and the machine had begun to leak again. Because the

manufacturer's warranty had expired, her husband cleared the pump, but that didn't resolve the spin cycle and leaking problems.

A service technician looked at the machine and said the entire tub needed to be replaced because of a problem with a seal. The estimate was approximately \$587.

In the end, she contacted Sears and was given a credit towards a new washer in lieu of paying for repairs.

"Needless to say I have selected a top loader!" Bonnie wrote.

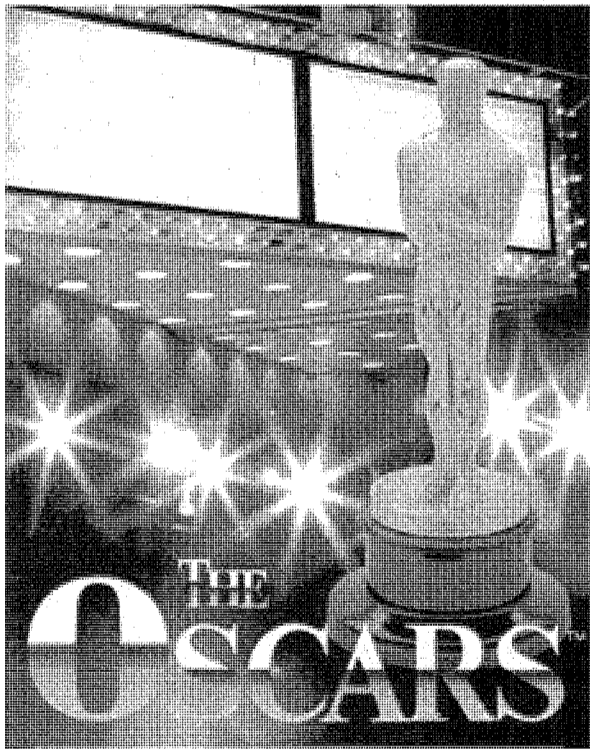
In my speaking engagement at the Canton Library I talked about the removal of the five-year warranty on major components that all manufacturers had carried on major appliances since day one. That warranty is not included these days or else Bonnie would have had repairs done for next to nothing. Now you get a one-year warranty and after that you are out of luck unless you are as persistent and detailed as Bonnie was. She didn't want that washer as she would never have had confidence in its future operation or dependability. She had a mold smell she couldn't get rid of and she joins the many thousands of consumers who can't stand their front load washers. A recent study points out that an unhappy customer will tell between 30 and 35 others about their experience. I believe Bonnie might double that number.

It is a crying shame that the manufacturers of products sold in this country can't realize how brand loyalty has become a thing of the past and my past experience in this appliance industry leads me to yearn for the quality we once knew. Today I speak with appliance retailers who are very frustrated with the people who build them. Retailers want to make friends with each customer and that is difficult to do with a product sold that doesn't equal the consumer's expectations. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twmi.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twmi.rr.com)

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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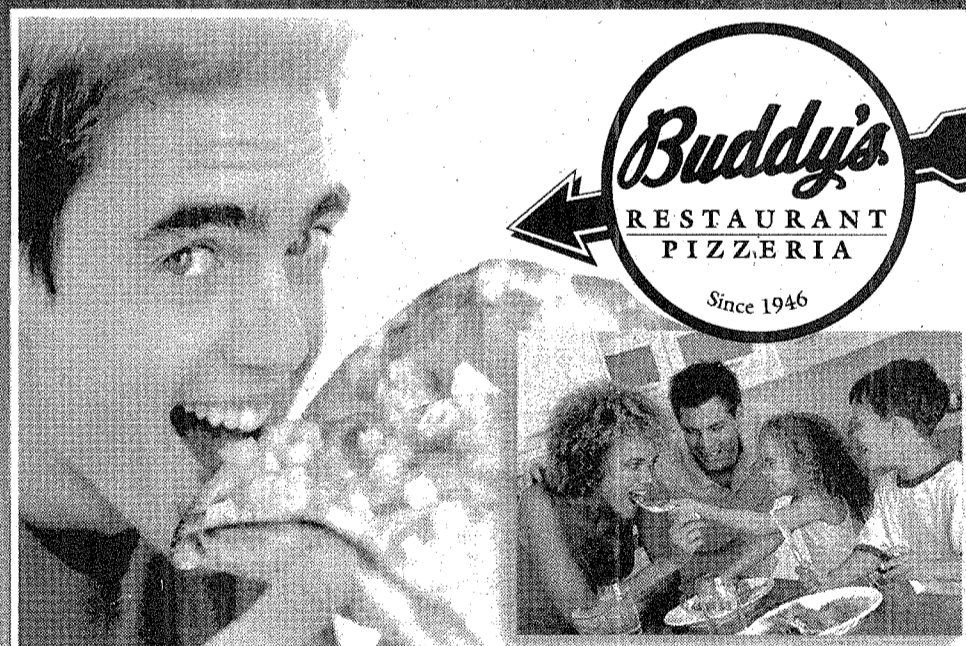
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# HEALTH

