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3 years to go

The Wayne-Westland school board will have a few years to decide who will replace Greg Baracy as superintendent of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The board last week approved a notification from Baracy, indicating that he will retire when his current three-year contract expires on June 30, 2015.

Baracy moved to Wayne in 1952 and is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He has spent almost his entire educational career with the Wayne-Westland school district. He joined the district as a full-time teacher in 1974. He was the assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center from 1988-90 and its principal from 1990-92.

Baracy also served as an assistant superintendent from 1992-97 when he was tapped by the school board to become superintendent.

He stressed to the board that he will work "as hard as I can in the years that are left" and that "I will be here three more years."

Vice President John Goci had wanted the notification voted on separately because it "was a significant event in the history of Wayne-Westland." His fellow trustees, however, voted no.

Shuh moves on

Allen "Buddy" Shuh, pastor at Westland's Journey Community Church, is continuing on in his quest to shed weight on NBC's "The Biggest Loser."

Seven weeks into the reality weight loss show, the Wayne resident has posted another seven-pound loss, bringing his weight down to 329 pounds. That's a drop of 74 pounds since he started "The Biggest Loser" regimen.

And his Red Team may have crushed the Black Team at the weigh-in, but in the end, for the third week in a row, they ended up having to vote to send another member home from the ranch.

Leap Year babies

It's the last call for Leap Year babies! We want to hear how you celebrate, when do you celebrate, and if life been any different because you're a Leap Year baby.

If you're a Feb. 29 baby, or had a Feb. 29 baby, or even know of a Leap Year baby, and are willing to share your story, please e-mail your information (and a photo!) to Observer editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

INDEX

- Community Life..... B5
- Crossword Puzzle..... C3
- Education..... A4
- Health..... B9
- Homes..... C2
- Jobs..... C1
- Obituaries..... B8
- Services..... C2
- Sports..... B1
- Wheels..... C4

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Volume 47 • Number 78

Home Delivery:
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Serious offenses down, property crime up in 2011

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The overall number of crimes reported in Westland during 2011 dropped from the previous year but increases were seen in property crimes, such as break-ins and larcenies.

"It's the poor economy, property crimes are up. People are looking to get property they can turn over and into money," said Westland Deputy Police Chief Rob Collier.

In 2011, 7,464 crimes were reported which was a 9 percent decrease from 2010. Part A or

more serious crimes, such as murder, robbery and assault, were down 5 percent from 2010 with 5,712 crimes reported in 2011. Part B or less serious crimes, such as, bad checks, bad checks and disorderly conduct, reported in 2011 were down 8 percent from 2010.

The number of forced entry burglaries jumped to 539 in 2011 up from 493 incidents reported in 2010. Larcenies jumped from 88 in 2010 to 205 in 2011. In some instances, people make it easier on thieves by leaving doors and vehicles unlocked.

"People develop a comfort zone. We will have kids going through cars for changes, CDs, GPS units," said Collier. "The first thing the person says is, 'I know I should have locked the car.'"

Property crimes
Other property crimes seeing increases are forgery/counterfeiting and embezzlement.

"With forgery, people are trying to get something for nothing," said Collier. "We had some bad money orders being passed around for

Please see CRIME, A2

Westland Crimes Statistics

Crime	2011	2010	Difference
Murder/Manslaughter	1	3	-66%
Criminal Sexual Conduct (first-degree)	49	31	+36.7%
Robbery	88	83	+5.6%
Arson	21	16	+23.8%
Burglary-Forced Entry	539	493	+8.5%
Larceny	205	88	+57%
Fraud-counterfeiting	42	32	+23%
Embezzlement	34	23	+32%
Grand total all crimes	7,464	8,233	-9%

Source: Westland Police Department



Sarah Little of the Westland Jaycees (left) talks with cancer survivor Susie Yerger during the Westland Relay for Life kick-off.

Relay for Life: Youngest team captain ready to walk

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

By selling Yankee Candles and other fundraising, Bailey-Crouson's Westland Relay for Life team has already raised \$511.

At 9, Bailey is also the youngest team captain for the annual 24-hour event and heads a team of all kids called Little Angels of Hope.

"I saw my mom do it and asked if I could do it, too. We have six members, so far," said Bailey, a fourth-grader at Cleve-

land Elementary School in Livonia. She's getting support from the Livonia Red Olive Restaurant on Plymouth and Farmington roads with a Feb. 28 fundraiser.

Relay for Life is a family affair for Bailey and her mom Jill Toth, who started four years ago with Alyssa's Angels, then moved to Angels of Hope. For 2012, will be part of the Sole Sisters.

Toth and Bailey's father are helping her with Little Angels of Hope.

"She's on the ball. She has ordered her tent," Toth said.

A 10-foot by 30-foot tent, added Bailey, whose team will be selling cupcakes and nachos during the May 12-13 event.

"I will try to stay up all night," she said.

Relay kicks off

Westland's 2012 Relay for Life officially kicked off Thursday with program at the Bailey Center. The theme for this year's

Please see RELAY, A4

W-W board to interview 4 legal firms

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board has narrowed to four the list of law firms it will interview to serve as the district's general counsel.

"The process started last fall and we've done a lot of work, now the legal committee needs suggestions on how you want to proceed," said board President Carol Middel. "The board needs to give the committee direction on how to do this process."

Twelve legal firms responded to the district's request for a proposal. The proposals were reviewed by board members over a three-week period and were rated on a five-point scale related to such things as knowledge of school law, board governance, civil rights, with districts of similar size and with municipal and corporate law.

The firms also earned additional points for factors deemed important like the degree of experience in laws affecting public school districts, the cost of their services and their "reputation and ability to provide broad legal services promptly and effectively."

Top four

In a study session held last week, the board agreed to meet with representatives of the law firms of Dickson Wright, Collins and Blaha, Clark Hill and Lusk and Albertson. The board will interview two firms at a time at two special meetings. The firms will have an opportunity to do a 15-minute presentation, then the board will do two rounds of questions. The first round will be generic questions asked of all four firms, while the second round will be questions specific

Please see LEGAL, A2

Detectives not happy about road patrol work

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Sergeants assigned to the Westland Police Department Detective Bureau are working traffic enforcement two days a week in response to a shortfall in 18th District Court revenues, but they

aren't happy about it.

"You have a better chance of getting a ticket from a detective than getting your case solved," said one officer, who asked not to be named.

The reassignment, which also has seen Chief Greg Angelosanto and Deputy Chiefs Dan Kar-

rick and Rob Collier also working traffic patrol, has been described as supplementing road patrol. The emphasis, however, is on traffic enforcement, which generates tickets and resulting fines.

"I was told our primary responsibility is traf-

fic. To say we are supplementing patrol — we're not taking dispatch runs," another officer said.

A television news report on the reassignments described the officers as angry about having to work traffic enforcement, but they said that's not the case.

"We're not angry. We're all seasoned police officers, we have no problem going on patrol," another officer said. "The same number of cases are being assigned to the detectives, but they aren't going to be able to

Please see PATROL, A2

CRIME

Continued from page A1

awhile."

When it comes to embezzlement, Collier said in Westland that crime most often is an inside job involving retail employees.

"They will not ring up a purchase or ring it up at a discount so they are not charging the proper amount," he said.

Westland saw a big jump in first-degree

criminal sexual conduct complaints in 2011. Those don't generally involve sexual assaults by strangers, Collier said, but rather family members or acquaintances.

"It seems like we have more offenses against children when there can be multiple victims. We can have one suspect but three victims," said Collier. "It's a hard area to get into — it's family stuff. I think it does get reported more. We just had a case with 26 felony counts which tends to

skew the numbers."

Another crime category with an increase that tends to be affected by the economy is domestic violence which went from 56 complaints in 2010 to 71 incidents reported in 2011.

"When the economy is bad, we see that," said Collier.

Drunken driving incidents dropped from 447 in 2010 to 243 in 2011.

Less money

"We had quite a drop off, the money for

enforcement isn't there with the issues the state has had," said Collier. "When we had officers dedicated to alcohol enforcement, that number was much higher."

During 2005-07 when he was assigned to the department Traffic Bureau, Collier said there was an \$80,000 grant for overtime to focus on drunken driving enforcement.

"When we had those details out at night, we'd have five to six cars out," he said. "I suspect peo-

ple are still drinking and driving. You go by a bar and there is no shortage of alcohol being served. Some people are being more responsible."

Liquor violations, such as selling to minors with 118 reported incidents in 2011, was down from the previous year when there were 127 incidents.

"At one point Westland, Garden City and Wayne had state money for decoy buys. That money has gone away — they are focusing dollars on bigger problems," Col-

lier said. The department has reduced manpower and even with some new hires, Collier said there is a learning curve and loss of experience compared to the officers who have retired.

"With fewer people, it's harder to pursue it like we did," he said. "We're trying to hold the line. It requires us to think of different ways to get things done."

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LEGAL

Continued from page A1

to each firm.

"I think the interview will be 45 minutes to an hour with each law firm between the presentation and out questions," said board Secretary Cindy Schofield. "I think they should do presentations because it will give us a feel for their personalities and their skills. When they do the presentation, I don't want someone from their marketing firm, I want the lead attorney in

front of us."

Board Trustee Frederick Weaver had initially suggested interviewing the top six firms "because there seems to be a significant drop off after number six."

"The top six would provide enough flavor to allow the board to look at what they're offering and not be restrictive," he said.

Schofield, however, questioned the idea of interviewing firms that would cost the district more in legal fees.

"When we went in to this process the stated goal was to save the

district money, so why interview a firm that is more expensive than our current firm (Lusk and Albertson) and given the fact our department heads have given excellent reviews for current firm," said Schofield. "Why interview a firm that on the list below our current firm."

"I agree with Cindy on that," said board Treasurer Shawna Walker. "The top four have the higher numbers."

"There seems to be a natural break between four and five," added Middel.

Interview questions

Board members were asked to come with ques-

tions in advance of the study session that could be used in the interview process. The trustees will receive copies of the top four RFPs to develop questions specific to those firms. School Superintendent Greg Baracy also asked that copies be provided to department heads who could also provide them with questions.

He also suggested that Middel or another board member meet with the district's Human Resources director to go over the questions.

"If you're concerned about the type of questions, you could review them with Human Resources to see if they

meet the guidelines of a good, solid interview," he said. "They could make sure the question is appropriate and provide guidance because there are questions you can't ask and shouldn't ask."

Trustee Andrea Clawson had hoped to get the board to agree to a second study session to review the questions.

"I'd like to have an idea going into the process what we need to know from each firm," she said. "Personally, I'd like to discuss this, I'd like to hear what you say. I'd like to hear the discussion, it can help me."

Schofield, however, pointed out that discussing the questions at

a study session would make them public, giving the law firms a chance to see them, and come up with answers.

"It would take something away from the process," she said. "I know all four would get the questions and they will give us exactly what we want to hear. They'll know what we're asking for."

"It would be like studying for the test," added Walker.

The board expects to begin the interview process sometime after next week's mid-winter recess.

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PATROL

Continued from page A1

work them."

The officers aren't being redeployed to address a public safety issue, the officer said, but rather a financial emergency with the court being short \$800,000 in projected revenues. "We will do what is

asked of us, the detectives are being assigned to enforce traffic laws. We're filling this hole (in revenues) with tickets," said the officer, adding with one day a week usually spent in court detectives are left with only two days to work on investigations.

Angelosanto declined to comment on the reassignment of the detectives. Mayor William Wild also

declined to respond specifically to the comments from the officers.

"Some people in the police department, who didn't work outside, are working outside a couple of days a week," Wild said. "They don't like it anymore than the firefighters who had to take care of residential and commercial ordinance enforcement. We have had to reorganize. The

Police Department and Fire Department are not immune."

Midway through the current fiscal year, 18th District Court's revenues were \$800,000 below projections. The city is also looking at a \$2.2 million drop in revenues due to a more than 9-percent decrease in property values.

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Stacey Turnipseed, RN Director of Nursing

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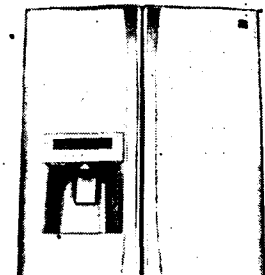
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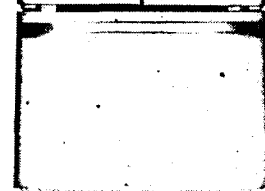
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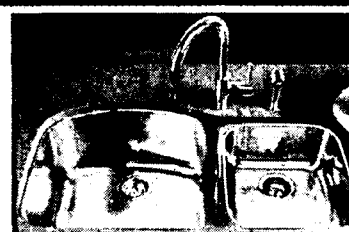
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County commissioners want answers from Ficano

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, has called for County Executive Robert Ficano to resign, but many of her fellow commissioners want more answers and accountability.

Cox called for Ficano's resignation Thursday at a commission meeting inside the commission chambers at the Guardian Building.

Cox's statements came one day after the FBI charged Wayne County's former Chief Information Officer Tahir Kazmi with extortion, theft and obstruction of justice. The FBI also charged Zayd Allebban, another member of the IT department, with obstruction of justice.

"Why does any duly elected commissioner have to put up with the corruption, incompetence and pettiness of the Ficano administration?" Cox asked. "Does anyone here know one employee — one employee out of our 4,300 employees — who is proud to say they are a public servant in Wayne County? Mr. Ficano and his administration have given a black eye to public service in Wayne County."

Cox said Ficano has "stonewalled" the commission on questions regarding spending. "He said there were no more severances; then we found out he was hiding even bigger severances than Ms. (Turkia) Mullin," Cox said. "So I am going to say what most every one of those 1.8 million citizens have been saying. We need a leader who is not someone hiding out in a bunker on the 31st floor. We need a leader who is man enough to come before this commission and answer our questions. We need a leader — man or woman — who is strong enough to lead

this troubled county. We need that leader now and it isn't Bob Ficano.

"Wayne County needs those of us on this commission to speak truth to power. It needs us to be silent no longer. So today I call on Bob Ficano to resign and let Wayne County move on."

Ficano issued a statement in response to Cox's statement.

"The commissioner's statements today are obvious political grandstanding that cannot be taken seriously and are not worthy of a response," Ficano said. "I am not resigning, and there have been no allegations of wrongdoing made against me. My administration will continue to be cooperative with the federal authorities."

One other county commissioner — Bernard Parker, D-Detroit — also believes Ficano should step down.

Commissioner Diane Webb, a Democrat who represents Garden City and Redford, believes the administration should be held accountable for its actions.

"Residents need to understand that by law, the Wayne County Commission does not have the ability to remove the county executive from office," Webb said. "I understand where Commissioner Cox is coming from, and I am equally as appalled and outraged as she is because it is

clear that the administration has intentionally misled and deceived the commission and the public.

"The FBI's investigation has been moving swiftly and thoroughly, and we need to let that process take its course.

At this moment in time, the commission, which is the county's legislative body, needs to continue what we are doing and that's been enacting ordinances that provide safeguards and maximize internal controls."

County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, a Democrat from Canton, said Ficano needs to sit down with commissioners and tell them what's going on.

"If he's not willing to do that, then enough is enough ... a lot of the commissioners feel that way," McNamara said. "He's misled us ... he's gone around the rules that govern how we do business. He needs to get out of that bunker on the 31st floor, tell us what happened and stop spoon-feeding the

truth to us. Enough is enough."

Local community leaders are not joining Cox in her call for Ficano's resignation.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, while stopping short of saying Ficano should resign, said Wayne County has obvious problems.

"I think there are some significant issues, and they need to be addressed," LaJoy said. "I don't think things are getting better. The problem for me is, every day it's something new. Somehow, somehow, these things need to get figured out."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume declined to comment on Cox's call for Ficano's resignation.

He said county employees have always been attuned to the needs of Plymouth Township residents.

"Plymouth Township works cooperatively with the Wayne County administration, including the executive's office and individual Wayne County departments," Reaume said.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey would not comment on Cox's statement, nor would he comment when asked if he agreed with her or what he thought about the federal investigation of Wayne County. Westland Mayor Bill Wild also would not comment on Cox's call for Ficano to resign.

Staff Writers Brad Kadrich and Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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RELAY

Continued from page A1

event in Jaycee Park will be holidays and that was reflected in the table decorations ranging from a decorated Christmas tree to flowers and rabbits for Easter.

Each team will select a holiday to celebrate at their site during the event. Westland Relay vice chairperson and city Councilwoman Meriam Kadi's team will have a Thanksgiving theme.

"My sisters are out of state. My father wanted to have a Thanksgiving reunion for the family, so I picked that for a theme," said Kadi, whose display included a photograph of the family taken during the last Thanksgiving gathering before her father died of cancer.

