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SPORTS, B1

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS WITH 'FAT TUESDAY' ALL DAY LONG - FOOD, B7

THURSDAY
March 3, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 46
Number 81

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WESTLAND
OBSERVER
hometownlife.com



IN BRIEF
Going for the gold

Parents, get yourself ready. It's your chance this weekend to cheer them on to "victory" as they "compete" in games especially designed for them. It's time for the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's annual Nursery School Olympics, which will be held 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road.

Youngsters ages 18 months to 5 years can show off their athletic abilities in such events as the Big Wheel Grande Prix, the Marshmallow Shot Put and the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles. Every child will receive a certificate of participation.

The cost is \$4 per child/athlete, parents/spectators are free. Preregistration encouraged, but not required.

The Nursery School Olympics are sponsored by Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club, Wayne Masons Lodge 112, Dads' Athletic Club of Westland, Westland Christian Union and Westland Jaycees.

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

Kindergarten Round-Up

Wayne-Westland Community Schools is inviting parents and their youngsters to "come and see what all the buzz is about" at its annual Kindergarten Round-Up.

All 11 of the district's elementary schools will host a round-up for parents and children 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5. Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school and explore programs, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, receive registration materials and a free T-shirt, school supplies, and a backpack for youngsters.

For parents who can't make it during the day, school offices also will be open 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, so that you may register your incoming kindergartner. Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2011, in order to attend kindergarten.

Wayne-Westland currently offers all-day kindergarten at all of its K-4 elementary schools. For more information, call (734) 419-2083 or go online to wwcsd.net/kindergarten-round-up.

Mother knows best

Local women and girls are invited to send us (in 50 words or less) the best advice you received from your mom. Include a photo of your mom or better yet you and your mom.

E-mail your best submission and photo (jpg format only) to smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your first and last name, your hometown and identify your mother (first and last name, please). Include a daytime phone number or cell phone where you can be reached during business hours.

The photos and advice will appear in the Thursday, May 5, Salute to Women edition of Hometown Life Woman. Deadline to submit advice and photo is 5 p.m., Friday, April 15.

Demand up for weatherization assistance

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When money is already in short supply, living in a home that isn't very energy efficient only makes matters worse.

Help with energy efficient upgrades is available to homeowners and renters who meet income guidelines through the Home Weatherization Assistance

Program administered locally by the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

"The weatherization program isn't an emergency service. Residents call our office to fill out the application," said Erin Evans, Wayne Metropolitan Community Agency communications manager. "There is a fairly long waiting list. We're trying to get service started within a year. There is such demand."

Funded by the federal Department of Energy, the weatherization program work can include larger items such as insulation, steel door replacement, roof repairs, furnace and duct repairs along with providing smoke detectors and compact fluorescent bulbs.

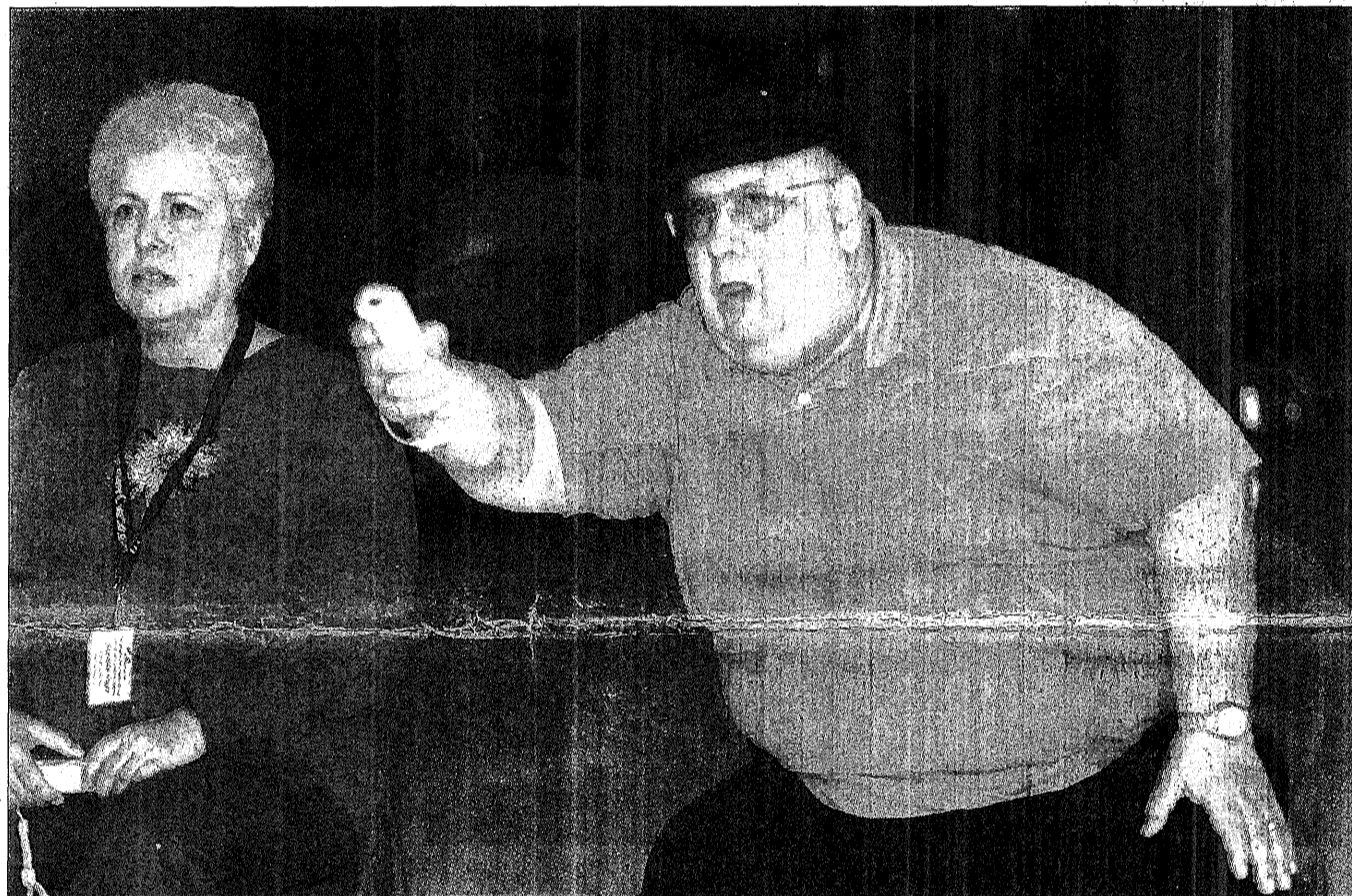
Improvements are tailored to each house and designed to realize the maximum energy costs savings. The average upgrade costs \$2,672 and it's

estimated that families will see \$200-250 annual savings going forward, depending on energy costs.

"We have inspectors who do an inspection and recommend improvements that will make the most impact. Each home is unique in what it needs," said Evans. "We hire contractors to do the work and come back to make sure

Please see **PROGRAM, A2**

Wii-mazing game



While Linda Wiseman watches, Frank Kaminski takes his turn during the Wii bowling league at Westland's Friendship Center.

Seniors knock 'em down on virtual bowling alley

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There are lanes and the sound of the ball hitting the pins, even some trash talk, but it's a virtual bowling alley in the Westland Friendship Center gym a couple of afternoons each week.

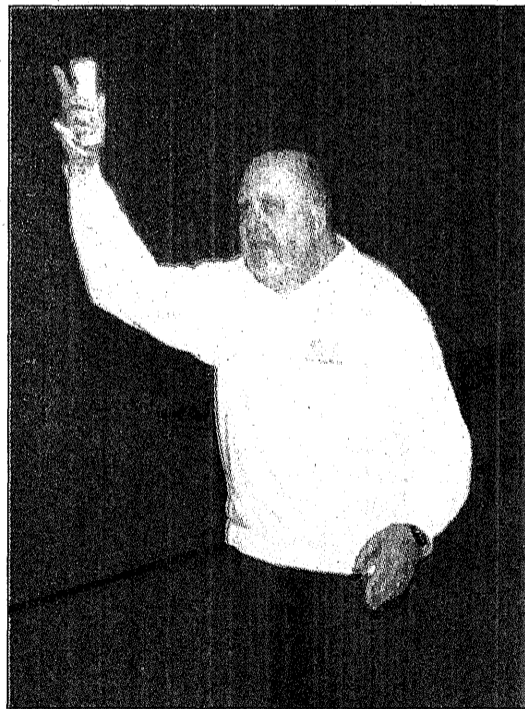
On Mondays and Wednesdays, seniors take to the lanes of the Wii game system bowling, projected on a large screen. Instead of a bowling ball, they use the game nunchuk and can even bowl while seated.

"I don't know, I just like to bowl. My husband finally got me this at home so I can do it there, too," said Beverly Kaminski, who also bowls on the senior league Wednesdays at Westland Bowl. "This makes you move a bit — at least your arms."

On the league at Westland Bowl, Kaminski rolls a 117 average but on Wii bowling that average jumps to 160.

"It's a lot different bowling on the Wii, the ball isn't as heavy," she said, playing along

Please see **BOWLING, A2**



Wii nunchuk in hand, Westland David Lilienthal waits to see how his roll will turn out during bowling at the Friendship Center.

RecycleBank rolls out all new website

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland recyclers checking on their point balances will notice changes to the RecycleBank website.

"As of Feb. 1, we have a totally new RecycleBank website. There are new opportunities to earn points," said local RecycleBank representative Duane Maladecki.

Points can now be earned through partnerships with companies like Kashi cereals, when customers pledge to recycle their used cereal box, he said.

Westland residents who participate in biweekly curbside recycling and have registered with RecycleBank earn points based on the average amount of recyclables collected in their neighborhood. The points can be redeemed for coupons, gifts cards and other benefits or donated to charity.

"Now you can entered your ZIP code for rewards, if you are out of town. It's easier to use and the experience will be greater," said Maladecki. "There is a lot of interaction to promote RecycleBank."

Councilman Michael Kehrer questioned Maladecki about not being able to print coupons. Some coupons, such as those for free items, can't be printed and are mailed to customers, Maladecki said, with printable coupons labeled.

Resident Nancy Foreich complained of rude treatment by a RecycleBank staff member when she tried to get information about redeeming points over the telephone — she

Please see **BANK, A2**

Random drawing selects winner of Oscar contest

The results are in and Joe Driscoll proved he knows his movies. The New Hudson resident was the top winner in the hometownlife.com (*Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers*) Oscar Contest.

Driscoll was selected in a random drawing of five contestants who answered all questions and tie-breakers correctly. He wins an annual pass for two to Emagine Theaters.

Second-place winner in the random drawing was Sherri

Brennan of Livonia. She will receive four movie passes for two to any Emagine Theater.

Other winners included Dionicia Smith of Roseville, Michelle Tery of Clawson and Daniel Lodge of Belleville. Each will receive a movie pass for two to Emagine Theaters.

All five contestants selected winners in the following categories: Best Picture — *The King's Speech*, Best Actor — Colin Firth in *The King's Speech*, Best Supporting Actor — Christian Bale in *The Fighter*, Best Actress

— Natalie Portman in *Black Swan*, Best Supporting Actress — Melissa Leo in *The Fighter*, Best Animated Film — *Toy Story 3*, Best Director — Tom Hooper for *The King's Speech*, Best Documentary — *Inside Job*, and Best Music Score — *The Social Network*.

Emagine Theaters are located in Canton, Novi, Rochester Hills and Woodhaven. A new Emagine Theater complex is set to open late this summer in Royal Oak.



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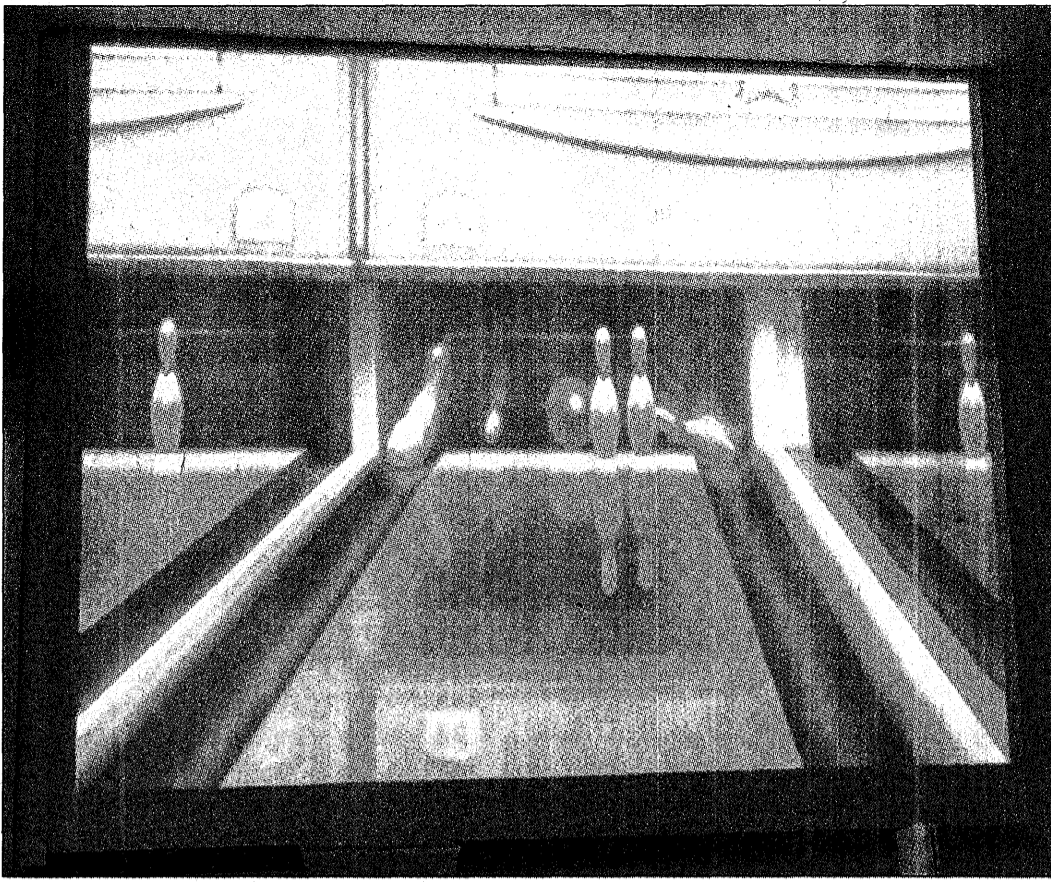
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Wii bowling looks and sounds like the real thing, especially played on a big screen at Westland's Friendship Center.

BOWLING

FROM PAGE A1

her husband Frank Kaminski Jr., Linda Wiseman and Dave Lilienthal, whose avatar has the pro designation thanks to scoring over 1,000 points. "We had a Wii bowling tournament here and I came in second," said Lilienthal, who as a 217 average in Wii bowling and 155 at the lanes bowling in the senior league. "I know this helps me with my (real) bowling." The bowlers record their scores in a notebook and have standings at their end of their league season. They also play in tournaments against bowlers from Livonia. The Westland bowlers haven't won yet but are getting closer, said Lilienthal. Of this group, Lilienthal is

"I have bad ankles - arthritis - and can't really bowl. This makes it easy enough, you just throw with your hand."

LINDA WISEMAN

the only one who gets up from his chair to take his turn bowling. For Wiseman, the Wii bowling allows her to return to a sport she used to enjoy. "Someone came into the workout room and asked if anyone wanted to bowl. I used to bowl and enjoy it quite a lot," said Wiseman, who started Wii bowling about six weeks ago. "I have bad ankles - arthritis - and can't really bowl. This makes it easy enough, you just throw with your hand." On this particular game, Frank Kaminski got a higher score than his wife. "I beat you," he said. "That's three games in two years," responded Beverly Kaminski, whose husband acknowledges his wife of nearly

47 years is the better bowler. Beverly Kaminski had a first-place finish in Wii bowling last summer during the Senior Olympics. There is no beer or greasy snacks at the Wii bowling. Another difference from a bowling alley - the messages for a gutter ball or bad roll aren't nearly as rude as the response bowlers can get at area lanes. The bowlers decided to shut that option off on the game. The Wii game system was purchased for the Friendship Center by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who also provided the devices to senior centers in Garden City and Livonia.

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

Ice arena adds programs to lineup

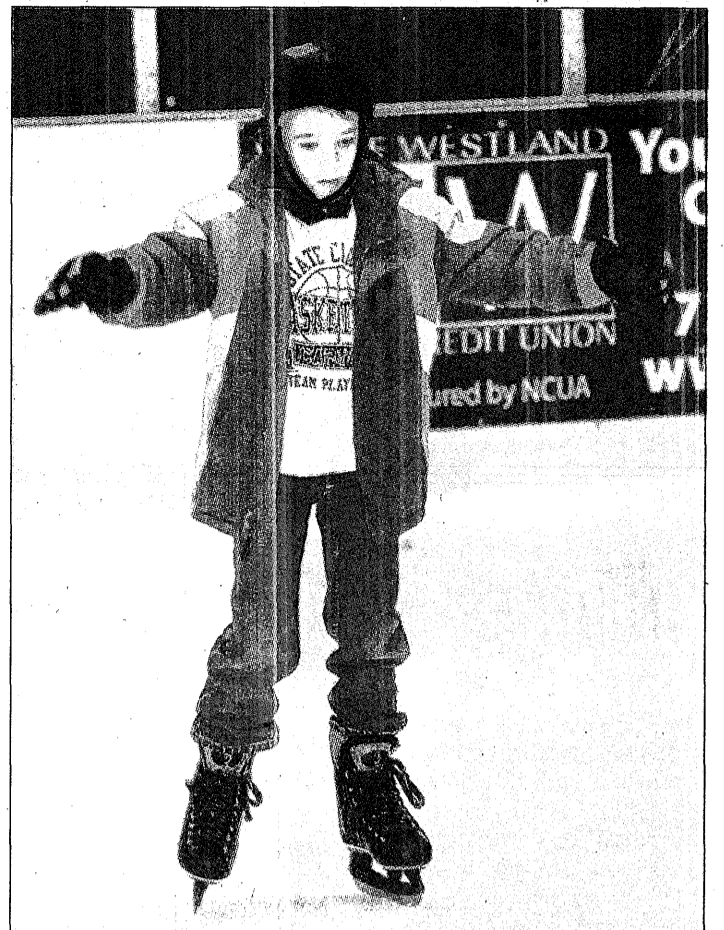
The Mike Modano Ice Arena has added some new programs to its lineup while continuing to host some of the skater favorites.

People looking for a great way to meet new friends and enjoy a fun atmosphere, need look no further than the arena's news Singles Skate Night. Singles skate night is held 9-10 p.m. every Tuesday. Rates for residents are \$4 and non-residents \$4.50, skate rental is \$3. This event is for ages 18 and older.

