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Housing employee charged with embezzlement



BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A woman who oversaw a family assistance program for the city of Westland has been charged with embezzling money intended for a client.

Tonya Cramier-Oncza, 39, faces a hearing today in Westland District Court following allegations she cashed a check and kept some of the money, authorities said. A not-guilty plea has been placed on

record for her as she faces a hearing today on charges of uttering and publishing the check and embezzling \$1,000 or more. She is free on a \$5,000 personal bond.

Cramier-Oncza was employed by an outside agency to oversee the federal Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which provides assistance for cars, schooling and necessities to help clients become independent. Cramier-Oncza has been terminated

from the Westland-based program, housed at the Dorsey Community Center in the city's Norwayne neighborhood.

She is accused of forging a woman's name on a check and keeping some of the money. The charges surfaced after the client came forward with allegations that she had been defrauded by Cramier-Oncza, according to Westland police Sgt. Michael Harhold.

City officials have since learned that the defendant also had a prior fraud-related

conviction, and she has been charged as a second-degree habitual offender.

Terry Carroll, interim Westland housing and community development director, said the city has since investigated every check that Cramier-Oncza handled and has talked with her former clients.

"We are certain that this is the only time that there was an inconsistency," he said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Students find space in new gym

For more photos of Tuesday's dedication ceremony, visit our Westland Photo Gallery online at www.hometownlife.com.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

As Sara Clevenger, Jordan Berry and Ashley Omev see it, a second gymnasium at Wayne Memorial High School means someplace other than a hallway to work on their routines.

"We have a place to practice," said an excited Berry, who joined her fellow members of the varsity cheer squad in performing during the dedication of the Alumni Arena addition Tuesday afternoon.

"Now we have a place to do our cheers, before we had to think about our spacing," added Clevenger.

Sitting on a bench in one of two new locker rooms, the three teens checked out the new digs, admiring the lockers — "They're humongous," Omev said — and the new fitness room.

Students like Clevenger, Berry and Omev, played a major role in the dedication, from the presentation of the colors by the school's JROTC color guard to the singing of the national anthem by the Vocal Dimensions and the playing of the fight song by the marching band.

There was even a student representative, Olivia LaFortune, who told school officials and guests that attending Wayne Memorial has "given me the opportunities to secure a positive



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial Principal John Albrecht (from left) Wayne-Westland school board President Fred Weaver, Superintendent Greg Baracy and Wayne Mayor Al Haidous had the honors of cutting the ribbon to officially open the new addition to Wayne Memorial High School's Alumni Arena Tuesday afternoon.

future."

"I have spent eight, nine, 10 hours a day here, this has become my second home, part of my extended family," she said. "On behalf of the students, I want to thank the school board and the community for their vision."

LaFortune also made histo-

ry with her teammates as the girls volleyball became the first school team to use the court. They presented a brief demonstration as part of the dedication.

"We won't play there because there's not enough bleachers and they come too close to the court," she said

later. "But we start practicing in there this week."

The man of the hour, however, was Supt. Greg Baracy who was lauded for his "vision" by school board President Frederick Weaver.

"This just didn't happen, it

PLEASE SEE GYM, A4

City decides civic center is best spot for summer festival

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland's summer festival will likely remain in the city's civic center complex this year even if Central City Park is still fenced off due to contamination, officials decided Tuesday.

"I think we can make it work," Mayor William Wild said Monday evening, during talks with festival organizers and Westland City Council members.

Most festival activities occur near Westland City Hall and the Bailey Recreation Center, although the crowd often spills into the park. This year, officials decided to keep people off the partially contaminated site.

City officials plan to ask Wayne County officials and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for permission to use fenced-off park land for the popular fireworks show, although the crowd would be kept outside the fence.

The only other access to the park may be an east-end parking area, where festival vendors could park their vehicles.

Some festival organizers indicated they have the jitters about the 37th festival, due to

widespread publicity about elevated levels of lead in Central City Park.

Wild ordered the 100-acre park fenced off in early January until the DEQ can conduct more thorough testing for lead and other contaminants, including possible 55-gallon drums.

Festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl said Monday that, due to uncertainty about where the festival would occur, organizers are far behind in booking vendors and entertainers.

"All these things are a problem," he said. "It's troublesome."

Mehl and some other festival leaders also implored elected leaders to actively promote the festival, saying city officials in past years seemed more intent on promoting another event, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Why isn't there an effort put into the festival like there is Relay for Life?" Mehl asked.

Elected leaders responded that they support the festival by hosting it on city property and by approving such events as the fireworks show.

Early in Monday's talks,

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, A4

Group wants new Maida Woods study

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A showdown is looming this month between developers and residents fiercely at odds over a proposed subdivision on Westland's southwest side.

Royal Oak-based developers Kentmoor LLC this week submitted to city officials a site plan for 35 single-lot homes — scaled back from 41 — on the south side of Palmer between John Hix and Hannan.

D.W. Krane, one of the developers, said the revision protects 2.5 acres of state-regulated wetlands except for "a sliver" of land

needed for a road. He said that portion would be offset by creating a small wetland elsewhere on the site.

But a citizens group's lawyer, Michael Grant, had earlier filed a still-pending petition with the state alleging that environmental officials didn't properly assess the wetlands area. The group — called the Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation and Smart Growth — is demanding a new study before the Westland City Council votes on the project.

"They're trying to ramrod this through,"

the group's treasurer, Dennis Sparks, said of developers.

Council President Charles Pickering has scheduled a study session for 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at City Hall to resume talks about the Maida Woods project. He said opponents and developers will have ample opportunity to address elected officials.

Officials could decide the issue as early as Tuesday, Feb. 20, during a council business meeting.

PLEASE SEE MAIDA WOODS, A3



The controversial Maida Woods project would be built in the left area shown in this picture. Critics say it would disrupt the natural land and displace wildlife.

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Coming Sunday in Health

Latest technology improves lives visually impaired.

Coe had hits in music, philanthropy

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Jamie Coe, born George Colovas, was known nationally as the leader of Jamie Coe and the Gigolos, but was known locally as a businessman who was constantly active in charitable pursuits.

Mr. Coe died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, while driving home from his Garden City nightclub. He was 71.

A Dearborn native, he attended Fordson High School and was an All-State member of the basketball team in 1953 when the school won the state championship.

He also attended Wayne State University for a short

while but put his college plans on hold to pursue a career in music. Mr. Coe was discovered by "Mac the Knife" signer Bobby Darin, who convinced him to change his name.

Over the years, he recorded several songs including what would become his best-known, "The Fool." He would go on to appear on American Bandstand.

Mr. Coe was also the owner of several bars around the western Wayne area including Jamie's in Garden City, the former Jamie's on Seven and Jamie's Jammers II, both in Livonia.

Former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said he often went to Coe's establishments in the

city. He said Coe was a very entertaining singer who would do fund-raisers all the time for groups like the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

"He was very likable," Kirksey said. "I was saddened to hear of his death."

City Council President Jim McCann used to provide security for Coe's bars.

"He was active in community charities for years," he said. "He was always raising money."

He said one of the last charitable things Mr. Coe did was a stunt for a leukemia charity. In exchange for \$2,500 for the charity, he shaved his trademark long hair and mutton chops down to nothing.

Mr. Coe is survived by his



Jamie (George Colovas) Coe and then-Grand Prix racer Robbie Buhl at the "Racing for Kids" benefit for Children's Hospital. Coe earned national attention by performing on American Bandstand, but was perhaps better known locally for his numerous charitable activities.

wife, Sue, sons, Derek and Jared, daughters Trixie and Shannon, and grandchildren Derek and Mesa.

A private funeral service has already taken place, with a public memorial service to be announced soon.

MARSHALL HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the first marking period at Marshall Middle School were:

Joshua Abraham, Kristen Acosta, Victoria Adcock, Bisi Ajetonmobi, Aaron Alholinna, Bradley Alholinna, Rachael Alholinna, Alexandria Allen, Malcolm Allen, Daniel Ammons, Cierra Anderson, Heather Anthony, Shyenne Anthony, Earl Archer, Ryan Arnold, Nida Ashraf, Julianne Ayers, Yvette Ayers, Sean Bailey, Arnisa Bane, Katelyn Barker, Sh'Kera Barnes.

Sarah Barnett, Jessica Barton, Amanda Baxter, Joshua Beguhn, Kyle Beguhn, Sonia Belfiore, Ewera Bernard, Nkemdiem Bernard, Chelsea Bess, Alexandria Bielec, Rebecca Bizek, Gianna Blannon, Angela Blay, Fation Bleta, Ryan Boes, Kimberly Bolden, Bonjiovonna Bonner, Patrick Borda, Chase Bovia, DiVarche Bozeman, William Brant, William Brokenshire.

Joshua Brooks, Stephany Brown, Azha Bufkin, Mara Buie, Justin Bumgardner, Taylor Bumgardner, Jacob Burcicki, Martin Burd, Dontez Burgess, Cali Burks, Markese Burton, Cierra Busby, Rayna Butler, Michael Cach, Ashley Cadaret, Jessica Campbell, Ernestine Carlos, Dakota Carr, Bradley Celmer, Aaron Chave, Amber Chave, Angela Chiado.

Anthony Claxon, Davis Clenney, Desiree Clenney, Robert Codd, Aida Coca, Britni Coleman, Taylor Collins, Holley Compton, Matilda Corbaxhi, Brittany Covault, Brittany Cox, Dennis Cox, Cody Crane, Daniel Croft, Sarah Cunningham, Brittney Dandridge, James Daniel, Alexander Darga, Megan Daugherty, Brian Davis, Jordyn Davis, Tahj Davis.

Andree Dawkins, Brianna Delaforce, Amanda Derosia, Samantha Derosia, Brandon Detherage, Sara Diaz, Tayon Dickson, Asha Dixon, Chelsea Dixon, Dakota Douthat, Robert Drake, Jennifer Drum, Vanessa Dubeau, Alexandra Dudley, Kody Duhl, Summer Dunn, Lori Dynes, Eric Eldridge, Katelynn Elliott, Daishanae Elliott-Hughes, Halee Endicott, Sarah Fanny.

Brian Fawley, Meagan Ferguson, Jessica Fielhauer, Raeven Finch, Tyler Findley, Eileena Flannery, Andrew Floied, Tatianna Flowers, Stephanie Foley, Cassie Fournier, Emily Fox, Dominique Fuller, Travis Gabany, Alec Gager, Jillian Gaines, Antoinette Galindo, Lauren Gallant, Jael Gardiner, Sean Gerth, Taylor Gibson, Kayla Gillies, Kyle Gillies, Brandon Girard.

Liridon Gjocaj, Violeta Gjocaj, Desirae Gladden, Chelsea Gnida, Derek Gornall, Shaun Gornall, Tyler Gower, Tiana Grafton, Marquise Graves, Jonathan Guertin, Paul Gutu, Jeremy Gysel, Candace Haggerty, Steven Hall, Ariel Hamby, Jon Handzlik, Amanda Harden, Savannah Harris, Shakim Harris, Teresa Hartwig, Brianna Harwood, Colton Head, Leigh-Ann Hensley.

Jacquelyn Hewitt, Adam Hicks, Thomas Hildebrandt, Jontae Hill, Ronald Hill II, Arielle Hines, Khalil Holyfield, Melissa Hoppe, Alaysha Horne, Bradley Houghton, Amber Howard, Kellee Hubbard, Joseph Hubble, Nicole Hubble, Jeffrey Huber, Tiaunna Huddleston, Maleik Hull, Chelsea Hunt, Kyle Hunter, Cassandra Huren, Ahsan Hussain, Andrei Iacob.

Charles Ingle, Joshua Jenderat, Jaylynn Johnson, JéNa Johnson, Katelyn Johnson, Mariah Johnson, Asha Jones, Beverly Jones, Johnathan Jones, Kathryn Jones, Kaytlyn Jones, Alexis Judd, Coty Kazmierczuk, Rachel Kazmierczuk, Bria Kimbrough, Samantha Kingston, Hunter Kirchner, Parker Kirchner, Rachel Klein, Kellie Klepsch.

Joshua Koehler, Kristo Korcari, Cassandra Kowtko, Keith Kranning, Kelly Kranning, Kelsey Kreger, Kaltra Kruja,

Abbi Kuehn, Sharon Kumari, Christine Lamerson, Delant E Landrum, Rachel Landry, Sabrina Lawrence, Rebecca Lawrukovich, Steven Leblanc, Caitlin Lenard, Ashley LeSarge, Melanie Libres, Amberlynn Lilygrus, Devin Lombard, Maverick Logguski.

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Diamond McIntosh, Samantha McIntosh-Cozart, Paige McKellar, Aaron McLain, Katelyn McNally, Steven McNulty, Kiera Means, Marcus Mecks, Jeffrey Medel, Sarah Mellias, Marissa Miller, Steven Mirabitur, Jackqueline Mitchell, Alyssa Moore, Michael Morgan, Jajuan Morton, Jeffrey Morton, Kayley Mroz-Weil, Marizza Muhammad, Christopher Murdoch Jr.

Bridgette Murphy, Jenna Nabozny, Alexander Nagy, Lance Newton, Ryan Nikula, Ashley Nowicki, Chelsea Nowicki, Rachel O'Neal, Sarah Oboza, Eberachi Ogbuaku, Vivien Okechukwu, Matthew Okunawo, Jordan Pappas, Robert Parker, Ashley Patton, Jessica Payne, Drew Pennington, Emily Perkins, Kendall Perkins, Shelby Perusse, Jessica Pesenecker.

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Christopher Wimer, Kaela Wojtowicz, Angelina Woldrich, Haley Woodhouse, Ayana Wynn, Latina Yacks, Ji Ye, Nicole Young, Sarah Young, Jacob Zadorski, Brittany Zaremba, Nikolla Ziaj and Brooke Zywick.

Ex-addicts, experts speak at Save Our Youth talk

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

A panel of experts including young adults at different levels of recovery will deliver a strong message about drugs in the community at a town hall meeting next month.

Some qualify as experts because they lived through addiction and recovery. Others are treatment professionals.

Moderator Mark Menestrina can be counted on both hands.

Menestrina is director of the Detox Center at Brighton Hospital and a former patient there, as he discusses openly.

"It's an equal opportunity disease," he said.

Addiction can happen to the first lady, a doctor or a high

school honor roll student.

Menestrina is a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. For the past 15 years, he has been involved in the care of over 20,000 chemically dependent patients and their families. He also serves as medical director for the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance.

He will lead a panel at the Feb. 8 town hall meeting, organized by the Save Our Youth Task Force.