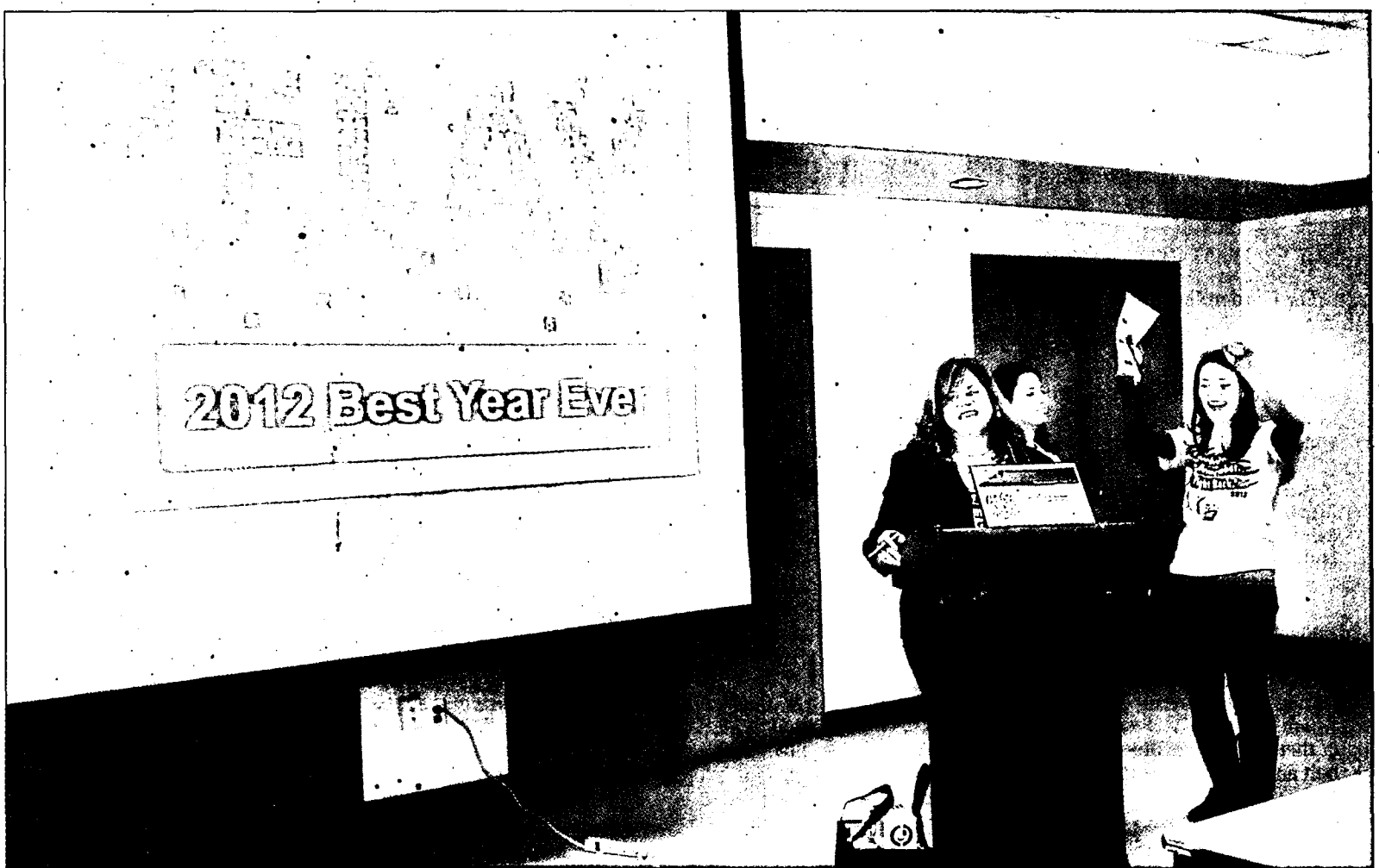
At the kickoff, Kadi asked participants to write their blessings on slips of paper, which she will use to make a display for Relay for Life.

A video showing photos of past Westland Relay for Life events prepared by Craig Welkenbach of WLND was featured as participants talked about their experiences.

"I've never seen such a custom video like that," said Marie Matuszak of the American Cancer Society.

Commitment

Heather Andres of the Reddy to Live a Little team talked about her experiences as a team captain. Formed with her friend Robbie Graham, the team takes its name from Andres's mother Maureen Reddy and Graham's friend Linda Lid-



Westland Relay for Life chairperson Rhonda Temple (left) was joined by vice-chairperson Meriem Kadi and Marie Matuszak of the American Cancer Society to kick-off the annual event.

dle, both of whom died from cancer.

"I learned that giving up 24 hours for relay was a commitment to eradicating cancer, it is giving someone another birthday," said Andres, whose team raised \$5,552 last year.

Last year, the Westland Relay for Life had 19 teams with 373 participants, including 66 cancer survivors. The event raised \$62,125. Over the previous five years, the annual event raised nearly \$500,000.

A first-time participant this year will be Bray's

Hamburgers, which will be selling T-shirts and burgers during the event.

"My father died three years ago from cancer. I did the Dearborn Relay for Life last year," said Dawn Odien, Bray's general manager. "I wanted to do something in Westland. I work here and live in Westland. I wanted to get involved. My boss said it would be a great idea."

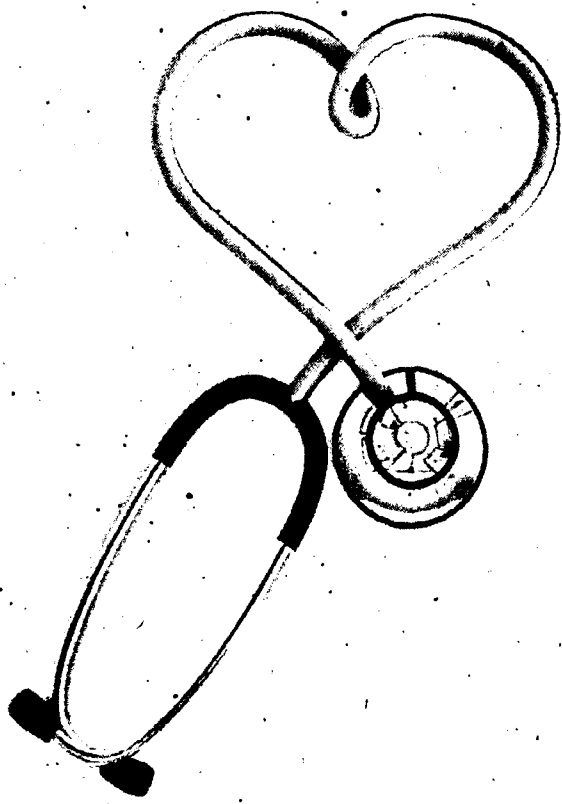
For more information or to sign up for Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org/WestlandMI.

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Tables featured holiday decorations as participants in the Westland Relay for Life gathered to kick off the annual event.

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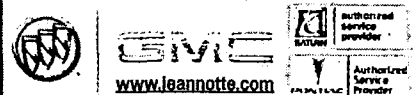
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ZBA to take second look at rezoning

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

The Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a second hearing on a proposed gas station for the southwest corner of Middlebelt and Warren roads.

The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22, and an award-winning Michigan motorcycle builder is hoping plans won't go forward.

Steve Broyles Sr., who grew up in Garden City and attended Garden City schools, owns four homes in Garden City which he rents out. Two of them are on Middlebelt and Rush, adjacent to Alexander's Restaurant, which is being sold to Kroger and would be demolished for a new Kroger gas station.

The city's planning and zoning process is being redone because of a "clerical error," according to Fred May, who sits on the Garden City Planning Commission and the Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals.

The process is being redone on the advice of the city attorney "to be fair to all parties," May said.

Broyles said he wasn't

notified of the project, even though his properties are within the 300-foot radius that requires notification. Broyles discovered that when he filed a Freedom of Information request and learned his was the only name left off the list. It has struck a dissonant chord with Broyles and his Realtor, Mary Simkow, who have tried to sell the properties over the years.

There's also other concerns.

Broyles said that one of his tenant's children is autistic and is sensitive to smells.

"The gas station would be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., while the restaurant closes at 6 p.m.," Broyles said.

He believes that the persistent gasoline smells will not help this student, who attends Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

Some experts say that some smells are extremely detrimental to some autistic children who are super-sensitive to them.

Both Broyles and Simkow have additional concerns because in speaking with a Kroger representative, they learned.

that the gas station will benefit the Kroger store at Warren Road and Middlebelt in Westland and not the Kroger store on Middlebelt, north of Ford, in Garden City.

"This gas station's sales will go to the Westland Kroger, not the Garden City Kroger," said Simkow, a former Garden City resident. "Since this will inflate the bottom line of Westland Kroger at the Garden City Kroger's expense, it will make the Garden City Kroger appear as a less-viable store in terms of profits. Kroger currently makes more profits from pharmacies and gas than they do from the sale of groceries."

"This could put our Garden City Kroger in jeopardy again," Broyles added.

Garden City Mayor Randy Walker said that the special land use cleared the planning commission and that he knows there are people who don't like the project.

Broyles hopes to relay his concerns during the public comments section of Monday's Garden City Council meeting.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2249

Household items taken in break-ins

GARDEN CITY

Break-ins

Garden City homeowners recently experienced break-ins.

A Lakeport, Mich., resident, who owns a second home in the 29000 block of Winter Court, said that she found the rear door forced open on Feb. 14.

The home has been up for sale for the last two years.

The homeowner noticed search activity of financial records kept inside the home but she doesn't know if anyone took anything.

The police provided her information about identity theft.

In an earlier, separate break-in incident discovered in the 31000 block of Bridge Feb. 9, a son, whose mother is out of state, was checking the house and discovered a lock pried off on the garage door.

The only other people who had access to the house was a cleaning firm who was in the basement and garage, he said.

Several items were taken from the garage, including an Egyptian chair, a three-burner stove, a six-foot alumi-

num ladder and aluminum play boards.

determine what shattered the window.

Larcenies

Two apartment dwellers who live in the 28000 block of Pardo reported thefts from their vehicles sometime before 7 a.m. Feb. 14.

A Dodge Stratus owner said that someone stole credit cards and debit cards from her vehicle which has a broken lock, rendering it unsecurable. The theft resulted in a fraudulent \$726 bill on her credit card.

A Jeep owner on that block also reported the theft of tax documents from her unlocked vehicle.

Property damage

Someone broke a window at Jasen Heating, 30709 Ford, before 9 a.m. Feb. 14 but did not gain entry into the building.

The police couldn't

Fraud

A Garden City woman who lives in the 32000 block of Rosslyn told police Feb. 14 that when she tried to file her income tax return, it was rejected because the filing was duplicative. She is concerned because her refund is almost \$4,000.

Property damage

A resident in the 5900 block of Middlebelt told police Feb. 10 that someone had tampered with his car.

When he started his auto, it began to smoke profusely. The gas cap was off and it looked like there was a substance like sugar on the gas cap drum.

He also noticed that there was a "gunky" substance on a car belt.

By Sue Buck

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A NEW ARTHRITIS

The patient is an elderly person usually age 85 or older, coming to the office on an emergency basis. The patient is experiencing such pain that getting out of the house without the aid of a relative or neighbor is impossible. When the doctor examines the patient there is nothing to see. The patient points to a place on the hand or foot as the site of the intense pain, but the doctor cannot identify any swelling or redness, only marked pain if the site is even gently palpated.

Treatment consists of an injection of steroid at the site of pain. This therapy at times ends the attack, but not always. In some instances the injection gives only 1-2 days relief; the doctor must prescribe oral prednisone 10-15 mg for five days, and then repeat the dose because of another attack.

These episodes exhibit the features of gout, but swelling is missing and repeat attacks so soon after therapy, is not in keeping with gout. The response of cortisone controls the pain, but the need for repeated doses brings the risk of steroid side effects such as bone loss and vulnerability to infection.

To date, investigators have found no correlation of this arthritis with changes in thyroid or kidney function, presence of diabetes or use of medications such as diuretics. Nor does any medicine other than steroids stop an episode.

This arthritis seems connected with aging, and with changes in bone chemistry. Until research uncovers the biochemical events leading to the acute episodes physicians see, the medical community must continue to treat and advise with caution.

Romney talks business at chamber luncheon

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said all the right words to a crowd of more than 500 Thursday at a lunch co-hosted by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I liked how he talked about how important Michigan is, and about bringing businesses back to Michigan," said Mark LaBerge, an ambassador with the Livonia Chamber.

His son, Andy LaBerge, of Livonia, who is 22, said he was impressed by Romney's words — and his spirit.

"I think he truly believes in America," he said. "My generation is looking for jobs — and for the president himself to hold to his promises. That's the biggest thing that's caused anger and disapproval in our current president, in my generation."

The longtime businessman and former Massachusetts governor made a strategic stop on the campaign trail, just hours before key opponent Rick Santorum was scheduled to speak at the Oakland County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner in neighboring Novi.

The Republican presidential primary in Michigan is Feb. 28.

Romney was joined by family members and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder at the event, held at the Farmington Hills Manor. Snyder, Thursday, publicly endorsed Romney in a *Detroit News* guest column, and offered words of support before Romney took the stage.

He means business
Snyder pointed out



Greater Farmington Area

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mitt Romney said many Obama administration actions are anti-business.

Michigan "had been at the bottom, for a decade, of all 50 states," but is now repositioned as a leader in a fiscal turnaround that has erased a \$1.5 billion debt and eliminated \$5.6 billion in long-term liability.

He also touted the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax and Michigan's recent climb from 49th to seventh best in the nation for corporate taxation.

"We are now becoming a role model for the rest of the United States, in what success is all about

and what teamwork is all about," he said.

Change in D.C.

Snyder said Washington D.C. is holding the state back.

"Washington is a divided place and the job is not getting done," he said. "We need the leadership in Washington to get that job done. To do that, we need the right people, leading the charge. We have a person in Governor Romney who has that background. He has a great combination of private

sector experience ... and being the chief executive of a state."

Romney echoed his experience in the private sector as being essential in knowing the nuances of how to run a government.

He was preaching to the choir, to a room filled with Chamber of Commerce members who own or manage businesses.

"In the private sector that you all live in, you're either fiscally conservative or you're out of business," he said. "You can't borrow money year after

year and spend more than you take in, or you'll go bankrupt. And, if you don't balance your budget, you'll kill your enterprise."

Inspiring

Debra Williams of Livonia, vice president of operations at Garden City Hospital, said Romney's speech was "very fruitful and insightful."

"He is a man who can hopefully lead the American people in the right direction," she said.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said Romney's

speech was so spot-on and succinct, he told him afterward, that he should make audio copies and distribute it all over the country. He liked that Romney explained his private sector background and why it's important in government — and how he would make it work.

"It was one of his most effective presentations," said Kirksey. "I thought both governors gave outstanding speeches."

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Santorum calls Michigan primary 'game changer'

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Declaring Michigan "is in a high-stake place" in the November elections, Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum fired up an already energized crowd of 1,400 at the annual Oakland County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner Thursday in Novi.

The former U.S. Senator criticized the current administration and outlined his vision for a United States that is "built on the concepts that made America great."

Held at the Suburban Collection Showplace, the event reportedly drew record numbers, dwarfing the typical attendance of some 500 seen at past years' Lincoln Day dinners.

Santorum, the final speaker in a lineup that included Gov. Rick Snyder, Ann Romney and Rev. C.L. Bryant, outlined a conservative agenda that embraces "foundational freedoms," economic opportunity for all and limited government — buoyed by solid family values. This, he said, is the key to once again making America "the model for the world."

Calling President Barack Obama "divider in chief" and describing the current Congress as "horribly unpopular,"



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Senator Rick Santorum greets the Oakland County Republican Party at their Feb. 16 dinner in Novi.

Santorum said "we don't have the leadership to remind us what brought us together, what made us great."

America, he said, "is a great country because we believe in a great society being built from the ground up, a great society that trusts free people."

He also spoke out against Obama's "over-reaching and over-burdening regulation" that he said is thwarting free enterprise and

job growth. "It's crushing and destroying the goose that laid the golden egg," he said.

Santorum said Obama "is a president that doesn't believe in you." "You need someone who can paint a picture of an America that puts people to work, not make them dependent," he said.

Noting that his relatives emigrated to the United States knowing they would find opportunity and freedom,

Santorum said people "need to elect someone who understands the heart and soul of America's values, to go out and talk to the American people, to remind us who we are and what brings us together."

This is a "time of great consequence," Santorum added. "And Michigan, Michigan is in the center. You have an opportunity to be a game changer in the primary. You have an opportunity to be a



Republican presidential hopeful and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum writes a few autographs for the party faithful during their Feb. 16 Lincoln Day Dinner at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.

game changer in the general election."

In the crowd were several Milford High School students, who said they were selected for the event by their advanced placement government teacher.

"I am a conservative, but I still haven't picked a candidate," said 18-year-old William Schoenle, a senior.

Fellow student Chris Orr said he wanted to attend "just to get involved in government."

"And to keep my options open," he said. Novi resident Jack Donnelly said he was "here for great government."

"I just want to hear what they have to say. I haven't totally made up

my mind (for the primary), but I will.

"And I think it's inspiring to see all the young people here," Donnelly said. "It's very encouraging."

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Family Center's new director aims to make it 'best place'

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

As the new director of the Wayne County Family Center, Angela Pilarski set some goals both for the organization and the service received by clients.

"I want to make this the best place for staff to work, to give them all the tools and professional development on an ongoing basis," said Pilarski. "For the families, I want it to be the best shelter it can be so we can provide the best resources so that they don't continue to be in a position to need our services."

The goal working with families served by the shelter, located on Mich-

igan Avenue in Westland, is to eventually break the cycle of financial poverty, said Pilarski.

Joining the family center staff on Feb. 1, Pilarski had previously worked for The Guidance Center in Southgate, managing the Head Start program.

"This is a smaller scale program than I managed before. I saw an opportunity to bring the program excellence," said Pilarski, who wanted the more direct impact she could make with the family center. "Also, there was the reputation of Lutheran Family Services (which operates the center for the county) as a quality agency with such diverse pro-

grams." Currently a Farmington Hills resident, Pilarski grew up in Livonia and graduated from Livonia Churchill High School before earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in administration, both from Central Michigan University.

Temporary housing

The Wayne County Family Center provides temporary housing for 24 homeless families. That includes meals, counseling to help with financial management, job searches and housing along with child care and transportation assistance.

"We run one day care room, I want it to be the



As the new director of the Wayne County Family Center Angela Pilarski is looking to bring the program to excellence.

best day care room it can be," said Pilarski. "There is no reason for a different level of quality based on poverty. Homelessness doesn't mean you're entitled to less quality service. That's what I hold myself and my staff to."

Renovations are under way at the family center, thanks largely to donations of money, goods and services, said Pilarski.

"We have received over \$130,000 in donations recently from individuals, groups and the Lutheran church community," said Pilarski. Other donations include a refrigerator from the Westland Rotary Club and a television courtesy of Westland Mayor William Wild and his administrative staff.