Another new program is the Sunday Business Special. This program is designed for businesses to offer an employee/customer appreciation day of skating. Non-profits organizations also can use this time as a fundraiser. There's no limit on how many people can be invited. The rental includes use of the entire ice surface 9-10:20 a.m. on Sundays, with free skate rental, all for a special rate of \$285.

An all new hour also has been added for open skating. It's time to learn how to skate, host class field trips, home school kids, practice figure skating, mom-toddler time, or just a great way to stay fit. The times are 1-2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Costs for residents is \$3 per child and \$4 per adult; non-residents are \$3.50 per child and \$4.50 per adult. Skate rental is \$3.

Glow Skating, a favorite of teenagers, is 8-9:20 p.m. held every Friday through April 1,



Beginning skater Owen Boekho takes to the ice at Mike Modano Arena.

2011. The cost for residents is \$4 per child and \$5 per adult, non-resident cost is \$4.50 per child and \$5.50 per adult. Skate rental is \$3. And finally, hockey players looking for a place to drop the puck will find it at the Modano Arena. Adult drop-in hockey is held 9-10:30 p.m. Sundays. The

cost is \$15 per player and goals are free. Players must be age 18 or older, and full equipment is required. For more information, visit the city website at www.cityofwestland.com and click on the Mike Modano Ice Arena under choose service or call (734) 729-4560.

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

the work is up to code." To qualify for the program, which offers services at no cost to the homeowner, a family of four must have annual household incomes not exceeding \$11,025 in the prior 90 days. "They can be homeowners or renters, but the person who

signs the agreement needs to be the landlord or manager of the building," said Evans. Having recently opened an office at Westland's Dorsey Center and a weatherization program office in Garden City, the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency administers the weatherization program for western Wayne County and several other communities. Other programs include

emergency energy assistance and foreclosure intervention. Wayne Metro also sponsored the recent Walk for Warmth held at Westland Center to raise energy assistance money. For more on the weatherization program, call (734) 525-1341. To get information on other programs, call the main services office at (734) 284-6999. Irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

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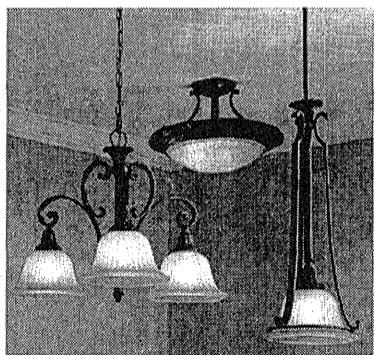
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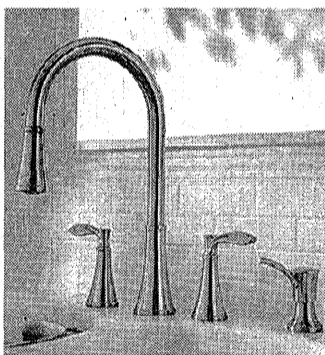
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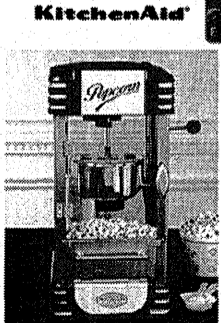
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BANK

FROM PAGE A1

doesn't have a home computer with Internet access. "She told me to get to the library or someone's home to get on a computer - she doesn't have time to read to me what is available," said Frorreich, who talked with Maladecki after the council meeting. "What am I supposed to do? I don't know what is available to me." Westland has been one of the most successful RecycleBank

programs, Maladecki said. An estimated 80 percent of Westland's single family residences participate in the single stream recycling program. Since the inception of the curbside recycling program in July 2009, Westland residents have recycled more than 12 million pounds of trash. An average of 519 pounds per household was recycled in the past year - up from the 93 pounds per household that had been collected annually at the city drop-off site. The Department of Public Services has additional 96-gallon carts available for families who need more room for recycling.

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A long-time landmark on Wayne Road, the former Showcase Cinema building will soon be a memory. The building is being razed to make way for a new MJR Theater expected to be open by November.

Demolition clears way for new theater

Demolition crews are making short work of the former Showcase Cinema building in Westland.

The closed theater's sign was still visible on the front of the building earlier this week but daylight could be seen from front to back of the building located on Wayne Road south Warren Road.

The site is being cleared to make way for the new digital MJR Westland Grand 16 Cinema. Construction is expected to get under way later this month with the 3,100-seat theater slated to be open by November.

The new theater will be 67,996 square feet compared to the old building which was 47,927 square feet.

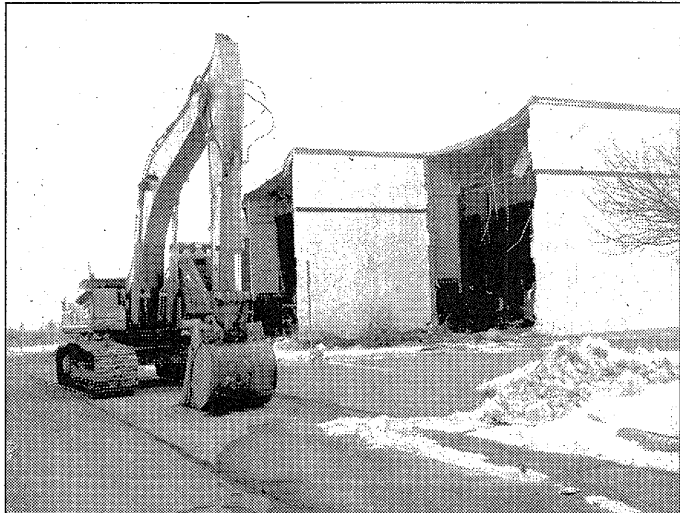
The Westland City Council has approved plans for the MJR Theater which will be located further east on the site to allow more parking at the front of the building.

The state-of-the-art theater is expected to sell more than 800,000 admissions over the course of a year.

-By LeAnne Rogers



Following a few days work by demolition crews, the former Showcase Cinema isn't recognizable.



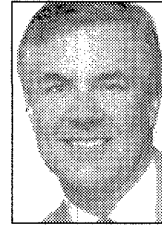
Demolition crews are making short work of the former Showcase Cinema on Wayne Road south of Warren. A new 16-screen digital MJR Theater will be built on the site.

Tip-off workshop focuses on helping early learners

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Parents can get into March Madness at a Parenting Tip-Off workshop at the Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center in Garden City Saturday.

The preschool initiative is funded through a federal grant provided through Wayne County RESA, the three-hour program has a college basketball championship theme with four quarters filled with presentations aimed at helping parents prepare their preschoolers for school and ending with the "main event," a presentation by the founder of the Early Learning Foundation, Bob Sornson.



Sornson

"The focus is on Garden City families, but it's open to all county residents since it's a Wayne County grant," said Sharon Duzney, director of Special Education Services in the Garden City Public Schools. "We're very happy to have the grant. If it goes well, we'd like to do it every year."

Sornson, who has worked as a classroom teacher and school administrator for more than 30 years, is known for his workshops on topics including early learning success, and teaching and parenting with *Love and Logic*. Committed to the belief that practically every child can have a successful early learning experience, he also is the author of many books, including *The Juice Box Bully: Empowering Kids To Stand Up for Others*.

PRESENTATIONS

The program will be broken up into half-hour quarters, with 10 different presentations available. The presenters include representatives from the Garden City Family Resource Center, Garden City Police and Fire Department, Garden City High School and the staff of the Garden City Public Schools.

The topics include: "Healthy Habits for Preschoolers," "Community Safety, Keeping Our Children Safe,"

"Childhood Nutrition: Do You Have Picky Eaters?," "What will Jobs look Like in 2023?," "Family Fire Safety," "Learn the Bullying Facts," "Learning To Write and Loving It," "Let's Get Ready To Read," "Fine Motor Fun" and "1-2-3 Magic, Behavior Management."

There also will be session about family friendly websites and how to maximize your child's potential by using "windows of opportunities" to unlock their budding talents.

Sornson will help parents will learn the steps to helping their children become resilient problem-solvers, able to handle the challenges of growing up, as well as how to help children develop the confidence to speak up when others are misbehaving and damaging the caring culture in their school.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Today's incoming kindergartners need to know more things than their counterparts 10-20, even 70 years ago. Duzney recently found a manual for the Detroit Public Schools dating to 1934 which required incoming kindergartners to be toilet trained, be able to sit for three-minute intervals and be able to understand a one-sentence explanation.

"Today's kindergarten is about more than being toilet trained," she said.

Child care will be provided for the day by volunteers from the Garden City Family Resource Center. After the event, families can settle down and enjoy snacks while watching basketball on the big screen TV which will serve as lesson in how to use TV as a learning experience.

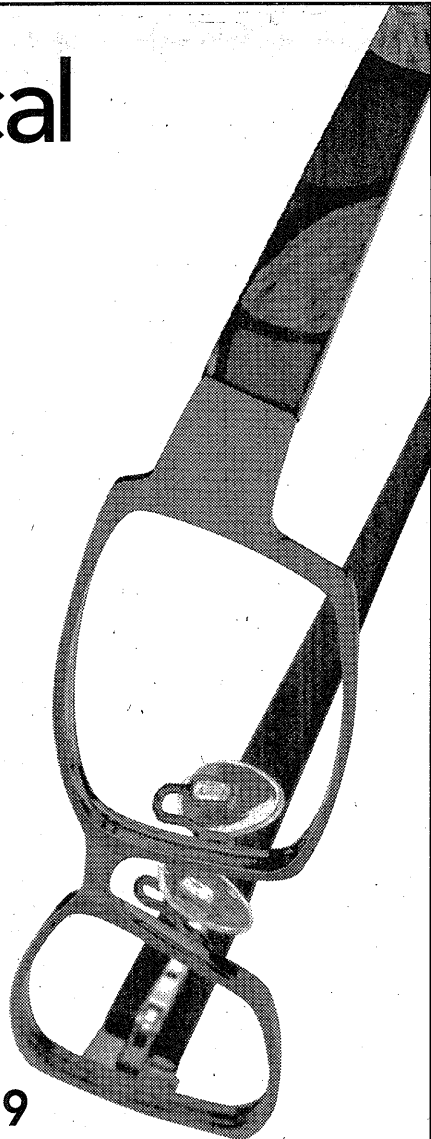
"We're hoping for a very good turnout, there will books and materials given away," said Duzney. "Parents need only show up, no need to RSVP."

Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center is at 28351 Marquette, east of Middlebelt, in Garden City. For more information about the program, call Lathers Principal Alex McNeece at (734) 762-8490 or Duzney at (734) 762-6372.

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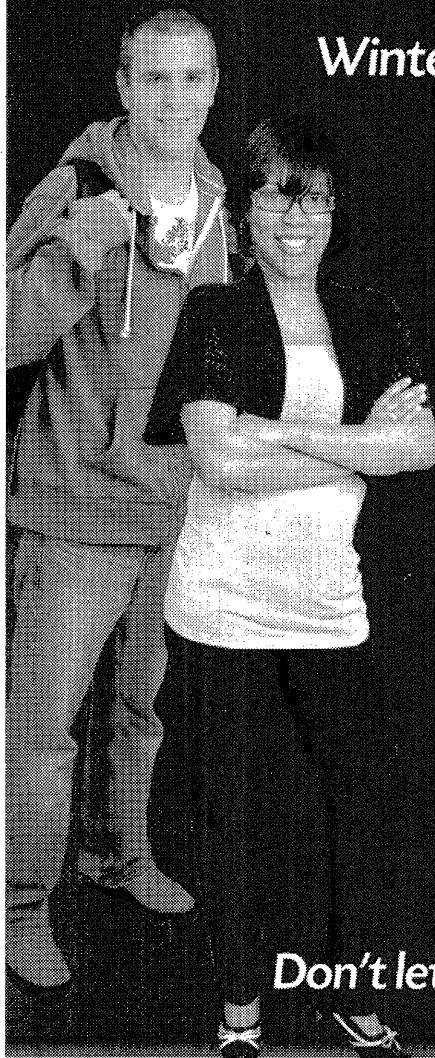


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Man arrested for allegedly assaulting girlfriend's son

Felonious assault

Police were called to a home the 1700 block of Berry Feb. 26 after a Wayne man told police that his mother's live-in boyfriend produced a gun and threatened to shoot him during an argument. The man, 33, said he had arrived at the home to talk with his mother, 49, who was upset about problems with her former husband, the man's father.

WESTLAND

After speaking with his mother and the live-in boyfriend, 48, the man said he left without any problems. When he called later to check on his mother, the man said he could hear the boyfriend in the background yelling that his mother was still in love with her former husband and making derogatory remarks about him.

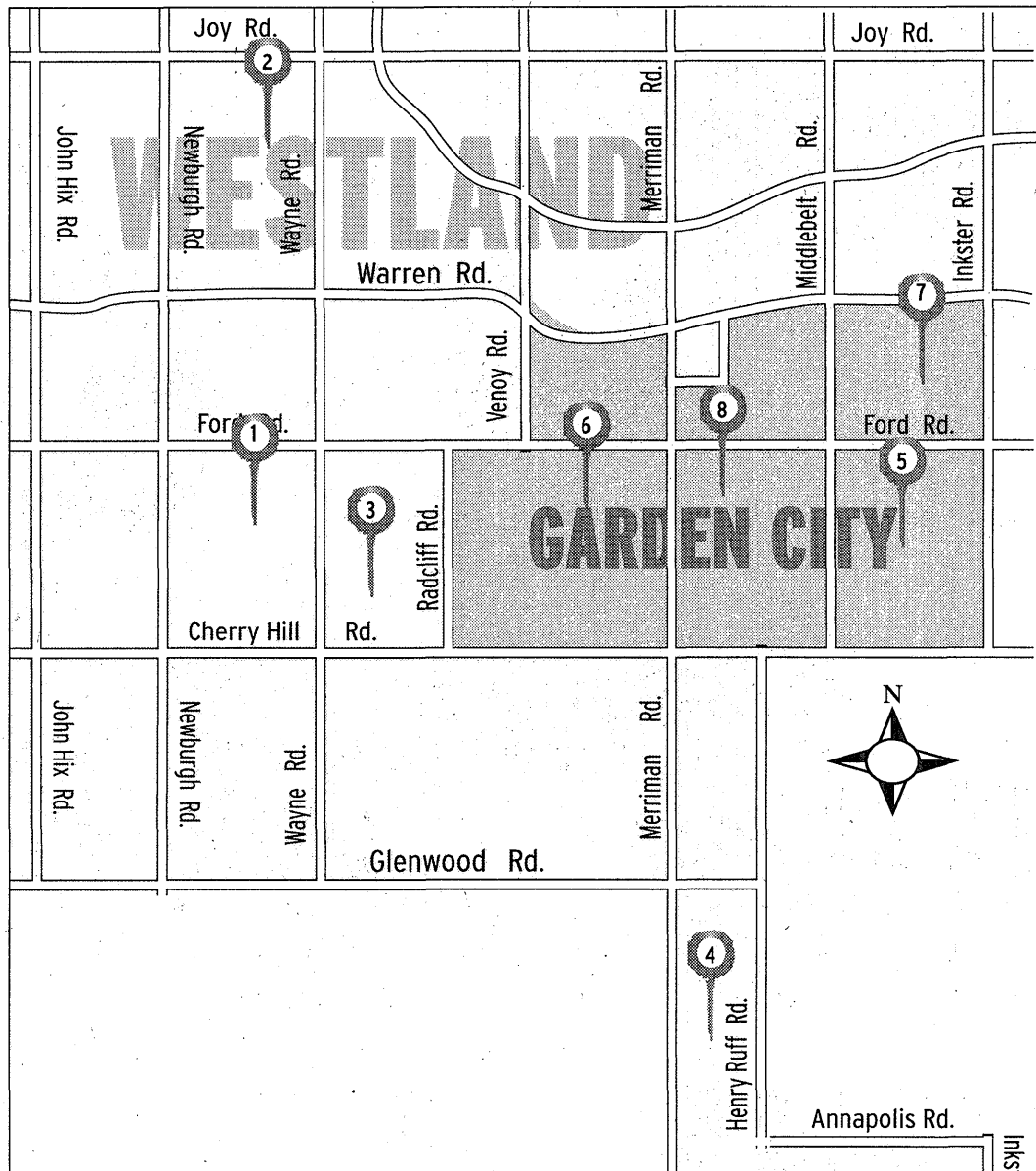
The son told police that he returned to the home to make sure his mother was OK and talk to the boyfriend about his issues. The two men argued and a fistfight ensued, the son told police. After the pair separated, the son said he went into the back yard with his mother and the boyfriend went upstairs.

While in the back yard talking to his mother, the son told police he heard the boyfriend coming out the back door and saw he was armed with a gun. The boyfriend put the gun to his throat, the son said, threatening to shoot him. The mother attempted to grab the gun as the son backed away.

The boyfriend maintained control of the gun, the son said, next pointing the gun at his own head and telling the younger man to shoot him. The son told police he attempted to reason with the older man but he refused to put down the gun and walked backwards up the stairs.

The mother told police the same story, indicating she believed the boyfriend was a jealous person but had not acted that way previously in their nine months together.

When officers arrived, the boyfriend wasn't in sight and didn't respond when called. There was no evidence the man



had left the house, so officers began to respond to a possible barricaded gunman. A 9-1-1 dispatcher eventually spoke to the man on the telephone and tried to get him to walk out the front door.

The man did later come outside leaving the loaded 9mm handgun in a bedroom dresser drawer. The man was arrested for felonious assault. He told police the younger man had assaulted him and that he pulled a gun because the younger man is physically bigger.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident of an apartment at 36735 McKinney told police Feb. 26 that someone had stolen four rims and tires valued at \$1,000 from her

2009 Chevrolet Tahoe.

Counterfeit bills

On Feb. 26, police were called to the Admiral gas station, 542 N. Wayne Road, after a clerk reported purchases being made with counterfeit bills. The cashier said a woman purchased coffee using a \$10. A short time later, the clerk said a man entered and bought cigarettes with a \$20 bill, followed by a return visit by the woman who also bought cigarettes using a \$20.

Becoming suspicious, the clerk said she used a detector pen and found the bills were counterfeit. Calling her store manager first delayed police arriving by about 30 minutes and the suspects were gone when officers arrived.

Police noted that a Wayne pizzeria also reported receiving counterfeit bills.

Break-in

The front door glass was found broken at Amy Wig and Supply, 31250 Michigan Ave., early Feb. 27. The owner reported the interior of the business had been ransacked but wasn't sure what might have been stolen.

Vandalism

A resident in the 7400 block of Cochise told police Feb. 26 that someone had smashed the windshield on his 1997 Ford Taurus while it was parked on the street.

-By LeAnne Rogers

Gaming system among items stolen from home

Break-in

A resident in the 2000 block of Harrison reported to police that someone gained entry into his home between Feb. 21-26. He said that he is moving to another location and still has household items in the Garden City home.