Panelists include Oakland County mother Ellie Noble and her son Doug, who has been in recovery for five years; a Livonia woman named Danielle, also in recovery; treatment professionals and the student assistance coordinator from Stevenson High School.

Dennis Hinze from Stevenson will discuss substance abuse problems in the district, how Livonia schools have been handling those issues and plans for the future.

"One of the things we see that is of concern ... is the abuse of prescription medicine," Hinze said. "Unfortunately kids are getting their hands on prescription pain killers and selling them or giving them to friends. Some of the stimulant drugs are also being sold or given away."

Heroin today is much more potent than it was 10 years ago, Menestrina said. Before, users would have to inject the drug intravenously, which served as some resistance. Now, users can get high through snorting, which some find more acceptable.

"The heroin that has infiltrated our area is considerably different than 10 years ago," said Hinze, who has 16 years experience working in his capacity at the high schools.

He said the school will encourage students to attend the meeting. "It really is important to look at it as a community issue," Hinze said. "It's going to take all of us working together."

Diane Montes, whose son Brian died this summer from a fatal mix of heroin and Fentanyl, will address the audience as well. She was instrumental in organizing the task force.

The meeting runs 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive.

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

Schools of Choice signups start for Wayne-Westland residents

Parents interested in changing their child's school can now sign up for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Schools of Choice program for the 2007-2008 school year.

The program is open to students in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

The Schools of Choice program offers parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district provided there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parents

or legal guardian.

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2007-2008 Schools of Choice application available in every Wayne Westland school.

Schools of Choice applications for middle school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland, through March 2.

Schools of Choice applications for elementary school students

will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office between March 12 and April 20.

No new Schools of Choice applications will be accepted for high school students.

Applications during the submission period will permit selected students to begin the 2007-2008 school year in their school of choice, if space is available.

If more students apply for a grade or building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students. The names of students not selected will be placed on a waiting list for the 2007-2008 school

year. Current Schools of Choice students must reapply to remain eligible for the program.

After the deadlines, Schools of Choice applications will be accepted until Sept. 7 at the elementary or middle school the parent or guardian would like the child to attend. Those names also will be added to the 2007-2008 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis.

Building principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an opening. They will be allowed to place Schools of Choice students only through Sept. 21.

CORRECTIONS

A story in the Jan. 28 edition of the *Westland Observer* should have stated that Murray Warren received seven

years/one month to 30 years in prison for his role in the beating death of Westland resident Ronald Wayne McClain in

Detroit in July 2003.

Cindy Scofield should have been identified as a Wayne-Westland school board trustee

in a story that appeared in the Jan. 25 edition of the *Westland Observer*. The Rev. Terrance McClain is the current board vice president.

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Notice of Filing Deadline

All Local School Board candidates who wish to seek office at the May 8, 2007 School Election, must file nominating petitions no later than:

Tuesday, February 13, 2007
before 4:00 p.m.

Petitions must be filed with the Garden City Clerk's Office located at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City Michigan, 48135. Clerk's Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Allyson M. Bettis
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AROUND WESTLAND

Swearing in

The public is invited to a swearing in ceremony for new Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at the city of Westland's senior citizen Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. A reception also is scheduled. Judges are encouraged to bring robes.

Bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harris Kehr VFW Post 3323 will hold a marathon bingo noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the post, 1055 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Money raised will go towards the post's general fund projects for veterans.

A second marathon bingo will be held noon-5 p.m. Saturday, March 10, to support the Youth Activities Adopt A Troop project for overseas veterans.

Presidents Day Dinner

The Garden City and Westland Democratic Clubs will present a Presidents Day Dinner Monday, Feb. 19, at the Harris Kehr VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Dinner will be at 6 p.m., followed by a Historical Presentation by America's First Ladies. Tickets cost \$10 each and are available by calling Carol Larkin at (734) 837-8724 or

(734) 674-7327 or by sending name, address and telephone number and a check payable to the Garden City Democratic Club and Westland Democratic Club 1021 W. Rose, Garden City, MI 481835. The deadline for ordering tickets is Feb. 12.

Churches meet

Churches United Against Hunger will meet at noon Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the Lighthouse Home Mission on Plamer west of Venoy.

CUAH is a coalition of 20 Westland churches whose aim is to provide for the needy in the Westland community. For more information, call (734) 326-3885.

Vegas Night

St. Theodore Parish will hold a Vegas Night 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

There will be 50/50 drawings every hour and games like Black Jack, Let It Ride, Easy Craps, roulette, money wheel and Texas Hold'em. The maximum win will be \$500 per person. Food, Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available. Admission is \$2. For more information, call (734) 425-4421, voicemail 10.

Z-PAC dinner

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Parents Advisory

Council will hold a Valentine Dinner and Silent Auction on Friday, Feb. 9, at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the sit-down dinner served at 7 p.m.

The dinner will be prepared by Chef Tony Paquette, head of the center's culinary arts program and include a homemade chocolate mousse. There also will be a silent auction featuring a variety of Zebra collectibles.

Because seating is limited, only 125 tickets will be sold. They're priced at \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Tickets as well as information about sponsorships are available by calling Wayne High Principal John Albrecht at (734) 419-2200.

Black History Month

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland will honor Black History Month with a presentation by versatile storyteller Rosie Chapman. In the oral storytelling tradition, Miz Rosie will recreate the courage of Harriet Tubman as she helped people to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

The special family event will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. Free tickets now are available at the Children's desk. For information, call the library at (734) -326-6123.

wetlands assessment be declared invalid - a move that could stall or block the project.

His petition contends that the earlier study "fails to identify the extent of regulated wetlands" on the property and that the project would leave the wetlands area "polluted, impaired or destroyed as a result of unregulated dredging, filling and other activities ..."

Krane, however, said developers accept the earlier wetlands assessment, and they want a state administrative judge to reject Grant's petition.

"We are following all of Westland's ordinances," Krane said. "We are following all of

the state of Michigan's requirements for the development of this property."

Developers will need a state wetlands permit along with city approval before the project could proceed. Critics said the process should stop until the state reviews its wetlands assessment.

"This is a waste of city resources and taxpayer money," said Leona Duffy, senior vice president for the citizens group.

Project critic Jim Rubasky agreed, saying "there's no final DEQ documents."

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Group questions Whitehead's residency

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER



Whitehead

thing will be done," he said. On Tuesday, Whitehead said he does spend time with a female friend in another community, along with traveling a lot out of state for work.

However, he called the Arden Street house his "primary residence."

"I'm looking into it. As far as I knew, I'm still legally a resident at the house. I still get bills there. I still stay there ... it's my part of this community."

In response to the challenge, Livonia City Clerk Val Vandersloot said her office sent a certified letter to Whitehead's house. It gives him 30 days to prove that he is still a qualified voter, which requires showing a utility bill at the address. A challenged elector would also be required to take an oath before the clerk.

Neighbors of the Arden Street house, where there's a for-sale sign, said Whitehead does go there, but he doesn't live there.

Whitehead said he will make a decision about his future this week. Personally, his focus is his two daughters. As a board member, he said, his aim has always been "student learning and continuous improvement" and he doesn't want this situation to "deflect from that."

"I want to do the right thing for the board," Whitehead said.

Several CFLF members told the board that the timing is important - if a vacancy occurs more than 90 days before the election, the seat could go before the voters in the upcoming

In response to the challenge, Livonia City Clerk Val Vandersloot said her office sent a certified letter to Whitehead's house. It gives him 30 days to prove that he is still a qualified voter, which requires showing a utility bill at the address.

ing May 8 election, where two trustee seats are already on the ballot. That 90-day deadline would be early next week, officials said. The filing deadline for the school board election is Feb. 13.

Wolkan noted that if trustees allowed time to transpire past the 90-day limit, trustees could appoint a replacement - meaning it'd be a year until the public could elect that board member. He referred to what he called the board's "track record of deceit and evasiveness."

Scheel said later that the board would follow the law, if there is a resignation. She also noted that fellow board members don't have the authority to ask another member to step down. In addition, Scheel said a board member "can be a resident and still decide to resign."

Trustee Cynthia Markarian said she was appalled at the CFLF questions and the fact that board members didn't have a chance to discuss the issue.

"As in typical CFLF form, they brought these (questions) to the podium and made it seem like there's a conspiracy going on here. I seriously do not approve of it and I've had enough."

MAIDA WOODS

FROM PAGE A1

Project critics have said Maida Woods could destroy a refuge for wildlife, encroach on a wetlands area, adversely affect the Rouge River and negatively impact their properties. They say they're not against development, but believe it should be done properly.

Grant, their attorney, has filed a four-page petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

He has asked that the earlier

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WYAA: Kids will play ball this season

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Batter up. Despite the closing of Central City Park and its ball diamonds due to contamination, youth baseball and softball still will be played this summer in Westland. Officials representing the Westland Youth Athletic Association moved Monday to quell rumors to the contrary. "We want to get the word out that baseball is alive and well in Westland," said Keith DeMolay, WYAA operations vice president. Youngsters won't be playing on Central City Park's two ball diamonds, where soil testing has shown elevated levels of lead. However, DeMolay and WYAA President Jack Profitt said Monday that baseball and softball will likely be

played on fields in Voss, Rotary and Jaycee parks — and on diamonds at Marshall Middle School. "We do have fields we can use — they're just not as good as the ones at Central City Park," Profitt said. Other than the alternate sites mentioned, WYAA leaders held out hope that city and county officials also will find additional places where children can play. On occasion, WYAA youngsters have used ball diamonds in Hines Park, but DeMolay said those fields often can't be used due to flooding. In all, 400-500 children ages 5 to 18 typically participate in 15 WYAA leagues — two of which were based at Central City Park. WYAA has hosted state tournaments as recently as last summer in the park, drawing youngsters from

across the state. After the situation became public last November, some parents lashed out at officials for potentially placing children at risk by allowing them to play on contaminated baseball fields. Children who have since been tested for exposure to lead have been shown to have levels that health officials don't consider harmful. Still, some parents have said they should have been allowed to make their own decisions about whether their children should play in the park. Profitt, meanwhile, said WYAA games will continue elsewhere this year. He said the athletic group has survived since 1958, although its name changed after Westland was carved out of the old Nankin Township in 1966.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors Ashley Parker (from left), Jasmen Sheffield-Sadler and Ebony Riley get into the spirit of the Wayne Memorial Zebra fight song.



The Wayne Memorial High School Marching Band entertained guests in the corridor linking the new and old portions of the Alumni Arena in advance of the dedication ceremony.



Junior Chelsea Johnson works out on one of the new elliptical cross-trainers during general physical education class.

FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE A1 some officials acknowledged that other festival sites had been pondered, such as the city's golf course near Merriman and Cherry Hill or the old Clyde Smith & Sons property near Newburgh and Joy. Ultimately, some leaders indicated that moving the festival could send the wrong message on a contamination issue that some officials and residents already view as overblown by the media. The controversy erupted in November after it became known that city administra-

tion officials, the county and the DEQ had known about the contamination for years but didn't publicly reveal it. Wayne County has since tested 132 people for possible exposure to lead. Other than an initial false scare for one child, no one showed levels considered dangerous. On Monday, resident Bud Somerville, who used to be an umpire for games on the contaminated baseball diamonds, offered to sleep in the park for six months if officials find a way to keep him warm during cold months. "There's nothing wrong out there — it's a joke," he said. Meanwhile, it was

Councilman James Godbout who clearly spelled out the compromise of keeping the festival in its usual location and talking with county and DEQ officials about possibly using the park for the fireworks show. Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt agreed that if the plan appears workable, "I think it's the best place for it." Despite possible alternate sites, council President Charles Pickering said, "I don't know how you can logistically go anywhere else." Festival organizers have proposed having the event June 28 through July 4.

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GYM

FROM PAGE A1

took the vision of a man who has a heart for this community," Weaver said. "Thank you, Dr. Baracy, for your drive and dedication to get us to this place." Baracy, however, credited the community for its support of the district's sinking fund millage four years ago and for its commitment to education. "This compliments our core rigorous curriculum which enables our students to compete in a global economy," Baracy said. "This is an investment in our students' future. Each and every one of you should be proud.

"To our students, this is second to none, the envy of your peers and the symbol of Wayne Pride." "It's come a long way from my Wayne High days," said alumnus William Snodgrass who was at the ceremony with his wife, Mary Ann, a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. "We had a very small facility, it was about half this size." Sharon Scott, another Wayne Memorial grad and a former school board member, used the word beautiful in describing her reaction to the addition. "I really like it a lot," she said. In addition to a second gymnasium, the facility includes a fitness room that

can accommodate 40 students on a variety of stairsteppers, upright and recumbent bicycles, elliptical cross-trainers and weight lifting equipment. "I've already had students ask if they can use the equipment in the evening," said Baracy following the ceremony. "They want to use it, that's the first step." Cleverger is one who agrees. "When you're try to lose a few pounds, it's great to have," she said. The school began officially using the gym Wednesday morning, although a sixth-hour physical education class slipped in after the ceremony, and the cheerleaders were back for a 6 p.m. practice.

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Investors need to review changes to deferral programs

At the end of the month, DaimlerChrysler will be making some adjustments to its 401(k) plan. It is eliminating some investment options and adding some new ones. This is a trend that is common, but does require action on behalf of an investor.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Many companies have become proactive with their salary deferral programs. Either they are making massive changes to their programs or they are making minor adjustments. Either way, when your employer changes your salary deferral plan, it is important for investors to review the changes and then take appropriate action. In many cases, such as in the DaimlerChrysler situation, they are replacing an underperforming fund with a much better fund. In the DaimlerChrysler situation, the transfer will be done automatically; however, this is not always the case with other companies. Therefore, when there is a change in investment options, you should review the options and select the ones that best suit your individual situation.

I cannot stress how important it is for you and me to take advantage of salary deferral programs. Whether they are 401(k), 403(b), Simple or SEP Plans, they are great ways to save for one's retirement and, therefore, we should take advantage of them. However, it is important to realize that not all salary deferral programs are the same. Unfortunately, many employ-

ers do not spend enough time with their salary deferral program and thus they end up with plans that have high costs to their employees and underperforming investment options. There are many companies that offer very good salary deferral programs that have not only low costs to the employer, but also low costs to the employee and solid investment options. Companies like Vanguard and T. Rowe Price are just a couple of the companies that offer these types of plans. High costs and poor investment options benefit neither the employee nor the employer. Having an efficient and cost-effective salary deferral program is a win-win for both the employee and the employer.