Sunday, February 6, 2011

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## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### FEBRUARY

##### Sleep Apnea

Livonia dentist John Colasanti will talk about treating sleep apnea with dental devices from 7-8:30 p.m., Feb. 10 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Discover the latest in medical equipment; masks and supplies for sleep disorders, such as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) technology. Participants with a CPAP machine may bring it to the presentation for a free pressure accuracy check. Call (734) 655-4640 for more information, or to register.

##### Flu shots

Community Living Services, 35425 Michigan Avenue West, Suite 3653, Wayne, will hold an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 10. Free. (734) 467-7600.

##### Healthy hearts

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these heart-related events for women next month:

- Marianne Simancek, a registered nurse, will talk about healthy habits for cardiovascular health, 1 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.
- Dr. Roy Misirliyan, director of Noninvasive Cardiology, will discuss how diabetes affects the heart and cardiovascular system, 7 p.m. Feb. 9, in the hospital auditorium.
- Dr. Barbara Kong will be the speaker at "The Heart of a Woman," 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m. Participants will learn to identify the unique signs and symptoms of a heart attack and the simple steps needed for a healthy lifestyle that can improve heart health. There is no charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. Register at (734) 655-1182 or stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

Having a baby

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a childbirth education class called, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby." This is a five-week program, 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 28-April 4, in classrooms 1 and 2. The class is based on the "Lamaze Method" and includes exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant moms through the different stages of labor. Classes also include information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment and the importance of the support person's role. It enhances confidence and joy of the birthing experience. The class is open to expectant parents, not just those delivering at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. There is a fee of \$75 per couple, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information, or to register.

#### MARCH

##### Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents educational seminars from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, March 3 and April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Dr. Jacob Roberts, a bariatric surgeon, will make presentations. For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) WHY WEIGHT.

#### ONGOING

##### Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

## Go Red for Women brings awareness of heart disease

Heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of women. This means mothers, sisters and friends are dying at the rate of one per minute because they don't know that heart disease kills. That's why the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women® movement is asking women to fight heart disease by telling five women they love that they want them to live.