GARDEN CITY

The thief pushed in a window air conditioner unit located in a bedroom window. The homeowner said that the thief stole \$1,500 of vintage photographs, an Airsoft gun, a footlocker tray, a shop vacuum and a game system with games.

Pawned items

A 53-year-old South Lyon resident came to the Garden City police station Feb. 22 to report that he found some items taken from a recent home invasion at his house at the Garden City Exchange, 32555 Ford. He said that he purchased a ring and necklace that was his for \$100.

Damage

An employee at the International Bike Shop, 5640 Middlebelt, reported that a Wayne County snowplow accidentally shoved a large piece of snow or ice while clearing the road about 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22, causing the window to break. Damage to the three-foot by five-foot window was estimated at \$1,000.

Theft

A resident in the 6000 block of Helen believes that one of his daughter's visitors stole his prescription of 80 Vicodin pills sometime Feb. 22.

He told police that his daughter had friends over to his house for a party while he was gone.

The police were unable to question the daughter at the time.

Fraud

A Garden City man who lives in the 3000 block of Pardo said that he was duped after he sold some scrap gold on eBay to a woman for \$935 in the last month.

After receiving the gold, the woman contacted the man and said that she was dissatisfied and would return the gold to him. When the gold arrived, the man discovered that she kept a \$300 gold necklace and replaced it with a fake gold necklace.

Property destruction

A homeowner in the 28000 block of Pardo reported Feb. 26 that someone painted a six point star on her overhead garage door.

Retail fraud

A 17-year-old Garden City woman was arrested about 9 p.m. Feb. 28 after she concealed and did not pay for several makeup items before leaving the Kmart store, 29500 Ford.

The also police arrested a 30-year-old Livonia man after he stole three value-priced video games about 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25 from the same store.


Suspended license

The police arrested a 27-year-old Garden City man for driving on a suspended license after he had an accident at Middlebelt and Elmwood at noon Feb. 17.

He wasn't paying attention and drove into the back of a 2006 Honda Civic driven by an 85-year-old woman.

He admitted to illegally driving the Ford Taurus but said that he was just test driving the car after he repaired it for his sister.

-By Sue Buck



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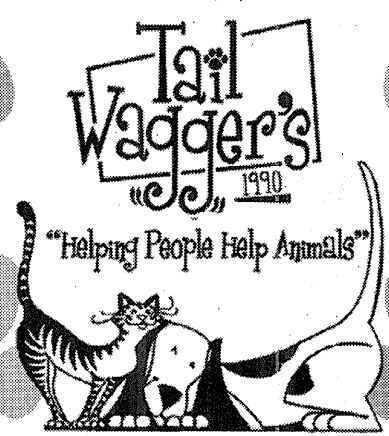
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Seniors relive memories, make new ones at spring prom

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Florence Jakueiec didn't go to the prom when she was a student at Western High School in Detroit in the 1950s.

But on Thursday, she made up for it by attending the Spring Formal, a prom for seniors, at Marycrest Manor in Livonia.

Jakueiec was one of about 55 residents at the skilled nursing and rehabilitation center who got all dressed up for the big event, which included dancing to music by a deejay, twinkling lights, balloons, special food and, of course, the crowning of a king and queen.

The prom created some fun new memories for Jakueiec, but it revived some fun old memories for others.

"When I was single, I danced four or five nights a week," said George Kupsjak, 94, adding that's how he met his wife of 65 years, Sophie, who's now deceased. "Ballroom dancing, square dancing, round dancing, I did all kinds of dancing."

Now, Kupsjak is prone to falling so he uses a wheelchair, but that didn't stop him from spinning around the dance floor to the beat of the music.



Latiya Logau and Louise Dundr step lively.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES

Nancy Dittmar, a 1958 graduate of Redford High School, remembers her high school senior prom. "I went with a boy I didn't like," she said. "He wasn't my fastest friend."

Still, she had a good time: "We ate down at Lim's (restaurant). The dance was at the Veterans War Memorial on the river."

Dittmar, a Farmington Hills resident, was recovering from a broken leg at Marycrest and was scheduled to go home Tuesday. But she was glad she was able to be there for the prom. "Some of the stuff they do here is wonderful," she said.

Jim Butler, administrator and president of Marycrest Manor, said the activities department organizes events almost daily, including square dances and talent shows, but this was their first prom.

The staff helped the women fix their hair, apply makeup and get dressed up. Everyone, including the men, got a corsage to wear.

The prom theme struck a chord with the residents, making them feel young again, organizers said. Nearly every-



Josephine Furtak and Dorothy Van Camp dance at the Spring Fling.

one at Marycrest attended, arriving up to an hour early. "They were waiting in line all the way down the hall," said Marylou Hable, an eldercare adviser for a Place for Mom, a free referral service that works

closely with Marycrest Manor. "They were excited."

MOOD LIFTER

Tanya Lukomski, director of business development for Triumph Home Health Care in

Livonia, who helped organize the prom with Marycrest's activities department, said seniors need upbeat activities like the prom. "A lot of time, when they're stuck in their rooms, they get depressed,"

she said.

Josephine Grifka, 77, attended the prom with her son, Andy Grifka of Plymouth. "It was cute," she said of the event. She remembers attending her high school prom with a boy named Robert. "I was young, only 16," she said. "We danced. I had an orchid-colored dress and white roses (that he gave her)."

Grifka said his mother is getting good care at Marycrest, after having been at several other nursing homes in the past few years. "She's doing so well here."

The staff, many of whom danced with the residents, said the prom was a hit. "All the residents are having a good time," nursing assistant Tracey Henderson said.

Kevin McNamara, a certified nursing assistant, said the prom was the best event he's attended at Marycrest since he started working there one and a half years ago. "This one seemed to top them all," he said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

Hines Park walk benefits March of Dimes

On Saturday, April 30, in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park, thousands of families and business leaders will join together in the March of Dimes' annual March for Babies, the nation's oldest walk fundraiser honoring babies born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano is the Hines Park March for Babies chair this year. As a community leader, Ficano has taken on the role to raise awareness and important funding to provide for babies who are born premature or with birth defects.

Registration for the walk begins at 8 a.m. with the six-mile walk kicking off at 9 a.m. Participation in March for Babies will include access to the park after the event. To register for the event, visit www.marchforbabies.org.

Funds raised by March for Babies in Michigan help support prenatal wellness programs, research grants, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) family support programs and advocacy efforts for stronger, healthier babies.

The most urgent infant health problem in the U.S. today is premature birth. It affects more than half a million babies each year, with the number growing every day. This past November, the March of Dimes issued a Premature Birth Report Card, giving the nation and state of Michigan the grade of D.

The March for Babies is sponsored nationally by the March of Dimes number one corporate supporter Kmart, Farmers Insurance Group, Bayer HealthCare, CIGNA, Famous Footwear, FedEx, Sanofi Pasteur, United Airlines, First Response, and Mission Pharmacal.

Locally, March for Babies is sponsored by Flagstar Bank, Ford Motor Co., AT&T Yellow Pages, UAW Region 1A, Community Alliance Credit Union and RICOH/IKON.

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BECOME A FAN TODAY



Don Johnson, RN (center), received the Professional Service Award from the Gift of Life recently. Teresa DalZot (left), Gift of Life Liaison at the Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center, Gail Daly, Manager of Clinical Ethics, Rick Hillbom, COO - Outpatient Services and Physician Relations at OHMC, and Rebecca Williams, Gift of Life representative to the Oakwood Healthcare System, were on hand when he received the award.

Oakwood Healthcare honored with 2 organ donation awards

More than 319,000 people were added to the State of Michigan Organ Donor Registry in 2010, and the Oakwood Healthcare System did its part.

Oakwood received two awards for its efforts to increase organ donors. For the fourth consecutive year, the Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center received a silver Organ Donation Medal of Honor from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for its success in increasing organ donation rates.

Nurse Don Johnson, who works at the OHMC, also received the Professional Service Award from the Gift of Life - Michigan for his sensitive work that directly saved two lives.

"I'm flattered and honored, but the real heroes are the patients and physicians," said Johnson. "It's very difficult to make these kinds of decisions. Our job is to be there to support them."

"It's a very difficult job, but it is a very rewarding job," he added.

Johnson should know. A 20-year employee of Oakwood Healthcare Inc., he's spent the last four years in the clinical ethics department, helping to develop protocol for end-of-life issues and working with the legal and ethical issues that arise during that time, as well as helping families understand the gravity of their loved ones' medical situation and their options.

A year ago, when the parents of a newborn with a severe neurological injury looked beyond their pain and requested organ donation for their baby, Johnson helped the family and staff work through the process. Thanks in part to his efforts, the lives of a two-month-old and a five-month-old were saved.

The OHMC was honored with the silver Organ Donation Medal of Honor again for achieving the

national goal of converting at least 75 percent of eligible deaths into actual organ donations. The hospital was also one of several in Michigan to take part in the Keystone: Gift of Life program through the Michigan Health and Hospital Association.

The program added about 11,800 to the Michigan Donor Registry last year, an increase of about 8,000 from 2009. Of all Michigan hospitals, OHMC recorded the most registrations at 797. There are now about two million Michigan residents on the Michigan Donor Registry. The waiting list of patients in need of life-saving transplants is about 3,000, state-wide.

To join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, inquire at any Michigan Secretary of State office or visit the Gift of Life website at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or the Oakwood website at www.oakwood.org/OrganDonation.

also in Clinton Township.

"We believe that all Americans who served their country deserve honor and respect in life and, certainly, dignity in death," said Kevin Bullock, manager of the Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

"He added that local Dignity Memorial providers "are proud to partner with so many people and organizations in the community to memorialize these two veterans and lay them to rest with honor and dignity."

Free military burials will continue for indigent veterans unclaimed at the county Medical Examiner's Office. The county's Department of Senior and Veteran Services will assist in locating the service records of veterans.

"Our military veterans deserve our deepest respect and gratitude in life and death," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "We applaud The Dignity Memorial Network of funeral homes for stepping up and providing the proper military burials for those who served our country."

Normally, the State of Michigan and the county fund burials for all unclaimed persons from limited resources.

MILESTONES

Open House

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5

Location: Kumon Math and Reading Center of Westland, 38545 Ford, Westland

Details: The Kumon Math and Reading Center is inviting families to Educational Open House at its Westland location.

The event is for parents and children from preschool through high school to learn about Kumon's enrichment program. Give your child the gift of education that will last a lifetime. Sign up for a free-placement test, receive educational information to help your child advance his or her skills in math and reading, and develop a love of learning through the Kumon Method of learning. Participants all receive a complimentary Kumon Reading List that includes hundreds of award winning authors from around the world and organized by reading ability. Also get 50 percent off registration (\$25 value) the day of the event. Kumon, the world's largest after-school math and reading enrichment program.

Contact: To receive information about the Kumon, go online to www.kumon.com or call (877) 586-6673.

Irish Blizzard

Time/Date: The month of March
Location: Dairy Queen of Garden City, 28825 Ford, Garden City

Details: Hey Fans! At Dairy Queen, they don't stop at good enough. They don't just stop at creamy vanilla soft serve. They crumble and tumble in OREO® cookie pieces with cool mint to create the one-of-a-kind Mint OREO Blizzard® Treat. And they don't just celebrate St. Patrick's Day. They celebrate St. Patrick's Month, offering this delicious Blizzard Treat on every single



day that begins with March.
Contact: (734) 427-7850.

Classic Car Show

Date: Saturday, June 4
Location: Metropolitan Lincoln, 32000 Ford Road in Garden City

Details: Have a classic car or truck you would like to enter?

Advance registrations are now being accepted at Metropolitan Lincoln for the third annual Classic Car and Truck Show. Register now and save \$5 off the regular registration price of \$20. Also, there are goody bags for the first 200 advance registrations to be handed out at check in on the day of the show. This event is free to attend with proceeds benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Contact: (734) 259-4870.

Breaking the boundaries

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 24

Location: Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster Road in

Livonia

Details: The annual Breaking the Boundaries event brings together business professionals from the West Suburban Area Council of Chambers. Participating Chambers include Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Greater Farmington Chamber, Lakes Area, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Southern Wayne County, Wayne and Westland. At the expo, businesses are able to set up an expo table featuring the products and services. For those who prefer not to set up a table this is a great event to network with other business professionals from around the area. More than 500 people have attended this event each year. Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided. New this year from 5-5:30 p.m., there will be a mini seminar, "How to Work A Room" Cost is \$10 per person and an RSVP is a must.

Contact: Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448 or the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Advanced network

Westland and Garden City are among communities in western Wayne County where Verizon Wireless has expanded nation's fastest and most advanced 4G LTE network.

The expansion took place Feb. 17 and covers more than 80 percent of the population in the metropolitan Detroit area. The expansion - the first since the company's initial 4G LTE launch in December 2010 - means businesses and consumers may experience speeds up to 10 times faster than the company's industry-leading 3G network. In real-world, fully-loaded network environments, laptop users experience average data rates of 5 to 12 megabits per second (Mbps) on the downlink and 2 to 5 Mbps on the uplink.

"Our advanced technology is changing the way we all work and play," said John Granby, president-Michigan/Indiana/Kentucky Region, Verizon Wireless. "Today, it gives us the ability to move large files faster and soon enjoy smooth mobile video conferencing. But, this is only the beginning. It's not about what 4G can do for you. Rather, it's about what do you

want or need it to do?"

In December 2010, Verizon Wireless launched its 4G LTE network in 38 major metropolitan markets and 60 commercial airports across the country as well as in parts of north Oakland and Macomb counties. Much of metro Detroit has been impacted by spectrum interference with a Canadian TV station that has since been resolved, allowing the company to make this significant early expansion.

Honoring veterans

A well-known western Wayne County group of funeral homes is part of the Dignity Memorial Network to provide free military burials for veterans without any family to make funeral arrangements.

Providing the military services at no charge on an ongoing basis will be the local members of the Dignity Memorial network - Harry J. Will, with locations in Livonia, Redford and Wayne, as well as Pixleyin Rochester, Auburn Hills and Keego Harbor, Edward Swanson in Madison Heights, Elton Black in White Lake and Highland, Kaul in St. Clair Shores, Roseville and Clinton Township and Resurrection,

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Wayne-Westland teens place in scholarship program

Haley Williams didn't have to go far to find out she was the Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan's Junior Miss.

Williams, the Saline Junior Miss, was selected as the winner of the 53rd Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program on Jan. 29 at Saline High School. Fifteen contestants from around the state of Michigan competed for more than \$11,000 in college scholarships.

This past year, America's Junior Miss underwent a name change. The Junior Miss Scholarship Program for high school senior young women is now Distinguished Young Woman of America.

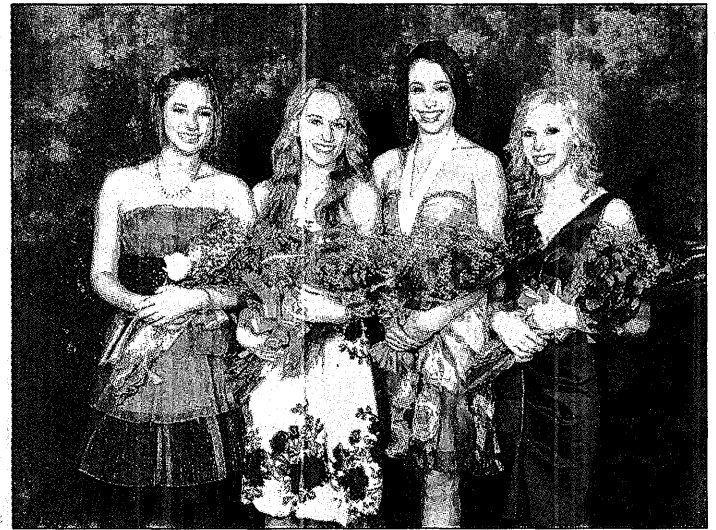
Williams is the first scholarship winner with the new title. She received a total of \$3,750

in cash scholarships. She also was the Fitness Award winner, Interview Award winner and Self Expression Award winner. She will represent Michigan at the Distinguished Young Woman of America Scholarship Program in Mobile, Ala., in June. A fully paid two-week trip to Mobile is provided by the Distinguished Young Women of America organization.

Caroline Asiala, Bay County Junior Miss was as first runner up and was awarded \$2,350 in college scholarships. Shelby Turner, Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, was second runner-up and received \$1,050 in college scholarships. Elizabeth Johnson, Plymouth Junior Miss, was third runner-up and received an \$850 college scholarship.

Other scholarship winners were:
 • Maegan Budd, Jackson Junior Miss, \$650 Interview Award and Community Service Essay.
 • Ashley Poszywak, Stockbridge Junior Miss, \$450 Scholastics Award.
 • Anastacia Washington, Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss, \$450 Self Expression Award.
 • Rachel Rochowiak, Dearborn Heights Junior Miss, \$450 Fitness Award.
 • Jaycie Giordano, Westland Junior Miss, \$450 Talent Award.
 • Michelle Good, Romulus Junior Miss, \$300 Spirit of Junior Miss Award.
 • Raleigh Poxson, Irish Hills Junior Miss, the Audience

Choice Award \$100.
 Anna Marie Pokriefka, Farmington Hills Junior Miss; LeAnn Allan, Detroit Junior Miss; Mariah Austin, Tecumseh Junior Miss, and Caitlin Blankenship, Alpena, Junior Miss were awarded a \$50 Community Service Essay Award. Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program awards college scholarships to young women who have distinguished themselves at school and in their communities. Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program is part of America's Junior Miss Program, now called the Distinguished Young Women of America, which is the largest and oldest scholarship program for high school seniors in the country.



Winning scholarships were Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Shelby Turner, second runner-up (from left), Bay County Junior Miss Caroline Asiala, first runner-up, Haley Williams, Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan's Junior Miss, and Plymouth Junior Miss Elizabeth Johnson, third runner-up.

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Atomic squad finds its niche in collegiate pom

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a new pom squad in town, and it's already making a name for itself.

The Atomic Collegiate Pom of Southeastern Michigan, based in Garden City, has posted a first-place finish at the Mid-American state competition on Feb. 13. It was only the second time the team competed at a state competition since forming in 2009.

"The big reason they started this is because it was over for us and we didn't want it to be over," said Kristy Adams, a freshman at Schoolcraft College and the member of three state championship teams at Garden City High School. "And our coach decided she didn't want some good poms to go to waste. It's nice to go back and win again."

The team is coached by Westland resident Nikki Foster and Lindsay Sneed of Garden City. Joining them this year are Selina McCale of Garden City, who was on Garden City pom and recently returned home from Michigan State University.

Foster and Sneed have coached the Garden City High School squad for almost 10 years, leading the team to a fifth place in the nation in high kick and five Class A state championships.