If you are an employer, whether with a large or small company, I encourage you to take some time and review your salary deferral program. Look at the investment options and see how they have performed over time. In addition, look at all the fees that are being charged; not only the ones that you are writing a check for, but also the fees that are coming out of the employees' accounts. I recognize that sometimes it is difficult to evaluate salary

deferral programs, however, I guarantee you that the time you spend analyzing your plan is well worth it. The money you can save is substantial and the employer-employee loyalty that you will gain is immeasurable. One hint — if your retirement plan is through an insurance company, you almost always will have high fees.

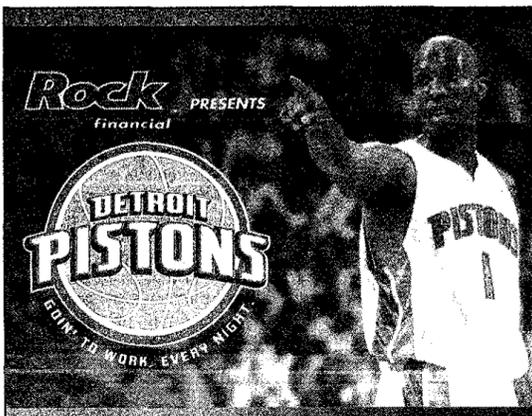
Not only should employers be proactive with their salary

deferral program, but also employees. If you are a participant in a salary deferral program, you owe it to yourself to review the investment options and all the costs of the plan, particularly if you are in a small business where you can discuss these issues directly with the owner. By being proactive, not only can you save thousands of dollars in fees, but it also can save the employer money.

Saving for retirement is important to everyone. As I have stated many times, retirement is a brand new concept in the history of mankind and is something that every one of us needs to be concerned with. After all, many of us will live longer in retirement than the time we spent working. Therefore, taking advantage of a salary deferral program is essential. However, what

makes it even better is to participate in a plan that is low-cost and has good investment options. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at money@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).



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OUR VIEWS

Make a difference, become a mentor

Business is booming, so to speak, for the Westland Youth Assistance Program. Last year, it received a record 315 referrals, and already has 25 referrals just three weeks into the new year.

It's a double-edged sword for the program. An increased number of referrals shows people recognize a need for the services it provides troubled youth. It also highlights the program's need for more mentors like Toni Durham, who was named the program's Mentor of the Year for 2006 at the annual Youth Assistance dinner last week.

A mentor is an adult who provides young people ages 9-16 with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive example. Mentors are good listeners, people who care, people who want to help young people bring out strengths that are already there.

Things that may seem easy or straightforward to an adult are often mysterious to young people ...

The rewards are many for the small commitment of time. After 15 hours of training, mentors are asked to spend one or two hours a week with the youth, talking about issues and helping with decisions.

Things that may seem easy or straightforward to an adult are often mysterious to young people, and helping them sort it out can come during a trip to the ice cream store, a walk around the mall, or while at a local sporting event.

With the devastating effect today's economy is having on families, there's a need for support networks for youth like that provided by Youth Assistance, support that helped turn around Christina Roberts and Charles Canfield, who are the program's male and female Youths of the Year for 2006.

And we don't want to forget the Westland Police Department, which was selected as the Agency of the Year, and longtime life-choices class facilitator Hugh Bowman, who received a special award at the dinner.

We encourage residents to consider becoming mentors and give program director Paul Motz a call at (734) 467-7904. You need to be at least age 21, have no felony criminal record and have a driver's license as well as take the training.

Your commitment can help turn today's troubled teen into tomorrow's responsible adult.

Public education needs new model

Local public school officials are holding their breath in anticipation of major cuts to the per-pupil funding formula.

The latest round of school funding roulette is a clear example that the current system of financing our K-12 public schools is broken, and in desperate need of repair. Expecting local districts to absorb a reduction in funding halfway through the school year after expenses have already been fixed borders on the absurd. Yet, with Lansing now doling out the education dollars, it has become an all-too-familiar scenario.

The notion that our public schools are locally controlled is now more myth than reality. Proposal A took care of that a decade ago, when financing public education was transferred from local district residents via property tax, to the state with an enhanced sales tax and statewide property tax.

Our public education model no longer fits the funding formula. Just one glaring example is the fact that school calendars — and therefore budgets — run on a July to June calendar, while the state budget follows a calendar year. That's why mid-year cuts are becoming the norm, when the state began bleeding a sea of red ink with no way to fund the per-pupil promise.

Locally controlled school districts funded with locally allocated taxes is a model that has gone the way of the passenger pigeon.

Since the state Legislature and governor's office have taken over financing the public education system, the next logical step would be to take more control over how education is delivered in the state.

Bold action is needed in Lansing to save our schools. Smaller districts must be absorbed into larger ones; sharing services and satellite classrooms must become the norm rather than the exception; group purchasing and coordinated transportation needs to be mandatory.

It is unlikely the Legislature will scrap Proposal A and once again allow residents to determine the funding levels for their "own" local district. The time has come to blow up the outdated model, and develop a new one that fits everyone's needs.



Our democratic process

First of all, congratulations to the new mayor, Mr. Bill Wild, and to the two new Westland City Council members. Mr. Dewey Reeves and Mr. Bill Johnson.

The Jan. 3, 2007, city council meeting was indeed democracy in action. Because of the vast interest in running for a city council seat, the field of candidates was outstanding, proving that many citizens do participate in our city government. And for that, we, too, join the many citizens in thanking those candidates who chose to run for the two seats.

But of course, all of us know that there will only be two chosen from the large field of candidates. And, as our process dictates, voting takes place on each randomly selected candidate.

Since, after exhausting many of the nominees without selecting any, Councilwoman (Cheryl) Graunstadt proceeded to put all of the un-nominated names into the process by nominating them. Another great decision! Anyone who is politically savvy realized that in no way could she support all of the candidates, but she wanted to give each one the same chance of being selected.

It is perfectly understandable that those who did not make it would be disappointed, however, anyone who left angry or critical of the process or of those who were elected, possibly did not deserve to win anyway. In grade school, we called these "sore losers."

So, when the accusations came at the end of the meeting against council members who did the right thing and against the newly elected members, in our opinion, the criticism was unwarranted.

Regarding the charge of nepotism, recall when just a few short years ago, the wife of a sitting council member ran for the city clerk's position. At that time, we don't recall anyone on the council questioning that ballot. What was this an issue at this time, when it related to siblings rather than to spouses who in our estimation would be considered a closer relationship?

No, it is not about power, control, political favors, deals, nepotism, it was about a democratic process that serves us well. Again, we congratulate all the candidates and especially the ones who were elected. Welcome to the world of politics. We wish you well.

James and Mary Murphy
Westland

A poor loser

As a woman of 91 years, I am a dedicated watcher of Westland City Council meetings. I feel I have the right and the duty to state my opinion on the remarks made by Jim Godbout, accusing Cheryl Graunstadt of wheeling and dealing with Chuck Pickering to make certain nominations. Cheryl and Chuck are two of the most honest people that we know and they would not do this.

Shame on you, Jim! You are a poor loser. Above all things, when you lost the state election, you decided to nominate yourself for the position on the city council. Low and behold, no one voted for you, so you voted for yourself. Someone has to win and someone has to lose, fact of life. You should know by now the voters vote for those they think are worthy.

I hope all the citizens of Westland will watch closely over the all the meetings. In fact, I pray God will watch over us in our great city.

On an added note, I wish to thank God

LETTERS

for my family, friends, St. Richard's, the Friendship Center, Dorsey Center and everyone I have been involved with for the good they have put into my life.

I have very great memories and will continue to pray for all those that have entered my life. Due to health problems, I am unable to communicate as I would like to.

The city council meeting regarding this letter was Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007. I would like to congratulate all the winners.

Love and God bless,

Betty Savage
Westland

In keeping with dictionary

We are barely into the sixth year of the Bush administration and Mr. Bush is struggling with the English language. The latest, the surge in troops for another buildup in Iraq. Not an escalation, but a surge.

If he used the dictionary to find escalate, he would find it is defined as to increase in extent, volume, number, amount, intensity or scope, reference war and troop levels, perfectly describes the increase in troops he is proposing.

By contrast, the same dictionary has a surge to rise and fall actively, to rise suddenly to an excessive or abnormal value, with no reference to war, but to the stock market and ships. (So much for his own experience with No Child Left Behind principles, perhaps he was.)

This would normally be funny to have a powerful man being handicapped, but these times, lives are being lost in Iraq. It has confounded most Americans since he has taken office, but Mr. Bush has proven quite well that he cannot be trusted to be honest and straightforward with Americans.

Time and time again, he has stated information that has knowingly been incorrect or misrepresented the facts. He has lost credibility because of this. The only thing Americans can say for certain when Mr. Bush speaks is that what he presents is certainly not true.

There are a few words that correctly describe him, though. Mr. Bush could be said to exalt this nation above the individual and stand for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation and forcible suppression of opposition.

He has complained that America is not involved with the everyday war and that only soldiers and their families are personally involved. He has not listened to experts or the American people. This administration has pushed a huge, HUGE debt on the majority of America, while trimming the burden shared by wealthy Americans.

And as much as he has tried to portray himself as an average American, he is anything but average. Much like his father who knew nothing of a bar code scanner at the grocery store, he knows nothing of ordinary life in America and his decisions governing this country demonstrates this quite well.

And his insistence on spying on everyday Americans without oversight or court review despite the ease to do so surely indicates he is spying on his political foes.

All of these traits describe a fascist. It is one word without a doubt that reflects Mr. Bush's governance of this nation.

Frances Meese
Westland

Tired of same old thing

I just read your opinions column in the paper today (as been my habit lately), and let me just say, I'm really tired of reading the same old stuff week after week.

Don't get me wrong, what happened in the park and the way City Council is airing their problems publicly, is really appalling, but I get TIRED of reading it. Why don't people comment on other problems, like why does the first gentleman, or whatever he's called these days, have a staff of at least three people, all of whom are paid for by the state, when he's not even a state employee.

His chief of staff gets paid \$80,000 a year for that gravy job. What does she do? Tell him when there's another dinner party to go to. Heck, that's my wife's job, as it should be his wife's job, too.

Or how about how the governor is failing miserably at her job and is running out of people to blame for your lot in life, so she has just appointed a bunch of stooges to advise her to raise our taxes or to tax everything not already being taxed, so she can sit back and say, "They made me do it, I didn't want to, but they said I had to."

Anyway, all I'm saying is that there's more to write about than who sat by who at the council meeting or what should be done to the park. Come on people and let your voice be heard by the people who REALLY should be hearing it.

Don Pechin
Westland

Good to see working together

At the board committee meeting on Jan. 8, I read a list of things we can be proud of in the district. I stated that LPS offers special education programs up to age 26. I was offered constructive criticism as to the fact that federal law requires eligible students from birth to age 21 and state law states birth to age 26. That's correct, and I apologize if, as a part of my list of highlights, I placed this as unique only to Livonia, though Livonia offered special education way before it was mandated.

We can all be proud of the Career Center opportunities, business partnerships, clean schools, and great PTA programs. I am pleased to see us working together in regards to anti-bullying programs and substance abuse prevention. A big thank you to the save our youth task force is in order.

John Grzebilk
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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

QUOTABLE

"MDEQ, the county and the city are cooperating to move forward. We hope to have these additional results as soon as we can for the benefit of the citizens and all concerned."

- Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp, about an agreement for further investigation of Central City Park

Readers offer their suggestions on state financial crisis

We asked our readers what suggestions they would offer to Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state legislators as they work to deal with the state's budget crisis and economic slump. Here are some responses. For other responses, please go online to www.hometownlife.com.

Downsize government

Will Rogers once said, "Be glad you're not getting all the government you're paying for." Well, Michigan is in big trouble and we are not changing fast enough to reflect a global economy and global competition.

I will draw from some Big Three auto company parallels:

1) We need to downsize government. (Do we need a full-time state government?). We have more government than we can afford!

2) We can't afford what we had before — we need to reduce the cost across the board. With electronic tools (Internet), do away with all but a few offices. Secretary of State functions needs to be automated and outsourced.

3) Use the prison as a training ground for workers. You work in prison or you pay for it. Have prisoners do work for the taxpayer and the businesses in Michigan. Don't put nonviolent criminals in jail, give them the boot and monitor them, have them do public service.

4) Go to all the unions and employees with a competitive operating plan. They need to improve work practices and give concessions.

5) Education is important, but right now we are educating our kids and they are leaving the state because there are no Michigan jobs. It's a buyers' market and the people go where the work is, so Michigan needs to become the state of choice — and you don't do that by raising taxes.

6) Reduce welfare term and support only those that are unable to support themselves. Everyone that can work — for the state or for the nonprofits for the soup kitchen — we work together, but no free ride.

7) Freeze salaries and hiring and do away with the excess noncompetitive pension promises.

8) Outsource where you can get competitive bids and have no legacy costs.

J.E.
Livonia

Cut 10 percent of budget

It's simple to balance the budget: Cut each and every departmental budget by 10 percent.

Spend educational dollars on the teachers and students — not administration and BS!

Privatize — anything that can be found in the yellow pages does not need to be done by the state government.

Lower taxes to business and property owners to attract business and keep residents in the state.

Eliminate bureaucratic waste by eliminating middle and upper management.

Don't allow politics and popularity to get in the way when making decisions.

Improve morale by giving incentives to state workers for cost saving ideas that get implemented.

Keep it simple, stupid! Run the state budget like responsible families do — don't spend more than you make and save for the future!

Bob Sochacki
Livonia

Meeting the fiscal challenge

I offer the following thoughts on Michigan's fiscal challenges:

1. Stop whining about the governor's 12-member committee, including former Govs. Blanchard and Milliken, before it even delivers its recommendations on taxes and spending. There is value in consulting leaders who have faced similar challenges from that unique, CEO perspective. Would you have criticized President Bush for consulting former Presidents Carter and Ford about whether to invade Iraq? If Mr. Bush had consulted them, maybe we wouldn't have stepped into that quagmire.

2. Any solution must begin with the premise that there is no clear "win." Raising taxes is bound to be unpopular, but cutting taxes or state government spending hurts vital public services. We depend on these vital public services (e.g., police, education, child protection services) to make Michigan safe, vibrant and attractive.

For example, the Michigan Police Chiefs Association reports that there are 1,600 fewer police officers on the job in Michigan than before 9/11. In light of terrorist attacks on our own soil, shouldn't we be hiring more

police officers? Yet, because tax cuts and a declining economy have produced lower public revenues, we can no longer support those public service jobs. We cut the income tax and Single Business Tax starting in 2000, and look what we have done to ourselves.