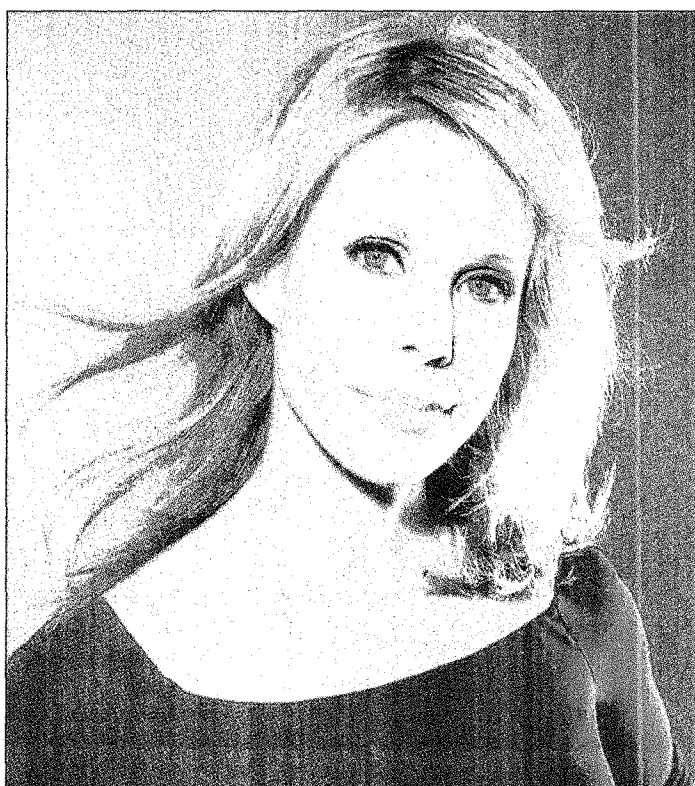
"Eighty percent of cardiac events in women may be prevented, if they make the right choices for their hearts, involving diet, exercise and abstinence from smoking," said Dr. Jennifer Mieres, cardiologist and Go Red For Women spokeswoman. "This is why it is so important that women talk to one another about their No. 1 killer."

Actress Cheryl Hines kicked off Go Red events nationally Friday, Feb. 4, in New York City, N.Y.

Women in southeastern Michigan who want to live healthier and prevent heart disease will gather for the Go Red for Women luncheon from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 24, at the MGM Grand in downtown Detroit.

According to the Association, heart disease and stroke account for 34 percent of all deaths among women in Michigan. One in three American women die of heart disease, compared to 1 in 30 women that die of breast cancer.

"I am passionate about the American Heart Association and particularly, Go Red for Women," said Paula Silver, vice president of communications at Quicken Loans, Inc., and co-chairwoman of the local 2011 Go Red For Women campaign. "As someone who has a



Actress Cheryl Hines is a spokeswoman for the National Go Red for Women campaign.

history of heart disease in my family, I pay close attention to my eating habits and exercise. I feel better both physically and emotionally when I treat myself right, when I eat sensibly and when I get on the treadmill."

The American Heart Association Go Red for Women luncheon aims to educate women about heart disease and heart health. The half-day event features wellness seminars, a health exhibit, fashion show and silent auction.

Tickets cost \$175 per person and are available now by calling Shelley Rusinek at (248) 936-5807.

Other nearby Go Red for Women events:

- Living to the Beat (of your heart): 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8 at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 East Warren Avenue, Detroit; (313) 494-5800. Chef Jesse Gales of Weight Watchers demonstrates healthy cooking. Free to museum members; \$5 for non-members.

- Wellness Forum: The event, which starts with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by a program at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 9, is open to all companies interested in starting a corporate wellness initiative or learning new ways to maintain an existing wellness program. Cost is free and free health screenings

will be available until 10:30 a.m. The event will be held at The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn.

- Living Better with Life's Simple 7: 1 p.m. Feb. 9, at Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Marianne Simancek, RN, will talk about improving cardiovascular health. The program is free. (734) 655-8950

- Diabetes and your Heart: 7 p.m. Feb. 9, at St. Mary Mercy Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Roy Misirliyan, director of Noninvasive Cardiology, will talk about how diabetes affects the heart in this free program. (734) 655-8950

- Hockey has Heart: Wear red to the game between the Plymouth Whalers and Owen Sound, 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Ice Arena, 14900 Beck, Plymouth. Free health screenings will be available and professional hockey player, Jiri Fischer, will make an appearance. Buy tickets at www.plymouthwhalers.com

- The Culinary Studio, a shared-use kitchen, will offer heart-healthy foods prepared by local chefs at its open house, noon to 7 p.m. Feb. 16, 29673 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Free. RSVP to Cassandra Morrison at (248) 353-2500.

- Ladies Night Out: Dr. Barbara Kong, cardiologist, will identify the signs and symptoms of heart disease that are unique to women at this free program, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, at St. Mary Mercy Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Bone density, blood pressure screenings and massages will be available. Register at (734) 655-1182.

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