DIVERSE GROUP

The team is made of students attending college throughout southeastern Michigan. It started out with 12 mostly ex-Garden City pom team members last year, but has grown 20 members from Canton, Dearborn Heights, Farmington, Garden City, Livonia and Howell this year.

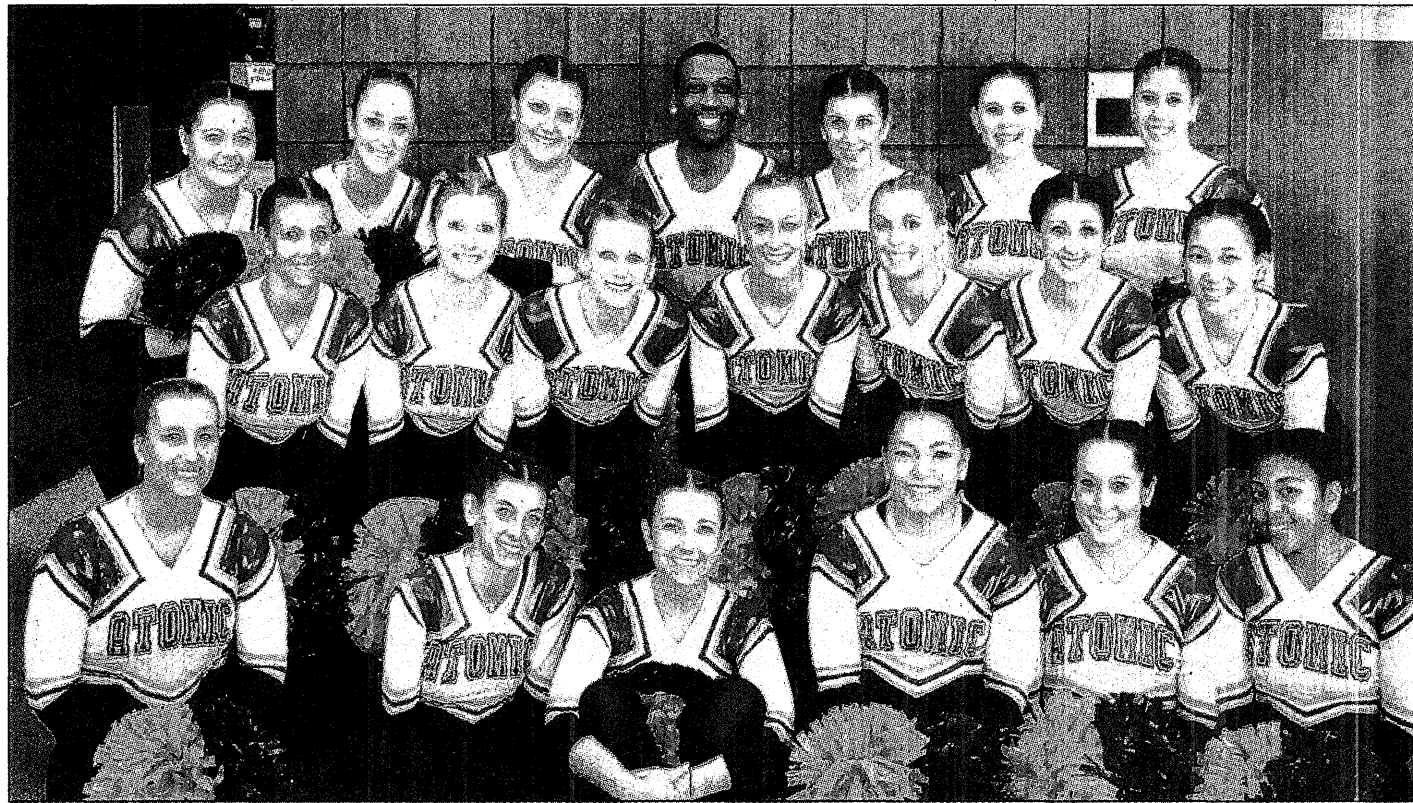
Adams is joined by her sister, Tiffany, and DeAndre Cash, who has moved from the sidelines working with Foster and Sneed at Garden City High School to performing for the team.

"It's difficult for him being on a team doing when he's used to telling a team what to do," said Adams.

Atomic Pom's team members attend college, many have jobs, and more than a third of them volunteer to coach younger teams. With such tight schedules, they typically practice between 9:30 p.m.



Atomic Pom credit their hair bows with inspiring them to place first in state competition at Eastern Michigan University.



Members of the Garden City-based Atomic Pom have plenty to smile about after placing first in state competition. Team members are Tiffany Adams, Kristy Adams, Ashley Bellis, Aubrey Brousseau, DeAndre Cash, Shannon Domzalski, Claire Fisher, Sara Habbert, Cherine Hughley, Sarah Kirby, Katie Kirby, Sam Lilley, Chelsea Miller, Emily Powell, Malory Mossoian, Katie Stajka, Chelsea Schroeder, Jenny Tanski, Hannah Urbanski and Keely Wilson.

and midnight two-three times a week.

Adams is typical of members, She's attending Schoolcraft full-time, is on the

college pom team, and coaches the Garden City Middle School pom team with her older sister. While she really hasn't been away from pom

for long, she admits it's harder for members like her sister, a college senior who has been on the staff at Mid-American Pom but not on a team.

Foster who's been a tough coach at the high school level is more mellow for the collegiate competition. She's more easy going, but still "picky,"

according to Adams.

INTEREST IN TEAM

The team made its first appearance in competition in 2009, placing second in high kick. This year's championship has former pom members looking to join the team. The collegiate division has an age limit of 24 and members have to take a minimum of six college credit hours. Some team members have returned to school to take classes to qualify for the squad.

"Some people take classes for that reason, and we had one girl who had already graduated from high school who is taking business classes so she can stay on the team," said Adams. "We've started to be a little more diverse, and now that we've won everyone wants to try out. Everyone wants to be on a winning team."

And winning jives with the team's 2011 state competition motto: "We were brought from many different schools for one reason - to do this as one."

They also credit their good luck to hair bows McCale's mother Mary made with tipping the scales and giving the team a final surge of energy to finish their routine. The team also prides itself on good sportsmanship that brings out their outstanding showmanship.

Atomic Pom is sponsored by board members Deb Goodwin, Kathy Adams, Mandy Merlo and Kim Lilley, whose objective is to provide students in community colleges the opportunity to participate and compete in the pom/dance arena.

With state competition behind them, the team headed to the Kalahari Indoor Water Park in Sandusky, Ohio, last week to appear as guest performers. They've already been invited aboard Royal Caribbean Cruises in April 2012 to perform a nightly hip hop routine.

Atomic pom will have try-outs May 2011. Specific dates will be posted this month or in April on the Mid-American Pom website at pompon.com.

"Just being on a team ... it's nice to be able to perform," said Adams. "It's hard on you when you stop, so to be able to do it again is wonderful."

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

AROUND WESTLAND

Glow skate

Enjoy some glow-in-the-dark fun at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena 8-9:20 p.m. for Friday Glow Skate. The cost is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena also offers open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for kids, \$5 for adults and \$3 for skate rentals.

The arena is at Wildwood and Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information about ice arena programs, call (734) 729-4560.

Open house

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool in Westland will be holding its annual Open House 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 8.

Come and visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn about preschool opportunities for Young 3's, three-year-olds and four-year-olds.

The preschool is at 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland, in Kirk of Our Savior Church. Visit its website at www.willowcreek-preschool.com or call (734) 326-0078 for more information.

Alumni game

Join the Westland Wild Wings as they seek a win against the Detroit Red Wing Alumni in a hockey game will be played Saturday, March 12, at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood.

The puck drops at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Kids under age 3 are free. Seating is limited to 800, so don't be slow in getting tickets. They're available at the mayor's office in Westland City Hall, the Bailey Recreation Center and the Mike Modano Ice Arena. Sponsorship opportunities also are available for this event with a range of levels and cost. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Director

Robert Kosowski at (734) 722-7620 or by e-mail at rkosowski@cityofwestland.com.

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

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 18. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinochle and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

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

Weatherization help

Weatherization Assistance is a home energy conservation program providing services to low-income residents. Families receiving weatherization services can expect heating costs to be reduced 20-25 percent, amounting to about \$300 saving per year.

Eligible projects include such things as floor insulation, storm windows, window repair/replacement, programmable thermostat, furnace and duct repair or replacement and roof repairs.

Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency manages the Weatherization Program for Wayne County, including the city of Westland. Contact Jeff Boyd, weatherization director, at (734) 284-6999.

Margaritaville

St. Damian School will take a trip to Margaritaville when it holds a dinner-auction fundraiser Saturday, March 5 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, a silent auction, live auction and 50/50 and Jelly Jar raffles. Parrots will be sold for \$30. Get the winning Parrot and pick any Live Auction item. Only 100 parrots will be sold.

Tickets on sale now at the school and parish offices. For tickets or more information, call the school at (734) 427-1680.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

AARP 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.

Casino Trip

Garden City High School Project Graduation is sponsoring a trip to the Greektown Casino Saturday, March 19.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes \$20 in playing money at the casino, transportation to and from the casino, door prizes, refreshments, 50/50 raffle and bus bingo. Be at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, at 2:45 p.m., busses will leave at 3 p.m. and return at approximately 9 p.m.

Contact Sheila Wolney at (734) 644-5815 or at swol@gmail.com for tickets and information. Checks should be made payable to GCHA Graduation.

Pancake breakfast

The Garden City Lion hold their 20th annual Breakfast 8-11:30 a.m. March 13, at the Moos on Ford east of Middlebelt.

The breakfast is \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids age 12 and younger and includes scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and milk.

Look for members of Garden City Fire Department helping out as the special cooks.

Story time

The Garden City Public Library is currently accepting registration for its installment of Preschool Time.

"Let's Get Buggy" will be at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 23 through April 27, in for the Maplewood Cent story time is free of charge for preschoolers ages 3-5.

Sign up at the library at (734) 793-1830 to reserve a spot.

Do the shuffle

The annual St. Raphael Shamrock Shuffle card party will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday,

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

March 16, in the church activities building on Merriman, two blocks north of Ford in Garden City.

The \$8 admission ticket includes dessert, coffee, blarney bags, table and door prizes. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, submarine sandwiches and Maurice salads will be available for purchase. Tickets are available at the Parish Center.

St. Raphael is at 31530 Beechwood, off Merriman and north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 427-1533.

Open house

The library also is accepting donations of used books, CDs, DVD's and videos in good condition for the sale.

Support group

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford, Garden City.

Ronda Violi will be the speaker. A registered nurse and a life businer, and retreat coach, she has chronic pain for 10 years.

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

WESTLAND OBSERVER
 Sue Mason,
 Community Editor
 Susan Rosiek,
 Executive Editor
 Grace Perry,
 Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Going down

Property value loss hurts the community, schools

Property values in Westland are continuing to fall. That is and is not a profound statement. It is in the sense that Westland is a solid community with a great housing stock and excellent city services. By all accounts, it should be a model suburb, and indeed, in different circumstances it might be considered as such.

But the lingering effects of the national recession are persistent, and we are far from being out of the grip of the faltering national economy. There are signs of improvement, but they are fragile, and subject to immediate change. The situation in the Middle East, especially with Libya, may have a great impact on the price of oil. Gas is already well over \$3 a gallon and if it goes much higher, it could slow the economy greatly.

Westland is far from being unique in this predicament. Nearly every town in the state has experienced a loss of property values, which is why just about every town is cutting back on services and looking for ways to trim their budgets. Numerous cities and school districts are teetering on bankruptcy with no help in sight. So while it may be tempting to view that lower tax bill with satisfaction, it has to be tempered with the reality that we are paying for that seeming gain.

Another 9 percent in Westland. And as property values have fallen, so has the taxes the owners pay on them. On the surface, that might seem like a good thing. After all, any tax cut would seem welcome.

But there is a price to pay for everything. While taxes go down, so does the revenue to the city. Cutbacks are made, services are reduced, and the quality of life is affected. Ultimately, the decline in values becomes a lose-lose situation for everyone.

Westland is far from being unique in this predicament. Nearly every town in the state has experienced a loss of property values, which is why just about every town is cutting back on services and looking for ways to trim their budgets. Numerous cities and school districts are teetering on bankruptcy with no help in sight.

So while it may be tempting to view that lower tax bill with satisfaction, it has to be tempered with the reality that we are paying for that seeming gain.

The unemployment rate stubbornly remains high, especially in Michigan, where, if you take into account the people who have stopped looking for jobs and thus are not counted in the official figures, it stands at more than 20 percent.

That's near the levels of the Great Depression.

And we could go on and on about Gov. Snyder's budget, which proposes some severe cuts, including a major slash in revenue sharing that could cost the city \$1.4 million and an even larger slash in state school aid that leaves the Wayne-Westland Community Schools facing a devastating \$14 million loss.

Given all those factors it is little wonder that property values have fallen yet

LETTERS

Reform or chloroform?

When Jennifer Granholm was governor, she and the state legislature slashed budgets for K-12 schools and colleges and universities while the prison budget remained essentially unchanged.

Last fall, Republican nominee Rick Snyder promised tax reform to attract more jobs to Michigan and upgrade education to have a more highly trained workforce.

Since taking office, Snyder has proposed the continuation of the slashing of public schools and state universities while making only a minor reduction in the prison budget. At the same time, he proposed gutting revenue sharing for local cities and townships.

That means that there will be more teachers, school employees, police officers, firefighters out of work. To eliminate the longstanding budget deficit, Snyder proposes cutting the state business taxes to be replaced by new income taxes on senior citizens.

So much for creating jobs. Maybe the laid-off teachers, cops and firefighters will be seeing you soon at dinner time asking if you want fries with your order.

Leonard Poger
Westland

Smoke-free law successful

The smoke-free law is a success but you wouldn't know that by reading the news. When my wife and I go out now, it is a much more enjoyable experience. One of our favorite places did have a drop at first, but things appear to be back to normal, with the exception that there is no smile cloud in the air.

I read the papers and have a problem with the wild claims opponents of the law are making. The data does not support the claims. The Michigan Department of Treasury released official statewide sales tax data and taverns with liquor were only down 1.5 percent. Even with that slight dip, it is tough to say what contributed to that. Opponents are quick to attack the smoke-free law and not consider the economy, bad business practices, or health of themselves and others.

The Treasury report shows that taverns that serve beer and wine only, are up 1.5 percent. Before the law, nightclubs were down 16 percent from the previous year. Since the law, they are up. Yes, these establishments are doing better.

It appears that there hasn't been a significant change. I anticipate a change to the better over time. This has been the experience of many a restaurant in other states, who went smoke free. I know, because for several years I traveled every week and I always asked. This is not to say that some establishments have been doing poorly, but obviously others are doing well which the state data proves. Things change and business, like people must change with them.

The first purpose of government is to protect the citizens from outside threats. Secondhand smoke is definitely an outside attack on me, and I am glad it is gone.

Patrick J. Collings
Westland

Sale was a success

Thank you for all the articles on our February Used Book Sale. Your article on the front page with the Bargain Books in red was great publicity. Our sale was, again, a great success and we will be able to help the library with the programs for children and adults.

Thanks again.

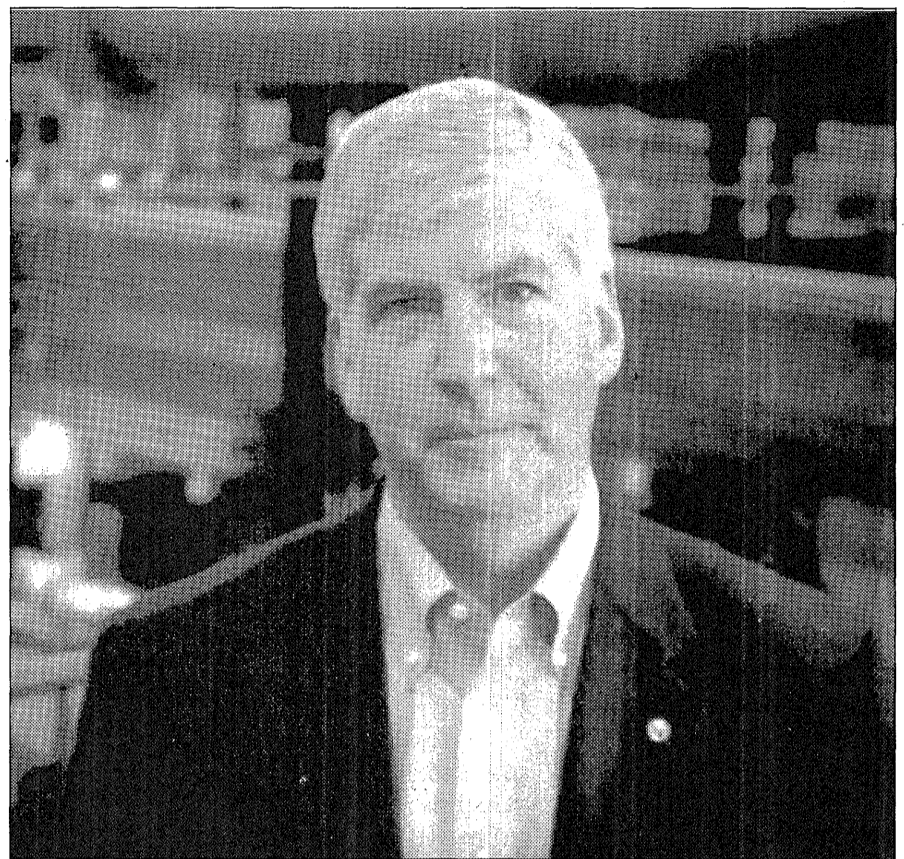
Marie DiDomizio
trustee,
Friends of William P. Faust Public Library of
Westland

Repower is sensible option

Some of the worst winter weather seen in years can have a destructive impact on a vehicle's engine. Hard starts, sub-zero temperatures and improper fluid levels or usage can shorten the life of a vehicle by damaging its engine. Many motorists may think their only option is to purchase a new vehicle, but a damaged engine doesn't have to be the end of the car you love.

Repowering your current engine is a sensible option that makes economic sense, extending vehicle life and saving the price of a new vehicle. For the cost of an average down payment on a new car or truck, you can repower your current vehicle, gaining years of reliable service and improved fuel economy all without monthly car payments and higher insurance rates.

With repowering, a vehicle's engine or an identical one from another like-vehicle is completely disassembled, cleaned, machined and remanufactured/rebuilt. Unlike used or junk yard engines with an unknown performance



Gov's views

As a candidate, Gov. Rick Snyder said "the role of government is not to create jobs, it's to create an environment where jobs can flourish."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

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Read or comment online:
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Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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and maintenance history, repowered engines are dependable, reliable and backed by excellent warranty programs. To learn more about engine repowering, visit www.enginepower.org.

Ken Carter
chairman
Engine Repower Council

Government vs. unions

Union showdowns were inevitable after the last election. Government is broke at nearly all levels, and many employees won't accept reduced benefits.