Some argue that cutting taxes will stimulate growth. But historically at the state level, that strategy has not worked. Beginning in 2000, we cut the state income tax from 4.4 percent to its present 3.9 percent and what has it given us? Lower state government revenues and the second highest unemployment rate in the country. Because of the balanced budget requirement in our state constitution, when taxes are cut, spending must decrease to match lower revenues. When state government reduces spending, it contributes to lower aggregate spending, thus retarding economic growth.

My solution: a combination of reduced government spending and modest tax increases. I would: 1) increase the income tax to 4.1 percent (still 7 percent less than the 4.4 percent rate in effect during the '80s and '90s) or the sales tax to 7 percent; 2) eliminate the personal property tax on business, but fully replace the Single Business Tax revenues with a gross receipts tax applied to all Michigan businesses (at least 60,000 businesses pay no SBT); 3) replace the public teachers' defined benefit pension plan with a 401(k) type plan for all new hires; 4) to address this year's projected \$800 million deficit, cut general fund, state government spending by 2 percent; and 5) consolidate the duplicative Senate and House Fiscal Agencies.

Bill Richards
Beverly Hills

Restructure state taxes

In 1994, Boris Isaacson gave this idea to our former Gov. John Engler, who promptly turned it down. Last year, I wrote a state senator from Novi and she did write me back and said it was an interesting idea and would keep it in mind. I wrote our present governor as well and never even received a reply. I once again feel I have been dropped like a hot potato. Why?

Many do not know, but this state has over 1,000 taxes and fees levied against its citizens. In 1994, the total

sales in the state of Michigan was higher than \$6 trillion. (This figure was generated by the federal government, for which I have the formula.) The sales for the state after 12 years from 1994, should be at or around \$100 trillion. If you go to the computer, you will find nothing of these figures on there. I called the assistant treasurer and asked what the state's total sales tax was. He tried to give me the "state's gross product" information, which is not the same figure (much smaller). When I asked again, his reply was he did not know this figure — but he would try to find it and would call me back. I'm still waiting. I can't believe the state's Treasury Office didn't have it.

Don't you find it interesting that no one knows or wants us to know this information?

Could it be that the state government could wipe out all taxes, and I mean all the taxes and fees levied against us, such as property taxes, state income taxes, all sales taxes as we know them now, gas tax, luxury tax, no driver's license fees, no auto plate fees, no hunting fees etc. Do I have your attention? Every tax we pay could be gone.

The state has a budget of \$40 billion and can't make it. If they stopped all taxes and fees and taxed all sales in this state with no exceptions for anybody (what I mean is that everybody has to pay), here it is: If the state places a 1-percent sales tax on everything, including services, it would generate about \$100 billion and we only need \$40 billion. Would you pay 1 percent or even 2 percent on everything in order to get rid of all the other taxes you are paying now? Sure we would.

Let's think about this, and what it means for the average citizen. If you made \$50,000 and after your federal and SS taxes, Medicare taxes, let's say about 30 percent which equals about \$15,000 in taxes and leaves \$35,000 to spend. Under the new tax of 1 percent and if you spent everything you have left, your total state taxes would be \$350 for the year. If you didn't spend all your income, it would be less. Big corporations would want to bring their headquarters and plants here, because of the lower taxes, and this would generate many jobs.

Do you think people coming from other states, transferring, might want to pay a little higher for a home that does not have any property taxes? Gas

would come down by the amount of taxes we are paying now. As I see it, this is a win-win deal for everyone. Our leaders would have \$100 billion and we would have a big break in taxes. So for this, we would ask in the law that it be in writing, the state agrees to never, ever, raise taxes on its citizens again. Think about the millions we would pick in taxes from people who do not file or avoid taxes under our present system. This is a fair tax on everybody.

Maybe there is something I don't see. I would be open to any good explanation why this would not work. There are those who will say it will hurt the poor. I don't see that at all, but should that be the case, the state has an extra \$60 billion they don't need. The sales tax system is already being used by the state. We only need to extend it to everyone selling something, including services.

Now, can you tell me why this governor and lawmakers don't want to even take a serious look at this? Can you tell me why the state Treasurer's Office did not have or did not want to let the information out on this state's total sales?

I think it is time we start thinking about doing the right things for our citizens and this great state.

Tom Williamson
Canton

Rein in spending

A tax increase will only be the catalyst for businesses and workers leaving the state. The state needs to balance its checkbook and rein in the spending.

There was an article in *The Detroit News* this weekend about the lack of need for intermediate school districts, which costs the state more than \$800 million. I think the state could take a look at either eliminating or consolidating.

Look at Medicaid and Medicare fraud ... or misspending.

Get rid of Stabenow ... maybe she was part of the reason Pfizer left.

The salaried auto workers now pay a larger portion of their health care costs, as do salaried retirees. Let's bring the teachers union to the table to renegotiate copays. Get rid of MESSA. Consolidate all health care for state workers.

Richard Doebeil
Livonia

HAIL TO THE CONQUERING HEROES

Jane laid near death, stricken with double pneumonia, ARDS, total body septic strep infection, and major organ shutdown. Miraculously, she pulled through — thanks, she says, to those at U-M. Like Dr. Upchurch, who made her laugh despite her grave situation; her RN Patty, who took time for the little things, like braiding what hair she still had; and Kim in Rehab, who taught her to walk again. Just a few of the many who got Jane back to being the Mrs. Rose her second grade class remembers. It's why we say that long after you leave U-M, what stays with you are the people who were there for you along the way. That's the Michigan Difference.

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Humane Society, colleges form partnership

The Michigan Humane Society has come up with the MHS Collegiate Partnership Program, an ongoing program targeted at Michigan universities to assist the Michigan Humane Society in a variety of programs.

This partnership will extend MHS' reach into the community, while providing valuable, hands-on experiences for collegiate organization members statewide.

Participating university organizations will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and hands-on experience through a number of communication and nonprofit marketing functions, including public relations, event planning and coordination, fund-raising and development, promotions and publicity.

"Michigan is fortunate to have some of the finest institutes for higher learning in the country; thereby providing our state with a wealth of talented individuals with the skills, commitment and energy to make a difference within our communities," said Michael Robbins, director of marketing and communications.

As part of its fund-raising efforts for the organization's annual Telethon, to air on WXYZ-TV Channel 7 on Feb. 14, MHS has challenged universities throughout the state of Michigan to an "apprentice-style" collegiate campaign.

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at Michigan State University, the American Marketing Association (AMA) at Oakland University, and PR Central, a student run public relations firm at Central Michigan University are taking part in this year's challenge, each with a fund-raising goal of \$15,000 by Feb. 14.

"Our collegiate partnership program provides a forum for the students of these universities to gain real world experience in event planning, fund-raising, promotion, communication and much more," Robbins added. "In turn, the outreach and donation benefit MHS receives from these programs enables the organization to help the tens of thousand of additional animals in need.

"It's a win-win for all parties involved - Michiganians and Michigan animals alike."

For more information on the Collegiate Partnership Program, or to get involved, call Stephanie Baron, public and media relations coordinator, at (248) 799-7400, Ext. 108, or by e-mail sbaron@michiganhumane.org.

The Michigan Humane Society is a private, nonprofit organization which cares for more than 100,000 animals each year at its three metro Detroit adoption and veterinary centers in Detroit, Rochester Hills and Westland. For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit the MHS Web site at www.michiganhumane.org.

MHS: Provide proper shelter for animals

It took a bit longer this year, but the chill of winter is here, and as temperatures drop, calls to the Michigan Humane Society Cruelty Hotline increase with reports of companion animals left outside with no shelter or other provisions.

Unfortunately, some calls arrive too late to save an animal left to fend for itself in brutal conditions. That's why the Michigan Humane Society urges all owners to take the necessary precautions this winter when caring for their companion animal.

The Michigan Humane Society recommends that companion animals live indoors all year long. However, if the animal must be outside, guardians should put proper provisions in place now before it becomes a life or death situation - and one for which they can be charged with animal

cruelty law violations. Misdemeanor animal cruelty charges can carry a sentence of up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time.

"The temperatures have begun to drop, and there have been several cold and wet days already that could be unbearable or life-threatening for a dog left outside," said Debby MacDonald, MHS senior cruelty investigator. "We encourage animal guardians to bring their dogs inside all year, especially during extreme weather conditions, but those who remain outside must have adequate protection from the elements.

"Now is the time to make sure proper shelter, plenty of nutritious food and unfrozen water are available."

When temperatures plummet, companion animals

should not be left outside for any length of time, according to the MHS. Even large or long-haired breeds cannot withstand severe or inclement weather. Bring small or short-haired dogs in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees. Larger breeds and thick-coated dogs may remain outside, with adequate shelter, to about 0 degrees. Precipitation and severe wind chills should also be taken into account.

Cats should be kept permanently indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal proofed garage during severe weather. Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car to give them a chance to escape.

Increase food and water 10-20 percent for dogs left outside during the winter months. Check drinking water fre-

quently - every few hours - to make sure it hasn't frozen.

If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears have turned bright red, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to a warmer area and contact a veterinarian immediately.

Shelter is required by Michigan state law for dogs who must remain outdoors for any length of time. Adequate shelter means a well-built, insulated, slant-roofed dog house. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably. It should be slightly elevated from the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from prevailing winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts. Clean, dry straw should always be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets that absorb moisture and may

quickly freeze.

Several types of inadequate shelter frequently encountered by investigators include an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all.

The MHS's four cruelty investigators and one field agent handle approximately 4,000 cases of animal cruelty each year in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park. Suspected animal cruelty or neglect in these cities should be reported by calling the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. A confidential message can be left 24 hours a day.

Elsewhere, suspected animal cruelty should be reported immediately to the local animal control or police.

For more information, call 1-866-MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

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Courtyard Marriott - Dearborn
5200 Mercury Drive, Dearborn

Wednesday, February 7**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Warren
30190 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren

Thursday, February 8**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
St. Clair Inn
500 N. Riverside, St. Clair

Friday, February 9**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Livonia
17200 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia

Monday, February 12**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
HAP Southfield Office Tower 14,
21700 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield

Tuesday, February 13**

10 a.m. to Noon
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Wednesday, February 14**

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
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20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn

Thursday, February 15**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Utica
46000 Utica Park Boulevard, Utica
(Near Dave & Buster's)

Friday, February 16**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Hampton Inn
169 Loop Road, Commerce Township

Monday, February 19**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Crystal Gardens
16703 Fort Street, Southgate

Tuesday, February 20**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Novi
42700 W. 11 Mile Road, Novi

Wednesday, February 21**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Brighton
7799 Conference Center Drive, Brighton

Thursday, February 22**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Holiday Inn Express
1225 N. Dixie Highway, Monroe

Friday, February 23**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Romulus
30653 Flynn Drive, Romulus

Monday, February 26**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott - Ann Arbor
3205 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor

Tuesday, February 27**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Best Western
44315 Gratiot Ave., Clinton Township

Tuesday, February 27

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Henry Ford Medical Center -
West Bloomfield
6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield

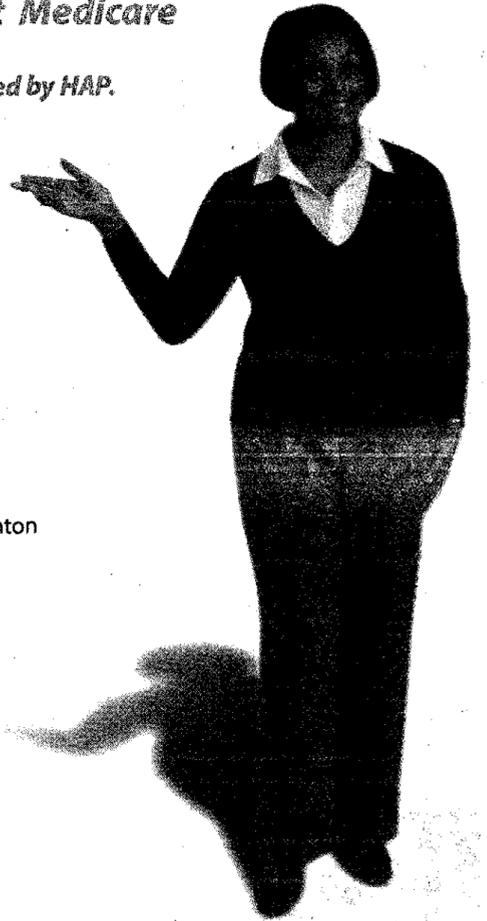
Wednesday, February 28**

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
HAP Southfield Office Tower 14,
21700 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield

Wednesday, February 28

10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Fairfield Inn
927 Demille Road, Lapeer

We're adding new meeting dates
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Doris Biscoe

Former TV News Anchor

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Panel finds solutions to area's segregation problem are few

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

While solutions are few and far between, the causes of racial segregation in southeast Michigan are many and varied, according to a roundtable of experts who gathered at Madonna University Jan. 23.

The roundtable at the university's Kresge Hall was the second in a three-part discussion of race in the metro Detroit area, "Bridging the Racial Divide," which has been broadcast on public television station WTVS-Channel 56.

The panel discussions are interspersed with taped interviews of southeast Michigan residents from the region.

The panel was moderated by former WDIV anchorman Emery King and WJR radio host Paul W. Smith. The panel members were United Way's Kurt Metzger, DTE's Paul Hillegonds, *Detroit Free Press* columnist Rochelle Riley, *Detroit News* columnist Nolan Finley, Oakland University Professor Dr. Toni Walters and University of Michigan Professor L'Heureux Lewis.

The show will air 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, on Channel 56 as well as be aired on WDET FM 101.9 and WJR AM 760.

COLOR LINES

King said Livonia had the distinction of being the whitest big city in the nation—96 percent white. Warren came in ninth whitest, again nationally, at 92 percent.

By comparison, Smith said Detroit is the second blackest city in America (behind Gary, Ind.). He said nine out of 10



Former WDIV Anchorman Emery King, left, and WJR radio personality Paul W. Smith, right, record an episode of 'Bridging the Racial Divide' at Madonna University Tuesday night. The episode will air on WTVS Ch-56 on Monday, Feb. 5.

black residents of southeast Michigan live in Detroit, Southfield, Inkster, Pontiac and Highland Park.

Overall, he said, the numbers make the region the most racially segregated area in the U.S.

Metzger said one of the reasons for this segregation is the ongoing effect of a lack of mass transportation.

"It exacerbates the situation," he said. "People don't have to take mass transportation and therefore don't have to have any contact with people they don't know."

The lack of casual contact creates a distance where other isolations can spring up.

Eventually, isolation becomes a petri dish for the deeper issues of segregation, namely an adversarial posture.