New library

Accompanied by family center program administrator Brenda Johnson, Pilarski showed off the center's new library complete



Brenda Johnson is program administrator at the Wayne County Family Center.

with new furniture, bookshelves and computers. "There were long banquet tables in here. It was just a little spot — there were no books, no bookshelves," said Johnson. "We redid the whole room."

With computers provided by the Wayne Metropolitan Community Services, Johnson said family center clients can go online to do job searches and apply for Department of Human

Services programs. Children also can do their homework assignments.

"This is easier than transporting people to the library, they aren't residents (to access library services). This turned out great," said Johnson.

A May 3 open house is being planned to show off improvements at the family center.

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Family Center helps clients get back on their feet

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A large overdue DTE Energy bill and issues with housing brought Christina King and her five children to the Wayne County Family Center about four months ago.

"It's been decent (at the center). I'm working on housing, schooling and getting myself out of debt," said King, 28, who has 11-year-old twin boys, 7-year-old twin girls and a 9-year-old son. "I'm making progress."

The Wayne County Family Center is one of the few homeless shelters in Michigan where family members can stay together in the same room. The 24 families - currently 79 people, including 55 children - don't share their room with anyone else.

Before coming to the center, King said she and the children had lived in a place without electricity for eight months.

"I'm trying to get a business and finish up my schooling," said King, who is working to complete her GED. "I would like to open a clubhouse for kids and adults."

Common dilemma
With a large debt still

owed to DTE, King is faced with the problem of trying to deal with past debt and trying to support her family going forward. That's a common dilemma for family center clients.

"If bills need to be paid and you're not working, the debt is still growing," said Wayne County Family Center Director Angela Pilarski. "Getting out of poverty isn't as easy as getting a job. It's not that they aren't trying."

As clients struggle to get back on their feet, Pilarski said they often don't make enough money at jobs or are underemployed.

The only criteria for families to receive help at the family center is homelessness. Families can stay up to two years although the average is six to seven months.

Some families had trouble with large utility bills or another financial issues that resulted in homelessness, said Brenda Johnson, program administrator.

"Some were living in homes that were in foreclosure and the landlord didn't tell them. Or a landlord gets people into a house and didn't own it," said Johnson. "There is a loss of jobs.



Christina King, 28, and her son Marctwan Thomas, 9, have been staying at the Wayne County Family Center for about four months. King, who also has two sets of twins, had been living in Detroit in a home without electricity.

Some owners lost their homes."

When clients meet with case managers, Johnson said they determine what the clients see as their obstacles and set goals to help them move forward with their lives.

Outreach program

A single parent, Johnson said, would be encouraged to apply for jobs that would work around the children's school schedule. Once a family has left the center, there is a six-month outreach program that helps them connect with after school care.

"We try to promote getting families into Section 8 subsidized housing. It's affordable," said Johnson. "The rent goes down, if your income drops. It doesn't mean you get put out of your home. It's secure housing."

Many families are struggling economically, Pilarski said, with housing being a major problem.

"It's very emotional

to try to get the best for your kids, your intentions might not come to fruition," Pilarski said. "That's why trying to connect people to all

these services is essential. It's very difficult to negotiate."

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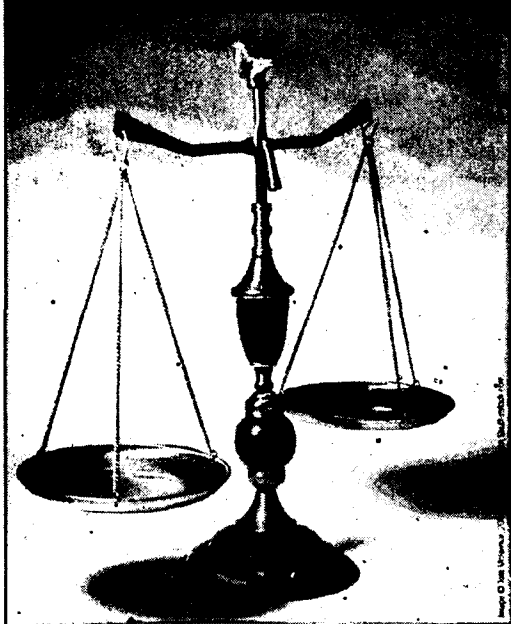
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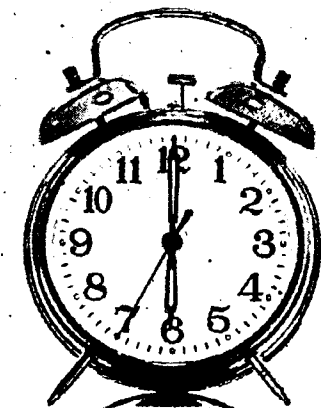
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Tuesday, March 6, 2012
5:30 pm - Registration
6:00 pm - Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan
35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185
(Located in the Westland Specialty Center, adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

- This event is free to the public and includes speakers:
- **Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI, John Morrison, Jr., DO**
Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
 - **Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.**
Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
 - **Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD**
Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
 - **Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN**
Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes
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Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

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Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330



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Red Hatters have fun, help charities

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

Members of the Red Hat Society go everywhere and they always wear red hats.

Queen Mom Peggy Burklow, a Garden City resident, leads her group of 18 active women, all more than 50 years young, in fun and charitable causes.

At 57, Linda Corey is the youngest, while Sally Day, at 86, is the oldest member of the group. The six-year-old chapter meets at noon the second Tuesday of the month at the Maplewood Center.

Burklow just wanted to have fun when she joined.

"Prior to this year, everything we have done was to help charity," Burklow said.

They have adopted families at Christmas, given Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets, socks to Sweet Dreams, Inc., helped a soldier and his military company friends overseas and helped the annual Kiwanis Kids Day in the Park. They have even had a float in the Santaland parade.

"The ladies rode on bales of straw," she said.

The chapter also exchanges and donates books and contributes food gift cards to needy seniors.

Getting started

The Red Hat Society is a social organization originally founded in 1998 in the United States for women age 50 and older, but is now open to women of all ages. As of 2011, there were more than 40,000 chapters in the U.S. and 30 other countries.

The founder of the



Queen Mom Peggy Burklow, a retired Garden City city employee, enjoys leading her group of 18 women, all more than 50 years young, in both fun and charitable causes.

society is artist Sue Ellen Cooper, who lives in Fullerton in Orange County, Calif. In 1997, Cooper gave a friend a 55th birthday gift consisting of a red bowler purchased at an antique store along with a copy of Jenny Joseph's poem *Warning*. The opening lines of the poem read:

"When I am an old woman I shall wear purple

With a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me."

Cooper repeated the gift on request several times, and eventually several of the women bought purple outfits and

held a tea party April 25, 1998.

Cooper never set out to ignite an international phenomenon. However, after spreading by word of mouth, the society first received national publicity in 2000 through the magazine *Romantic Homes* and a feature in the *Orange County Register*.

Cooper then established a "Hatquarters" to field the hundreds of e-mail requests for help starting chapters. She now serves as "Exalted Queen Mother," and has written two best-selling books about the society.



Carol Marshall and Nancy Chrutie, both members of a Garden City chapter of the Red Hat Society, enjoy a special fondue lunch during their club meeting on Valentine's Day at the Maplewood Center.



Vice-Mom Sally Day wears a typical red hat worn by members of the Red Hat Society.



Linda Corey is one of the youngest members of the Garden City chapter.

"Madame, this is not that kind of red hat society."

The Garden City chapter is devoting itself to doing things for themselves. Next month, they are going to Turkeyville near Marshall to see the musical *Church Basement Ladies*.

Sally Day, the vice mum, helps Burklow.

"We never knew each other until we all joined this," Day said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2249

The Red Hat Society's primary purpose is social interaction among women and to encourage fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment and fitness. The goal is for members to bond as they travel through life together.

paid homage to the Red Hat Society. It's been featured in an episode of *The Simpsons* and in Brian Crane's comic strip *Pickles*. And, in the comic strip *Mother Goose and Grimm*, a Red Hatter is shown sitting with the College of Cardinals. One of the cardinals informs her,

Pop culture
Popular culture has

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Travelers wary after cruise ship accident

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer



Jerry Thorne, owner of Party Animal in Garden City, who has taken numerous large groups of people on cruises, spoke about the sunken Costa Concordia ship.

Garden City travel agent Jerry Thorne was on a separate cruise ship in Europe when he got word about the Costa Concordia last month.

The owner of Party Animal Travel went up to the top deck and was struck by the "deadly silence." The passengers were all watching the news about the stricken cruise ship on TVs.

"They were on this massive liner and they were watching another as it slowly sunk," he said. "I had just been on that same coastline. I could not believe that the ship could get that close to ground."

Thorne spoke about the nautical disaster to his fellow Kiwanis Club members Thursday.

"It has come out that when she hit the coast and the rock formation that was underneath that ship, for a period of time, the captain, Francesco Schettino, was nowhere close to the bridge," he said. "That captain was four decks down with his girlfriend. By the way, he is married with three kids."

There's no longer steering wheels on ships, Thorne explained.

"They are all computer generated and the courses are pre-set," Thorne said.

That same ship had gone through 14 days earlier and didn't hit anything, however, the captain had a friend who was a photographer who wanted to get a great shot of the ship. He changed the course of the ship and hit rock formation, Thorne said.

"The ship is still there and there are still 11 passengers who aren't accounted for," Thorne said.

Thorne said that 4,211 people, including the crew, were on the ship. They have pumped out

all of the oil from the ship, which is fortunate because there is a dolphin sanctuary nearby.

Most ships sailing are owned by Carnival Cruise Line Corp., he said.

Wary travelers

In the first two weeks after the incident, cruise bookings and cancellations increased, but the business is coming back, he said. It's estimated that the wreck will cost the corporation \$1.4 billion.

"They have 72 percent of the litigations already settled," Thorne said. "If you weren't injured, got to the life boat and just got to shore, they offered to pay you \$4,200 and added \$10,000 so everybody got \$14,200."

Litigation is still under way for the injured.

The passengers had to turn over their passports when they got on board and the passports are still in a safe in the bottom of the boat.

"She is still sitting on a shelf," Thorne said.

Adding to the listing was the weight of luggage, washers and dryers on one side, he said.

Trials resulting from the cruise will occur in an Italian court. People who were injured and decide to sue Carnival Cruise Lines must get Italian attorneys and have it tried in an Italian court in Rome.

"They figure you will come to trial in three to five years," Thorne said.

The captain has been charged with 32 counts of murder, with 117 other charges against him, Thorne said.

"We figure that his trial won't come up until four or five years from now and he is in jail," Thorne said. "They figure that each one of these is a separate trial. He will have 32 separate trials. They figure that he can be released from prison on his 214th birthday."

Crime scene

The Costa Concordia set out for the first time in 2005 and was taken back two years later to sell. She again sailed out in 2008.

Nothing will happen to the ship.

"She has to be taken back to Rome and used as a crime scene," Thorne said.

Thorne is no stranger to disaster preparation.

Besides Thorne's travel agency business, his regular job is spent as a charge nurse at Providence Hospital in Southfield. For Thorne, who has taken many groups on cruises, he has found that some people avoid the safety drills which could help them.

"People hide in bathrooms so they don't have to participate in them," said Thorne, who has survived bad weather on cruises, including a hurricane.

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Pay off charge cards and diversify portfolio with windfall

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my late 50s and receiving Social Security disability. I just received a settlement from Social Security and after I pay the taxes and legal fees, I will have approximately \$30,000. Currently, I do not need any additional income and I don't think I will need the money for at least 10 years.

After reading one of your past columns, I did refinance using the HARP mortgage and I'm locked in at 3 1/4 percent. In addition, I have \$5,000 on an outstanding charge card where the interest rate is 9.9 percent. I also have another \$10,000 in charge card debt, however, it is at 2 percent. The rate will adjust May 1.

I consider myself a moderate investor and my current portfolio, which is approximately \$150,000, is 50 percent U.S. stocks, 5 percent large, foreign stocks and 45 percent U.S. treasury. I would appreciate any suggestions.

A: My first recommendation is pay off both charge cards. In regards to the charge card that you are paying 9.9 percent, it is a no-brainer — pay this card off.

After all, by paying off this high-interest rate charge card, you're guaranteeing yourself a 9.9-percent return.

In today's world, most investors would agree that 9.9 percent is an excellent rate of return.

As to the other card, because your gimmick rate is set to expire in the very near future, I think it also makes sense to pay it off. I have no doubt that when the rate

adjusts in May, your rate will rise dramatically.

In the past, many people would transfer the balance to

another gimmick rate deal and keep doing that. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as it used to be. You may find that you are unable to do this. Therefore, pay off both cards now.

I love the idea that you are looking at long-term growth for the remaining money. Based upon that and what you currently have in your portfolio, I recommend investing the remaining \$15,000 in an emerging market fund. At this point, you don't have this asset class in your portfolio.

Emerging market funds invest in new economies such as China and India. It used to be that only aggressive investors invested in an emerging market fund, however, that is no longer the case. Today, all investors need to maintain a position in emerging market funds for diversification purposes.

A couple of no-load (no commission) funds to consider are the Fidelity Emerging Market Fund and the Acadian Emerging Market Fund.

The Vanguard Emerging Market Stock Index is another good fund to consider.

When I got involved in this business more than 25 years ago, investing internationally was considered the cutting edge. Investing in emerging markets was unheard of. Today, despite what is happening in Europe and other parts of the world, it is imperative that investors maintain a position in international equities.

Just as with U.S. equities, it is important to have different asset classes. The same thing applies internationally.

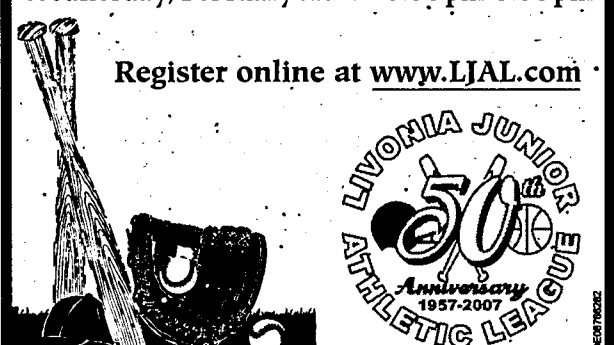
As far as I'm concerned, just about all investors need positions in large company international, small company international and emerging markets. Just as large corporations now think globally, investors need to do the same thing. Investing internationally is not aggressive nor is it unpatriotic. It is smart and over the long run, the smart investors are the ones who end up with more money in their pocket, and that is exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneyatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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The Senior Alliance.
Area Agency on Aging 1-C

The Senior Alliance will host a Public Hearing Session for input regarding the FY 2013 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for services to persons age 60 and older in Western and Southern Wayne County.

Monday, March 12, 2012
2:00 p.m.

The Senior Alliance
3850 Second St., Ste. 100
Wayne, MI 48184

The AIP draft will be available online February 24, 2012 at www.TheSeniorAlliance.org

Written comments accepted until March 31, 2012

For more information call 734.727.2060

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 12-002, Rezoning of the following:
 - 32917 Ford Road, from C-2, Community Business to C-3, General Business

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: February 19, 2012

St. Raphael Fish Fry Fridays

Every Friday During Lent Begins
February 24th, 2012

Hours: 4:30-7pm or until dinners are sold out
(Good Friday: 3-7pm or until dinners are sold out)

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Fish Dinner...\$8.75	Shrimp Dinner...\$8.75
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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment, and programs, which will be used to record and tabulate voted ballots for the Presidential Primary Election, to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt • Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: February 22, 2012
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

Publish: February 19, 2012

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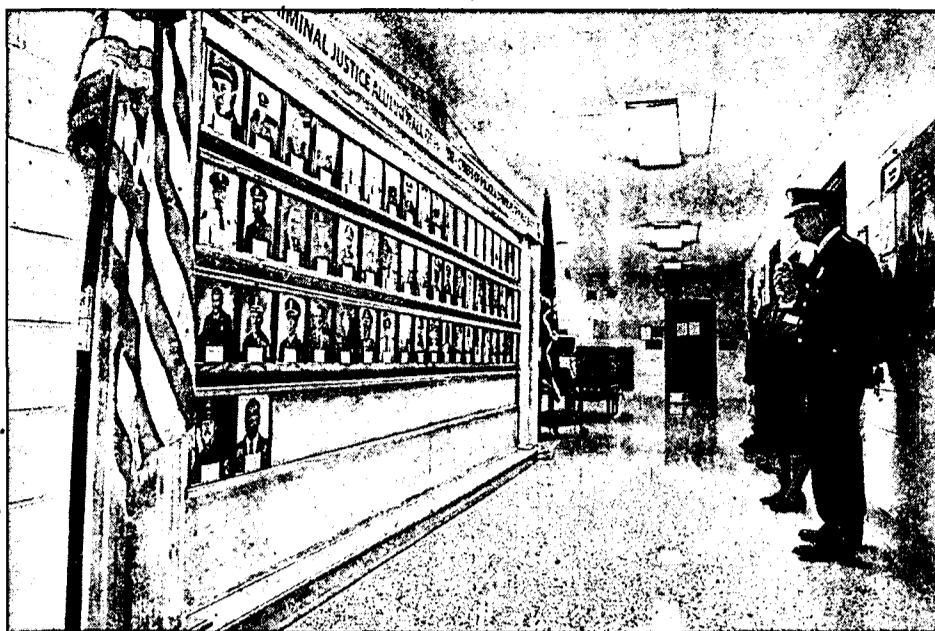
Top cops, alumni, friends gather for dedication ceremony

About 80 people gathered at Madonna University in Livonia Monday night to celebrate the dedication and blessing of the university's new Criminal Justice Alumni Wall of Honor. The wall highlights the many police chiefs and directors of public safety who have graduated from Madonna's criminal justice program over the past 40 years.