New Jersey Gov. Christie's fight with teacher unions make him popular nationwide; he may soon balance the state budget.

Liberal Wisconsin is a riot, as legislators hide and teachers falsify sickness to protest demands that they contribute to their personal retirement accounts. Gov. Walker would also halt union requirements that members must contribute to political causes. President Obama was incensed, calling this "union busting"! The governor replied, "When the president balances his budget, he can look at ours."

Michigan has unresolved problems as well. Gov. Snyder is accused of attempting to balance the books on the backs of working families. However, we would have more families working, if unions had not increased benefits above manufacturer's ability to pay. Yes, management agreed to the contracts rather than face costly strikes or one sided "arbitration."

Declaring Michigan a "Right to Work" state might halt industry from moving to friendlier environments.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Conservative 'compassion'

I can't help but notice that the only time conservatives seem to care about African Americans is when they can exploit them for political causes. How interesting that the scenarios created by Live Action feature black people as pimps and prostitutes. Could featuring a white, female minor not convey the same point? I won't even touch upon the underhanded tactics, questionable funding and selective editing of Live Action "footage." Alice Jo Rainville mentions the Live Action videos in her Feb. 17 letter and goes on to suggest that Planned Parenthood is a modern eugenics organization.

Margaret Sanger was certainly off her

rocker, but suggesting that the sentiment behind her actions is what motivates Planned Parenthood today is a bold-faced lie. Perhaps Ms. Rainville is unaware that the Hyde Amendment of 1976 blocked all federal funds for abortion - yes, your "taxpayer" dollars only funded abortion from 1973 to 1976. Perhaps she is also unaware that HR. 217 is a sweeping act that cuts funding for "any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes." "For other purposes" happens to include breast cancer screenings, STI and HIV testing, pregnancy education and counseling and cervical cancer screenings. Some "culture of life" that is.

I am tired of hearing about the compassion of conservatives when they have so little interest in helping marginalized populations. I am currently a second-year medical student in Detroit. Almost every free clinic in the city will be affected by this legislation - whether or not they perform abortion. Pregnant teenagers will go without prenatal care and homeless folks may never receive treatment for curable STIs.

When I graduate from medical school I hope that the government has no role in the physician-patient decision-making process. I never want to look my patient in the eye and tell her I cannot help her - especially if the only issue is lack of access. All choices a woman makes with regard to her reproductive health should be between her, her physician and her God.

Em Ketterer
Plymouth

No balance, no justice

How soon we forget that just a little more than two years ago big business, the investment bankers, nearly destroyed our economy and the economy of the world through fabricated secondary mortgage market securities.

Primarily, the middle class bailed them out. They are now doing very well and paid themselves some of the biggest bonuses in history.

So why, at the federal level, are we opposing regulations and some degree of transparency of this industry?

Because of this 2008 financial crisis states, municipalities, pension funds and foreign governments invested in these mortgage securities and we are now paying the price.

In addition, health care costs are out of control and gravely affecting what the state and municipalities can reasonably pay for this benefit. Why are we not questioning the insurance companies increasing their costs by 30 percent for 2011? Why do we choose to ignore the increase in costs by pharmaceuticals, doctors and hospitals? Is it because they are big business and we cannot question their motives?

Michigan has decided to bail the state out of this financial dilemma through taxing the retirees, taking more money from the schools, raiding the School Aid Funds, eliminating the Earned Income Tax Credit for working people and breaking the negotiating power of public unions.

Where is the balance and justice? Why should the middle class once again pay the bill?

Democracy is only possible through a strong middle class. Please, Gov. Snyder, give us some balance.

Mary Ann Peters
Milford

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: Issuing snow tickets

People park on the street because they cannot get out of their driveways after the snow plows come by. I had to reshovel twice to clear my driveway exit.

goodwrench16

The Issue: State's film credits

I would like Mitch Albom, Jeff Daniels and the rest of the uninformed hacks to answer this question: What happens when another state starts offering filmmakers 42 cents on the dollar? Those studios will high tail it out of here and all of the newly employed film professionals will have to follow them out of Michigan. We need to invest in the overall business environment and not flukey industries who can bolt at a moment's notice. The film credits are another failed Granholm program that need to go.

MikeBlanton

Incentives for businesses are probably costing taxpayers MORE than the return the municipalities will reap 10-15 years down the road, IF the business is still IN business. The money tree has gone dormant.

Why is the purchase price for tickets: movies, sporting events, concerts etc. as high as it is? The going rate? Could it be ... 'someone' is paid too much to perform?

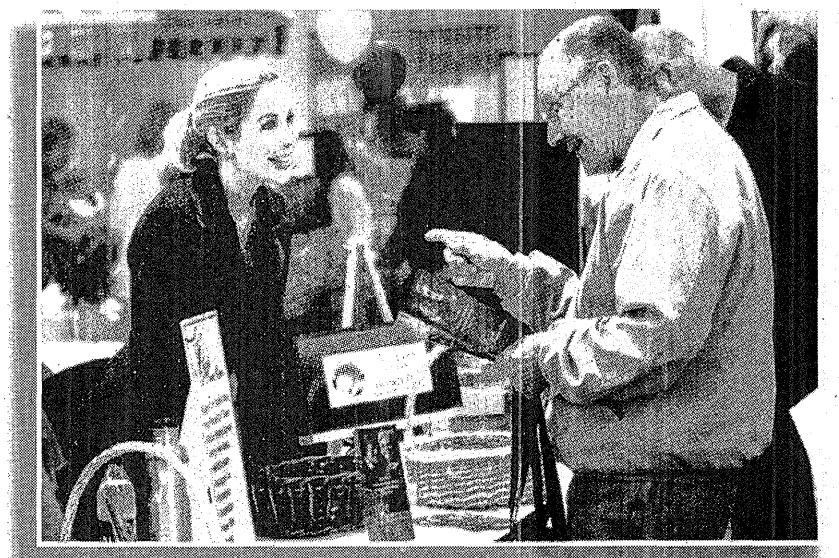
momforfour

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ACT FAST!
For a limited time only!

Auto burglaries: Don't make it easy for thieves

BY BRIAN AURÉ
GARDEN CITY POLICE

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The increase in auto burglaries is a national trend. The reason auto burglaries are prolific is because people make it too easy for a thief to gain access to their vehicle and often leave valuables in plain view.

Thieves can quickly enter vehicles, often sight unseen, and many will sell the stolen items to support their drug addiction. Increasingly, we are also finding that thieves are using personal information found in vehicles to commit identity theft.

There are just a few things you need to do to prevent auto burglaries. Once you take the proper steps you need to take, you will reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

- Take out valuables. If you can leave your valuables at home, do just that. Otherwise, when you get to your destination, take valuables with you. If you have to leave them in your vehicle, place them in your trunk before you get to your destination.

- Lock your vehicle. Enough said.

- Close doors and windows. An open door or window allows a thief a quick and quiet way to enter your vehicle. Even a crack in the window makes the thief's job so much easier. Take the time to make sure you closed everything.

You might be surprised just what thieves are looking for, or what victims make easily available to them:

PDA's, cameras, lap tops, cell phones, CDs, mail, address books/agendas, receipts, purses, money or change, vehicle registration, stereos, gym bags, luggage and garage door openers.

To reduce your chances of a vehicular burglary:

- Do park in well lit areas

- Do join a neighborhood and/or business watch groups.

- Do park where your vehicle is visible to others.

- Don't park where others cannot see your vehicle, such as behind buildings, shrubbery, landscaping or large vehicles.

- Don't park in all-day unattended parking areas.

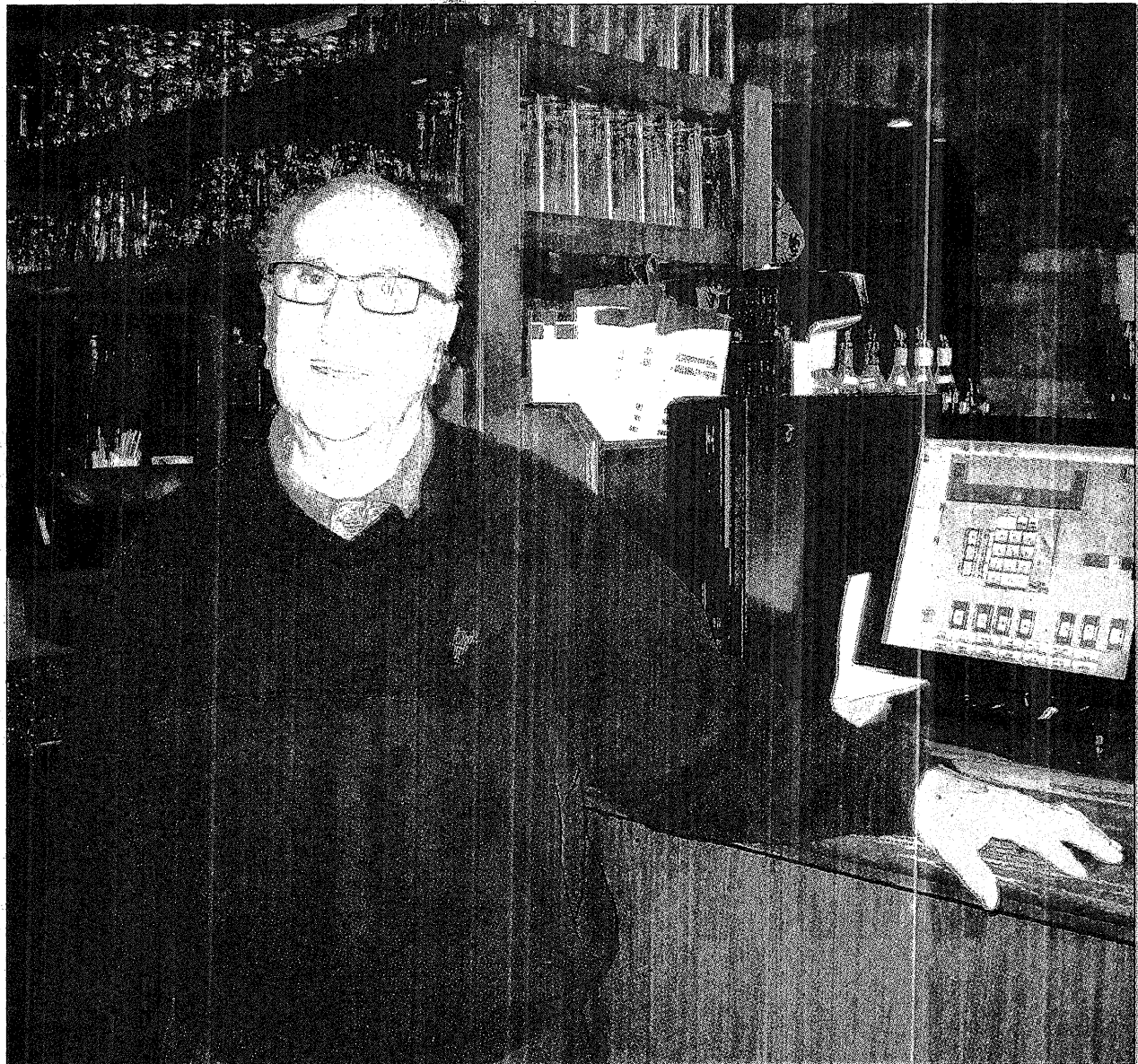
You can often choose where you park your vehicle. It is important to take care where you park. Thieves are looking for vehicles they can enter with the least possibility of someone watching and thereby alerting authorities.

The benefits of practicing car burglary prevention regularly are your windows do not get broken, your insurance rates do not go up, your city has a lower crime rate, and you don't have to shop for replacement items. You also don't have to order another driver's license or wait for an officer to take a report, to get reimbursement or for your car to be repaired. Your identity doesn't get stolen and used.

Remember to mark your valuables, record your car's VIN, use anti-theft devices and not have a key ring with your name on it. If you have to give your car key out, give out the valet key.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings are still continuing and will be held during the first weeks of the months of October, December, March and May. Every meeting will now be held at 7 p.m. at the Garden City Police City Police Department during the first week of the month, normally Tuesdays, unless otherwise noted.

Brian Auré is a detective sergeant with the Garden City Police department.



Carlo D'Angelo, 94, greets patrons at Stables Bar and Grill in Livonia where he cooks and hand slices corned beef for St. Patrick's Day guests.

Senior, 94, adds spice to St. Pat's Day party at Stables

Livonia resident Carlo D'Angelo is living proof that it's not just the Irish who know how to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. For more than 20 years, D'Angelo has cooked corned beef brisket for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at Stables Bar and Grill on Middlebelt Road in Livonia.

Stables' owner Ron Abraham estimates that D'Angelo, who is of Italian heritage — not Irish, has cooked and hand sliced thousands of pounds of corned beef brisket for the bar's patrons since 1989.

While that feat alone may not be enough to make the Guinness Book of Records,

Abraham wonders how many people at D'Angelo's age, 94, have done the same.

Despite what D'Angelo calls a "rugged" winter, he's ready for this year's celebration.

"I'll start cooking on Sunday before St. Patrick's day," said D'Angelo, who explained that his preparations begin by separating the upper and lower portions of the brisket and then cooking nearly 100 pounds a day. "The upper part is more tender and cooks faster than the lower part."

After adding fresh garlic, bay leaves and onion, D'Angelo begins the cooking process, which takes about three hours for each portion. The meat

is then refrigerated until St. Patrick's Day when it is warmed in brine and ready for hand slicing.

"Everyone knows Carlo, and we reserve a special place for him to work," said Abraham, who has known D'Angelo since his younger days as a meat salesman. "He'll stay here all day, and we have to remind him when it's time to leave."

D'Angelo retired several years ago from Dearborn Sausage where he was employed for 20 years, but it was an Irish boss at another employer in Dearborn who first introduced him to St. Patrick's Day celebrations. When he's not helping

his friend Ron at Stables, D'Angelo cooks his own meals, mostly Italian-style. Though it's golf season he really enjoys when he's able to play two to three times a week.

"I run a golf outing every June in Clare, Mich.," added D'Angelo, who also plays in an outing that Stables owner Abraham holds every year.

This year's corned beef dinner at Stables Bar and Grill will include redskins, cabbage and carrots — served all day for \$8.95 each. Corned beef sandwiches are \$5.95 each.

Stables Bar & Grill is at 14950 Middlebelt Road in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 427-1646.

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Coming of age

Lady Ocelots seize 5th straight state title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Winning state championships never gets old for Schoolcraft College women's basketball coach Karen Lafata. "It keeps me coming back," said the veteran coach, who notched her fifth Michigan Community College Athletic Association title Saturday at home with a 71-53 triumph over Muskegon CC.

"These freshmen became sophomores today," added Lafata, whose team improved to 27-3 overall and notched its 62nd straight home floor win. "They showed me what passion, what heart, what working hard is. And they just outworked the other team the whole game."

"They showed me today what I've been waiting for all year. They wanted it and went out and got it."

Muskegon (22-8), the Western Conference champions, trailed by only two at halftime, 35-33, and held at four-point advantage, 43-39, with

13:12 remaining in the game on a rebound basket by Sherya Gilmore.

But that's when the Eastern Conference champs buckled down defensively, holding the Jayhawks to just two field goals over the final 13 minutes while going on a 30-10 run.

"And we did it in a lot of different ways — Diamond Tolliver's big-time 'threes' and Kimberly Bee just keeping us in the game time-and-time again with a big rebound or a blocked shot," Lafata said. "And then our run-outs ... I just simply thought we wore them down."

Tolliver, a 5-foot-3 freshman guard from Saginaw High, led all scorers with 20 points, including five triples to go along with four steals.

Freshman forward Shawnicka Thomas added 19 points and four assists, while Bee, a 6-1 sophomore center from Detroit, dominated the paint once again with 18 rebounds and eight blocks.

Bee now has the school single season record for blocks

(132) breaking the previous mark held by Sharon Miller (1987-88).

"I just think my team's energy just brought it all together," said Bee, who also scored nine points. "I had to do something, and I did it on defense."

Muskegon's Iesha Ellis, a 6-2 freshman center who played on Benton Harbor's Class A state championship team in 2009, scored 10 first-half points, but went scoreless during the second half.

"I think the way I played against her the first half wasn't that good," Bee said. "I knew I had to stop her — and I did that."

Despite the narrow two-point halftime advantage, Lafata was confident going into the second half.

"I just felt our effort was really good the first half, I was happy," she said. "I said, 'This is what championship games are about. Close games. You've got to learn how to play in them and you've got to stay the

Please see **LADY OCELOTS, B2**



RENA LAVERTY

Freshman guard Diamond Tolliver (12) had game-high 20 points, including five triples, in Schoolcraft's 71-53 win over Muskegon CC in Saturday's MCCA championship.

GAME WRAPS

Clarenceville wins

Damien Quarles' 18 points sparked Livonia Clarenceville to a 61-51 boys basketball victory Tuesday at Clawson.

Sam Brown and Kassius Kelly added 12 and 11, respectively, for the Trojans, who improved to 9-10 overall.

Clarenceville won despite going 17-of-31 from the foul line, while Clawson hit 10-of-12.

Warriors falter

Three players scored in double figures Tuesday as host Sterling Heights Parkway Christian defeated Lutheran High Westland, 57-44, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division boys basketball game.

Chris Boyd led the victorious Eagles (7-11, 6-6) with 17 points, while teammates Vinny Delicata and Tim Weber added 15 and 13, respectively.

Parkway led 31-21 at halftime and 42-30 after three quarters. Micah Reum paced the Warriors (3-16, 1-13) with 14 points.

Lutheran Westland was 6-of-11 from the foul stripe, while Parkway hit 11-of-21.

Hawks grounded

In an MIAC Red Division boys basketball game Tuesday, host Southfield Christian got 13 points from Lindsey Hunter III to beat Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 51-33.

Senior Shawn Schaffer led the Hawks, who slipped to 6-12 overall and 5-9 in the MIAC Red, with 10 points.

Southfield Christian improves to 11-8 overall and 11-3 in the division.

MU women ousted

The Madonna University women's basketball team had its 2010-11 season come to an abrupt end Saturday in Grand Rapids with a 91-74 loss to No. 1-ranked Davenport in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference semifinals.

Five players scored in double figures for victorious Panthers, who improved to 32-0 overall.

Kristi Boehm led the way with 14 points and six assists, while Riana Hensley chipped in with 13 points and 14 rebounds for the top-ranked team in NAIA Division II.

Also scoring on double figures for the Panthers were Kallie Benke (12), Carrie Grubis (11) and Karlee Despres (10).

Senior forward Tabatha Wydryck closed her Madonna career with a 12-point, nine rebound performance.

Sophomore Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) led Crusaders, who couldn't overcome a 49-32 halftime deficit, with a game-high 19 points.