Hillegonds said part of the problem comes from the winner/loser dynamic of race politics. Movement of any kind is presumed to come with a price.

"When you try to bring the region together you get into that win/lose thinking," he said. "People wonder what the cost is? Who pays?"

In this case, the city of Detroit has paid dearly. While middle-class blacks are following middle-class whites' example of leaving the city for the suburbs, no one has replaced that population.

Finley said the movement of people from Detroit hasn't been mirrored by a movement into the city by anyone. Riley said whites have responded by moving further out, something Finley said wasn't the case in Livonia.

"In Livonia you're seeing well-accepted integration," he said. "Blacks are moving in

and people are not selling their houses, there's no white flight."

Lewis said that's no indication of anything.

"When you talk about the black population doubling in Livonia, you're going from one to two," he said. "I'm not impressed."

BRINGING PEOPLE BACK

Metzger said the idea of middle-class whites coming back to the city might be unrealistic.

"They probably won't come back," he said. "The city is not going to solve this situation by itself. The region has disinvested in the city."

Riley didn't agree completely, she said the city has to work to bring new people to the city, not ones that have already left.

"We have to find other targets to lure to the city," she said. "It can't be people with fond memories of Hudson's, it's not there anymore."

"Whether Detroit pushes to get back the population that left or chooses to entice a new core of residents, the condition of its school system is going to be a serious stumbling block in the way of its efforts."

"The district has sprawl and there are buildings with no people in them," Walters said. "Some kids are going to have

to travel a long way to get to school, kids in rural districts have done the same thing for years."

Lewis said the region is going to have to realize that the needs of the kids in the Detroit district far outstrip the needs of kids in the suburbs.

But need alone isn't going to move a lot of hearts considering other factors at play in the Detroit Schools.

"Fifty percent of all of the district's revenues go to the administration," Finley said. "It's not just how the schools are funded, it's how that money is spent."

Hillegonds said the most depressing case of segregation going on in Detroit is the economic—not racial—segregation in the schools.

The upshot of the segregation, he said, is that entrenched beliefs or the lack of bus service, is that the entire region suffers whether or not individuals see that as the case.

"When people think about where to move their business, our reputation is hurting us," Hillegonds said. "The regions being redeveloped are the ones with strong core cities that have great assets. This is how the cost of segregation is hitting us."

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Wandering through the January thaw

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."
— Aristotle

The January thaw should be upon us, even though we never had December's freeze. No matter: Nature remains full of adventure discovery with some creatures remaining on normal cycle, others behaving a bit like crazed golfers relishing in those warmer winter days. And that's the way it has been ever since the last great glacial retreat.

Skunks should have been stuffed into crevices, hollow trunks and woodchuck burrows, cuddled up together to conserve warmth. They should not be wandering now. Skunks do not hibernate but they are rarely seen out and about in January until the mating urge sends males wandering through yards in search of a quick night of February love.

Not so this winter, perhaps heavy rains flushed a few out of soggy dens. All I know is one was in my barn pawing about under old straw remnants for hidden morsels. I let my well-armed striped visitor wander about the barn and then back into the snow-speckled meadow.



On Nature

Jonathan Schechter

Muskrat lodges and push ups (push ups are tapered lodge-like feeding structures in marshes) normally stand out above marsh ice. No ice. But no matter for muskrats; a mild winter makes submergent travel easy and on sunny days some emerge from their winter water world to snack on exposed shore side vegetation. But there's a dark side to what we perceive as easy living for this musky water rat. No ice means predators have easy access. That too is nature's way ... and one such predator is the mink.

Mink are not a rare species in Oakland County, but their world is not our world. In a winter of snows, their undulating, leaping, bounding, tunneling tracks and trails can be found along ravines of Paint Creek, marshlands of West Bloomfield, at Independence Oaks County Park, and in the Ortonville and Bald Mountain State Recreation Areas. And of

Following mink tracks in snow is a marvelous if not slightly hazardous adventure of discovery as trails leads along waterways, over thin ice and into cattail marshlands. Muskrats are a rich and meaty reward for the mink, and the pickings are easy this winter.

course, my favorite wandering through winter grounds: Holly State Recreation Area, a nearly 8,000-acre wild wonderland with a heavy glacial footprint of lakes, ponds, marshes and hills.

But this near snowless season I have not found a signal track of the lean and muscular mink, a carnivorous high-energy creature that is the worst nightmare of muskrats, meadow mice and sluggish fish. Following mink tracks in snow is a marvelous if not slightly hazardous adventure of discovery as trails leads along waterways, over thin ice and into cattail marshlands. Muskrats

are a rich and meaty reward for the mink, and the pickings are easy this winter. Mink slip into their lodges, and keep the commandeered home as a home sweet vacation home after having the resident rat as a scaly-tailed dinner.

Follow mink tracks in a snowy winter and you will find evidence of what I can only interpret as play as tunnels and tracks twist and turn on slopes. Some wildlife biologists may disagree with my play proclamation, but why should play be the sole right of humans?

And in cities and towns, villages and suburbs of Oakland County a cornucopia of doves, jays, cardinals, house sparrows and chickadees, and squirrels too, scrounge side by side on bird feeder spillage providing a plethora of feathery and furry treats for the fast flying Coopers Hawk and powerful red-tailed hawk. Talk to woods-wise deputies of the sheriff's department "north patrol" and they tell of nocturnal creatures on the move. All of this is nature's way in winter that is not quite right, but not really wrong either.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. He may be reached at oaknature@aol.com.



New trustee

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly (right) was on hand Jan. 24 to swear in new Schoolcraft College Trustee Joan A. Gebhardt. In December the trustees appointed Gebhardt, a Livonia resident, to fill a vacancy on the seven-member governing board. The seat carries a six-year term and is up for election in May 2007.



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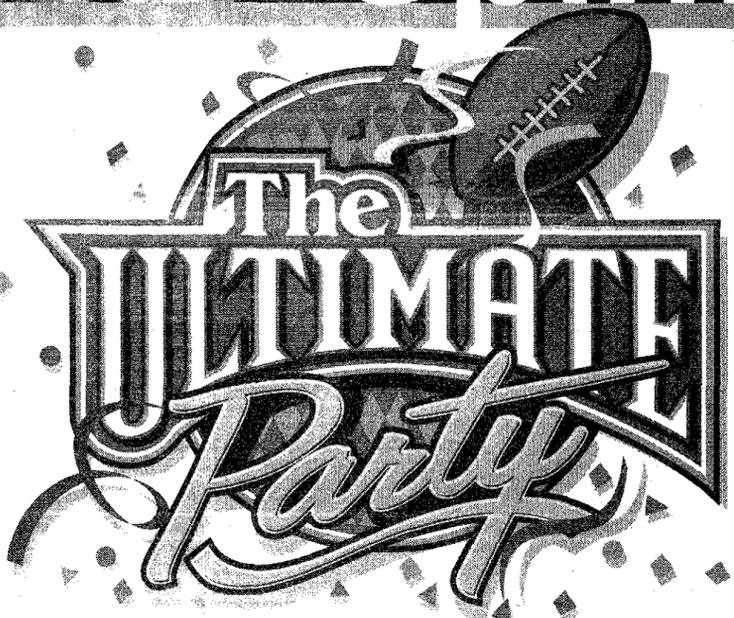
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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vegas Night

Notre Dame Prep/Marist Academy Pontiac campus is holding a Vegas Night featuring Texas Hold 'em, poker, craps, blackjack and more to raise money for the school at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. Admission \$25 at the door, 1300 Giddings Road, Pontiac.

Continuing Ed classes

Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies will hold several mini-courses - Jewelry and Beading 1, 10 a.m. to noon; Calligraphy, 10 a.m. to noon; Basic Windows XP, 10 a.m. to noon, and Excel, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3. It also will offer American Home Inspectors Training course 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 3-9, as well as a test preparation workshop for National Interpreter Certification for interpreters for the deaf 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Feb. 10, 24, March 17, 31 and April 14. The cost for the workshop is \$100. Visit www.madonna.edu/pages/officecontinuinged.cfm for the complete Winter 2007 Mini-Course Schedule or call (734) 432-5804 for more information.

VNA volunteers

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. In as little as 2-4 hours per week, volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family members or provide office support. A free 15-hour comprehensive training program is provided. The next training session is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 10, 17. All training takes place at the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. For more information or to register, call (800) 882-5720, Ext. 8361 or visit the Web site at www.vna.org.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world

around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground

team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920.

Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

Tutoring program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245

Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of

Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734)

722-7632.

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010.

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise

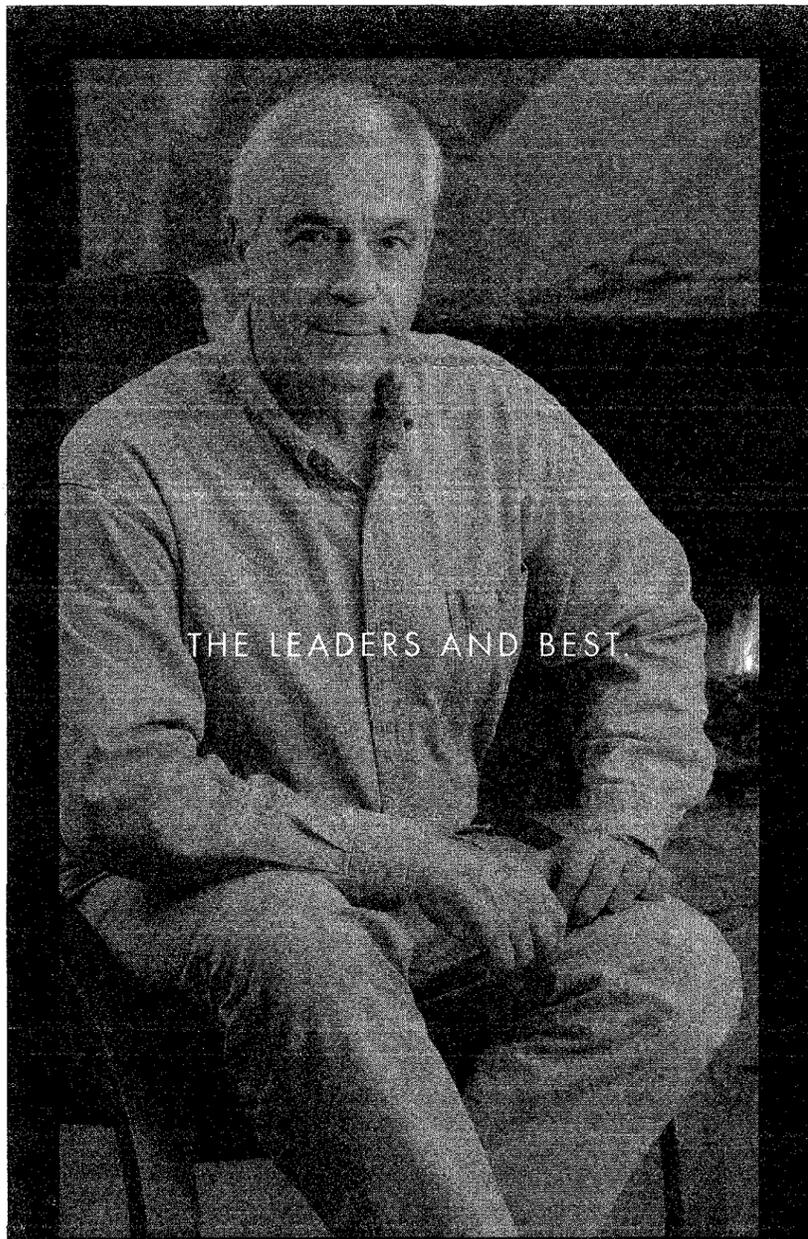
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.



THE LEADERS AND BEST

A screening colonoscopy can reduce your chances of developing colon cancer by up to 90 percent. For Paul, who already had one major health scare, being referred to U-M for a routine colonoscopy meant easy access to the best care possible for preventing another health crisis. If you're over 50, don't wait. Talk to your physician about a referral today.