"This is a very special night as we celebrate and thank these many brave men and women who have served our communities so well over the years. We are very proud to have so many prestigious alumni," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, president of Madonna University.

Alumni guest speakers Robert Stevenson, who serves as the executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and David Harvey, executive director of Michigan's commission on Law Enforcement Standards, both heaped praises on Madonna's criminal justice program.

"I truly believe that Madonna University has the best criminal justice instructors in the nation," said Harvey.



PHOTOS BY ALAN PINON

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, president of Madonna University, shows Livonia's Police Chief Curtis Caid the university's newly re-built Alumni Wall of Honor. The wall highlights the many police chiefs and directors of public safety who have graduated from Madonna's criminal justice program over the past 40 years, including Chief Caid.



About 80 people gathered at Madonna University Monday evening for the dedication and blessing of the University's new Criminal Justice Alumni Wall of honor, which highlights the many chiefs of police and directors of public safety who have graduated from Madonna's program.

Growth Works applauds young people who overcome

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

Area young people and adults were lauded Thursday at the annual Growth Works Recognition & Awards Dinner.

Each year, the agency acknowledges endeavors of young people who successfully address significant obstacles in their lives. Some have come to Plymouth-based Growth Works through the juvenile justice system and have been in the Western Wayne Care Management Organization, one of five delinquency agencies established by Wayne County to serve the needs of delinquent wards.

"We like to acknowledge the progress youth have made in improving their lives," said Dale Yagiela, executive director. "And also people in the community who have been helpful in that process."

Growth Works started in 1971 in its same downtown Plymouth building with Yagiela as the first employee.

"A lot of our supporters and friends come together" each year at the dinner, he said, including the Growth Works board, county commissioners and those who work in juvenile justice with Wayne County and agencies including Growth Works, Wolverine Human Services and others.

'Nice moment'

"These are folks who all play a role. We're always dealing with the difficult parts of this, so this is really a nice moment," Yagiela said of the evening.

WWCMO relies heavily on Growth Works' Addiction and Recovery Treatment efforts.

Tiffany Willoughby of Farmington Hills and

Joseph Taylor of Garden City were recognized for efforts toward continued success in the community following program services from Western Wayne Care Management Organization.

Austin Thomas of Plymouth, Sean Hyde of Plymouth and Marissa Thilman of Ypsilanti were recognized for continuing commitment and efforts toward recovery and achievement following services in Community Intervention and Treatment.

During the dinner at Fox Hills Golf Club, three Growth Works board members were lauded for years of service: Steve Harper, 30; Pete Wilson, 25; and Don Morgan, 20.

Community Awards recipients included Jim Belknap of Royal Oak, who retired last year as the deputy director for Juvenile Justice Services for Wayne County and was a "charter member" of the county's Care Management effort. Community Awards recognize efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people.

"He was really instrumental in working out policy and process issues. He really was a good teacher to our staff," Yagiela said.

Keith Johnston of Belleville also received a Community Award. Johnston is a businessman who's active in the Van Buren/Belleville communities. He has been active in that area's WWCMO Community Team.

"He's really been helpful in working with kids we have coming out of residential programs," the executive director said. The community team is an effort to connect community stakeholders to the youth in the CMO.

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Avengers fans came out on the winning side, but it was very close.

Avengers vanquish X-men in comic book smackdown

The vote was so close but in the end, the Avengers pulled out a win at the super hero smackdown at Back to the Past Pop Culture Warehouse.

"Avengers won with 51 percent of the vote," said Dennis McDermott, a clerk at Redford's comic book store. "It was actually a lot of fun."

Fans from all over the area will converged at the shop last week for a not-so-serious debate over which team of super heroes will win the upcoming war between the Avengers and the X-Men.

The debate was a local tie-in to Marvel Comics' blockbuster event of the Spring: Avengers vs. X-Men. Customers chose sides and in the end, declared the store's allegiance to the Avengers.

Tens of thousands of around the country, most of whom are adults who



Justin Deykes displays a cryptic reference during the debate.

grew up reading about super heroes, are calling the special 12-issue story

sending and the X-Men to war the biggest event in comic history.

Schoolcraft offers class on appealing tax assessments

Schoolcraft College is offering a class on how to appeal property tax assessments 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

Taught by a former Board of Review member, the class will cover what a property assessment is, how to determine grounds for appeal, documentation necessary to support your appeal, the hearing process and post hearing

relief.

The cost of the class is \$29.

"Schoolcraft College is in a position to give homeowners a leg up in this cumbersome process," said Jennifer Bodurka, programming coordinator for Schoolcraft's Continuing Education and Professional Development department. "If anything, our class will give people

good knowledge on how to proceed and what courses of action are available." Counties across the nation are seeing these appeal cases skyrocket.

For more information, call (734) 462-4448 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd. Schoolcraft's main campus is on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads in Livonia.

AROUND WESTLAND

Cigar Fest

Firing Line Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop is holding its 10th annual (smoke free) Cigar Fest to benefit the Westland Police Department's Tactical Response Team Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.

Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. The Vegas Room opens at 7 p.m. There also will be a silent auction and live entertainment by Rusty Lunchbox and D.J. Raffles will be conducted throughout the night and include handguns, rifles and a trip to Las Vegas.

Smoking will be available in outdoor heated tents.

Event and raffle tickets can be purchased at the Firing Line, 33000 Ford Road, the Westland Police Department, 36701 Ford Road or the Westland Chamber of Commerce, 36900 Ford Road. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or Officer Jeffrey Kavanaugh at the police department at (734) 722-9600.

Auction items

Organizers are looking for businesses or individuals interested in donating good or services for the live and silent auctions that will be a part of the Wayne Memorial High School's eighth annual Zebra Safari Fundraising Dinner.

The dinner will be Friday, March 30, and feature a dinner catered by the William D. Ford Career Technical Center culinary arts staff, entertainment, silent and live auctions and door prizes. Contact Principal Val Orr at (734) 419-2206 or by e-mail at orrvp@wwcsd.k12.us about donating. All donations are tax deductible, and the money raised benefits the students.

Tickets also are on sale and cost \$30 each or \$200 for a table of eight. Tickets are available in the main office of the high school, located at Fourth Street and Glenwood in Wayne.

Class reunion

Wayne Memorial High School class of 1957 is looking for classmates

for its 55th class reunion which will be held May 19.

For more information, contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com or Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

H.Y.P.E. clinic

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering children ages 6-14 some H.Y.P.E. during their mid-winter break.

The department is partnering with the H.Y.P.E. (Helping Youth Progress and Excel) Athletics Community to offer four-day basketball clinic 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Feb. 20-24, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

The clinic will focus on athletic improvement, individual and group drills, contests, and organized games. Coaches include a former NBA player and a two-time basketball national champion. The clinics cost \$30 each. Registration can be completed at the Bailey Recreation Center. Call (734) 722-7620 for more information.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Treasure Hunters Come to Livonia!

By Jason Delong
THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow
STAFF WRITER

Got Gold? This week, visitors can cash in on antiques, collectibles, gold, silver, coins or just about anything that is old.

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

Clean out your attics, closets and lock boxes because Treasure Hunters are coming to Livonia. Event specialists will be in town examining antiques, collectibles, gold and silver.

While they will accept anything that's old, they will be focusing on gold and silver coins made before 1970, military items, toys and trains, musical instruments, pocket and wrist watches. Scrap gold is expected to be a popular category this week due to soaring gold prices.

Buyers for the event have noticed a tremendous increase in the amount of

"U.S. coins made before 1970 are most sought after by collectors. Coins made before 1970 are 90% silver and valuable because of the silver content or could be worth even more if one happens to be a rare date."

gold coming to the event and for good reason. Record gold prices have event guests cashing in on broken jewelry or jewelry they don't wear anymore with our "fair and honest" purchase offers.

Treasure Hunters encourage anyone planning a visit to take a minute and examine their jewelry box or their lock box at the bank and gather anything that's gold. If a guest

is not sure if something is gold, bring it anyway and the event staff will test it for free. Other gold items of interest include gold coins, gold ounces, gold proof sets and dental gold.

Other types of items event specialists hope to see include old toys and train sets. Archie Davis, THR's toy specialist spoke about some of the top toys getting great offers. "Old tin windup toys from the late 1800's through the 1960's are in great demand now," said Davis. "Especially those that are character related. Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, the Flintstones or any character toys are sought. Old Buddy L toys from the 1920's to 1960's are in demand." Basically any toys made before 1970 are wanted. Train sets made by Lionel, American Flyer, Marklin and others have the potential to fetch a large sum. Davis also stressed, "Toys with boxes and in mint condition bring sensational prices. Most of the toys that come

to the event are not in perfect shape but can still bring good prices from collectors."

When specialist Tom Fuller was asked what he enjoyed most about

working at the event, he was quick to answer, "Old coins and paper currency. For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated with collecting coins. I would go

through the change in my parents grocery store looking for rare dates and errors. Once, I found a silver quarter that I sold for \$300.00. Not bad for an 8 year old."

Fuller went on to explain that any U.S. coins made before 1970 are most sought after by collectors. Coins made before 1970 are 90% silver and valuable because of the



Above • A Gentleman sits with Mike Delong with anticipation as the event specialist examines his collectibles.

"If you go to the event, you can cash-in your items for competitive prices. THR's representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Holiday Inn, Tuesday through Saturday, in Livonia."

silver content or could be worth even more if one happens to be a rare date. "We help people sort through their coins for unique dates. We buy all types of coins at the event from wheat pennies to buffalo nickels, which are valuable from one coin to an entire truckload. See you at THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow," said Fuller.

www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

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• **JEWELRY** Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.

• **WRIST & POCKET WATCHES** Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.

• **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** All types of toys made before 1970 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains, Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.

• **MILITARY ITEMS, SWORDS** Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear and letters. The older the swords, the better. All types wanted.

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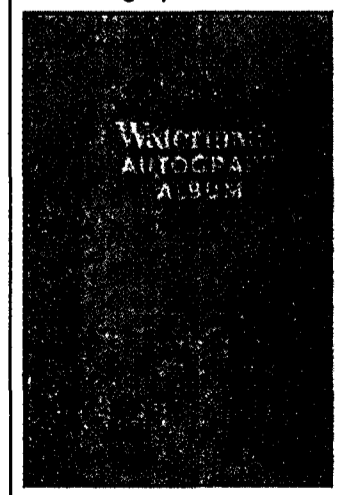
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- Gather items of interest (as explained below) from your attic, garage, basement, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
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- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges
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All sports memorabilia is in high demand including: Pre 1970's baseball cards; autographed baseballs, footballs & basketballs; jerseys; signed photos; etc...



THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow event runs Tuesday through Saturday in Livonia.

Gold and Coin Prices High, Cash In Now

"It's a modern day gold rush," said Treasure Hunters President, Jeff Parsons.

Gold is now trading near 40 year highs, and you can cash in at THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow. All types of gold are wanted, including gold



coins, Kruggerands, Maple Leafs, and other gold bars, etc. All gold jewelry, including broken jewelry is accepted. Anything gold and silver is wanted.

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World War II's Japanese internment 70 years later

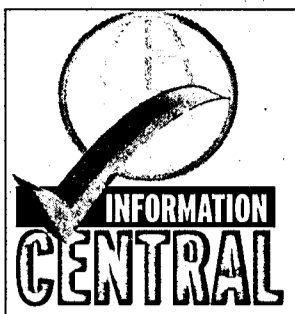
It is not always brought to our attention in history class at school that many Japanese Americans were moved to internment camps located in the western United States during World War II. Anti-Japanese sentiments were strong among Americans after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and Feb. 19 marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Executive Order called for the relocation and internment of Japanese during World War II.

Approximately 120,000 individuals were relocated to camps in California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Colorado and Arkansas. Most of the interned Japanese were United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens and up to half of the individuals were children. The internment was intended to protect the United States against espionage and sabotage against national defense. Internment camps were closed beginning in 1944, 2 1/2 years after their opening.

To find out more about Japanese Internment in World War II check out history books from the library, including *Voices from the Camps: Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II*, *Last Witnesses: Reflections on the Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans* and *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp*.

Enjoy historical fiction? Try learning more about the Japanese American experience during the war by reading *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford, *The Magic of Ordinary Days* by Ann Howard Creel, or



Aleutian Sparrow by Karen Hesse.

To find out more about Japanese Internment or World War II, visit the Westland Public Library, contact us at (734) 326-6123, or visit us online at westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

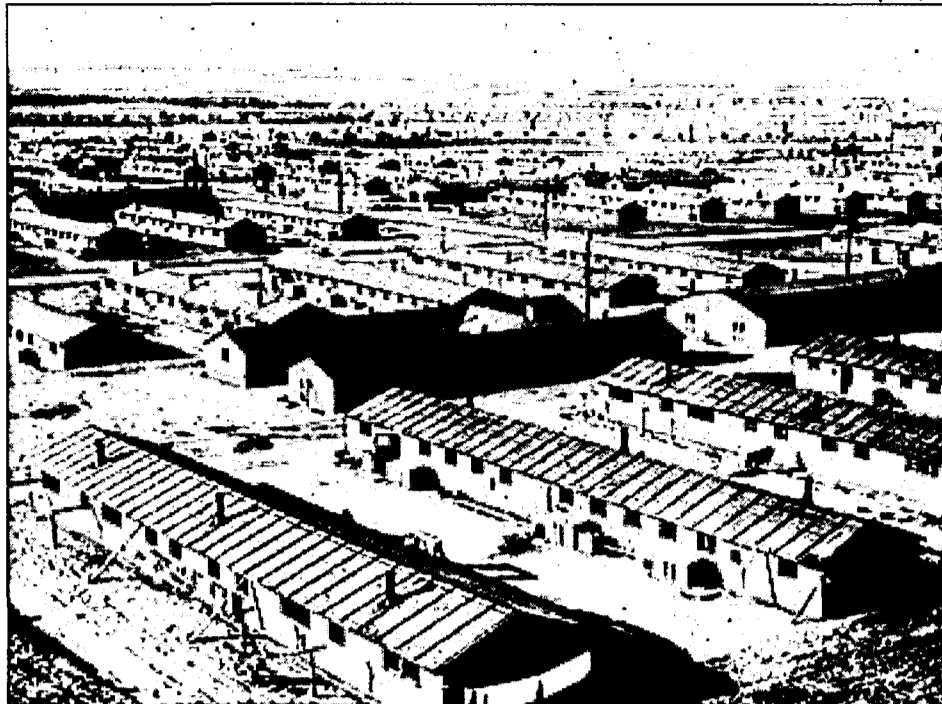
Friends of the Library – Book Sale Last Day: noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19. Get books for great prices! All proceeds go to the Friends of the Library who support the mission of the library.

OverDrive Essentials and eBooks: 7 p.m. Feb. 20

Come in to learn more about the library's new OverDrive service, and what you need to get started downloading free audiobooks, eBooks and music to your computer or mobile device. We'll answer your basic questions, show you how to search for and check out content, and downloading eBooks to Nook and Kindle eReaders. Call (734) 326-6123 or register online at westlandlibrary.org/ events to save your seat.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Feb. 17

Silas and Larry are longtime friends who grew up together on the same Mississippi land. In childhood, the two had to keep their friendship hidden due to segregation laws, but that didn't stop the boys from forging a strong bond.



Feb. 19 marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by Franklin D. Roosevelt which forced the relocation and internment of Japanese during World War II.

When they were teens, Larry was named as a person of interest after a girl he was dating disappeared. Although nothing came of the accusations, Larry's reputation has remained tarnished. Now, 25 years later, Silas is the only police officer in town, and Larry once again is a suspect in another missing persons case. Is this just bad luck or does Larry have something to hide? It's up to his old friend Silas to uncover the truth in Tom Franklin's *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*. Limited number of copies is available at the Reference Desk.

Writers Workshop: 7 p.m. Feb. 21, ages 16 and up

Do you have a piece of writing that you need help with? The Writers Workshop critiques individual's writing in a workshop setting. All genres accepted (fiction, poetry, memoir, etc.). We will tell you what is what is working

with your piece, as well as what needs improvement. You must attend one session before your writing will be reviewed. To register, visit the Reference Desk or contact at andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org.

Documentary: Standing in the Shadows of Motown: 7 p.m. Feb. 22

In 1959 Ben Gordy Jr. gathered a group of promising musicians called "The Funk Brothers." Over the next 14 years these musicians were the house band for every number one hit to come out of Motown, creating more chartbusters than the Elvis, the Beach Boys, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles combined. Three decades later, the Funk Brothers return to Detroit to reunite and tell their unforgettable story. Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

New Monthly Program - Veterans Writing Group: 7 p.m. Feb. 22

Join veteran and working-class poet, Mark Durfee, as he helps veterans of all foreign wars explore their wartime experiences through writing. Writers of all styles (poetry, fiction, memoir) encouraged to attend. Refreshments.

African-American History Month Movie and Guest Host: 6 p.m. Feb. 23, adults and teens

An African-American History Month event. Join us for a viewing of *Glory* about a band of African-American soldiers fighting for freedom during the American Civil War (the movie stars Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman). Historian and educator Jeff Koslowski, provides pop-up history during the movie and answers questions afterwards. Refreshments. This movie is rated PG-13.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class Registration: 9:30-11 a.m. Feb. 24

Register to sign up for

an eight-week ESL (English as a Second Language) Class conducted by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes meet 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays March 2 through May 18 (no class April 20 and 27). Students with children are welcome! All new and previous students must register.

Friday Night Movie: 7 p.m. Feb. 24,

Join us for the last Friday Night Movie of the month, *Real Steel*. "Set in the near future, where robot boxing is a top sport, a struggling promoter feels he's found a champion in a discarded robot. During his hopeful rise to the top, he discovers he has an 11-year-old son who wants to know his father." (imdb.com)

The doors for the movie will open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m. Snacks and refreshments provided. Trivia and prizes. This movie is rated PG-13.