Sophomore Shantelle Herring and freshman Rachel Melcher chipped in with 13 and 12, respectively.

MU ends the season at 12-15 overall.

Cheer regionals

Region 2 champion Lake Orion (812.2696) advanced to this Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 girls competitive cheer finals Saturday at the Grand Rapids DeltaPlex joining Rochester Stoney Creek (811.1720), Southgate Anderson (807.3336) and Sterling Heights Stevenson (800.9032).

Livonia Franklin (766.8980) and Livonia Stevenson (760.9768) placed seventh and ninth, respectively at last Saturday's Lake Orion regional.

In Division 3-Region 6 at Goodrich, Livonia Ladywood placed 12th (680.9308). State team qualifiers included Richmond (774.9280), Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (755.5382), Grosse Ile (755.5272) and Ovid-Elsie (747.0260).

Lady Rockets pass district litmus test

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was billed as one of the signature opening round games of the state Class A girls basketball tournament.

A night after the Academy Awards, Westland John Glenn didn't put on an Oscar-winning performance Monday, but the Rockets were good enough to earn a bow after beating a formidable Romulus squad on its home court, 49-40.

Glenn, getting three straight NBA range triples from sophomore Shakeya Graves, used an 11-0 start during the first minute and 35 seconds to improve its overall record to 18-3.

Romulus did rally to tie at 17-all with 3:45 left in the first half on a basket Jordyn Boyd.

But Glenn eventually wore down the Eagles, leading 23-19 at halftime and 36-29 after three quarters.

The Rockets then opened up a 43-31 advantage with 5:06 remaining in the final quarter on a rebound basket by Andrea Gordon-McClain and Romulus never got closer than five the rest of the way.

Graves, ironically, finished with nine points. "I don't know about saving us, but I think Shakeya Graves just was in one of those zones for the first quarter," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "She was amazing to watch."

Junior Erica Covile paced Glenn's attack with 15 points, 10 rebounds and five steals,

Please see **ROCKETS, B2**



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

March Madness begins

Franklin's Jessica Emery (10) and Ladywood's Kiley Gorski (42) dive for the loose ball during Monday's Class A district girls basketball opener. For more on the first-round games, see page B??

Schoff sets 3 new KLAA meet marks

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The old adage "Records were made to be broken" repeated itself over and over during Saturday's finals of the Kensington Conference boys swimming and diving meet held at South Lyon East.

In the fastest meet of the young conference's three-year history, eight records tumbled and defending champion Northville ran away with the team title with a whopping 925 points.

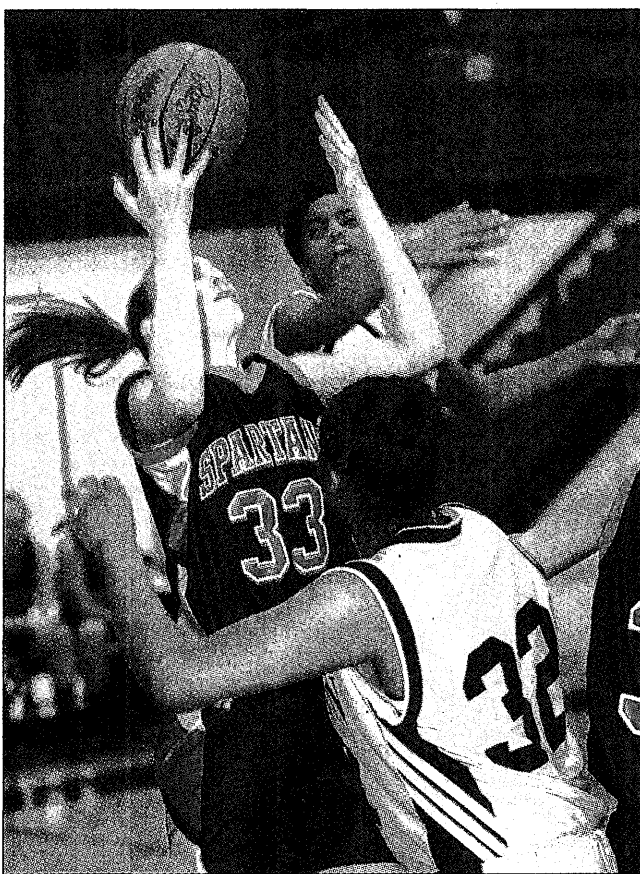
Rounding out the top five teams were Novi (658.5), Salem (652), South Lyon Unified (599) and Livonia Stevenson (562) — all from the KLAA's Central Division along with Northville.

Rounding out the team standings were KLAA South Division teams Canton (429.5), Plymouth (311), Westland John Glenn (220), Livonia Churchill (170), Wayne Memorial (153) and Livonia Franklin (105).

Please see **SWIM, B3**



Schoff



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Stevenson's Monica Rudis (33) takes the ball inside against Thurston during Monday's Class A district girls basketball opener.

Stevenson grounds Eagles, 64-41

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long for Livonia Stevenson's girls basketball team to empty its bench and fill up the stat sheet during Monday night's Class A district opener against Redford Thurston.

Fueled by solid contributions from all 10 of their players, the Spartans jumped to an 11-0 lead before rolling to a 64-41 victory at Livonia Franklin.

Stevenson improved to 13-8 and advanced to Wednesday's semifinal contest against Livonia Churchill. (Game time is 5:30 p.m. at Franklin.)

The Eagles, who entered the game having won eight of their previous 10 games, closed their season at 10-11.

Stevenson's theme song for the night was "Good Golly Miss Molly" in honor of junior guard Molly Knoph, who came within a rebound and three steals of recording a quadruple-double. Knoph finished with 10

points, 10 assists, nine boards and three steals to lead a balanced attack for the winners.

"Molly had been plagued by an ankle injury the past two games, so she wasn't able to run the court," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "She looked a lot better tonight."

The Eagles played hard from baseline to baseline until the final buzzer, but they were never able to dig out of the early-game hole that they dug thanks to nine first-quarter turnovers.

"I was happy with the effort," Thurston coach Marvin Essix said, "but we came out too laid back. We weren't ready to play at the start. We turned the ball over too much."

Thurston was sparked by Brijanae Durrrough, who racked up 18 points, seven rebounds and eight steals.

"She played well, and she's only a freshman," said Essix. "We were a little unorganized out there at times. We have to take better care of the ball."

Led by Jordan York's five points, four different Spartans scored during their 11-0 spurt to open the game.

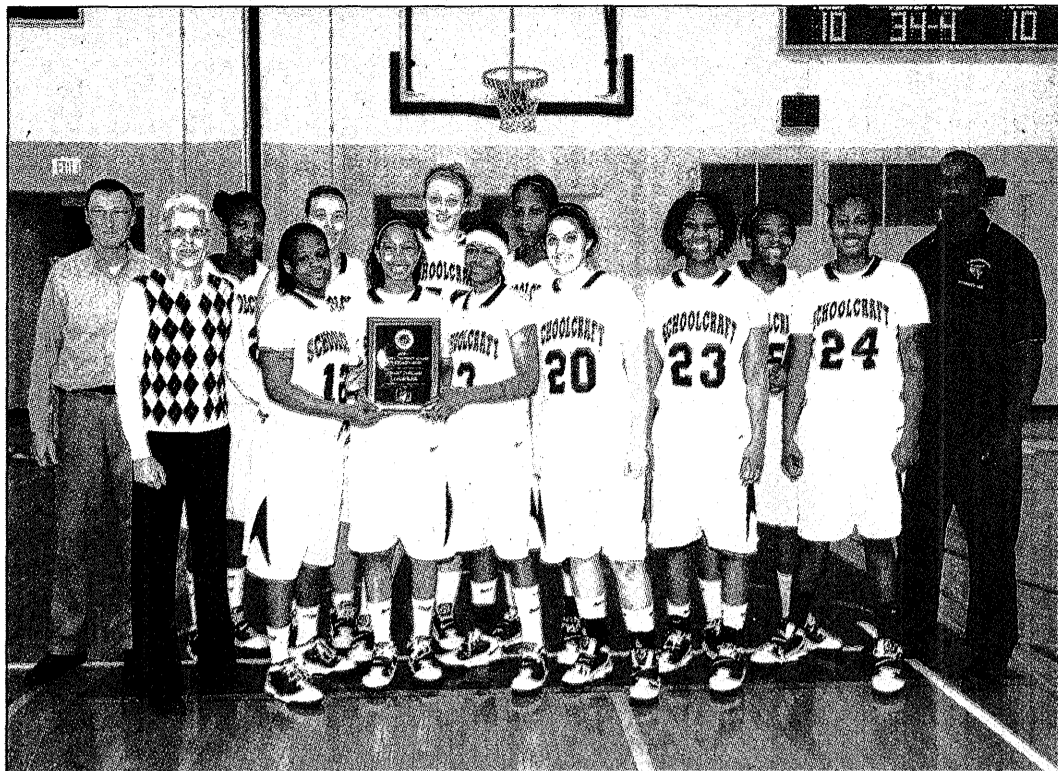
Thurston's Taylor Hunt capped the Stevenson run with a triple at the 4:21 mark of the first quarter, but the Spartans closed the period strong and led 19-7 after one.

The Spartans extended their advantage to 35-16 at the half thanks in large part to a huge second quarter from Monika Rudis, who scored half of her team's 16 points.

Any hopes of a second-half rally for the Eagles were snuffed out in the opening two minutes of the third quarter when Stevenson scored the first five points on a fast-break layup from Charlesann Roy and an old-fashioned three-point play by Knoph.

Stevenson owned its biggest lead of the night — 55-24 — when Allison Koestering

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



RENA LAVERTY | PHOTO

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team earned their fifth consecutive state title Saturday with a 71-53 win at home over Muskegon CC.

Ladywood's press sinks Franklin

Livonia Ladywood's full-court pressure proved too much to bear Monday night for host Livonia Franklin in the Class A district girls basketball opener.

The Blazers pulled away in the second half for a 70-41 triumph and advance to Wednesday's district semifinal against Garden City beginning at 7 p.m. at Franklin.

Sophomore point-guard Andie Anastos paced a balanced scoring attack for Ladywood with 15 points and 11 assists.

Senior forward Teresa Wojnarowski added 14 points and 11 rebounds, while senior forward Alyssa Anastos played a strong all-around game with 11 points, eight steals, six rebounds and five assists.

Senior center Katy Rooney came off the bench to add 10 points as the Blazers improved to 16-5 overall.

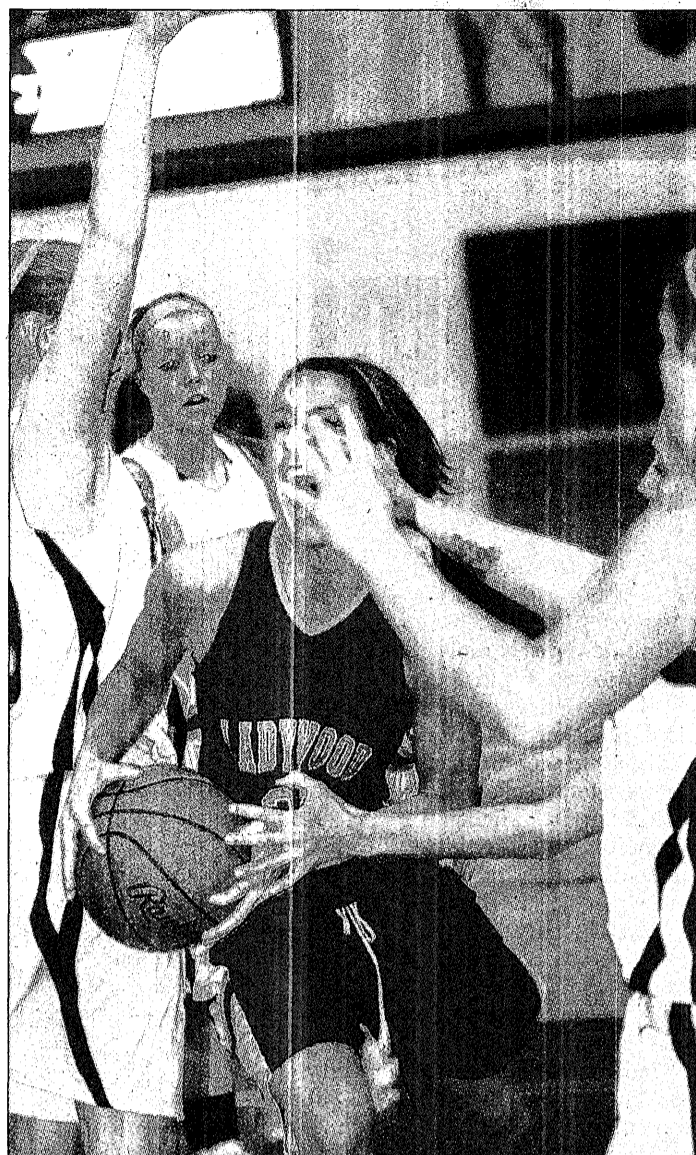
"Our pressure cranked it up the first half as Alyssa (Anastos) had seven steals," Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti said. "Our defense created our offense, which was nice."

Ladywood made 26-of-60 shots from the floor (43.3 percent) and 13-of-20 free throws (65 percent).

Franklin (11-10) got a sterling performance from point-guard Chelsea Williams, who in her final game led all scorers with 22 points.

Senior forward Amanda Borioe added seven before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

CLARENCEVILLE 46, COMMUNITY 39: Angela McAlpine and Jenna Burgess paced a balanced scoring attack with 10 and nine points, respectively, leading Livonia Clarenceville (7-14)



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Ladywood's Alyssa Anastos drives through a slew of Franklin defenders during Monday's Class A district opener.

to a Class B district victory Monday over visiting Detroit Community (4-10).

The Trojans trailed 23-20 at half-time before rallying with a 26-16 second-half surge.

Clarenceville made 20-of-34 free throws, while Community connected on just 3-of-18.

Breanna Rice led the Hurricanes and all scorers with 13 points. Jasmine Byrd added eight.

Clarenceville advances to the district semifinals 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at home face Detroit Old Redford Academy, which advanced with a 57-51 win Monday over Detroit Central.

LADY OCELOTS

FROM PAGE B1

course and just keep working hard, and in the last 10 minutes and just take the game. "We didn't make any drastic changes. We just kept at it." Schoolcraft shot 24-of-70 from the floor (34.2 percent) and committed just 11 turnovers.

Meanwhile, the Jayhawks connected on just 19-of-63 shots from the field (30.1 percent) and had 18 turnovers. Point-guard Paris Thomas,

the lone sophomore on Muskegon's roster, tallied team-high 11 points, while Janelle Johnson-Ellis, Gilmore and Iesha Ellis each added 10. Iesha Ellis also grabbed 15 rebounds.

Meanwhile, the only sophomores on Schoolcraft's roster are Bee, Shealica Grandberry and Sarah Jury (Livonia Ladywood).

"Shealica is a transfer, who has been just a dynamo," Lafata said. "She's just a dynamite defensive player and gives us a lot of energy and sophomore leadership."

"And Sarah doesn't see the floor, but she is such great

team player and helps the kids in a lot of different ways. She does a lot for us at practice, keeping the kids level-headed. She's the Dr. Phil on the bench for us."

The fifth-ranked Lady Ocelots' next quest is the NJCAA Division II District H tournament, which starts 3 p.m. Friday at Flint Mott CC where they will face Oakland CC (14-14) in the semifinals.

The winner of the 1 p.m. Saturday championship game in Flint advances to the nationals, March 15-19, in East Peoria, Ill.

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PREP WRESTLING

MHSAA DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL FINALS AREA 1ST-ROUND MATCHUPS March 3-5 at Palace of Auburn Hills DIVISION 1
140 pounds: Jonny Bannoura, Livonia Churchill, Sr. (37-8) vs. Austin Merryweather, Sr. (Grandville), 38-9.
145: Jalen Jones, Sr., Wayne Memorial (41-13) vs. Nick Mason, Jr., Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (35-5).
160: Matt Roos, Sr., Livonia Franklin (49-4) vs. Brandon Krupp, Sr. Grand Rapids

Union (36-7).
171: Kameron Jones, Sr., Westland John Glenn (48-10) vs. Kevin Beazley, Jr., Novi-Detroit CC (38-5).
215: Dimitrus Renfro, Jr., Wayne (49-8) vs. Nick Gajdzik, Jr., Rochester Hills Stony Creek (47-3).
103: Kyle Gillies, Soph., John Glenn (50-7) vs. Eddie Schlickemeyer, Jr., Sterling Heights Stevenson (49-5).
112: Danny Martinez, Soph., Franklin (51-12) vs. Jourdain Spurlin, Soph., Southgate Anderson (51-3).

119: Jake Meadows, Sr., Churchill (45-4) vs. Keith Boldt, Jr., Hartland (39-6); Gabe Martinez, Soph., Franklin (54-8) vs. Chris Bohacek, Jr., Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse (45-14).
112: Steve Tuyo, Sr., Franklin (53-6) vs. Joe Lombard, Sr., Wyandotte Roosevelt (38-2).
DIVISION 4
103 pounds: Zachary Francis, Fr., Lutheran High Westland (36-6) vs. Bill Bentgen, Soph., St. Ignace (31-8).

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ROCKETS

FROM PAGE B1

while Gordon-McClain, a senior forward, contributed 13 points.

Junior Joslyn Massey also chipped in with six points, 16 boards and four assists.

Romulus senior point-guard Jasmine Knowles, who averages 16 points per game, scored only six on the night after being saddled with foul trouble.

The Western Michigan University signee picked up two quick fouls in the first quarter and two more quick ones in the third.

"It didn't help the cause much," said Romulus coach Bill Kilgore, whose team bowed out at 18-3 overall. "When it (foul trouble) fell on No. 14 (Knowles), our senior point-guard, it hurt the

momentum and the team."

The 11-0 start by Glenn also proved to be pivotal in the final outcome.

"We needed to get out and get a hand in somebody's face," Kilgore said. "They (Glenn) were shooting open looks at the basket. We needed to tighten up our defense. I think Glenn played with more intensity than we did today."

Sophomore guard Jasmine Parker led the Eagles with 16 points, while Tazonda Gibbs, a senior, added seven.

"Romulus, as you know, is a very good team and very well coached team also with two outstanding guards," Anderson said.

Romulus shot only 27.6 percent from the floor (13-of-47), while Glenn was slightly better at 33.9 percent (18-of-53).

"I wanted us to settle down and run our offense because we really didn't run

our offense," Anderson set of his team's first-half shooting woes (9-of-25). "Even though we were successful, and getting good shots and getting to the bucket, we didn't run our offense."

"That was one of our point of emphasis. We wanted to give them either one shot — and that was it — one-and-done. Our mindset was every shot was going to be a missed shot and we had to get three rebounders to the boards. And fortunately we got some easy buckets out of the transition from turnovers or long missed shots."