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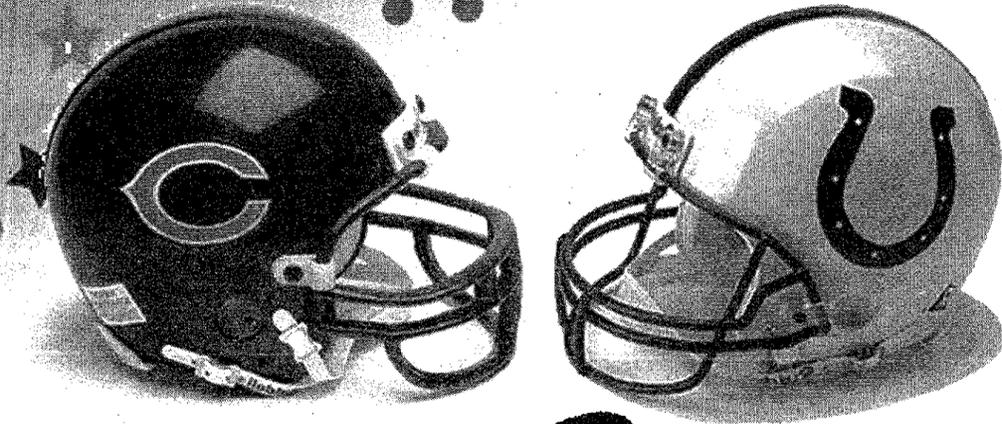
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Trunk Shows
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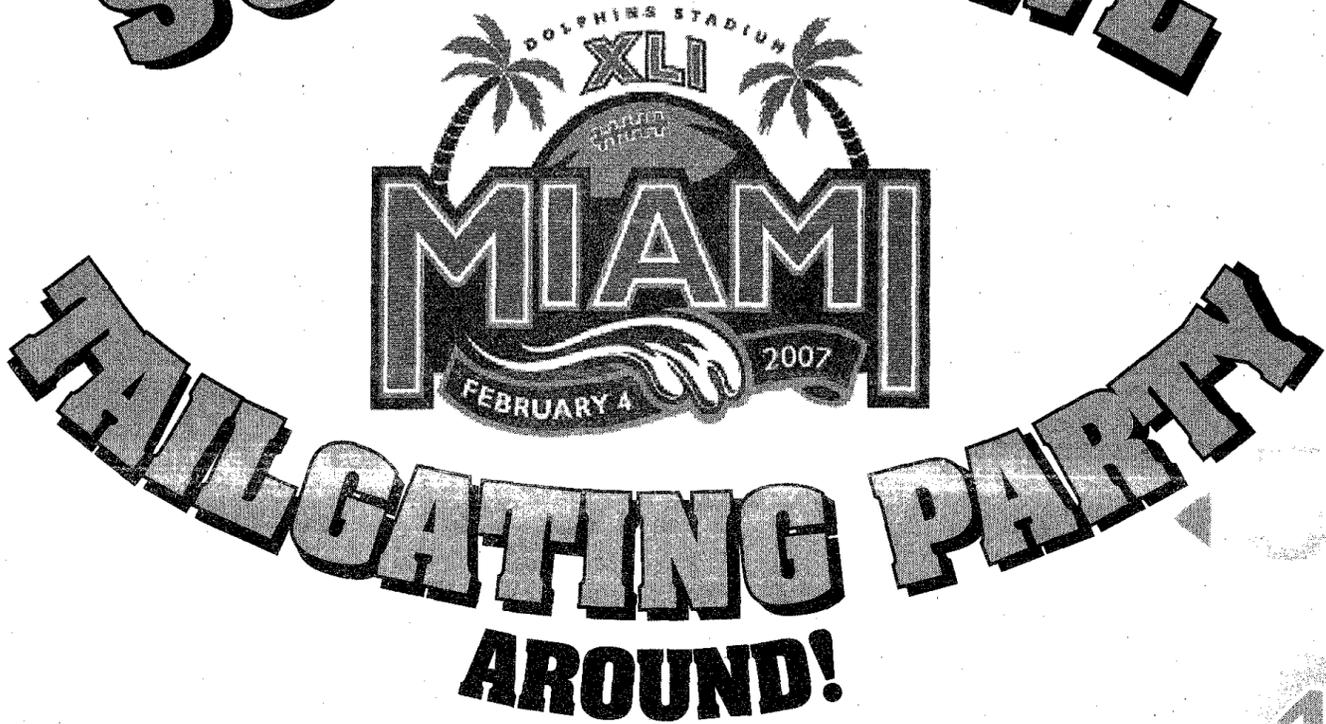
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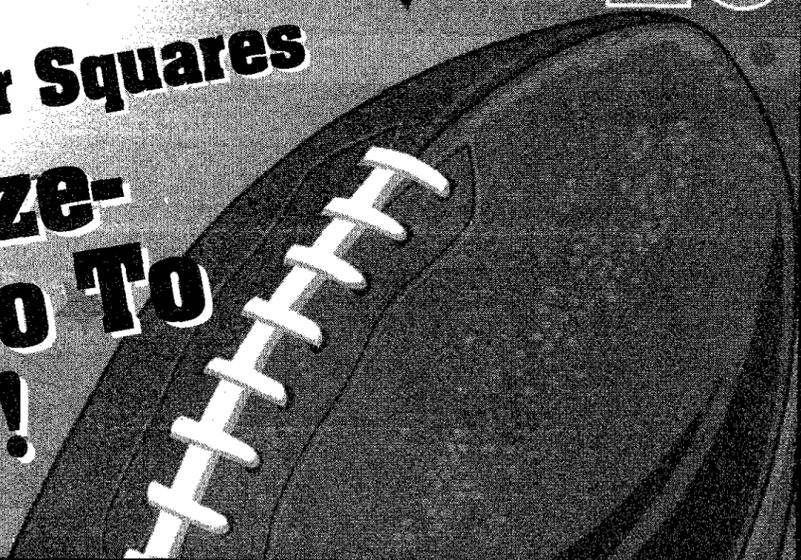
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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

FEBRUARY

Divorce recovery
Workshop 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1 and continues every Thursday for seven weeks, presented by Single Point

Adult Ministries (30 years and older) at Ward Presbyterian Church 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. Registration closes after second week. Cost is \$30 pre-registration, \$35 at door, \$15 repeat participants with their manual from previous workshop. If you're experiencing the emotional pain of divorce, no matter how recent or long ago it happened, this workshop will help you heal. Free childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Love's Secrets
7-9 p.m. Thursday, February 1, 8:15, 22, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500

Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. The series examines Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* - God is Love. Discover the Church's philosophical world-view of love and explore the relation of Church and state, charity and justice as love is expressed in action. Call (734) 425-5950, ext. 203 to obtain your copy of the encyclical. Read articles 1-8 before our first session.

International student day
Presented by Church Women United, Suburban Detroit-West (MI 063) Friday, Feb. 2, at Redford/Aldersgate United

Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth and W. Chicago roads. Potluck luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Call (734) 464-7727 by Tuesday, Jan. 30 only if baby-sitting is needed. Bring non-perishable food for the Salvation Army.

Buddy Greene concert
Includes a wide variety of traditional American influences ranging from country and bluegrass to folk, gospel and blues 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. Tickets \$5, free child care. Call (248)

374-5920. Presented by Single Point Adult Ministries (30 years and older).
Gathering of eagles
Conference Feb. 2-4, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 28100 Franklin Road, Southfield. Meetings begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. Presented by The Ministry of the Watchman International. For a complete schedule, call (800) 560-9240 or visit the itinerary page on the Web site www.ministryofthewatchman.com.

Superbowl party
Alcohol free Superbowl Party for anyone who wants to enjoy the company of their neighbors 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4,

at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. The football game will be on big-screen TV in one room with board games in another room for those who don't watch football. For more information, call (734) 421-7660.

Grief support
For widowed men and women in all stages of grief, covers copings with loss of a spouse, loneliness and other issues dealing with grief, begins 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4 and runs for six weeks, at St. Columban Parish Center, 1775 Melton, north of 14 Mile, between Woodward and Coolidge, Birmingham. A \$20 fee for materials is payable at first meeting. To register, call (248) 540-9848 or (586) 795-0477 by Feb. 2. Presented by Widowed Friends of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Pipe organs plus
Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Features the churches new six stop chamber organ and the Moller/Aeolian Skinner 85 rank pipe organ. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 students, and available from the music office. call (248) 626-2515, ext. 108/9.

Bible study
The Gospels and You Bible Study begins 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at The Basilica of St. Mary Orthodox Church activity center on the lower level, 18100 Merriman, Livonia. No charge. The study focuses on applying the Gospel of St. Luke to daily life. Sessions will be led by Rev. George Shalhoub and Jim King, the church's director of youth and outreach ministry. For information and to register, call (734) 422-0010.

Grief workshop
From Grief to New Hope 7:45 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, and continues for eight weeks, at Ward Presbyterian Church 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. For those grieving the loss of a loved one, it is normal to feel overwhelmed, angry and alone. Advance registration appreciated. For more information, call Carol Jacoby at (248) 374-5966.

Valentine card party
6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at S.S. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Door, table prizes, 50-50. Light meal and snacks. Bring your friends and play cards and games of your choice. Tickets \$8 at the door. Proceeds go to the Building Fund. For information, call (734) 722-1314.

Blood drive
American Red Cross holds a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, in the Parish Hall at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins welcome. Call (734) 464-1222.

New production
The Wespising Players present the debut of "The Sojourner and the Wanderer in the Land of IT" 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Wespising Church, 36350 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. Written by Tony Blauvelt, the play weaves the stories of two people. The community is welcome. For information, call (248) 442-0412.

Education pilgrimage
The third annual education pilgrimage of faith and hope to El Salvador is being organized by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, assisted by CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). The pilgrimage will take place from Feb. 11-18, 2007. This is an intensive learning experience with special emphasis given to the voice and experience of the poor and marginalized. You will visit martyr sites, grassroots organizations, a rural community, and hear speakers on the history, politics, and economy of El Salvador. For details, call coordinator Richard Dahlke at (734) 455-6474.

Blood drive
2-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Call Carolyn Libeau at (734) 455-5395 to make an appointment or just drop in.

Pasties fund-raiser
Pasties are \$3 each and can be ordered by calling Newburg United Methodist Church at (734) 422-0149. There will be someone to take your order 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 13-14. Call in orders only. Do not leave orders on answering machine. Orders faxed, e-mailed or left on answering machine will be ignored. Pick up times are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Order early: Only 1000 pasties will be made for the church fundraiser.

VBS preview
Preview the offerings for this summer's Vacation Bible Schools 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. View exhibits and demonstrations from national publishers, expand your skills by attending four of 20 workshops on timely topics including how to organize a VBS, plan a youth camp week, administer backyard Bible club, and make and take puppetry. Registration fee is \$35 by Jan. 17, \$40 by Feb. 13, \$45 at door, \$20 teen through college students, and includes lunch. Puppet workshop is \$25 extra. This event is non-denominational and open to the general public. Register now. Call (248) 557-5526 or www.iceaOnline.org.

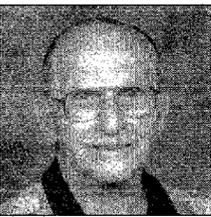
PLEASE SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE



CORRINE ANN BADENHOP
of Stockbridge, MI. Age 51 passed away at home on January 21, 2007. She was born the daughter of William and Carol (Stark) McGarvey on August 19, 1955 in Highland Park, MI. On August 24, 1974 she married Gregory A. Badenhop and he survives. Corrine was a loving mother and wife, and enjoyed being a home maker and taking trips with friends. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children Brian A. Badenhop and Nicole J. Badenhop; and grand child Hailey Uderbrock. Also surviving are her brothers Mitch and Gregory McGarvey as well as her brother and sister-in-laws, father in law Carl Badenhop, as well as, many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and mother-in-law Doris J. Badenhop. A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 Venoy Road, Westland, MI. A private burial will take place at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the family. Arrangements are by the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, MI



DWIGHT WILSON LEONARD
January 29, 2007 Age 64. Beloved husband of Linda (nee. Matthews). Son of Florence Leonard. Dear father of Rick (Linda) and Leigh Leonard Boyd (Bob). Brother of Colleen VanGelder (Ted). Grandfather of Emma, Alec, Jack, Henry, Samantha and Jonathan. Stepfather of Marny Costa-Mellinger (Jim), Lindsey Brodsky and Megan Reedy (Brian). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 12noon until Remembrance Service 2pm. Memorial tributes to The Detroit Zoological Society, 8450 W. Ten Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com



ERWIN R. OTTENSMAN
January 28, 2007, age 100 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Gertrude. Dear father of Rita-Mae A. Notestine, Arlan J. (Yvonne), Richard E. (Nancy), and Luann E. (Tom) Garchow. Also survived by 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Predeceased by 8 siblings. Mr. Ottensman retired from Burroughs after 30 years of service. He loved to bowl at the Super Bowl in Canton and at Woodland Lanes in Livonia. He bowled in two leagues until he broke his hip bowling at the age of 97. He also was an avid golfer, and made a hole-in-one at age 95! Visitation was held at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. His body will be in state Thursday, 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. funeral service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Interment at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. To leave a message of condolence, log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

GEORGE M. ADAMS
Age 59, January 28, 2007. Survived by spouse, Mary Ellen "Dede" (Becky), Katharine "Kate", and Ellen (Scott) Hamel. Dear son of Edith Adams, brother of Nancy (Russ) Jenkins. Funeral Saturday, 11 a.m. (in-state 10:30 a.m.) at St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Road, Farmington. Visitation Friday, 4-9 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington, (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity International. Attn: Gifts From The Heart, 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA 31709-3498. www.thayer-rock.com

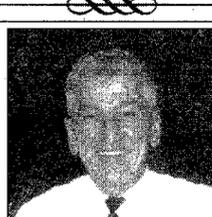


LOIS A. SHOEMAKER
(nee. Lane) January 26, 2007. Age 85. Resident of Beverly Hills, MI and Naples, FL. Beloved wife of the late Robert H. Dearest mother of Roger (Janet) of Bloomfield Hills, MI and Richard of Chicago, IL. Also survived by three cherished grandchildren, Peter (Amy), Melissa, and Timothy; brother-in-law Donald J. and niece, Lisa M. Only daughter of the late Albert O. and Gertrude Lane of Youngstown, OH. Graduate of Boardman H.S. 1939 and Ohio University 1943. Member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority, Kirk in the Hills, Plum Hollow Country Club, The Village Club, and the Detroit Athletic Club. In Naples, Lois enjoyed golfing at Bear's Paw Country Club, and Royal Poinciana Golf Club, where she was past president of "The Ladies Niners." We will remember our mother and grandmother for her gentle humor, dignity, grace, and the undying romance of 63 years she shared with her husband, Bob, whom she now joins in eternal peace. Memorial service Monday, February 5th, 11:00 a.m. at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial tributes to City Mission, 20405 Schoolcraft Rd., Detroit, MI 48223. A. J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500



PATRICIA MEADOWS CRAIG
Age 73, of Garden City, passed away January 27, 2007. Beloved mother of Mark Hammar, Scott Hammar, Pamela (Sobhi) Safah and Laurie (Mike) Ziolkowski. Loving grandmother of Khaled Safah and his fiancée Lamis, Belal (Rana) Safah, Emily Safah and Lindsay Safah. Patricia was born March 23, 1933 in Detroit then moved to Garden City in 1956 from Nankin Twp. A member of Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City. She retired in 2006 as a collection manager for Corrigan Moving Systems. Spending time with her children and grandchildren, along with the rest of her family was the most important part of her life. She also enjoyed gardening and arts & crafts. A private memorial service will be held. Donations in lieu of flowers, may be made to the American Cancer Society 18505 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI, 48076. Attention: Memorial Department. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.

PETER H. MORSE, JR.
Age 36, of Berkeley, CA, formerly of Bloomfield Hills died Saturday, January 13, 2006. A 1988 graduate of Andover High School, Pete did his undergraduate studies at DePaul University and received his doctorate of history from Binghamton University in 2006. Loving partner of Liz Turner for 11 years. Beloved son of Pete and Patty Morse of Bloomfield Hills. Also survived by his sister, Carrie Morse of Washington D.C. and brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Meredith Morse of Berkeley, MI. Dr. Morse devoted his entire adult life to helping others. He was fiercely committed to protecting the health and well-being of drug users by reducing drug related harm. His work in these areas has helped make harm reduction part of public policy and public consciousness. Dr. Morse currently worked as the Project Coordinator of the Harm Reduction Coalition Syringe Exchange Technical Assistance Program in California. He was an avid bibliophile and political activist. Dr. Morse was also a DJ-bringing electronic dance music to people in New York City and San Francisco. A memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 Maple Road, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 10 at 2:30 pm with a reception for family and friends following the service. Memorial contributions will be appreciated to Tenderloin Health/Homeless Youth Alliance, Attention: Mary Howe, P. O. Box 170427, San Francisco, CA 94117.