Researching African American Genealogy: 7 p.m. Feb. 29

Hit a wall when searching your family's history? African American Genealogy records are much more difficult to find due to the scant nature of record keeping for blacks prior to the Civil War. Learn how to be more successful in your research. Kris Rzepeczynski, Library or Michigan Genealogy Coordinator, will present an informational session for beginners and advanced genealogists. Sign up online or call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

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



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SPORTS

Zebras caged

Rocks rebound way to 60-49 victory

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Salem's combination of size and inside skill trumped Wayne Memorial's run-and-gun style Friday night as the Rocks defeated the Zebras 60-49 in the opener of the KLAA boys basketball tournament.

A 17-rebound, five-block performance by Salem junior forward Chris Dierker and a double-double by senior guard Tyler Stewart (20 points, 11 boards) sparked the home win.

The Rocks (15-2) will face South Lyon beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at home in the semifinals. Ensuring that matchup was the Lions' 60-55 win Friday over Canton.

Veteran Salem coach Bob Brodie told his squad to expect a fast-paced game with a lot of shots and that's what happened.

Wayne (8-9) made just 19-of-80 shots from the floor (including 4-of-23 from behind the arc) for a dismal 23 percent. The Rocks weren't much better (22-62, 35 percent).

"I don't know how many of

them were threes," Brodie said. "But we were expecting a lot of threes and a lot of shots. That's their forte."

"They don't spend much time on offense whatsoever. So we wanted to make sure we challenged their outside shots and not give them free looks out there. ... We got a couple blocks early and then they were a little shellshocked."

Salem's work on the boards also was crucial, as the Rocks outrebounded Wayne by a 60-41 margin.

According to Wayne coach Mike Schuette, Salem's ability to block or bother the Zebras out on the perimeter, especially early on, contributed to his team's slow start (trailing 17-12 after one quarter and 31-22 at halftime).

"We're not real big," Schuette said. "And when we look at all those big bodies in here I think it does a little to the psyche and alters some of the things we may do otherwise."

"But once we got into the flow of things, I think towards the end

Please see ZEBRAS, B2



Wayne Memorial defenders Michael Cooper (No. 3, left) and Darnell Givhan (No. 42) zero in on Salem's Tyler Stewart (No. 21) during Friday night's KLAA tournament first-round contest.

Taylor nets 1,000th pt.

Grand Valley State junior forward Briana Taylor (Livonia Franklin) became the 21st women's basketball player in school history to notch 1,000 career points with a 21-point effort in a 78-67 loss at the University of Findlay (Ohio) at Croy Gymnasium.

The 5-foot-9 Taylor also notched her fourth double-double of the season with a career-high 12 rebounds as the Lakers slipped to 9-15 overall and 6-11 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

WHAC salutes MU's Herring

Madonna University junior guard Shantelle Herring was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week (Feb. 13) after leading the Crusaders to a pair of road victories, including an upset of No. 3-ranked Davenport University.

It was the first award Herring's career and marks the first time this season that a Crusader has earned the WHAC honor.

The 5-foot-9 Herring, who played a Macomb Dakota High School, averaged 16.5 points, 11.5 rebounds, four steals and three assists during the two games including a double-double (19 points and a career-best 13 rebounds) in a victory over Lourdes (Ohio). She also added four assists and five steals as MU locked up a WHAC playoff berth.

Herring averages 2.79 steals per game, ranking 11th in the NAIA.

Girls AAU hoop tryout

Tryouts for the Livonia Hurricanes, an 11th-grade AAU girls basketball team, will be from 10 a.m. until noon Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Tryouts are open to girls in grades 9-11 (11th-graders must have started that grad prior to Oct. 1, 2011 and not turn 19 before Sept. 1, 2012).

A \$16 AAU registration fee is required for tryouts.

For more information, call Jim Millican at (734) 709-2412.

Pats stage fund-raiser

A trivia challenge to raise money for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team will be Sunday, Feb. 19, at Buffalo Wild Wings, located on the west side of Wayne Road just south of Warren, in Westland.

Registration begins at noon with the trivia challenge starting at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person (\$10 for wrestlers). A percentage of food and drink sold will be donated to the Franklin wrestling program.

For more information, call Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola (734) 752-2340.

BOYS HOOPS

Rockets stave off Stevenson

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn learned Friday night there are "no gimmes" when it comes to Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball playoffs.

The Rockets, KLAA South Division champs and one of the two top seeds in the Kensington Conference, escaped with a 51-47 win over stubborn Livonia Stevenson, the fourth seed from the Central Division.

With leading scorer Nick Daniels, a junior guard, struggling with his shot (3-of-16), the Rockets had to lean on their inside attack as 6-foot-5 senior center Eric Covile picked up the slack with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while 6-3 sophomore Isaac Everette added 11 points.

"It's the playoffs — I told my guys," said Glenn coach Dan Young, whose team is 14-3 overall. "We haven't won it at Glenn in eight years and we haven't won it before that like for 25 years. We've only won two, so it's hard to win."

Stevenson (11-6) got a sterling from 5-11 junior guard Josh Campbell, who didn't start, but finished with a game-high 24 points, including 14 in the second quarter.

Campbell was one of the main reasons the Spartans trailed by only one at halftime, 33-31.

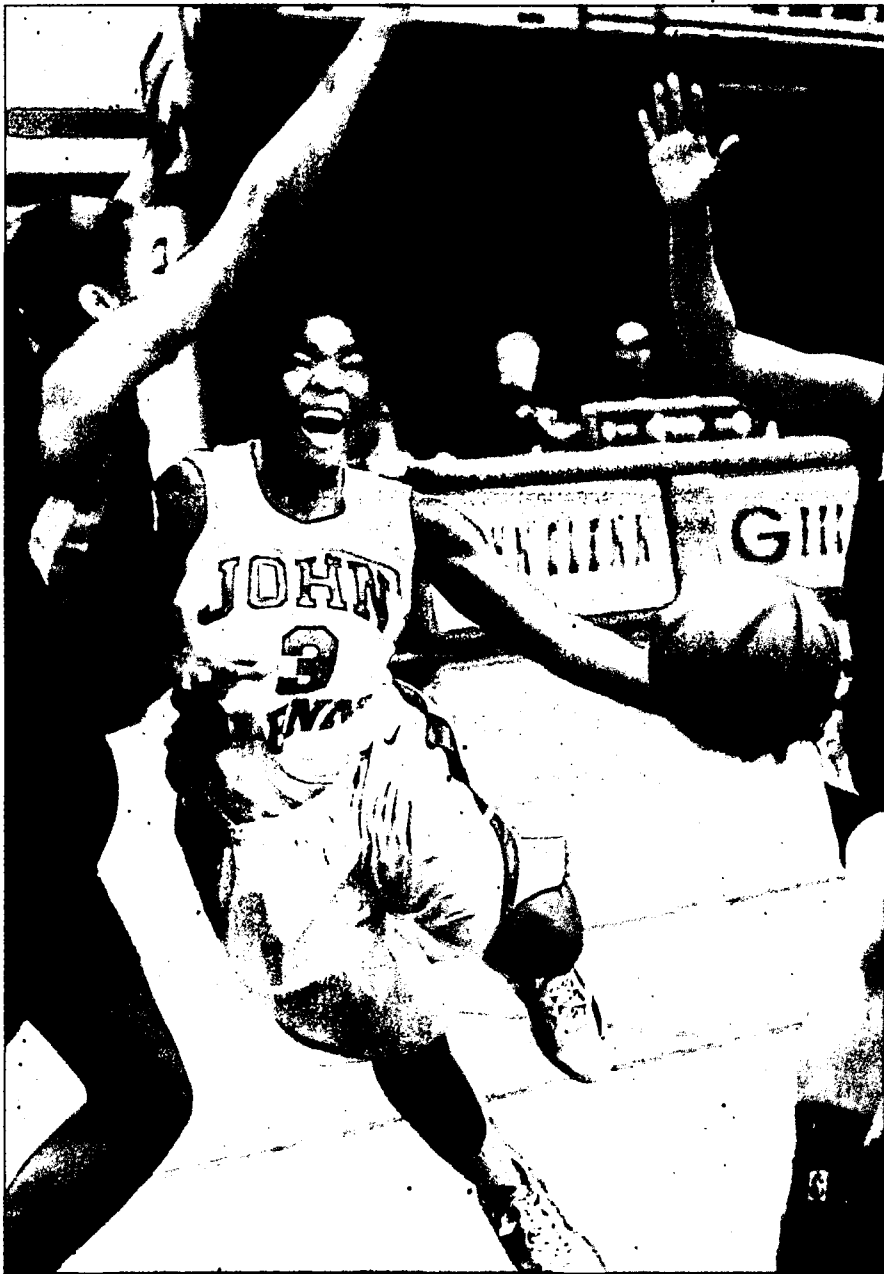
"We had good first half," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We were hitting our shots, getting to the basket. Josh (Campbell) did his thing. He did what he's been doing for the last seven or eight games, averaging double-digit points and getting to the basket."

But even though Daniels (13 points) struggled on the offensive end, it was his second-half defense on Campbell that may have turned the tide.

"We just had to do a better job on the dribble hand-off stuff," Young said. "They really hurt us with dribble hand-off, ball-screen. They hurt us a little bit the second half, but not like the first half. We didn't guard it well. We made the adjustment to stay on the ball."

Please see GLENN, B2

Launching pad



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's ShaKeya Graves (3) makes the drive to the basket against Plymouth defender Jada Woody (20). See page B2.

WWSC Shark cagers show plenty of bite

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

When Dominique Jones banked a shot off the glass just as the buzzer sounded to cap a 47-33 victory early Wednesday afternoon, students from the Western Wayne Skills Center stormed the floor.

It was almost like a scene from the movie "Jaws" as the WWSC basketball team, nicknamed the Sharks, devoured Lutz School of Macomb County for their sixth straight victory without a loss.

Going to a Sharks game is like a happening —

Please see SHARKS, B3



ELIZABETH CONRAD | PHOTO

Members of the 6-0 Western Wayne Skills Center Sharks basketball team include (bottom row, from left) Gerrick McDaniel, Todd Beach, Jared Bookmeier, Eli Ross, Jonathan Byrne, Damion Porcebr, Dominique Jones, head coach Rick DuBay; (top row, from left) referee and assistant coach Kent Kerby, Kavon Oterbridge, Lawique Dawson, Raffi Markarian, Ryan Burgess, Michael Tallon, Dontai Clark and Cortez Price. (Not pictured is Jesse Shelton, Sara Anderson and DeVante Carr-Pearson.)

Rockets soar into title matchup

Westland John Glenn moved into the Kensington Conference girls championship game Thursday night with a 59-40 KLAAs semifinal play-off triumph at home over Plymouth.

The Rockets, who improved to 16-2 overall, got 14 points apiece from NCAA Division I signees Joslyn Massey (Purdue) and Erica Coville (Temple) and earned a spot in Monday's championship game where they face Novi, a 37-35 winner Thursday over Canton. (Game time is 7 p.m. Monday at Glenn).

Junior guard ShaKeya Graves chipped in with 13 as Glenn outscored the Wildcats 13-5 in the third period after leading 34-24 at halftime.

Jada Woody paced Plymouth (11-7), which lost to Glenn for the third time this season, with 13 points.

Both teams struggled from the foul line with Glenn going 9-for-17, while Plymouth hit 10-of-20.

NORTHVILLE 58, WAYNE 38: A 20-5 first-quarter spurt was more than enough Thursday as the host Mustangs (12-8) rolled to a KLAAs consolation round victory over Wayne Memorial (5-13).

Alex Moynes led Northville with 15 points, while Kendra Brenner chipped in with 10. Sophomore guard Ashley Bland scored a game-high 24 points and added four steals for the Zebras. Senior forward Holland Boertje added 10 points and six rebounds.

Wayne made 14-of-26 free throws, while Northville was 5-for-5.

W.L. WESTERN 58, STEVENSON 46: Livonia Stevenson (11-6) squandered a 40-31 advantage after three quarters Thursday as Walled Lake Western (11-7) rallied for a KLAAs consolation round victory.

Maddie Schram paced the victorious Warriors with 17 points, while teammates Erickah Woods and Jayla Nichols each added 13.

Stevenson, outscored 27-6 in the final quarter, got a team-high 11 points from senior guard Jordan York.

The Spartans' Molly Knoph chipped in with nine points, nine assists and nine steals.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Shelby Cheston (34) tries to control the rebound against John Glenn's Kierra Jordan (24) during Thursday's Kensington Conference semifinal.

"We have to play a full game," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "We played great until the fourth quarter. We need to work on things. It's the mental mistakes."

Western connected on 17-of-22 free throws (77.2 percent), while Stevenson hit only 5-of-11 (45.4 percent).

SALEM 61, CHURCHILL 33: Bri Berberet scored a game-high 20 points, including five 3-pointers Thursday in leading the host Rocks (5-13) to a KLAAs consolation bracket win over Livonia Churchill (5-12).

Breanne Beaver added 17 points as Salem led 27-21 at halftime and 43-31 after three quarters before going

on an 18-2 fourth-quarter run.

Erin Menard and Mackenzie VanAmberg tallied 12 and nine points, respectively, for the Chargers, who went 3-of-8 from the foul line.

Meanwhile, Salem hit 16-of-23 free throws on the night (69.5 percent).

"They (Salem) got every offensive rebound," Churchill first-year coach Matt McCowan. "And for us to win, we've got to keep teams to less than 50 points."

S.L. EAST 57, FRANKLIN 46: Gabi Bird scored a game-high 19 points, including 11-of-15 from the foul stripe, to propel South Lyon East to a KLAAs consolation bracket

win Thursday over visiting Livonia Franklin (1-17).

Willow Cohn added 16 points for the Cougars, who led 31-25 at halftime and 45-38 after three quarters.

Junior guard Natalie Modes paced Franklin with 13 points, while Katelynn Devers and Alexis Smith each added nine.

"We battled well, the effort was there," Franklin second-year coach Bob Ostrowski said. "But we had 20 turnovers - 13 in the first half. We only had seven the second half, but those seven came at crucial times."

Franklin made 9-of-14 free throws, while East hit 17-of-28.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Moore's big-time game lifts S'craft 32 points, 17 rebounds

Karl Moore turned in a big-time performance Wednesday night with 32 points, 17 rebounds and six assists to spark the Schoolcraft College to a 93-83 men's basketball triumph at home over Henry Ford Community College.

Moore, a 6-foot-5 forward from Detroit and Oak Park Academy, also added three blocks and two steals as the Ocelots improved to 15-10 overall and 7-7 in the MCCAAs Eastern Conference.

Other contributions came from LenDerrick Witcher, 13 points; Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial), nine points and seven rebounds; Richmond Jackson, nine points and five rebounds; and Zachary Childress, six assists.

Schoolcraft, tied for fourth in the conference, had a total of 25 assists and only 14 turnovers.

The Ocelots trailed 42-39 at intermission, but roared back by hitting 18-of-22 second-half free throws after going 3-for-6 in the opening half.

Third-place Henry Ford (17-8, 9-5) got 13 points from Kyle Baker, while Mike Davis and Grant Stone (Salem) each added 11.

Rashad Porter and Roderrick Butler each contributed 10 as the Hawks made 18-of-22 free throws on the night.

MADONNA 77, N'WESTERN OHIO 56: Sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) scored 16 points and dished out eight assists as Madonna University (17-12, 11-6) got back on the winning track with a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference win Wednesday night at Northwestern Ohio (7-22, 2-15).

Sophomore guard Travis Schuba, hitting 5-of-10 three-point attempts, added 15 points, while Tyler Coker added 11 for the Crusaders, who enjoyed a 47-30 halftime lead.

Eoghann Stephens also contributed eight points and a team-best eight rebounds as MU snapped a two-game losing skid.

Madonna connected on 31-of-59 field goal attempts (52.5 percent), including 9-of-22 from three-point range.

Jake Bolyard scored 17 to lead the Racers, while teammate Todd Watkins added 14 points and 12 rebounds.

GLENN

Continued from page B1

We were switching a little wide and it gave them a little space, so we made the adjustment, and we hung on.

"We got a lot better defensively the second half and that was the difference."

Glenn led only 39-37 after three quarters, but went on a 10-3 run during the first 3:20 of the final quarter to go up 49-40.

But Stevenson hung around despite going without a field goal in the last 6:04.

The Spartans, in fact, missed on three straight attempts, including a pair of triples, with Glenn clinging to a four-point lead during the final 1:11.

Daniels' two free throws with 4.72 seconds remaining sealed the victory.

"We kind of ran out of gas at the end," Sinawi said. "We held them at 51 (points) for a minute-and-a-half it seemed like. We had a couple shots here-and-there. I told my kids we didn't take advantage of the opportunities we had. And they took advantage of the ones they had. I'm just proud of way my guys competed. It was an intense playoff atmosphere and we stepped up. Credit to John Glenn - they have a lot of guys

they can go to - but I'm proud of way my boys played tonight."

After tallying 17 in the first half, Campbell added seven in the second half.

"The second half (Nick) Daniels did a really good job defending him and took him out of his element a little bit," Sinawi said.

Senior forward Carey Cobb added eight points for the Spartans, who shot only 1-of-13 in the final quarter after going 2-for-11 in the third.

Glenn, meanwhile, was only 15-of-52 from the floor (28.8 percent).

"We're on the road ... they hit five 'threes' the first half," Young said.

"We tried to make adjustments on their shooters and not give them as much space as we did the first half. And we had to grind it out on offense. We didn't shoot it well from the perimeter like we have been. Our assists were a little down. It's been our theme all year: 'grind, grind, grind.' Sometimes you just have to figure out a way to get it done and we did."

Glenn now advances to the Kensington Conference semifinals Tuesday, when they will host Northville. Game time is 7 p.m.