In Wednesday's district semifinals at Romulus, Glenn faced rival Wayne Memorial (3-17) for a third time this season, while state-ranked Inkster (17-2) took on Taylor Truman in a double-header.

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

converted a fast-break layup to close out the third quarter.

Durrough scored six straight points to open the fourth quarter, but it was too little, too late for the Eagles.

Roy led the Spartans with 11 points. Rudis and Knoph added 10, York contributed

nine, while and Koesting chipped in with eight.

All 10 Spartans scored. "Our top seven to eight players usually get a lot of minutes, but all 10 of our girls play hard every day at practice, so it was nice to see they all scored and got quality minutes tonight," Jen Knoph said.

Hunt added 12 points for the Eagles, who were also bolstered by a strong performance

from Arielle Paris (four points and 12 rebounds).

Stevenson, which out-rebounded Thurston 52-31, nailed 13-of-16 free throws. Thurston was 5-of-14 from the stripe.

"We started 2-8, then went 8-2, so I'm very proud of our turnaround," said Essix. "I just thought we would come out and play better tonight."

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LJAL Basketball Tarheels 2010

LJAL Tarheels 10-0

The Livonia Junior Athletic League Tarheels (grades 5-6) recently completed a 10-0 season. Members of the Tarheels include (front row, from left) Ryhanne Holycross, Paige Rorabacher, Gabby Uluhogian, Emily Curtis; (middle row, from left) Emily Slayton, Natalie Nolan, Lauren Remijan, Emma Rathburn, Audrey Lackey; (back row, from left) assistant coach Jim Rorabacher, Casey Baldwin, Addie King and coach Bob Lackey.

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DELORES BROWN
 Age 79, went to be with the Lord on February 22nd, 2011. Survived by her husband Dale and family.

ROSE LOUISE CRENSHAW
 Age 83, February 27, 2011. Beloved wife of Paul for 62 years. Loving mother of Nancy (Douglas) Berg and the late Paul, Jr. and Jeff Crenshaw. Sister of Edward Bojas. Grandmother of Angie and Paul. Great grandmother of 5. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Friday, in state 10am until time of service at 11am at Grace Lutheran Church 25630 Grand River Ave. in Redford. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

ANNE FURMAN
 Brighton, MI. Her Legacy...Died February 28, 2011. Anne was born, Anna Linnea Benson, February 23, 1917 in Bridgeport, CT the daughter of Swedish immigrants, Carl Johan August and Olga Juliana (Elg) Benson. In June of 1938 she met her husband of 63 years, Louis Furman of Cleveland at a dude ranch in Lake George, New York. They were married April 9, 1939 in Brooklyn, NY. He precedes her in death. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg and Lakeland Golf and Country Club where she and Lou enjoyed many years of golf and enduring friendships. Her Family...Loving mother of Judy (Kevin) Woods of Dexter and beloved grandmother of Abigail, Jonathan and Caitlin. She is preceded in death by her sister, Alice and three brothers, Rudolph, Siegfried and John. Her Farewell...The family will gather with friends on Friday from 5-8 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Funeral service will be held at 11 am on Friday March 4, 2011 at St Andrews Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor, MI with Fr. Alan Gibson officiating. Burial will take place in Hamburg Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Arbor Hospice. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Anne's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit her guestbook at: www.borekjennings.com.

HARRIET CLEGERN MORGAN

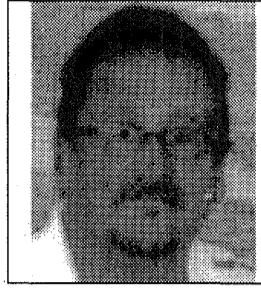
With beautiful memories, we announce the passing on of Harriet Cleger Morgan on February 26, 2011 at age 90. Born in Oklahoma in 1920 to Wayne Frank Cleger and Katharine McLaughlin Cleger, Harriet had two brothers William and Wayne and a sister, Frances. Her parents, Brother Bill and sister Frances have preceded her in death. Dedicating her life to education and research, Professor Emeritus Harriet C. Morgan taught science at Schoolcraft College from its opening in 1964 to her retirement in 1990. Harriet served as a member of Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church for 40 years. She was preceded in death by her son Gregory Wayne Morgan. Her memory will be cherished by her daughter Mary Katharine Morgan; daughter-in-law Lucille Babcock and husband; grand-children, Kyna Morgan-Pearce, Clifford Englehart, Jeffery Englehart and their families; many great-grandchildren; brother Wayne Cleger and wife Nancy; and the Cleger clan. Memorial Service: March 5 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia. Visitation is at 1p.m. with service to begin at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church.

EMILY J. SALVATO
 Age 77, February 27, 2011. Beloved wife of 50 years to Thomas and loving mother of Joey, Gina (Dale) Masy, Kathleen (Mark) Demers, Peter, Tom, Michelle (Peter) Napolitan, Vince (Michele). Also survived by 10 grandchildren.
 www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

CHARLES (CHUCK) SPANBERGER
 Age 86, of Redford, 2-17-11. Brother of Ethel Grigg, Marilyn Irvine & the late George. Uncle of Kurt Spanberger, Kathy Nichol & others. No services are planned.



BARBARA DAVINA STOYE
 87, of Traverse City and formerly of the Detroit area, passed away Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, at her home on Old Mission Peninsula, with her family by her side. Barbara was born on May 15, 1923, in Detroit, the daughter of the late George F. and Barbara W. (Leadbetter) James. Barbara attended and graduated from Cooley High School. After attending Wayne State University, Barbara entered Grace Hospital School of Nursing. While at Grace, she met Frederick Decker Stoye. The two were fixed up on a blind date, which was Valentine's Day 1943. They were married on June 29, 1946, after Frederick graduated from the University of Detroit Dental School. After opening his dental practice in Detroit, their first child was born, Laura C. Stoye. She preceded Barbara in death on Feb. 15, 1991. Raising their family (Laura and later their son, Fred D. Stoye Jr.) in Detroit and eventually in Lathrup Village, Barbara worked the local election, belonged to the Lathrup Supper Club and volunteered at Beaumont Hospital. Her other joy was spending summers at the family cottage at Higgins Lake. She will be greatly missed by her husband of almost 65 years Frederick D. Stoye, D.D.S.; her son, Fred D. Stoye Jr., D.D.S., and his wife, Deborah; her five grandchildren, Matthew (Kelly) Cushman, Emily S. Stoye, Grant F. (Lydia) Stoye, Jonathan P. Stoye and Ellen E. (Chris) Phillips; one great-grandchild, Olivia S. Cushman, with one on the way and due to arrive to Ellen and Chris Phillips in April; her sister-in-law, Mary Stoye; six nieces and nephews; as well as many other loving family members and friends. Funeral services took place on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be directed to Father Fred Foundation or the Higgins Lake Foundation. Please share memories with the family at Barbara's online guestbook at: www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.



DANIEL LEE VALENTINE
 Passed away on Feb 27, 2011, Age 51. Daniel was an Alumnus of University of Michigan whose passion was food and music. Daniel could be seen enjoying himself working in the yard or improving his household, and enjoyed getting together with his family. He was a loving husband to Laura (nee Beaton); caring father to Amber; step-father to Sarah Jones; step-grandfather to Allen Szabo; and brother to Sharon and James. Daniel was predeceased by his father Raymond and brother Thomas. Visitation for Daniel will be on Thursday starting at 2PM until 9PM with the funeral service starting at 7PM at the Lee-Ellena Funeral Home located at 46530 Romeo Plank Macomb, MI 48044 (South of 21 mile). Share memories at www.Lee-EllenaFuneralHome.com

In Memory Of



In memory of CLINT & DEREK SWINTEK
 It's been two years boys, and still we think of you and miss you every single day. And we will love you for always, until we see you again. Aunt Sherry as well as The Swintek/Vinal family

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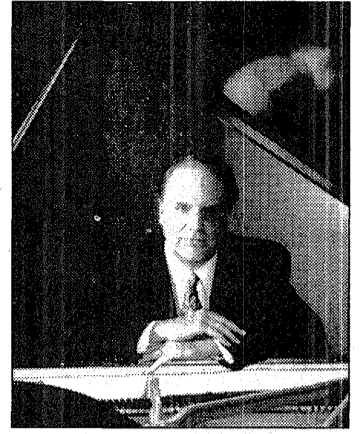
Chance meeting leads to concert

How many times can two pianists' paths cross? Many, says Wes Fishwick, a pianist and organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Fishwick "One Sunday after church, I was having lunch at Luigi's and I noticed several groups of well dressed diners. When I visited their tables to pass out flyers about our concert series at St. John, they informed me that they were from Farmington United Methodist Church and that their organist was Harvey Kahl," Fishwick said. "I almost fell over. Harvey Kahl, who was best man at my wedding ... Harvey Kahl, with whom I taught at Macomb College and with whom I had played two-piano repertoire ... Harvey Kahl, who was my good friend from college was working at a church about one mile from my church — and both of us east-siders?"

"I knew from that moment that we needed to return to concertizing together and that our first performance should be in the Farmington area so that our two churches could participate in the event."

Kahl and Fishwick will present a recital of two piano, four hand repertoire at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 6 at John Lutheran Church 23225 Gill,



Wes Fishwick is organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills. He and friend, Harvey Kahl, organist at First United Methodist Church in Farmington, will perform together on Sunday, March 6.

Farmington Hills. *The Sonata for Two Pianos by Mozart and the Mother Goose Suite by Ravel* are the featured works. Other compositions include selected movements from the *Suite for Two Pianos* by Arensky and the *American Dance Suite* by Julia Smith.

There is no charge for admission, although a free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served during intermission. For more information, contact the church office at (248) 474-0584.

FRIDAY FISH

Does your church offer a Lenten fish fry? Send us the particulars — serving times, dates, church location, cost, menu choices and church phone number or other contact and will publish the information through Lent in the *Observer*. Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com or mail to her at 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Feel free to include a photo taken at a current or previous fish fry and send in jpg form.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 3, 2011

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Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Carol Shaltz of Livonia hopes her Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Rory, Maggie and Ella, earn a few points at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog shows this weekend.

But more importantly, Shaltz, an owner, breeder and handler, wants to educate the public.

"To me the most important thing is letting the public meet the breeds," said Shaltz, who has owned soft-coated Wheaten terriers for 22 years and bred and shown them for 15. "When someone calls me for a Wheaten, if I don't feel they are the right family for a Wheaten, I'll tell them no and I'll tell them why. Then I'll tell them to go down to the Detroit Kennel Club show and meet the different breeds."

Shaltz says it's the perfect venue to look at a variety of dogs and meet reputable breeders who screen their breeding dogs for potential health problems. Appropriate testing for a Wheaten, for example, includes a hip x-ray, annual eye tests and complete urinalysis and blood profiles.

"I know the health of the parents, the grandparents," she said, adding that backyard breeders and pet stores generally don't keep track of dog health histories. "A lot of pet stores get puppies from puppy mills and have no clue of what grandpa died of. I always tell people if I don't have puppies when they call, to buy from a reputable dealer and ask questions. I'm here for the life of the puppy and not question is a silly one."

Shaltz, who breeds soft-coated Wheaten terriers under the name "Lil' Town Wheatons of Ardnacassa, is vice president of the Motor City Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club and is involved with the Ann Arbor Kennel Club's obedience programs.

She enjoys the benched portion of the show as much as the judging because it gives her a chance to talk with visitors about her favorite dog breed.

Canine time

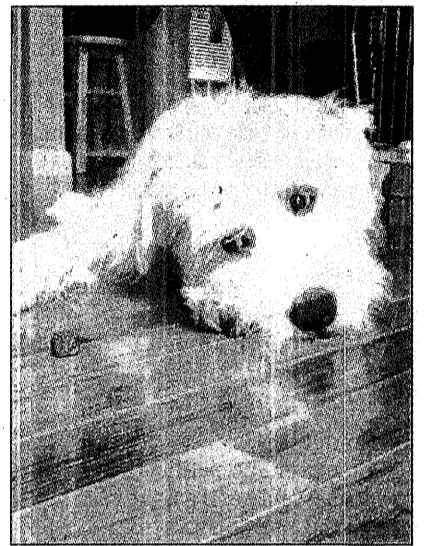
Check out breeds in the ring and on that bench at Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows



Terry Seraceno of Farmington Hills and Sassy, one of several golden retrievers who volunteers as a therapy dog.



Maggie earns a ribbon under the guidance of owner-handler Carol Shaltz of Livonia.



One of Carol Shaltz' soft-coated Wheaten terrier's eyes a treat at home in Livonia.

MEETING THE DOGS

"The Detroit Kennel Club Show is a must do. I think it is real important to educate the public. They can get their hands on the dogs and pet them."

Terry Seraceno of Farmington Hills wouldn't have it any other way. Her Golden Retrievers and other canine volunteers at Dr. Paws Pet Assisted Therapy Dogs, love pets,

Please see **DOG SHOWS, B6**

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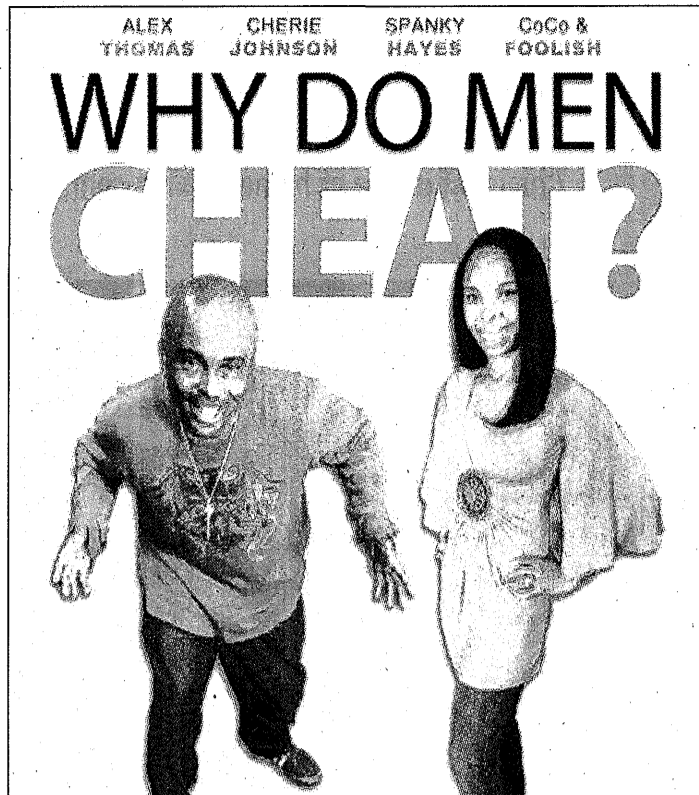
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Film audition

Real Entertainment Films and KJ Post Productions will hold an open casting call for the film "Why Do Men Cheat" from 4-6 p.m. March 5, at Star Factory, 13305 Capital, Oak Park. Interested parties should come camera ready with a head shot and resume and should be prepared to perform a one minute monologue. If selected, applicants will be interviewed and filmed during the casting call. Male and Female roles ranging from 20-50 years old will be filled. For more information call Janaya Black at (734) 634-3151 or e-mail whydomencheatthemovie@gmail.com.

DOG SHOWS

FROM PAGE B5

rub and kisses. "Come over and pet the therapy dogs. We'll be in a huge area in the corner, away from the noise. Look for the place with the most strollers, with kids lying on the ground and hugging the dogs. It's hilarious."

She and a few of Dr. Paws 450 active members and their therapy dogs will be on hand Saturday and Sunday to meet visitors and talk about what it takes to become involved in pet therapy. Seraceno, who works in the staffing division at Botsford Hospital, founded the organization 18 years ago to help relieve stress and bring comfort to hospital patients and health professionals alike. Today the all-volunteer non-profit serves approximately 110 locations, including hospitals, nursing homes, and libraries — where dogs "read" to youngsters.

Potential therapy volunteers can fill out paperwork online at drpaws.org and then bring their dog to Seraceno for assessment. She also plans an informational meeting about Dr. Paws and therapy dogs from 7:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at Botsford, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The session will be held

in room 2 East A on the second floor. RSVP at drpawspettherapy@aol.com. No dogs are allowed at the session.

TAKING THE TEST

"We walk through certain points in the hospital, go into rehab, make sure the dog doesn't pull or jump," she said, describing an assessment. "I've only had to tell a few people they wouldn't pass. It's because they need to take a refresher course in obedience."

Seraceno also breeds Golden Retrievers under the kennel name Sarabay and shows dogs. She works with the Fort Detroit Golden Retriever Club of Michigan and Retriever Rescue of Michigan.

She suggests that individuals do their homework before buying a dog by looking at breeds, talking with breeders and obtaining the shows' catalogue.

A variety of breeds and mixed breed dogs will help staff the Dr. Paw's booth during the weekend shows.

"Pet therapy has boomed in the last few years. I think a lot of it is the stress — I get doctors on their hands and knees (petting the dogs) because they had a rough day or lost a patient. A lot of people also are retired and don't know what to do. But they have a beautiful dog. Where else can you go for an hour, have your dog petted and walk out feeling good?"

New columnist tastes brews from coast to coast

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nate Parsons loves hunting for new craft beers.

"I remember my first craft brew. That was 20 years ago with my wife in Kalamazoo. I had a German wheat beer and I was blown away. I spent a couple of years trying to track that down," said Parsons, the *Observer's* new beer columnist.

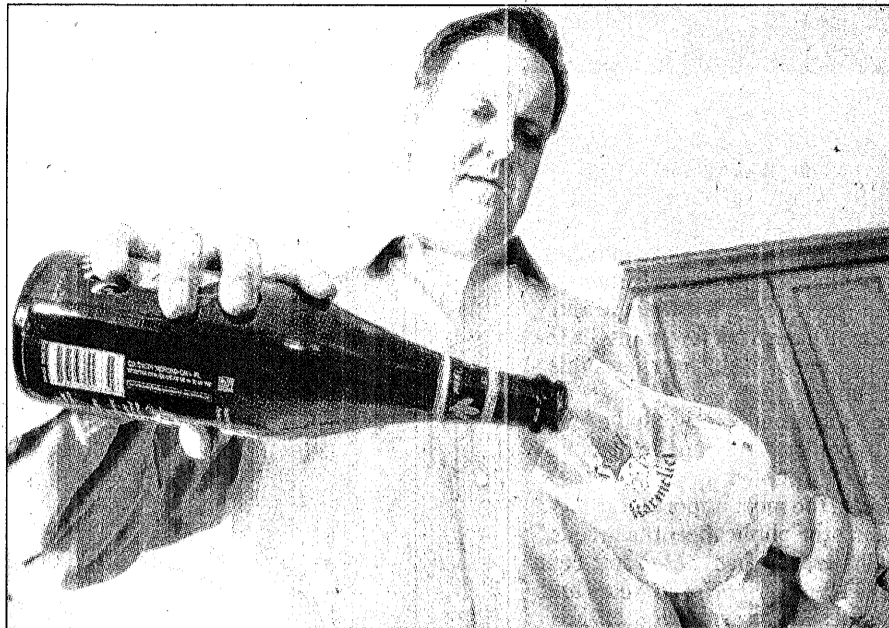
"From there it developed more and more into looking for something new and different. Part of the fun is in the hunt."