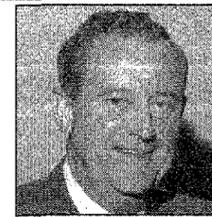


THOMAS J. COURLAS
Age 93 of Westland, January 29, 2007. Beloved husband of Shirley, dear father of James (Lynne) Courlas, David (Debbie) Courlas, and Thomas Courlas. Also leaves six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Visitation Thurs., 4-7 p.m. until funeral services at 7 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland, (btwn. Ford and Cherry Hill). Donations to the Disabled American Veterans would be appreciated by the family. To leave a message of condolence for the family, log on to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One



JAMES A. WILLIAMS
Jim passed away at the age of 64, in the company of his family, on Monday morning at Henry Ford Hospital after a heroic battle over nearly six years with cancer. "Of those to whom much is given, much is expected in return," these words guided Jim Williams' life from start to finish. Above all else, Jim lived a life of absolute and unwavering dedication to his family. Jim and his brothers, Mike and Tom Williams, grew up together on Hart Street in Huntington Woods. He and his wife Michel, formerly Michel Duncan Howard, first met in the fourth grade. They began dating at the age of sixteen and were married in June 1963. Jim and Michel shared the blessing of two wonderful children, Jamison and David. David and his wife Clara reside in Chicago, Illinois with their daughters, Margo and Charlie. Jamison and his wife Steve live in Bloomfield Village with their son Bennett and daughter Michel. Jim's grandchildren were the light of his life and forged the strength and will to fight his long battle with cancer. Jim felt blessed to earn a Brown Scholarship to the Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. As a sophomore he excelled as a football, basketball and baseball player, serving as baseball captain his senior year, and earning nine varsity letters. Jim and Michel graduated together from Cranbrook-Kingswood in 1960. Following graduation from Wayne State University in 1964 and receipt of his law degree from the Wayne State Law School in 1967, Jim began his career as an Assistant Prosecutor for Oakland County. In 1972, Jim founded the law firm now known as Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C. Jim and his partners grew the firm into one of the most respected in Michigan. It's ongoing success some thirty-five years after it began was a source of great pride to Jim. After college, Jim's athletic talents were dedicated to learning the games of squash, tennis and golf. He was a long time member and past president of the Birmingham Athletic Club. Jim was also a member of the Orchard Lake Country Club and the Card Sound Golf Club in Key Largo, Florida. His talents and competitiveness on the courts and the greens were passed on to Jamison and David. Jim and Michel's home at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Florida has hosted family and friends to golf, fishing and swimming for many years. Jim and his grandchildren enjoyed fishing off the dock at the Key Largo Anglers Club, Key Largo, Florida. Jim also served the Ocean Reef community as a member of its Medical Center and Foundation boards. Jim's willingness to contribute to the growth and success of businesses and educational and civic organizations was unending and extended far beyond the practice of law. He served as a trustee for the Henry Ford Health System and was a former chairman of Henry Ford West Bloomfield. Jim was a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Jim's gratitude to and support for Cranbrook was unending. He served on the Cranbrook Schools Board of Governors and was a member of the Steering Committee for the Cranbrook Schools Natatorium project. Given the scholarship he received that enabled him to attend Cranbrook, he always had a special place in his heart for the Horizons-Upward Bound program at Cranbrook, where a scholarship was lovingly established in his name by friends and family in 2005. Jim also served as a member of the President's Club of Oakland University. Jim always prided himself on being as much a businessman as an attorney. He was a long time bank board member and served as chairman of Michigan National Bank during its ownership by the National Australia Bank. He remained a member of the board after Michigan National's acquisition by the Standard Federal Bank and later the LaSalle Bank Corporation. Jim's real estate acumen was well known to his friends, family and many business partners. He was active as an investor in the manufactured housing industry in Michigan and was honored to serve as a director of Chateau Communities, Inc. and Origen Financial, Inc. Jim's life will be celebrated at a memorial service at 10:30 am on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road (off of Lone Pine Road) in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Memorial donations in his name may be made to The Hermelin Brain Tumor Center at Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 West Grand Boulevard, K-11, in Detroit, Michigan 48202



ROBERT A. HOWE
Age 81, Died January 29, 2007 of cancer at his home in Grosse Pointe Woods. He is survived by his wife Gladys, daughter Mary-Elaine Hart, sons Robert A. Jr., Richard A., Thomas P., Dennis E., Andrew J., David B., step-daughter Sandy Moore and stepson George J. Lutfy, 30 grandchildren and two sisters. He was preceded by his late wife, Elaine. Robert was the President of Howe Martz Glass Company and retired in 1986 after selling the family business. He served in the U.S. Air Force, Pacific Theatre, World War II. He was director and treasurer of Flat Glass Marketing, Associate Member of Greater Detroit Architectural Glazing Contractors, Associate Trustee of Providence Hospital Foundation. Past president of Detroit Executive Association. Past president and director of Detroit Builders Exchange. Member of Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Building and Owners Association and Detroit Building Superintendents Association. Member and past director of the Detroit Golf Club. Past director of Beach Grove Golf Club and Construction Association of Michigan. Member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Beavers, Bowlers (past general bowling chairman; past chairman, Thursday 5:30 league), Member of the Detroit Athletic Club House, Club Facilities and Bowling Committees. Visitation, Wednesday, January 31, 2-9 pm at the AH Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave., at Vernier Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods. Mass on Thursday, February 1, 12:30 pm at Our Lady Star of Sea Church, additional visitation at the church from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. Memorials to Henry Ford Hospice, 1 Ford Place 5a, Detroit, MI 48202 or to Karmanos Cancer Institute in Memory of Robert A. Howe, 026079 Renal Cancer Research Fund, 4108 John R., Detroit, MI 48201.

MARY P. CHIKA
January 31, 2007, Age 91 of Bloomfield Hills. Wife of the late John J. Chika. Dear mother of John M. (Donna), Mary Miela (the late Richard), Barbara Jensen (Robert) and James P. (Janice). Also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Sister of Barbara Suhr and Frances Merinsky. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 3-8pm. Scripture service 7pm. Funeral Mass Saturday 11am at St. Hugo of the Hills Stone Chapel, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation begins at church 10:30am. Memorial tributes to St. Elizabeth Briarbank, 39315 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to
oeobits@hometownlife.com
or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Charollette Wilson 734-953-2232

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or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067
or toll free
866-818-7653
ask for Char or Liz

CALENDAR

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ministry to the Sick

Join Msgr. John Kasza as he speaks about the church's ministry to the sick, highlighting the premise of his new book, *Understanding Sacramental Healing: Anointing and Viaticum*, 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, in the Fellowship Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Kasza's book will be available for purchase and signing. Those who are involved in any way with ministry to the sick will especially want to come. All are welcome. For more information, call (734) 425-5950.

Concert

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church's Music Ministry Department is excited to have the privilege to once again host the Light Metal Band Brass Quintet 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia.

Brass concert

Got the winter blues? Do you love the

sound of a brass band? The Light Metal Band Brass Quintet Concert performs at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, in the sanctuary at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. This professional brass quintet is one of the most sought after brass quintets in the Detroit area. Formed in 1989, the quintet consists of two trumpets, horn, trombone, and tuba. They will be performing a variety of music including Classical, 19th Century American, Patriotic, Ragtime, and Jazz. The concert is free and open to the public with a freewill offering being taken. For more information, call Mark Lohmeyer at (734) 522-6830 or visit the Web site at www.christoursavior.org or www.lightmetalband.com.

Young people's ministry
Burning Questions on the last Wednesday of each month, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. potluck or just come, we have food, 7 p.m. The Gathering with music, sharing, celebration, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Call (734) 421-1760.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Bible study series

St. Theodore Catholic Church presents the Catholic Interpretation of the Book of Revelation beginning 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, and continuing for eight weeks, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-7310.

Scripture study

Board the Starship Evangelize, seek out and explore new worlds of scripture study - The Book of Numbers - 10 a.m. Tuesdays through May at St. Priscilla Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia. For information, call Mary Rice at (734) 522-1095.

UPCOMING

Lenten symposium

The Path to Sanctity 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at St. Anastasia Catholic Church, 4571 John R. Troy, Cost is \$40 per person, \$20 student. For more information, call (313) 277-8905 or (248) 625-2461, or visit the Web site at www.holytrinityapostolate.com.

Cathedral Cultural Series

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Holy Mass at 9 a.m. Featuring direct from Rome Rev. Msgr. Robert Sarno, Official of the Congregation for the Causes of Saint in Vatican City speaking on Holiness: The Way of Life.
Cathedral Cultural Series
Presents a concert by the award winning ensemble amarcord 4 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward at Trowbridge, Detroit. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door and available online at <http://CathedralConcerts.tix.com>, by calling 1-800-595-4TIX (4849), by mailing a self-addressed stamped envelope and check or money order payable to Cathedral Cultural Series, to 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202.

Allow one week for delivery.

Founded in 1992 by former members of St. Thomas Boys Choir, ensemble amarcord from Leipzig, focuses on music from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to contemporary composers. Their repertoire covers all facets of vocal music from madrigals to romantic compositions and a cappella arrangements of well-known songs. For more information, call (313) 865-6300 Ext. 227, or send e-mail to CathedralConcerts@yahoo.com. Doors open at 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

ONGOING

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and sit-

uations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST

UNITED METHODIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI
(Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)
(734) 728-2180
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Continuing education classes offer variety

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Sandy Baumann isn't clowning around when she says Henry Ford Community College's Center for Lifelong Learning offers a variety of classes. In addition to workshops that teach students how to create a balloon animal and wear a red nose, students can participate in a discussion about Christians, Jews and Muslims living in peace.

"We have everything from car maintenance for women held in a car repair facility to Journey towards Peace based on the three faces on Abraham," said Sandy Baumann, Center for Lifelong Learning program manager and a Farmington Hills resident. "The Bible, Koran and the Torah challenge people to work towards peace. The interfaith discussion is with an imam, minister, rabbi, and representative of the archdiocese, and on March 18 there's a bus tour of a church, synagogue and mosque. These are important topics especially with the trouble in the middle east.

"The interfaith is brand new. We have a department of religious studies here. I think it's exciting operating off of the concept let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. If we break down our misconceptions we can see everyone as family and focus on commonalities rather than our differences."

On a lighter note, Start Clowning Around by taking a workshop 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at a clown studio at 17841 Poplar Avenue in Riverview. Professional clown Carey Ann (Carol Ann Owens) teaches students how to apply makeup, perform magic tricks and clown at parades, hospitals, festivals, and parties. Carey Ann suggests participants wear comfortable clothing bring any clown items they own. The workshop is open to persons ages 16 to 90. The cost is \$49 with a \$7 materials fee due in class to cover supplies. Registration deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1.

Carey Ann keeps clowning around in an advance course 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sat. Feb. 17, at the clown studio in Riverview. She'll help students select their clown name and perfect their look with makeup and props. Learn to walk like a clown, create more intricate balloon work, and rehearse funny skits. Carey Ann will also reveal local clowning opportunities. Start Clowning Around or previous clowning experience required. Cost is \$49 plus \$7 materials fee due to instructor in class for supplies. Registration deadline is Feb. 15.

"We need more joy in life and this gal helps people appear as clowns," said Baumann, "and the classes are open to ages 16 to 90."

Car Maintenance for Savvy Women takes place in the heated bays of the automotive repair center at 15735 Schaefer, near Six Mile, in Detroit 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

Gayle Clark teaches students how to expand their car's longevity in a hands-on class. Learn how to change oil and tires, evaluate tire pressure and quality, translate repair terminology, and find out about batteries and fuses. The class is limited to eight women (age 18 and up) and ideal for those who drive older vehicles or used cars. The cost is \$33. Registration deadline is Feb. 15.

Tour a Church, Synagogue & Mosque 12:45 - 5:15 p.m. Sunday, March 18. Explore the beauty and architecture of three houses of faith including Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit built in modified Spanish Mission architecture, the Conservative Jewish synagogue of Congregation Shaarey

Zedek in Southfield, and the Islamic Center of America's mosque in Dearborn with its golden domes. Enjoy a Middle Eastern pastry and beverage on the tour. Cost is \$35. The bus departs from the Center for Lifelong Learning, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Registration required by Feb. 16.

Take a Journey toward Peace with Christians, Jews & Muslims 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in the Rosenau Room, Mazzara ASCC Building at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. Speakers include Imam

Hassan Al-Qazwini from the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Rabbi Jonathan Berkun from Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Rev. Mary Biedron from North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills, and Michael Hovey, Assistant Advisor on Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit. The cost is \$15. Deadline for registration is March 9.

For more information or to register for any of the classes, call (877) 855-5252 or visit the Web site at www.hfcc.edu/CL2.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



New deputies

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans (front row, center) recently swore-in 58 new deputies who graduated from the sheriff's training academy, including several from the western Wayne County communities of Redford, Westland and Livonia. Pictured with the sheriff are Livonia resident Andrew Stevens (front left), Redford resident Rachael Davis and (back row l-r) Westland residents Thomas Blalock, Ronald Tokarszyk and Eric Kusnir.