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Marlins oust Blazers, 45-37; Warriors rally by rival Hawks

Livonia Ladywood tried for a third time season, but once again couldn't reel in the Marlins.

The Blazers were outscored 16-8 in the pivotal fourth quarter as Farmington Hills Mercy pulled out a 45-37 win in the semifinals of the Catholic League A-B Division playoffs held at Warren DeLaSalle.

It was Mercy's third straight win this season over the Blazers, who fall to 9-9 overall.

Candice Leatherwood scored 16 points and Allie Gorcyca added 10 as the Marlins (14-4), moved into Sunday's Catholic League championship game to

face Dearborn Divine Child (16-2). Game time is 3 p.m. Sunday at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

Ladywood led 17-11 at halftime before Mercy pulled even after three quarters, 29-29.

The Marlins won it at the foul line going 9-for-11 in the final period and 17-of-21 for the game (80.9 percent).

Ladywood, meanwhile, was 6-of-11 overall at the free throw stripe, including 3-of-6 during the final eight minutes (missing a pair of one-and-ones).

"We played hard, they played hard," said Ladywood coach Anthony

Coratti, whose team is 9-9 overall. "In the fourth quarter their kids made the plays."

Senior guard Briana Combs led Ladywood with 14 points, while junior guard Sara Even added 10.

LUTH. WESTLAND 29, HVL 21: On Friday, host Lutheran High Westland (11-7, 8-5) needed a 12-2 fourth-quarter run to subdue neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (2-13, 2-10) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game.

Junior forward Aldreanna Fikes picked up the slack in the absence of leading scorer Amanda Terranella, who was out of the lineup. The 5-foot-10 Fikes wound up with a game-high 15 points and 17

rebounds.

Megan Prieskorn, meanwhile, paced the Hawks with eight points.

Both teams struggled mightily from the foul line - Lutheran Westland (7-of-22) and HVL (3-of-10).

"It was not the prettiest game we've played," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "We did the right things at the right time to get the win. Two more games next week then we need to get ready for districts."

BAPTIST PARK 50, LUTH. WESTLAND 40: In a MIAC Red game last Tuesday, Carissa Thompson poured in 25 points and Bianca Williams added 18 to lead host Taylor Baptist Park (4-10, 3-7) past Lutheran High Westland (10-7, 7-5).

Aldreanna Fikes had 15 points and nine rebounds in a losing cause. Taylor Wiemer added six points.

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ZEBRAS

Continued from page B1

of the game it was missing our little runners, our little putbacks, things like that that really doomed us."

Scoring 12 points for Wayne was senior Michael Cooper, while seniors Dezmon Burleigh and Darnell Givhan contributing nine and eight, respectively.

It took a while, for Wayne to gain some traction in the second half, which began with the Rocks opening with a 9-0 run (featuring two layups by center Josh Peterson) to go up 40-24.

With about three minutes left in the stanza, Dierker (eight points, six assists) then sent a nifty bounce pass through the paint to senior guard Grant Bettner (seven points) and it was a 42-26 advantage.

But the Zebras increasingly started pushing the ball up the floor and to the rim, sparking a 10-3 run that sliced Salem's lead to 54-47 with 1:27 to go

after a bucket by senior Thomas White (eight points).

The only Salem points during that stretch was junior guard Kevin Mack's strong-to-the-basket layup and tack-on foul shot.

It didn't help the Rocks during the late Wayne comeback bid that Dierker had to sit for a couple minutes after being called for his fourth foul.

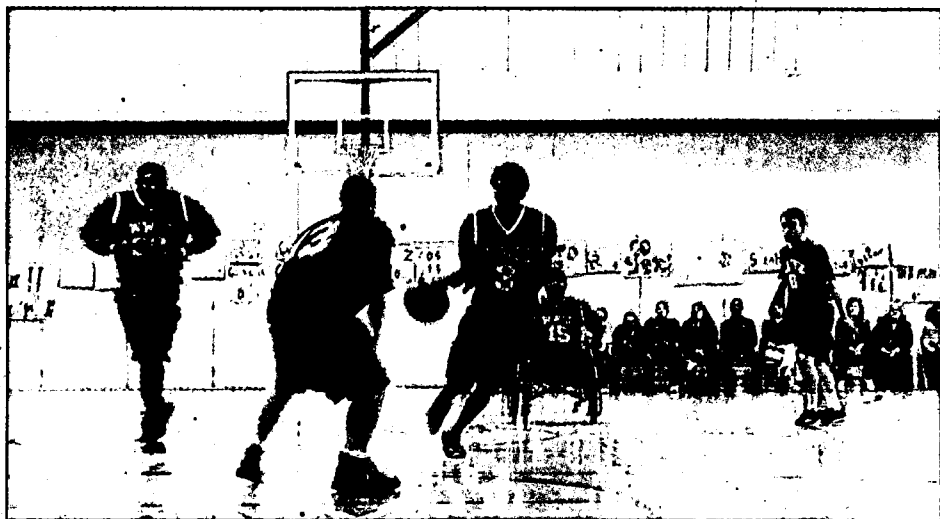
"He was a force out there when he was on the floor and then he got in foul trouble," Brodie said. "So he's down and he can't be as aggressive as he normally is."

"But other players stepped up. We got nice support off the bench, Ankit Tiwari (nine rebounds) had a good game for us."

Just when Brodie and the Rocks wondered if the Zebras were one trey away from really making things interesting, Stewart came through with six points in a row in the final 90 seconds to widen the gap again.

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ELIZABETH CONRAD | PHOTO

Western Wayne Skills Center point-guard Kavon Outerbridge (3) brings the ball up the floor against a Lutz School defender with teammates Lawrence Dawson (30) and Eli Ross (15) filling the lanes.

SHARKS

Continued from page B1

cheerleaders, a Shark mascot, spiffy new uniforms and Pistons-style player introductions.

And you better get there early if you're going to watch the Sharks — because on this day — folding chairs had to be set up around floor because there wasn't enough seating in the two sets of bleachers.

"The whole school looks forward to it all week with these home games," said WWSC coach Rick DuBay, in his 10th year as a fitness teacher at the school for special education students. "We had 100 students try out, but only 18 can make the team. It's probably the most exciting thing that goes on in our school for these kids."

And in its inaugural season, the Sharks are creating a stir throughout the hallways.

"I think it's brought leadership in the school," DuBay said. "The young men and women who made the team, the staff and students look up to these kids. I think it's brought camaraderie and built a team unity amongst the kids."

"Basketball is almost a second life for these kids."

WWSC serves approximately 300 students coming from 12 school districts and 23 high schools in Wayne County. Some of the students, who range anywhere from the 11th grade to 26 years of age, split their day between the high school and the Skills Center.

For instance, some of the students take part in the culinary arts production bakery at Livonia Stevenson High School.

The students, who have all types challenges because of their physical and mental disabilities, are exposed to a number of different sports in their physical education classes, but DuBay came up with the idea to start a team that the school could call their own.

"We want to give them the same kinds of options that the non-disabled students get to help them get ready for adult life," WWSC principal Al DiPaolo said. "The goal is to teach universal skills for unstructured time. It gets them inclusive and engaged in school like the general education students enjoy. It provides recreation and school spirit."

DuBay's challenges to build a team were numerous, but talent was there. Point-guard Kavon Outerbridge is perhaps the team's most gifted player doing deft crossover moves, between-the-leg dribbles, finger rolls to the rim and no-look passes.

Another player, Cortez Price, has been known to throw down a dunk or two.

It was DuBay's job to get everyone on the same page.

"Our first practice there was a lot of selfishness," he said. "We're trying to make two or three passes before we actually go to the hole. So we actually learn the offense. It's basically plays, teamwork and getting them into the right position."

Lutz proved to be a worthy opponent, pulling to within 26-24 in the second half, but the Sharks simply had too much depth as DuBay made sure everyone got a proper amount of playing time.

"This is our closest game yet," he said. "They've been doing pretty well. They (Lutz) definitely like to shoot the 'three.' Great coach, great team, great match."

"This one had the biggest buzz because the kids knew they had a good, competitive team in the building."

Four games remain on WWSC's schedule, including two at home. A match-up awaits with nearby Burger School in Garden City.

But for now, the home court has a Cameron Indoor Stadium feel to it.

"It may be called the Shark Tank now," laughed DuBay.

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Warriors defend

Seltz leads 48-31 victory over HVL

Sophomore guard A.J. Seltz was on target Friday, scoring half of Lutheran High Westland's points in a 48-31 win Friday night at home over rival Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

Seltz scored a game-high 24, including five 3-pointers as the Warriors improved to 10-6 overall and 9-4 in the Red Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Dawson Davenport and Ernie Babon added seven points apiece as Lutheran Westland broke the game open with a 19-7 third-quarter run.

Davenport, a senior, also grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds.

"They (HVL) did a good job defensively and took us out of what we wanted to do," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller said. "They played a lot of zone (defense) and we struggled against it in the first half. We settled for jump shots and it slowed us down."

"But in the third quarter we were able to get some turnovers and score on the other end."

Nate Kemppainen led the Hawks (5-14, 3-10) with 15 points.

HVL's leading scorer Ryan Schaffer, a sophomore guard, was limited to nine.

"Taurrek (Fikes) is our main defensive guy and he did a pretty good job on Schaffer," Haller said. "Overall our defense was pretty good throughout

the game. You have to be pleased when you hold a team to 31 points."

FRANKLIN 42, S.L. EAST 38: Down 25-14 at halftime, Livonia Franklin (4-13) rallied in the second half to beat South Lyon East (1-15) in a KLAAs consolation bracket game.

Jake Barham and Deion Grubbs led a balanced Franklin scoring attack with eight points apiece, while Tommy Smith and Jake Erme added seven and six, respectively.

Barham also grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds, while Erme dished out six assists.

Dan Habkirk and Lucas Marconcin each scored 10 for the Cougars, who also got eight from Jack Leckner.

NOVI 70, CHURCHILL 59: Despite a game-high 24 points Friday night from junior guard Dwayne Scott, Livonia Churchill (6-11) fell to the host Wildcats (6-11) in a KLAAs consolation bracket game.

Junior Charles McKinney scored 18 to pace Novi, while Kyle Clemmons and Nelson Cagle added 17 and 14, respectively.

Novi outscored the Chargers 26-18 in the decisive fourth quarter.

The Wildcats made 19-of-27 foul shots on the night, including 11-of-15 over the final eight minutes.

Churchill was 18-of-53 from the floor (33.9 percent) and 16-of-24 from the foul stripe (66.6 percent).

"We can't give up 70 and expect to win," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We've given up more points the last two weeks than we've ever had. We've got to figure out a way to defend better."

MELVINDALE 64, C'VILLE 44: A 17-3 third-quarter run carried the Cardinals (11-6) to win Friday night over visiting Livonia Clarenceville (5-12).

Javan Thomas paced Melvindale with 24 points, while Jalen Barnes and John Solomon added 14 and 10, respectively.

The Trojans, who trailed 27-21 at halftime, got 17 points

from senior Damien Quarles and 12 from Sam Brown.

Melvindale made 10-of-15 free throws, while Clarenceville was 4-of-9.

HVL 51, WASHTENAW 46: Sophomore Ryan Schaffer finished with 29 points and 11 rebounds as host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-13) downed Saline Washtenaw Christian (7-8) in a non-conference game.

The Hawks won despite committing 25 turnovers and shooting 37.8 percent from the floor (17-of-45).

Bob Clements scored 13 points and Trenton Shelby added 12 as the Wildcats made it close in the final period with a 20-13 run.

LUTHERAN SOUTH 44, HVL 38: In a MIAC Red Division game Wednesday, host Newport Lutheran South (8-7, 5-6) got 17 points from Michael Roebke to turn back Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-13, 3-9).

South trailed 27-20 after three quarters before going on a 24-11 fourth-quarter run to rally for the victory.

Jacob Hand and Jesse Smrcka added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for South.

Ryan Schaffer scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Hawks, who made 16-of-47 shots from the field (34 percent) and 4-of-10 free throws.

Marcus Monk added eight points for HVL.

C'VILLE 44, HAMTRAMCK 39: Livonia Clarenceville (5-11) rallied from a seven-point third-quarter deficit Wednesday with a 20-8 fourth-quarter run to beat the visiting Cosmos (0-12).

Senior guard Sam Brown paced the Trojans with 17 points, including 7-of-7 from the free throw line. Teammate Damien Quarles, also a senior, added seven.

Nadis Ahmic paced Hamtramck with 12 points.

Free throw shooting proved to be the difference as Clarenceville made 16-of-23 (69.5 percent), while the Cosmos hit just 3-of-16 (18.7 percent).

Glenn forfeits boys hoop victory

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn boys basketball coach Dan Young took the blame all by himself after it was discovered the Rockets had used an ineligible player resulting in a forfeit of a 52-34 victory Feb. 7 at home against Livonia Franklin.

The forfeit loss didn't affect Glenn's winning the KLAAs South Division title because the Rockets had already clinched the crown outright with an 8-0 record.

"I'll take full responsibility," Young said. "He doesn't play much. I was alerted he wasn't ineligible. He said he was and getting a grade change. It's my fault and I didn't follow up on it. He ended up being ineligible and

I played him at the end of the game."

The loss put the state-ranked Rockets' overall record at 13-3 (heading into Friday's first-round playoff game at Livonia Stevenson).

"I take full responsibility and I'm very upset with myself because I didn't follow up," said Young, who is in his sixth season as the Rockets' varsity coach. "It's not like me to do that, but I screwed up. I feel really bad about it."

To retain athletic eligibility, Wayne-Westland Community School high school athletes must pass four classes the previous semester and carry at least a 1.8 grade-point average during each six-week progress marking period.

There is a one-week grace period for athletes

who do not meet the district requirements before having to sit out the following six weeks.

"I realized (on) Wednesday the kid was supposed to sit," Young said. "I called my A.D. (athletic director Greg Ambrose) on Wednesday (the day after the Franklin game) and realized I screwed up. I didn't follow up whether the grade got changed. It didn't get changed. He (the player) said he had a project to turn in. He turned it in, but he was still ineligible. I alerted my A.D. on Wednesday. He let Franklin know."

The forfeit win gave Franklin a 3-13 overall record and 1-9 mark in the KLAAs South.

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Lady Ocelots crush Henry Ford

Diamond Tolliver's game-high 19 points paced five players in double figures as the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team captured its 11th straight Wednesday night with a 101-50 victory over visiting Henry Ford Community College.

Domonique Jones added 16 points for the Lady Ocelots, who improved to 21-4 overall and 12-2 in the MCCAAs Eastern Conference (one game behind first-place Macomb CC).

Also scoring in double

digits was Amber Sammons (14), Charlise Slater (12) and Infiniti Maxwell (10).

Ashley Beemon added a team-high nine rebounds, while Jones dished out four assists.

Schoolcraft led 46-22 at halftime and shot 65.6 percent from the floor (21-of-32) in the second half.

Ja'Kaysha Neal and Dejanique Reddix tallied 15 and 11 points, respectively, for the Hawks (5-18, 1-13).

N'WESTERN OHIO 74, MADONNA 49: Twenty-six percent shooting from the

field was too much to overcome Wednesday night as Madonna University (10-16, 7-10) fell to host Northwestern Ohio (16-13, 10-7) in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference game.

MU hit only 17-of-65 shots from the floor, including just 3-of-25 from three-point range.

Michelle Lindsey led MU off the bench with 15 points, while Becca Wojcinski added eight. Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added a team-best seven rebounds.

Amanda Francis and Rebecca Puckett scored 20 and 19 points, respectively, for Northwestern Ohio. Shaye Warman added 16 as the Racers made 19-of-26 free throws (73.1 percent).

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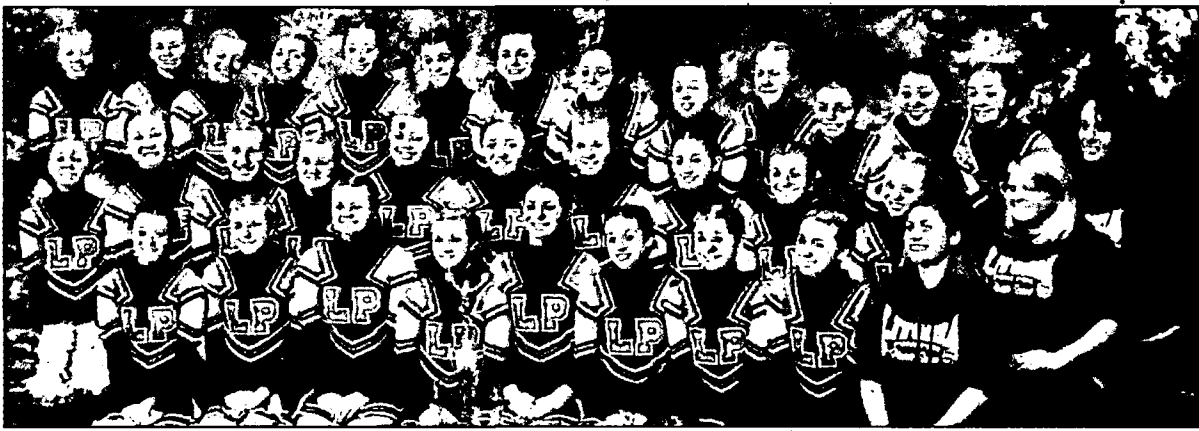
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Champs repeat



The Livonia Middle School Pom team, made up of members from six different Livonia public schools, captured first place in the Middle School Division at the Mid American Pompon competition held Feb. 12 Eastern Michigan University. Team members include (top row, from left): Hope McMullen, Shelby Brown, Jenna Fisher, Lexis Cholette, Kaylee Rincon, Julia Hebert, Leah Eby-May, Simone Letourneau, Kelly Jarosz, Renee Fabien, Janine Shymanski, Madyson Della, Rhianna Reamer, assistant coach Kelly Sikorski; (middle row, from left) Jenna Roderick, Jaime Roderick, Kayla Michalik, Jocelyn Figures, Madison Wimberly, Kim Clark, Maggie Schlacht, Natalie Alcantara, Maddie Ruffing, Stephanie Bixby, assistant coach Stephanie Kenney; (bottom row, from left) Lauren Alcantara, Emily Eichbrecht, Rachel Petrie, Casey Figures, Lindsay Hickox, Julia Alcantara, Gabby Harter, Darrian Wasil and head coach Andrea Shook.

BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill icers make fast work of Franklin

Senior captain Jake Otto notched two goals and two assists Wednesday night as Livonia Churchill rolled to an 8-0 mercy-rule KLAAs South Division boys hockey win over Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

Otto recorded short-handed and power-play goals as the Chargers improved to 16-6 overall and 7-3-0-1 in the division. His goal with 5:22 left in the second period made it a running clock.

The Chargers, who outshot Franklin 39-10, also got two goals and one assist from Devin Smythe.

Other Churchill contributors with one goal and one assist each included Kevin Louwers, Mike Gambino and Evan Gibboney.

Mike Rybinski record-

ed the other goals, while goaltender Alex Estes posted the shutout with just 10 saves.

Matt Slinder and Matt Monendo combined for 32 saves for the Patriots (4-15-1, 0-11).

NOVI 4, STEVENSON 1: Second-period goals by Dylan Shepard, Kent Burnett (power play) and Ryan Kobylarek carried the Wildcats (16-6-1) to win Wednesday over visiting Livonia Stevenson (11-10) at Novi Ice Arena.

Stevenson got its lone goal from Nate Sink from Chris Catalano and Travis Harvey in the third period, but Curtis Herzog's empty-netter put the game away for Novi.

Goalie Austin Petty stopped 23-of-24 shots for the Wildcats, while Connor Humitz had 22 saves for the Spartans.

"We battled hard and played well in spurts ... again... we just have to play three full periods... give Novi credit though, they ran their systems well ... they are tough to score against."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 21
 Novi at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 S. Lyon East at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Luth. W'sld at Macomb, 7 p.m.
(KLAAs Semifinals)
 Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 23
 C'ville at Lamphere, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24
 Churchill at Hartland, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Brighton, 7 p.m.
 Cranbrook at Luth. W'ld, 7 p.m.
 Macomb at HVL, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Feb. 20
 C'ville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
 Pinkney at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Milford at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Wayne, 7 p.m.
(Kensington Championship)
 Novi at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 21
 Luth. W'sld at Parkway, 7 p.m.
 Baptist Park at HVL, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Lamphere at C'ville, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. North, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Wat. Mott, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24
 GC at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Macomb at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25
 St. Clair at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Macomb at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25
 St. Clair at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Churchill vs. N. Farm.-Harrison at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24
 Stevenson vs. Brother Rice at Edgar Arena, 6:20 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25
 Franklin vs. Riv. Gab. Richard at Allen Park Civic, TBA.
 Ladywood vs. Liggett at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Friday, Feb. 24
 Kensington Conf. Prelims at S. Lyon East, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
 Kensington Conf. Finals at S. Lyon East, noon.
PREP BOWLING
Friday, Feb. 24
(MHSAA Team Regionals)
 Div. 1 at Westland Lanes, TBA.
 Div. 2 at Super Bowl, TBA.
 Div. 3 at Flat Rock Lanes, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 25
(MHSAA Singles Regionals)
 Div. 1 at Westland Lanes, TBA.
 Div. 2 at Super Bowl, TBA.
 Div. 3 at Flat Rock Lanes, TBA.
PREP SKIING
Tuesday, Feb. 21
 SEMSL League meet, TBA.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Feb. 25
(MHSAA Regionals)
 Div. 2 at Carlson, 10 a.m.
 Div. 1 at Lake Orion, 11 a.m.
 Div. 3 at Yale, 1 p.m.
 Div. 4 at Mason, 6 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

Season ends Bedford pins Rockets in D1 team regional

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn put up a struggle, but it was not quite good enough to stay alive in Wednesday's MHSAA Division 1 team wrestling regional at Wyandotte.

The Rockets were ousted by eventual regional winner Temperance Bedford in a semifinal match, 40-17.

The Kicking Mules, ranked No. 4 in Division, then earned a trip to Elite Eight in Battle Creek by defeating Southgate Anderson in the finals, 53-13. (Anderson advanced with a 39-27 win over Saline.)

"We lost a lot of close ones," said Glenn coach Bill Polk, whose team finished the season at 25-6 overall. "We went with what we thought were the best matchups, but four that we lost tonight we had beaten them (Bedford) last weekend (in the individual district tourney)."

Winners for 10th-ranked Glenn included Kyle Gillies (103 pounds), Quinn Dupraw (125), Travis Mann (160) and Danny Croft (171).

One example of a close match was at 215 pounds when highly regarded Logan Rimmer of Bedford edged Jordan Brandon of Glenn, 5-2.

"It was a good dual, every match was close," Polk said.

Shamrocks roll

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central captured Wednesday's Garden City regional with a 64-9 victory over Farmington in the finals.

The Shamrocks, the top-ranked team in Division 1,

routed Livonia Franklin in one semifinal, 83-0, while Farmington edged Plymouth, 38-36.

Franklin, which qualified eight for Saturday's individual regional at Saline, did not use its normal starting lineup.

"Always a tough decision," said Franklin coach Dave Chiola, whose team ended the year at 16-5 overall. "At full strength we would have two voids and several inexperienced kids to face a great team like CC. Then I have to decide to make my kids cut weight in the middle of the week for a meet we would be outmatched in or bump them up a weight against All-State wrestlers."

The Patriots voided two matches and suffered 11 first-period pins and a technical fall.

"Half of my team was varsity and half was JV," Chiola said. "Ultimately I think my qualifiers get more out of a full practice and bringing their weight down slowly. At this point in the season our main goal is to get as many individuals to the state meet as possible."

Warriors fall

In the Division 4 team regional at Memphis, Manchester defeated Sand Creek for the championship, 43-21.

Manchester advanced to the finals with a 69-9 triumph over the host Yellow-jackets, while Sand Creek ousted Lutheran High Westland, 63-18.

Caleb Richter (125) and Zachary Francis (13) both won by pin, while J.R. Garcia (119), won a void as Lutheran Westland ends its season at 18-4 overall.

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Church observes Lent with daily gifts, deeds

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Spencer Rife went on a "plastic fast," and gave up credit cards for Lent two years ago.

Last year, the Southfield man kept his complaining in check between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

This year, Rife and other members of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, will give gifts to friends, family — even strangers — every day, for all 45 days of Lent.

"Our pastor, Steve (Schafner) has always been so creative and inspiring when it comes to his spiritual leadership about Lent and other spiritual ideas and events," said Rife, who has attended the church with his wife, Lynn, for 27 years. "In fact I was serving on the trustee board nine years ago when he came to us and asked for a hefty loan that he guaranteed would all be paid back plus some. His idea then was to give every one in the congregation \$20, what he called God's money. He instructed us to go do some good with it and make it multiply. Some made things to sell, some baked cookies ... and many events were done for the good of the community and for our church and of course the loan we approved got completely paid back plus, just as he had said."

Rife looks forward to reading a list of 87 suggested good deeds and gifts meant to help participants jumpstart the Lenten project this



week. Schafner, who compiled the "45 Days of Giving" ideas, with the help of some church members, will distribute the list to the congregation on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 26. The 87 ideas, along with a checklist of dates, are printed on a flyer the size of a dollar bill, for easy folding into a wallet.

Creative giving
 Schafner said the project isn't specific to Lent but works well with the Christian observance

because the season encourages sacrifice. "It could be a summer project. It could be any time of the year," he said. "I always try to do something creative during the Lenten season." Schafner encouraged church members to give up their credit cards and make a "plastic fast" during Lent two years ago. Last year, church-goers wore purple bracelets that they moved from wrist to wrist each time they whined during Mt. Hope's "complained-

free" Lenten season. Schafner developed the giving project after becoming aware of a book called *29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life*. Its author, battling multiple sclerosis, sought advice from an African healer, who told her to give to others. The book follows her 29-day journey.

"I don't completely buy into the philosophy of it being a healing process," Schafner said,

Please see LENT, B6

TRY THESE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Here's a portion of Mt. Hope Congregational Church's list of 87 ideas for giving to others:

1. Give a hug to a family member who doesn't "do" hugs (or an "I love you" in the same situation)
2. Take a trip to the park with the grandkids.
3. Do a family member's laundry, bathroom, cleaning, dishes.
4. Make a meal for someone who isn't grieving or shut in — just a surprise.
5. Spend the day taking pictures of someone's day-to-day life and then send them the pictures.
6. Give your pet a special treat.
7. Take flowers to someone — just because.
8. Write an anonymous thank you note to mail deliverers everywhere and drop it into the corner mail box.
9. Leave a stack of quarters in the do-it-yourself car wash.
10. Clean out your craft supplies and take them to an elementary school.
11. Pay for the person behind you in the fast food drive through lane.
12. Teach Sunday school for one Sunday.
13. Listen. But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen.
14. Send a card or letter to a friend or acquaintance sharing how that person has influenced their life.
15. Help a friend or neighbor with snow removal/yard work.
16. When driving, look for opportunities to allow other drivers to turn, merge, or enter traffic in front of you.
17. Leave loose change in random places.
18. Offer candy mints to those around you in church or leave wrapped candy mints on the church pews before the service.
19. Take your neighbor's trash cans back up to his house on trash day.
20. Recycle.
21. Offer to walk someone's dog or take care of their pet for the day/weekend.
22. Offer to drive a "shut in" to church or an activity.
23. Volunteer at Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Capuchin Soup Kitchen.
24. Donate returnable bottles to an organization (youth group; Scouts; school groups).
25. Make a special candlelight dinner for your family.
26. Borrow your spouse's car then get it cleaned inside and out and return it with a full tank of gas.
27. Burn a CD of significant songs and leave it in someone's CD player.
28. Pick up trash in your neighborhood.
29. Collect your spare change and donate it.
30. Ask to speak to a restaurant manager and tell what good service you got from your waitperson.
31. Leave a piece of fruit in your mailbox with a note of appreciation to your mail carrier.
32. Smile at complete strangers.
33. Give blood.
34. Make a treat or hot cocoa mix and deliver it to your church staff with a note of appreciation.
35. Forgive someone who has wronged you.

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Couple celebrates milestone anniversary

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Dale and Billie (Brown) Collins share a love that never quits.

"If anyone asks how did we make it over 70 years, I simply quote an old tune I learned as a kid, and I used it as a goal at school, at work, in retirement... 'get your hat and get your coat, put your troubles on the doorstep and just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street.' A positive attitude beats negative every time," Dale said.

"We've always had a good marriage and good children," Billie noted.

The Canton couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Jan. 31. They were married in 1942 at a small wedding in Dearborn, after meeting through Dale's stepmother, who was a member of Billie's family.

"He lived in Michigan and I lived in Oklahoma. I came up to Michigan to help my cousin out." Bil-



lie, 88, said. "From the time we saw each other we decided we'd get married."

Was it love at first sight? "I think it was," she said.

They lived apart for three years while Dale served in the U.S. Army and then settled in Canton and began raising a family. Their children are Judy Walkowiak, Jerrie Sigworth, Randy Collins and Roger Collins, all of Canton. The couple also has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dale, 88, retired in 1984 from

Detroit Edison, where he had managed the art department. He developed painting skills while in high school, Billie said.

"He didn't think anything would come of it, but it did. He was hired by Detroit Edison when he was in high school. They had a magazine and did a lot of advertising."

Dale continues to paint in both oil and watercolor in retirement.

"My husband is a pretty good artist and loves to go places where he can see things that intrigue him."

Billie enjoys homemaking and spending time with her family.

"We live near our children. Every Sunday the whole family gets together and someone cooks," Billie said.

Her favorite contribution to the meal is "good old-fashioned Oklahoma cornbread" without sugar.

The couple celebrated their milestone anniversary with a large family get together.

"It was very nice, very well done," Billie said.



Billie and Dale Collins of Canton celebrated 70 years of marriage last month.

LENT

Continued from page B5

referring to the book. "But it certainly can't hurt. The idea was to get her outside of herself and think of someone else and that is what Lent is all about. We have to get outside of ourselves for a while."

Suggestions

Schafer began compiling a list of good works and gifts meant to inspire congregants and help them adhere to the Lenten project.

"I didn't want it to come down to materialism. Some of those things on the list are material items, but none are substantial in terms of (financial) value."

When he began to run out of ideas, church members, like Shari Haverty of Livonia, pitched in.

If she follows her own suggestions this Lent, Haverty will pay for a stranger's meal at a restaurant drive-thru window and will help someone with yard work.

"I think the greatest gift we can give someone is our time and attention," she said. "Every week when I pray

with our choir, I remind them that we never know when we might affect someone's day, in a positive, blessed way. So it is important to pay attention, lend a hand, write a note and give with the Spirit."

Wendy Hardy, a Livonia resident and member of Mt. Hope for 38 years, also added ideas to the gift list, including donating blood and complimenting others.

"It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day activities and forget those around you. With our busy schedule and crazy routine it is easy to not make time for others, whether it is to read in a classroom, volunteer at church or pay it forward in the line at the coffee shop," she said, adding that she, her husband, Paul, and their son, Mitchell, will try to do their part to make "someone else's day just a little bit brighter."

Schafer hasn't decided if the church will set aside time for members to share stories about their gift project experiences, but said the Sunday after Easter might be a good time for such testimonials.

Mt. Hope Congregational Church is located at 30330 Schoolcraft, between Middlebelt and Merriman; www.mthope.com.



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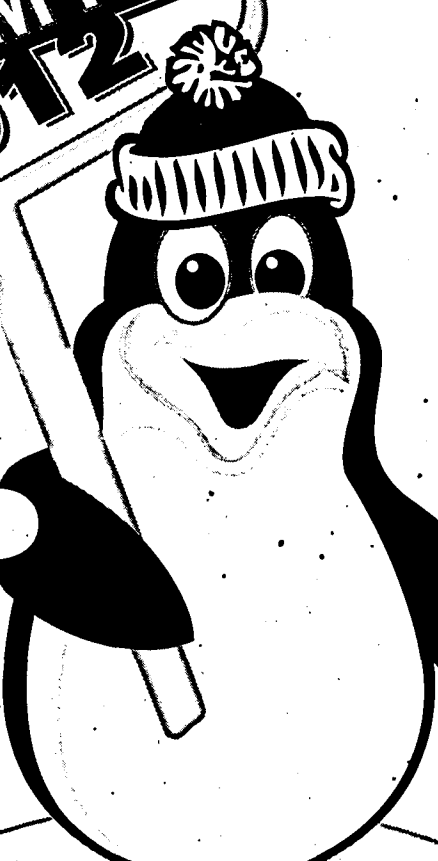
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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

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Sophia Lee Annabelle

Sophia Lee Annabelle Mason was born Jan. 10, 2012 at Providence Hospital, Southfield. Sophia joins her parents, Jesse and Leslie Mason, and her sister, Nora Helen Mason, 2, at home in Livonia. Proud grandparents are Jeffrey and Linda Douglass of Westland and Joseph and Sharon Mason of Saline. Great-grandparents are Helen Wendland and Ray Disney of Livonia, Evelyn and Henry Romans of Saline, and Dorothee Brasseur of Milan.

Milestones

Currier-Butkovich

Lyndsey Kay Currier and Blake Alan Butkovich announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of George and Kathy Currier of Northville, graduated from Northville High School and works at Northpointe Insurance. Her fiancé, son of Ernie Butkovich of Canton and MaryAnn Butkovich of Plymouth, graduated from Canton High School



and works at Northpointe Insurance. A September 2012 wedding is planned in Northville.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne County presents seminars for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, and 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information visit mgwwc.org. To register, e-mail mgwwcorg@gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181.

- Urban Chicken Farming, on Feb. 21, will be taught by an urban chicken farmer. Local ordinances will be discussed as well as coop design and construction.
- Square Foot/High Yield Gardening, on Feb. 28, will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer.

English Gardens

- A free, step-by-step presentation will focus on arranging fresh flowers, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.
- Create your own floral arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Cost is \$24.99. Register at www.englishgardens.com.
- Learn about starting seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 3.
- A free presentation focuses on herb growing at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10.
- Plant four herbs in a stylish container at a "Make it and Take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Cost is \$19.99. Register at www.englishgardens.com.
- Learn how to keep your lawn green at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17.

Passages

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BEHRMAN, EDNA H.

Age 91, of Plymouth, previously of Northville, passed away peacefully February 8, 2012 in Plymouth. She was born on February 3, 1921 in Port Clinton, Ohio to Gust and Mary (Tairi) Johnson. She was a 1938 graduate of Port Clinton High School and attended Sandusky Business College. Edna married Howard Behrman on October 25, 1941; they celebrated 70 years of marriage this past October. She was assistant supervisor of medical records at the Plymouth Center for Human Development, but spent most of her life being a wonderful homemaker. Edna was a devoted wife, cherished mother, and a loving grandmother. She is survived by her husband Howard; her children, Brad Behrman and Cathy (Paul) Clough; 6 grandchildren; and 8 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son John Behrman, and her brothers Ang Johnson and John Johnson. Services have been held. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to New Hope Center for Grief Support, 315 Griswold, Northville, MI 48167. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home.



EBERSOLE, CAMILLE A.