As a software consultant who travels from coast to coast for his job, Parsons covers a lot of territory also tasting new brews.

"I probably travel two to three times a month. It keeps me busy," said Parsons, a former Livonia resident who moved to Northville 10 years ago. He and his wife, Shawn, a teacher in Livonia Schools, have three daughters.

Parsons grew up in Harbor Springs and moved to southeastern Michigan after graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

He admits he's not a beer expert, but he has tasted craft brews at home and abroad, enjoys pairing them with food



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nate Parsons says the fun of trying new craft beers is in the hunt.

and tracking down local sources for them.

"Ten years ago we were into wine, but from a monetary standpoint, I don't have \$1,000 for a bottle of wine. Our threshold is \$20 or \$30. With beer, whatever you find is affordable. You

don't have to pay more than about \$20. If you can find it you can afford it."

Look for Parsons' column, Beer Tracker, in the *Observer's* first Thursday of every month and in *Inspire*, which is inserted into the *Observer* every third Thursday.

Find Belgian beer in your own back yard

I'm not a beer "expert," just a guy who loves really good beer.

My nine to five work takes me all around the U.S. which has given me an opportunity to explore some of the country's finest beer establishments. While the beer community can be a rather tight knit group, its members always are willing to share an opinion about their favorite subject.



Beer tracker
Nate Parsons

In today's marketplace venturing off the beaten path into the realm of craft beer can be a daunt-

ing task. Like beauty or art, individual fondness is in the eye (or tastes) of the beholder. My hope for this undertaking is not to educate but to introduce the reader to a variety of great beers from around the world which are available in our own backyard.

I have great affection for Belgian beer. I had an opportunity to visit Belgium in 2008 — a must for beer lovers. One of my favorite beers is Triple Karmeliet.

- Beer Name: Tripel Karmeliet
- Brewery: Brouwerij Bosteels
- Country: Buggenhout, Belgium
- Style: Tripel
- ABV: 8.40%
- Glassware: Tulip or Sifter
- Description: Pours a hazy golden

straw color with a thick two finger head that dissipates after a few minutes. The aroma or nose smells of coriander, apricots, sour apple, and a hint of yeast. The taste is very well balanced, clean yet creamy with medium carbonation. The finish offers no lingering alcohol but rather citrus overtones. A truly enjoyable pour.

• Where to Purchase: Hiller's Market, 425 North Center Street, Northville — 750ml for \$8.49/ml; Holiday Market, 520 South Lilley Road, Canton — 750ml for \$10.00; Brass Mug Party Store, 19213 Newburgh Road, Livonia — 750ml \$9.99.

Nate Parsons can be reached at modevin@yahoo.com

'70s rockers perform at Village Theater

Hear *Brandy, Jimmy Loves Mary-Anne* and other hits by Looking Glass when the 1970s rock group performs Saturday, March 26 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

She show will start at 8 p.m. and is designed for audience members of all ages.

"Looking Glass is the type of act that audiences spanning several generations really love," stated Jennifer Tobin, Canton arts coordinator. "The moment you hear the words 'you're a fine girl — what a good wife you will be,' your mind instantly recalls a fond memory that will put you in

a good mood no matter what your age."

Looking Glass is made up of founding member Elliot Lurie on guitar and Jeff Lehman on keyboards, as well as Roger Noonan on bass and Craig Williams on drums. Recent additions to the group are Gary Penz and Jim Wirth on guitar and keyboards. The group also tours with a three-piece horn section.

The four original members of Looking Glass formed the band in 1969 after meeting at Rutgers University. The group name supposedly came along when they were all sitting around watching *Alice in*

Wonderland and a band member noted "she jumped through the looking glass..."

The band recorded *Brandy* in 1972 based on the name of lead singer Lurie's high school sweetheart 'Randy'. The single reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, remaining in the top position for one week. After years of playing covers and their originals at frat parties and bars in the New Brunswick, N.J. area, Looking Glass was signed to Epic Records by the legendary Clive Davis.

After the group broke up in 1974, Lurie segued into a career as a music supervisor

for film and television. The group reunited in 2005 with three Detroit-area musicians, Jeff Lehman, Craig Williams and Eric Mackey, and began performing again.

Tickets to see Looking Glass are available online at Cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults, seniors and students. Group rates for 15 or more individuals are \$12 per ticket. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road. For more information call (734) 394-5308 or visit Cantonvillagetheater.org.

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FOOD

Thursday, March 3, 2011

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Carnival Jambalaya

Mardi Gras Celebrate Mardi Gras with 'Fat Tuesday' all day long

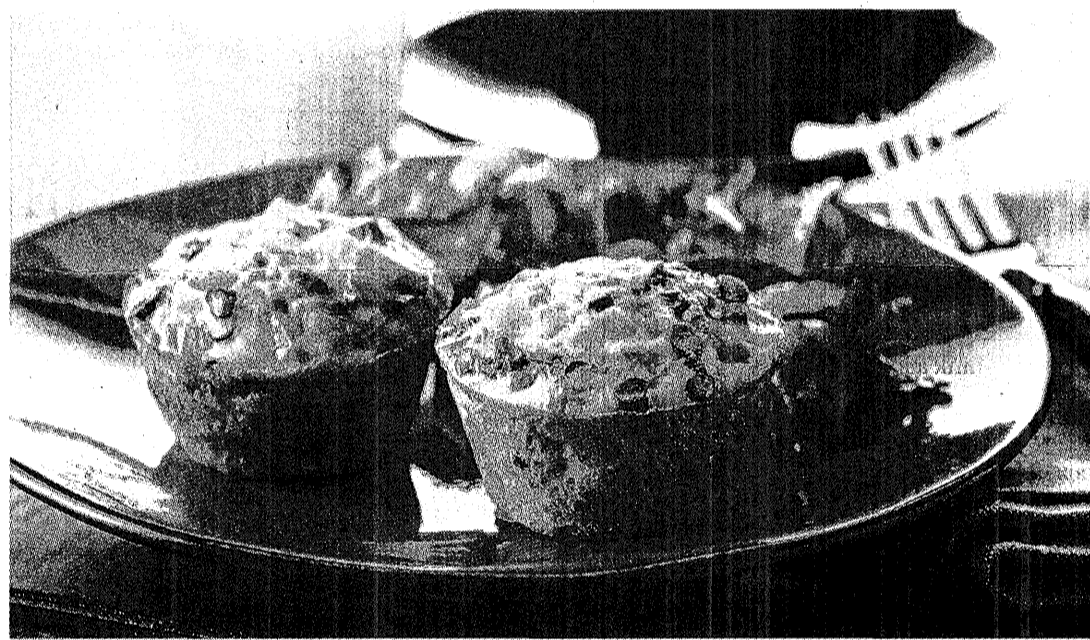
New Orleans may be the official home of Mardi Gras, but you don't have to live in the Big Easy to enjoy the party. Mardi Gras, or literally, "Fat Tuesday," is the final day of the Carnival celebration, the festive season that occurs before Lent.

While some people associate Mardi Gras with lavish parades and French Quarter parties, food is an integral part of the tradition. In fact, many locals skip the parades and spend time at home feasting with friends and family instead. Join the Fat Tuesday frenzy by throwing your own party.

"I love sharing the spirit of this season," said John Besh, Louisiana native and nationally acclaimed chef. "It's so easy to bring the fun of Mardi Gras home — wherever you are. Whip up some tasty New Orleans-Style meals, hang up some beads and masks for decoration, then invite folks over for good times all around."

Celebrate like a true New Orleanian by jazzing up an entire day's menu with popular and authentic dishes. Start with a savory brunch, a true Southern tradition. Snack on a creamy dip in the afternoon as you decorate and welcome guests. Then, dish out a traditional New Orleans-Style jambalaya, perfect for a Mardi Gras crowd. Finish the meal with a cupcake version of the official dessert of the Carnival season, the King Cake. Tradition states that whoever found the fava bean or small trinket in their slice of cake was charged with bringing the cake to next year's party. Share the fun with all your guests by including a fava bean in each cupcake.

These tried-and-true recipes will ensure your party will start a tradition to be celebrated for years to come. For more information on New Orleans-Style cuisine, visit www.facebook.com/zatarains.



Dulac Dirty Rice Mini Frittatas

DULAC DIRTY RICE MINI FRITTATAS

Prep Time: 20 minutes / Cook Time: 45 minutes
Makes 12 (2 mini frittata) servings

1 pound bulk pork sausage
1 package Zatarain's Dirty Rice Mix, Original
½ cup raisins
¼ cup toasted chopped pecans
14 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup milk
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions
¼ cup each chopped red and yellow bell pepper

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium-high heat 5 minutes or until no longer pink. Drain fat. Prepare rice mix as directed on package with sausage. Stir in raisins and pecans. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 2 (12-cup) muffin tins generously with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. Mix eggs and milk in large bowl until well blended. Add onions and bell peppers; mix well. Place ¼ cup of the rice mixture into each muffin cup. Pour egg mixture evenly into each cup.

Bake 20 minutes or until eggs are set. Run small knife or spatula around each cup to loosen frittatas. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

CARNIVAL JAMBALAYA

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Makes 12 (1-cup) servings

5 cups water
¼ cup oil (optional)
2 packages Zatarain's Jambalaya Mix, Original
1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cubed
1 pound smoked sausage, ¼ inch thick
¼ cup sliced green onions (optional)

Bring water and oil to boil in large saucepan. Stir in Rice Mixes, chicken and sausage; return to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 25 minutes or until rice is tender.

Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with green onions before serving.

RED BEAN AND RICE PARTY DIP

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 40 minutes

Makes 60 (2-tablespoon) servings

3 cups water
1 package Zatarain's Red Beans and Rice
1 cup salsa
2 tablespoons chopped jalapeño peppers
2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

Prepare rice mix as directed on package, using 3 cups water instead of 3½ cups. Reserve ¼ to ½ cup of the shredded cheese to garnish dip, if desired. Stir remaining ingredients into rice mixture. Place mixture into food processor or blender; cover. Process or blend until smooth.

Keep dip warm in a chafing dish or slow cooker, if desired.

KING CAKE CUPCAKES

Chef John Besh, Besh Restaurant Group

Prep Time: 1 hour

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Cool Time: 1 hour

Yields 10 to 12

Yellow Butter Cake
½ pound butter
¾ cup sugar
½ teaspoon salt
2 large eggs
1½ cup cake flour
½ tablespoon baking powder
¾ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a mixer at medium speed, cream butter, sugar, and salt together until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time while the mixer is running, making sure each egg is totally mixed in before adding another. Beat mixture until light and fluffy, making sure to scrape the sides and bottom of the mixing bowl carefully.

In a separate mixing bowl, combine flour and baking powder using a wire whisk to sift and combine them. In another separate bowl, mix the milk and vanilla.

Alternate adding wet and dry ingredients to butter mixture, starting and ending with the dry ingredients. Do not over mix, as batter should be thick and fluffy. Spoon into lined cupcake pans, filling each cup about ¾ full. Bake at 350°F for 12 to 14 minutes or until done.



Zatarain's king cake cupcakes with root beer filling and frosting.

Creole Cream Cheese Filling with Root Beer

1 pound softened Creole or regular cream cheese

½ cup shortening

¼ pound powdered sugar

¼ teaspoon Zatarain's Root Beer Extract

Dried fava beans (set aside)

Combine shortening and cream cheese in mixer at medium speed and whip with paddle until smooth.

Add powdered sugar and whip until fluffy; mix in root beer extract until well combined.

Root Beer Frosting

1 pound powdered sugar

¼ pound butter

½ cup shortening

¼ cup all-purpose flour

¼ cup water

Pinch of salt

1 teaspoon Zatarain's Root Beer Extract

Combine all ingredients in bowl of mixer. Beat together at medium speed until light and fluffy.

To assemble cupcakes: Use a ¼ teaspoon measuring spoon to scoop out the center of completely cooled cupcakes from the top to about halfway down.

With a piping bag, or plastic bag with the corner snipped off, fill the hole with filling.

Insert a dried fava bean into filling of each cupcake. Note: fava bean is for decoration only and should not be eaten.

Using a star tip and separate piping bag, pipe frosting starting on the outside, working your way to the center in one continuous motion. Top with green, purple and yellow or gold sprinkles or decorative sugar like on a traditional King Cake.

REAL ESTATE

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
 SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY
 THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

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Going green good for business, environment

Not only can going green save your company money, it can have a positive impact on how your customers perceive your products and services. If you're looking to get a reputational boost from your dedication to the environment, the Better Business Bureau recommends sticking to the truth and not exaggerating your company's impact.

There are many different shades and hues when it comes to being a green company. Some businesses strive to manufacture products that are better for the environment, while others take steps to be greener in daily operations, through measures such as recycling, using carbon offsets and taking steps to save energy.

"Going green can save your company money, especially if you take steps to conserve energy," said Melanie Duquesnel, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "But it can also make your company money as consumers are increasingly looking for products and services that won't be as harmful to the environment."

BBB offers the following advice on promoting your business' greener side:

- Tell the truth. Few things destroy a company's credibility with consumers faster than false advertising; regardless, some advertisers sometimes stretch the truth when it comes to talking up the eco-friendly qualities of products. When bragging about the shade of your green, as with any advertising or marketing claims, always tell the truth.
- Make concrete claims. An honest advertiser will not make vague statements such as "environmentally friendly" or "sustainable" without



qualification and solid examples to back up the claim. If your packaging is made from recycled paper, then say so. If your company has reduced energy costs, brag about it! Making fuzzy claims, however, can get you into trouble.

- Provide evidence. Consider creative ways of quantifying your company's impact such as: How many hours have your employees volunteered? Who has benefited and how have they benefited from your firm's efforts. How are your products better for the environment?

- Get a stamp of approval. While there is no universal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for green products, there are independent third-party organizations that will certify your environmentally-friendly statements. Research any third-party carefully before seeking certification through their program. Avoid making claims about certification or seals that might be considered exaggerated or overly-broad.

- Get expert help. As a result of the green-frenzy that has taken over the

country, many new boutique marketing and advertising firms are now specializing in branding companies as environmentally friendly and socially responsible. Getting outside PR help can be expensive. However, the rewards could be substantial in terms of revenue, reputation and goodwill.

For more reliable advice on best business practices and advertising guidelines for your business, as well as other ways to make your business more socially conscious, go to <http://detroit.bbb.org/Business-Resources/>.

Beware of limits on social, rec areas

Q: What is your view or, for that matter, the law's view on withdrawal of privileges to use common recreational and social facilities for nonpayment of assessments in a condominium?

A: It all depends on your condominium documents, but even if your documents give you broad authority, you should be cautious. Withdrawal of privileges to use common recreational

and social facilities is not as commonly used as fines or penalties. However, it may be a particularly appropriate response to violations

of rules governing the use of the common facilities. It has the advantage of not increasing the financial burden of the property owner, who may also be struggling to retain the home. However, withdrawal of privileges to use common areas and facilities is ordinarily limited to facilities that provide amenities rather than necessities. It would be unreasonable to deny access to common facilities that provide ingress or egress, even perhaps utilities or other necessary services to the individual owned property unless the documents so provide. Generally there is a provision that provides that utilities can be denied to a co-owner if he does not pay. However, this is something that you should pass through your attorney for specific advice.

Q: Does the State of Michigan allow anyone who receives an HOA violation to request the name of the person who recorded it?

A: Not to my knowledge, although, if it is a condominium, and a fine is being imposed, the person against whom the violation is being asserted may well have a right to know and cross-examine the person who has made the complaint, and, is afforded other due process under the Condominium Act.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling*. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner

Seniors should mull move carefully, consider options

Are you a senior considering a move from your home in the near future? If you have been in your home for many years, the very idea can be traumatic. There are emotional, social and physical implications. These columns will address these issues.

Moving stirs feelings of uncertainty, adventure, stress, relief, opportunity, sadness, joy



Nancy Austin

SENIOR LIVING

or even excitement. Treasured memories associated with your home may evoke some or many of these emotions. But, how do you know when it is the right time to move?

Here are just a few of the important questions to think about to make that evaluation:

- Do you need equity from your home for income?
- Are you able to keep up with the exterior and interior maintenance?

- Are stairs difficult?
- Are you becoming increasingly dependent on your children, friends and/or neighbors for help?
- Do you have more space and yard than you need?

- Do you want to travel more and worry less?
- Is your family suggesting that you should think about a move to something smaller or easier to take care of?

- Have your children stopped taking vacations so they can help you?

- Do you drive or need some means of transportation?
- Do you feel lonely and isolated?
- So you have serious health issues that require specialized care?

What are your options? How will it be accomplished? Who can I depend on for help? All of this and more in future editions.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist **Nancy Austin**, a Realtor, may be reached at nancyaustin@gmail.com or by calling her at (734) 718-8900.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 15-19, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills	
32800 Evergreen Rd	\$180,000
15708 Kirkshire Ave	\$99,000
32483 Sheridan Dr	\$127,000
22045 W Valley Woods Dr	\$200,000

Bloomfield Hills	
336 S Adams Rd	\$297,000
3104 Quanton Rd	\$640,000
320 N Cranbrook Rd	\$320,000
248 Woodwind Dr	\$520,000

Farmington	
23296 Longacre Ct	\$240,000
34012 Moore Dr	\$135,000

Farmington Hills	
21447 Archwood Cir	\$150,000
23986 Brookplace Ct	\$100,000

Novi	
51231 Brompton	\$45,000
21679 Clover Ln	\$234,000

South Lyon	
58651 Carriage Ln	\$70,000
58743 Carriage Ln	\$40,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 15-19, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
42647 Addison Ave	\$128,000
2455 Astoria Blvd	\$185,000

Garden City	
32580 Dover St	\$73,000
32005 Ford Rd	\$185,000

Livonia	
11683 Alois St	\$199,000
33705 Angeline Ave	\$157,000

Northville	
17250 Cameron Dr	\$350,000
42198 Farragut Ct	\$100,000

Plymouth	
48040 Brewster Ct	\$232,000
50425 Cottonwood Ct	\$300,000

Westland	
39149 Armstrong Ln	\$90,000
29315 Badelt St	\$97,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for non-members to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.org.

Oakland Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association

of Oakland will meet 5:30/9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. Greg Pinneo will speak on how to capitalize on current economic conditions using private and seller financing. He has been a real estate entrepreneur for 33 years. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Pinneo will also be teaching a one-day seminar on Saturday, March

12. Call (800) 747 6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Those attending will learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee and the free pre-licensing course.

For information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty

International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