Passed away February 16, 2012 at the age of 66. She was born in Detroit on December 13, 1945 to Cyril B. and Bernice A. (Troost) Rodman. She is survived and greatly loved by her husband James and her children Daniel (Janice) Ebersole and Denise (Kevin) Cadwell. She is the dear grandmother of Steven Cadwell and the dear sister of Harry (Patricia) Rodman. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Camille was preceded in death by her sister Gloria Cecile Thorpe. Until the time of her death Camille was the Manager at the Super Bowl in Canton where she worked for many years. She formerly worked at Tai's Cleaners and Gould's Cleaners as well. She was a lifelong resident of Canton and Plymouth. At one time Camille served as a Director at the local level for the W.I.B.C. (Women's International Bowling Conference). She was a long time avid bowler. She also loved to travel and visit Casinos. Camille loved to watch MSU sports, the Redwings and the Tigers. She especially loved spending time with her family that she loved so much. Funeral Services will take place Monday, February 20, 2012, 11AM at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Friends may visit Saturday 4-8PM and Sunday 2-8PM. Memorials may be made to Karmanos Cancer Institute, or Saint Joseph Mercy Hospice. www.schrader-howell.com



PERRY, GEORGE ROBERT

Formerly of Westland, passed away Feb. 9, 2012, reuniting with his beloved wife Mary Lou (Owens) and eldest David (Jamie). Born Sept. 8, 1927, to John Henry and Claire (Reilly) Perry. George had a brother, John "Jack" Perry and sister Miriam Bauley. He will be missed by his survivors: Douglas John (m. MaryCarole) Perry and daughters Meaghan and Erin; daughter Denise Perry (m. Paul) Donavin and sons, Daniel and Craig; and David's son Robert (m. Brittany) and their children: Jack, Brock, and June. George joined the Army in 1945, served as the Chief Clerk of the Military Government of post-WW II Japan. A U. of Detroit law school graduate and a judge for 10 years, he was honored in 2004 as a Bar Association Golden Member. A Master Tax Planner in Tucson, where he relocated 20 years ago. He was an avid traveler, golfer, bowler, bridge player, and Gold Medal Senior Olympian. Visitation will be Mon., 2/13 at Adair Funeral Home, Dodge Chapel from 5-8 p.m.



SCHMEMAN, NORMA S.

Life long resident of Plymouth, passed away February 16, 2012 at the age of 97. She was born February 23, 1914 to Coda J. and Myrtle G. (Walker) Savery. She is the beloved wife of the late George. Dear mother of Pamela (Kurt) Siefert and Wendell (Margaret) Sikes. Dearest sister of Myrilla Schrader and dear aunt of Win(Susan)Schrader. She also leaves four grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great niece. A Funeral Service will take place Sunday, February 19, 2012, 2PM at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Friends may visit Sunday from 12noon until time of service. Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 www.hshv.org. To leave a condolence or share a memory www.schrader-howell.com



TUCKER, MADELINE E.

Age 87, February 13, 2012. Loving wife of over 70 years to Edward "Tom" Tucker. Beloved mother of Fran (Jim) Griffith, Nancy Clarke, Thomas, Timothy, Stephen, James (Jeanette), Barbara (Jeff) Baker and Mary Tucker. Grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother of five. Sister of Robert, Richard (Eileen) and William (Marcy) Haney and the late Raymond Haney and Mary Haney-Roach. Loving aunt of numerous nieces and nephews. She was a long time resident of Livonia, Michigan and retired with her husband to Roscommon in 1985. Madeline will be laid to rest at Richardson Cemetery in Roscommon, Michigan on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 1:30 pm. Memorials may be made in her honor to the Fr. Solanus Guild of the Capuchins or the charity of your choice. Please visit www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



GELINAS, KATHERINE DANA (GROM)

After a short, but courageous battle against Pancreatic Cancer. Katherine, peacefully passed with her loving family by her side on February 12, 2012 at 46 years of age. Loving wife of Ken Gelinas. Cherished mother of Amber and Trevor Gelinas. Loving stepmother of Michael and wife Mel Gelinas and Ryan and wife Joany Gelinas. Beloved daughter of Joseph and Mary Grom. Dear daughter-in-law of the late Helen and Alvin Gelinas. Dear sister of Michael, Marilea and husband Patrick Rogers, Steven and wife Erin. Many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins survive. Will be sadly missed by her companion pets Chloe, Copper and Mace. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to LaSalle Minor Hockey Association and or the LaSalle Turtle Club Soft Ball League. Visiting Tuesday 7-9pm and Wednesday 3-5 & 7-9pm. Prayers Wednesday 8pm at Families First 3260 Dougall Ave. South Windsor, Canada 519-969-5841. On Thursday family and friends are invited to meet at Sacred Heart Church LaSalle Canada (219 Sacred Heart Dr) after 9:30am followed by Funeral Mass at 10:30am. Interment Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. A memorial luncheon will take place on Friday February, 17th from 12:30pm-2:30pm at Mama Mia's on Plymouth road in Livonia.

HIRTZEL, ESTHER PEARL

Age 106. February 15, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Walter L. (6/83). Dearest mother of Helen Gascon. Loving grandmother of Cori (Steven) Salmons, Timothy (Diane) Miller, Julie Cowan & their children. Funeral Service Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at The Fisher Funeral Home 24501 Five Mile (btw. Beech Daly & Telegraph) Redford Twp. (313) 535-3030. Visit Tuesday 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. with ritual service under the auspices of O.E.S. Kindness Chap. #523 at 7:30 p.m. Burial Parkview Cemetery, Livonia. Memorials suggest to Masonic Pathways Sr. Living Services, 1200 Wright St. Alma, MI 48801 or Alzheimer's Assoc. www.fisherfuneralhome.net

BURKLOW, JAMES D.

February 16, 2012; age 67 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Peggy. Father of Chris (Leah) Eckles and Skip (Angie) Eckles. Loving grandfather of Shaelyn, Dakota, Joey, Hannah, Ryan, Erin and John. Member of of Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 and Garden City Kiwanis. Memorial Services at a later date. Memorial contributions to Kiwanis Kids day in the Park, c/o P.O. Box 451, Garden City, MI 48136-0451. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

BUSCHLEITER, FRED "Harley"

Passed away Monday, February 13, 2012, of Westland. Ypsilanti and Canada. He was a good friend, former employee of Northwest Airlines, and served in the U.S. Army. Per his request no funeral/burial services will be held.

COLEMAN, ETHEL "SUSIE"

Age 94. Passed away on February 17, 2012 at her home in Independence Village of Plymouth. She was born on May 1, 1917 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to the late Harry and Grace Hatfield. On May 1, 1948 she married Darwin "Bob" who preceded her in death on July 9, 1992. Susie is survived by her good friend Kenneth Ray of Plymouth, formally of Bradenton, Florida. She will be laid to rest at Manasota Memorial Park in Bradenton, Florida. Arrangements entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.

Let others know... When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

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Umlauf-Stahl

Lindsey Umlauf and David Stahl, both of Novi, announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of John and Charron Umlauf of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., graduated from the University of Florida. She is employed as center operations director for Concentra Medical Center in Romulus. Her fiancé, son of Michael and Marie Stahl of Farmington Hills, graduated from Michigan State University and



is employed as a senior financial planner at Planets Moran Financial Advisors in Southfield. A June 2012 wedding is planned in Gainesville, Fla.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

February

- BLACK HISTORY**
Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 and 26
Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield
Details: Observe Black History Month at 11 a.m. services. Ardis Cazono will present "Tuskegee Airmen" Feb. 19 and the church's Praise Dance Group and Children's Church will present dance and music selections. Light refreshments will be served after the services. United Voices in Christ, a male singing group, also will perform at 3 p.m., Feb. 26
Contact: (248) 569-2972 or firstbaptist@fbc-detroit
- BOWLING FUNDRAISER**
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland
Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and pop
Contact: (734) 427-3660
- BREAKFAST**
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19
Location: St. Theodore, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421
- CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**
Time/Date: Eucharist, 10 a.m. Feb. 19
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Bishop Wendell Gibbs will attend the worship service on Feb. 19. The service will include special music and banners created by members of the parish. A celebration reception will follow the service
Contact: (734) 453-0190
- CLOTHING BANK**
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty roads, Canton
Details: Free clothing and shoes are available to anyone in need
Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480
- GRIESHARE**

- Time/Date:** 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19-May 27
Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, south of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: The 13-week grief seminar and support group is non-denominational, Christian-based and designed to help participants understand the grieving process, as well as provide encouragement and comfort. Sessions will include video seminars and group discussions. Registration is \$15 and includes a workbook/journal
Contact: Pastor Roger Wrightt at (313) 682-7491; www.griefshare.org
- GRIEF SUPPORT**
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 7, 14 and 21
Location: St. Michael's Catholic Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include The Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry. Register by calling the church of visiting Good Mourning Ministry's Web site.
Contact: (734) 261-1455; www.good-mourningministry.net
- GUEST PREACHER**
Time/Date: Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-26
Location: St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills
Details: The Rev. Philip Hemke, director of Church Relations at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, will lead an "LSSM Sunday." He'll preach on "A New Start" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday. He'll also lead the Bible study at 10:15 a.m. Sunday. The lesson is based on Mark 1:9-15
Contact: (248) 474-0584
- LENTEN WORSHIP**
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22-March 28
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: There will be a free soup and sandwich supper served at 6 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. Free treats after other Lenten services. Series theme is "See His Cross!"
Contact: (313)532-8655 or (734)968-3523
- MOVIE**
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: A free showing of the movie, "Courageous," from the creators of "Fireproof"
Contact: www.christsavior.org; (734) 522-6830

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Find a health study through online registry

The University of Michigan Health System recently added its 10,000th research volunteer to its participant registry.

In spite of the major milestone, there's still a need for research participants at U-M and nationwide. A lack of volunteers slows progress in the fight against cancer, diabetes, depression and other devastating illnesses. Many studies seek healthy volunteers as well as those with a specific condition or ailment.

"To us, these volunteers are nothing short of heroes because they're helping scientists find cures; improve individuals' quality of life and move health research forward," stated Molly White, manager of the clinical research recruitment program at the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research, (MICHR). "Polls have shown that more than 90 percent of Americans recognize the importance of clinical research to the advancement of medical science, yet the vast majority know very little about the research process or how to get involved."

That's where MICHR comes in. Founded in 2006, the institute helps to support researchers across U-M and helps bridge researchers and the community.

MICHR is committed to moving medicine forward with safe and innovative studies, and in assisting research



Volunteers are needed for health studies on such topics as knees and joint problem at the University of Michigan.

teams across campus to find volunteers who are interested in participating in studies.

The online registry at UMClinicalStudies.org allows prospective volunteers to search or browse the studies that are looking for volunteers. It also can match would-be participants based on eligibility criteria, health status and the volunteer's preferences.

Since the registry's launch in 2007, it has been used to enroll participants in more than 500 studies. Study teams report that in many cases, the Web site was instrumental in helping

them meet their recruitment goals. When there aren't enough participants, studies can languish or even be canceled. This free resource also helps to lower the costs of individual studies because less money needs to be spent on recruitment advertising.

"We'd like to invite everyone to check out the online registry and see if there's a study that would be of interest to them," White said. "No matter who you are, how old you are, or whether you're healthy or have a health condition, there's probably a study out there that could use your help."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

February

ANGEL KISSES FUNDRAISER

Angel Kisses, a group dedicated to raising awareness of late-term pregnancy and infant loss, will present its fourth annual fundraiser, 2-8 p.m. Feb. 25, at Woody's Diner, 208 W. Fifth, in Royal Oak. The group's mission is to help raise awareness of late-term pregnancy and infant loss, and also to help improve the quality and quantity of support and services available to families who experience such a loss. The fundraiser includes a silent auction, item raffles, 50/50 raffles and a candle-lit moment of silence. Woody's Diner will also donate 20 percent of food and beverage sales during the hours of the event. All proceeds will go toward fulfilling Angel Kisses' 2012 goals, including funding the launch of Beaumont Hospital's new standard of care for families who experience pregnancy and newborn loss. This standard will include training staff for bedside care and

the handling of bereavement mementos. For more information visit www.angelkisses.org or e-mail to amyallen@angelkisses.org.

BOWLATHON

RSVPs are due Feb. 27 for a Bowlathon set for 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at the Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Garden City Hospital's staff team "Reaching for a Cure" presents the event, which will raise money for the American Cancer Society. Cost is \$20 per person and includes shoe rental, 3 games, and pizza. There will be a chance to win a gift basket. RSVP to Jamie at (734) 634-5701 or ly1as@yahoo.com.

CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Maple Grove Educational Programs for Children of Alcoholics offers "Celebrating Families," a free education and support program for children, ages 5-17, and their parents/caregivers, 5:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, through March 28 at Maple Grove Center in West Bloomfield. The program is designed for

children living with chronic stress due to family challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness. Each day's activities focus on learning skill-building through games and crafts. Topics covered include feelings, self-worth, communication, coping, defenses, alcohol and other drug use, safe decision-making, getting help and learning how to take care of themselves. To register, contact Maple Grove Community Education at (248) 661-6170 or e-mail mce_cp@hfhhs.org.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• Heart Walk 2012 celebrates American Heart Month, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 25 at Westland Mall, 35000 Warren Road, Westland.

Dress in comfortable clothing and bring all your heart-related questions for a panel of experts. A hospital pharmacist will be on hand to answer medication questions; free health screening on site; and Pulse EMS will be on hand for support. All events are free. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Call (734) 458-3248 to reserve.

Canton begins planning Relay for Life

Canton community members will kick off their Relay for Life season 6:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Dodson Elementary School 205 North Beck Road.

Families, caregivers, cancer survivors, schools, local organizations and others will ring in the new season with a rally that explains how Relay for Life benefits the American Cancer Society's goal to save lives and create more birthdays.

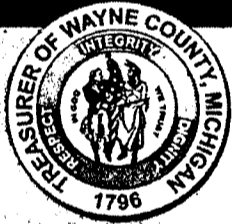
The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight community celebration. Individuals and teams camp out, picnic, dance, play games and take turns circling around a track "relay" style to raise funds and fight cancer. The event opens as cancer survivors

lead the way around the track and are honored with the Survivor Lap. As the sun begins to set, the warm glow of hundreds of luminaria light the field in an emotional silent ceremony. Each bag lit is in honor of a loved one who won the fight against cancer.

Started in 1985, Relay For Life began with one man who circled around a track for 24 hours raising \$27,000. Relay For Life has grown to more than 5,000 communities and over 25 countries worldwide.

For more information about Relay for Life in Canton as well as other communities, call (800) 227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org/relay.

RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER



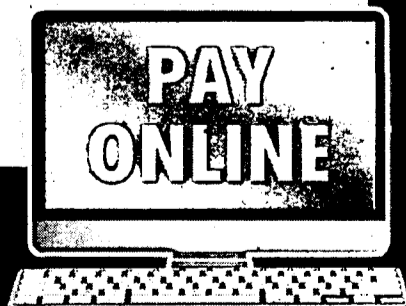
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My Fellow Citizens, I know firsthand that these are challenging economic times and many struggle to pay property taxes. By law I am required to collect delinquent taxes to fund essential government services such as police and fire protection and schools for our children. If property taxes are not paid I am required to foreclose on the property. I do not want anyone to lose their property.

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Course	Start Date	Days	Location
• EMS I/C	3/13/12	T-Th	Southfield
• EMT Day Class	3/13/12	T-Th	Southfield
• EMT	4/10/12	T-Th	Southfield
• Paramedic Day Class	4/10/12	T-Th	Taylor

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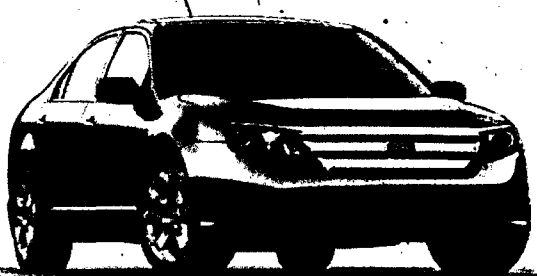
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\$149 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees⁴
PER MONTH LEASE \$1,452 Cash Due at Signing
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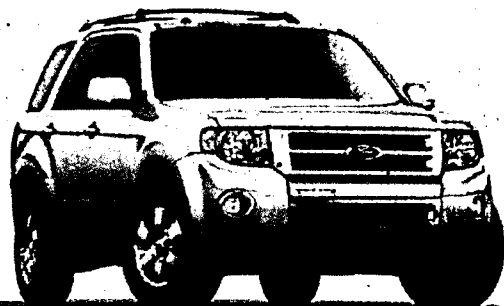


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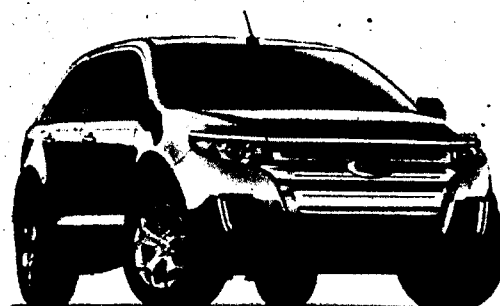


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MSRP: \$29,265⁵



Offers Up To 30 Highway MPG²

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- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability • Personal Safety System
- 17" Painted Aluminum Wheels

2012 EXPLORER XLT FWD
MSRP: \$36,325⁵

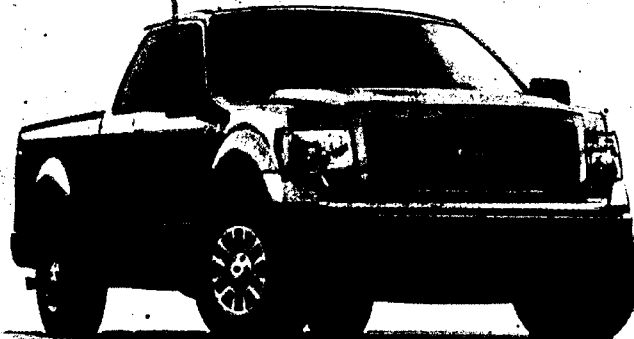


Offers Up To 28 highway MPG²

\$285 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees⁴
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