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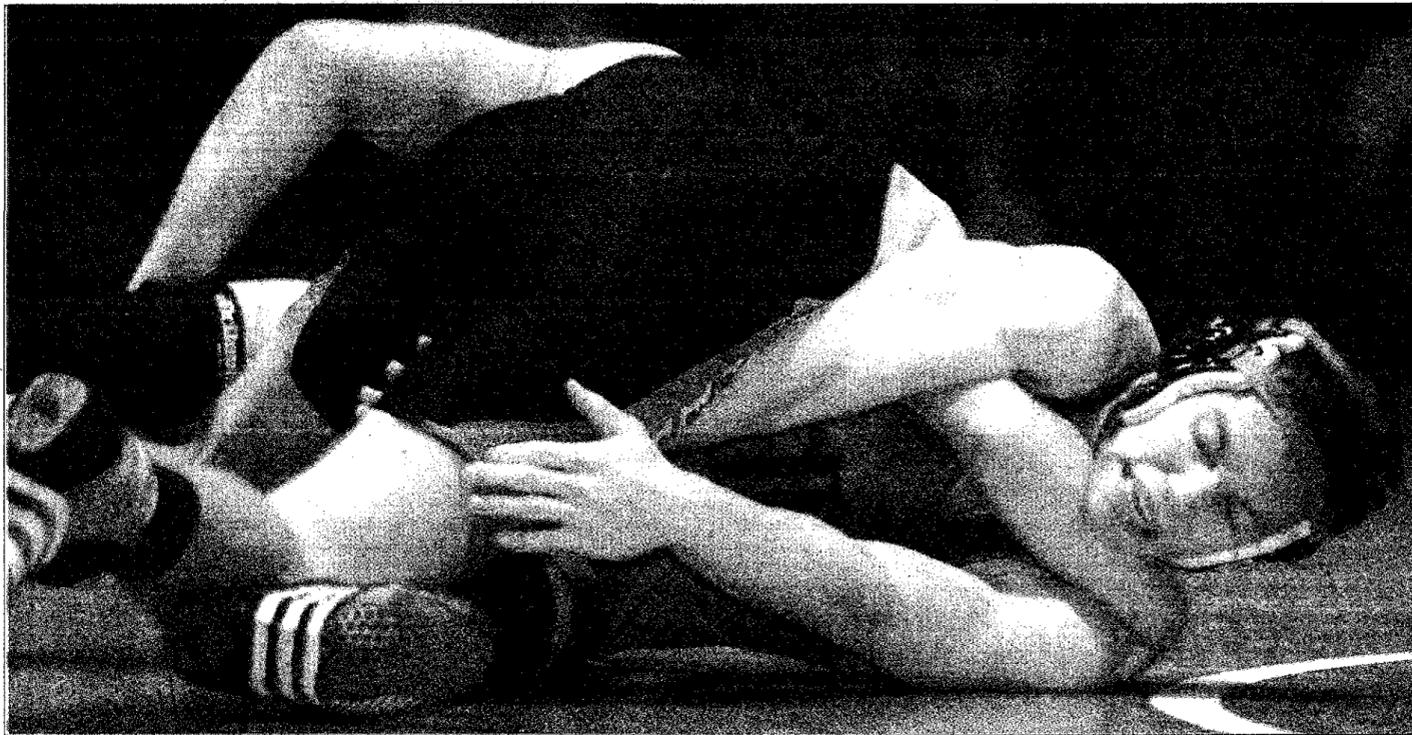
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Thursday, February 1, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Franklin's Josh Billiau (bottom) was runner-up to Belleville's Dustin Zak in the 125-pound class at Saturday's Observerland Invitational.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin finds a way again at Observerland

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin captured its third straight Observerland Invitational wrestling tournament championship Saturday, and no one loomed larger than Franklin heavyweight Kyle Brown.

The Patriots had the team title wrapped up before the individual finals started and wound up with 213 points, followed by runner-up Westland John Glenn (186), Belleville (175.5), Canton (169) and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (164). Host Livonia Churchill took sixth with 117.

Brown, an underdog in the night's final match — the 285-pound division — came up big as he pulled off the upset of the tournament, rallying from a 5-1 deficit to pin Canton's Donnie Laramie, the top seed, in the second period.

Brown, the only individual winner on the day for the Patriots, was mobbed by his teammates afterward. The win, which created a buzz among the remaining crowd and participating wrestlers, also put a huge smile on coach Dave Chiola's face.

"It was nice to end on that note," Chiola said. "The last match made us walk out of here feeling a little better about ourselves. We could go into practice this week with our heads held high."

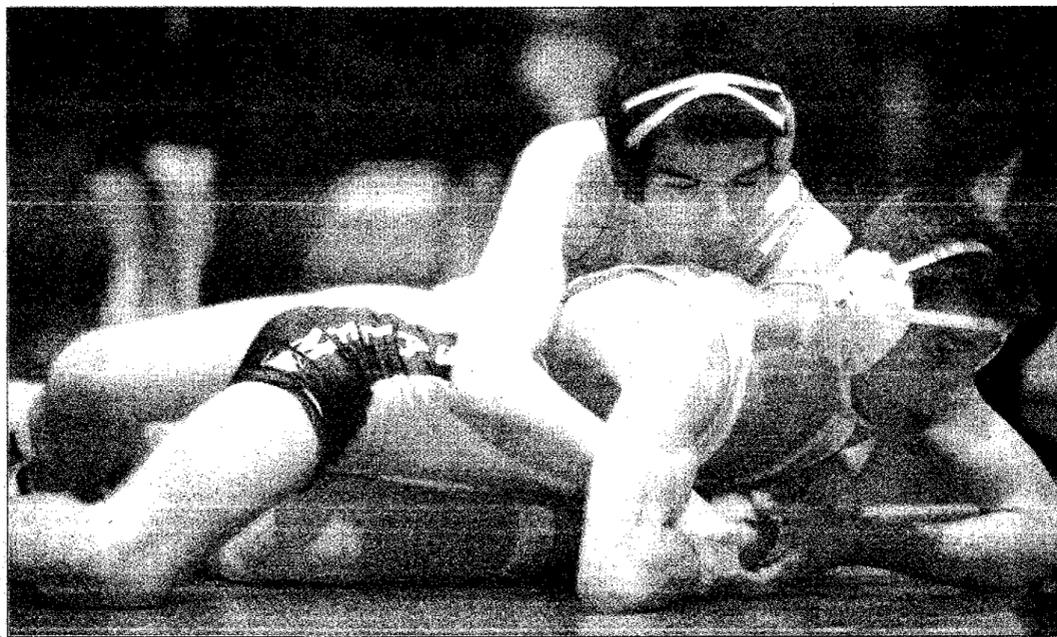
Laramie nearly had Brown, who was named upper weights MVP, pinned during the first period, but the Franklin heavyweight regrouped and pulled to within one before making his move.

"They (Brown and Laramie) could meet three more times this year," Chiola said. "Last year, I think they met four times and I think he (Laramie) had three pins and a major (decision) against Kyle. But Kyle has gotten a lot better since last year. Hopefully, this will give him confidence in the future."

Eleven of Franklin's 14 wrestlers reached the semifinals, but the Patriots came up empty in two other finals until Brown's win.

"The last two rounds were unspeakable, horrible," Chiola said. "We were losing one- and two-point matches, losing at the buzzer, losing to kids we had beaten before."

"But the beauty of this team is that our points were well-dispersed. We had 14 score and 12 placed. Last year, we had 10



John Glenn's James Zerebiny (top) edged Salem's Jeremy Epley, 3-2, for the 152-pound title in Saturday's Observerland Invitational hosted by Churchill.

in the semifinals and this year we had 11. That's hard to compete with. Somebody across the board always picks us up each week and that keeps them humble."

First-time invitee Belleville had five gain the finals, with Justin Flesoon (112) and Dustin Zak (125) earning crowns. Zak decided Franklin's Brandon Billiau, 9-2, while Flesoon held off Canton's Carl Lucke, 7-5.

Glenn, Canton and Wayne Memorial were next with four finalists apiece.

Glenn's strong showing was fueled by first-place finishers James Zerebiny (152), who edged Salem's Jeremy Epley by a point, 3-2, for the second time in three days, and Shamir Garcia (215), who held off Wayne's Robert Coffey, 6-4.

The Rockets' Scott Brown also was a surprise as he pulled off a couple of impressive wins en route to the finals at 160 before losing to Livonia Stevenson's Ziad Kharbush, 4-2.

PLEASE SEE OBSERVERLAND, B3

OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING RESULTS

16th annual

OBSERVERLAND INVITATIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Jan. 27 at Livonia Churchill

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 213 points; 2. Westland John Glenn, 186; 3. Belleville, 175.5; 4. Canton, 169.5; 5. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 164.5; 6. Livonia Churchill, 117; 8. Wayne Memorial, 86; 9. Lutheran Westland, 86; 10. Salem, 74.5; 11. Farmington, 51.5; 12. Plymouth, 48; 13. Redford Union, 44; 14. North Farmington, 33.5; 15. Garden City, 33.5; 16. Livonia Clarenceville, 6; 17. Farmington Hills Harrison, 4.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Donnie Watkins (Canton) decisioned Chad Dunn (WM), 10-5; 3rd place: Namic Kerimov (NF) dec. Tommy Myslock (LS), 10-9; 5th place: Anthony Pavlich (WJG) dec. Grant Phillips (LF), 7-5.
112: Justin Flesoon (Bell.) dec. Carl Lucke (Canton), 7-5; 3rd: Ben Kosmalki (Ply.) won by major dec. over Jared Pieknik (LF), 12-4; 5th: Greg Hogan (NF) dec. Kevin Bennett (Salem), 7-4.
119: Jamie Preiss (WM) pinned Niekto Ianni (CC), 5:56; 3rd: Sean Meixner (RU) dec. James Benitez (LF), 2-1; 5th: Seth Wald (NF) won by major dec. over Justin Johnson (GC), 11-2.
125: Dustin Zak (Bell.) dec. Josh Billiau (LF), 9-2; 3rd: Jeremiah Austin (WJG) dec. Nick Steiger (Salem), 7-4; 5th: Steve Cox (Canton) p. Andrew Murray (LC), 2:45.
130: Greg Roberts (LC) p. Brian Augsburg (Bell.), 3:22; 3rd: Brent Winekoff (Canton) won by major dec. over Nick Shak (WJG), 10-2; 5th: Trevor O'Connor (CC) p. Kevin Hayter (Salem), 4:44.

135: Shea Hasenauer (CC) won by technical fall over Jon Roos (LF), 19-4; 3rd: Jim Wood (WJG) dec. J.P. Gaffke (LC), 2-1; 5th: Jacob Losen (Bell.) p. Kyle Muller (Farm.), 2:16.
140: Corey Phillips (Canton) dec. Steve Coak (Bell.), 7-1; 3rd: Jason Zanger (LF) p. Gramos Pallaska (LC), 1:37; 5th: Jon Reale (LS) won by major dec. over Justin Kane (Salem), 9-0.
145: Matt Edwards (WJG) p. Steve Sherman (Bell.), 0:58; 3rd: Elvin Ferreira (LF) dec. Jon Sanders (Canton), 8-7; 5th: Dennis Villarreal (Farm.) p. Allen Frantzen (LC), 1:15.
152: James Zerebiny (WJG) dec. Jeremy Epley (Salem), 3-2; 3rd: Stephen Kemp (LV) dec. Kiel Price (Canton), 5-3; 5th: Ryan Brown (CC) p. Brent Cetnar (LS), 3:29.
160: Ziad Kharbush (LS) dec. Scott Brown (WJG), 4-2; 3rd: Wassim El Awadi (Bell.) p. Nate Turco (LF), 3:47; 5th: Isaac Burris (RU) dec. Stefan Gatt (CC), 14-12.
171: Jeff Elswick (WM) dec. Andrew Hein (WJG), 3-1; 3rd: Dan Woodall (LF) p. J.J. Vandembosche (LC), 2:18; 5th: Mike Nordby (GC) dec. Emanuel Onwuemene (LS), 9-8.
189: Joe Kinville (CC) p. Vince Daroff (Ply.), 1:16; 3rd: Matt Greenman (LS) dec. Marc Kadrich (LF), 6-5; 5th: Joey Kowtko (WJG) won by injury default over Mike Schatz (LV).
215: Shamir Garcia (WJG) dec. Robert Coffey (WM), 6-4; 3rd: Vince Benavides (LF) dec. Paul Rockrohr (LV), 5-2; 5th: Jim Morasso (CC) p. Jim McCarthy (LS), 1:35.
285: Kyle Brown (LF) p. Donnie Laramie (Canton), 3:18; 3rd: Mike Martin (CC) p. Jacob Sweeney (Bell.), 0:30; 5th: Mark Parrish (LC) dec. Frank Toarmina (WJG), 8-3.

SIDELINES

Kesler injures hip

Livonia native and Vancouver Canucks center Ryan Kesler, who had six goals and 10 assists in 48 games this season, is scheduled to undergo hip surgery on Monday and will more than likely miss the rest of the regular season.

The 22-year-old Kesler, a Churchill High graduate who played one season at Ohio State, experienced soreness in his hip before the recent All-Star break.

He was expected to play through the injury, but that changed after visiting Dr. Marc Philippon, who also performed hip surgery on Canucks center Brendan Morrison last summer.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Kesler, the Canucks' former No. 1 draft pick, is expected to miss three to four months.

In his third NHL season, Kesler has 18 goals and 26 assists in 158 games.

Moss recalled

Back and forth, back and forth for Livonia native and Catholic Central High graduate Dave Moss.

The 25-year-old left winger was recalled Friday by the Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League after being sent down to the Omaha Ak-Sar Ben Knights of the American Hockey League on Jan. 22.

It will be rookie's third stint with the Flames since December.

Through 18 games, the University of Michigan product has an impressive six goals and three assists for the Northwest Division leaders.

The 6-foot-3, 205-pound Moss is expected to say until Chuck Kobasew (concussion) is 100 percent healthy and is ready to play in consecutive games.

Karbo leads MSU

Livonia resident Linda Karbo will guide the Michigan State University squad at the first collegiate division competition in the 28th annual Mid American Pompon, Inc. State Championship beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center.

Pompon teams from the University of Michigan and Central Michigan University will also participate.

Karbo earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from MSU in 2005. She is a 2001 graduate of Farmington Hills Mercy High School. Karbo was a four-year member of the pompon team there and a two-year member of the Mid American All Star Team.

Karbo currently coaches the MSU Pompon team, which was founded in 2005 for those who wanted to continue and perform beyond the high school level.

The MSU squad consists of 21 sophomores, juniors and seniors who have represented the school at various campus events and fundraisers, along with competitions and special appearances including the Detroit Auto Show.

Livonia Red vaults to title; Blue takes second

Livonia gymnasts made quite a statement during Saturday's 13-team Troy Athens Invitational.

Livonia Red scored 143.975 points to capture the team title, edging Livonia Blue and Canton, with 143.725 each, for first place.

Troy Athens Gold placed fourth with 143.175, while Rochester Adams garnered fifth with 139.825.

"I was thrilled and really, really happy that the girls are going so well," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "We want to keep the spirit going and refrain from injury."

Livonia Red's Paula Guzik and Andrea



Guzik



Pisani

Pisani finished one-two in the Division I all-around with scores of 37.85 and 37.475, respectively. Emily Quint of Livonia Blue

placed third with a total of 37.025.

Guzik finished first on the uneven bars (9.45) and tied Quint for first on floor exercise (9.7 each). Guzik also added a third on balance beam (9.5) and tied for fourth on vault (9.2).

Pisani was runner-up on beam (9.525); third on bars (9.15) and floor (9.65); and tied for seventh on vault (9.15).

In addition for tying for first on floor, Quint took seconds on vault (9.4) and bars (9.25). She also added a 10th on beam (8.765).

Livonia Blue's Meghan Powers earned fifth overall in the Division I all-around (36.8), highlighted by fourth on beam

(9.4); a tie for sixth on bars (9.0); eighth on floor (9.45); and 10th on vault (8.95).

In Division II, Livonia Blue's Laura Nomura was runner-up (35.7), including a third on floor (9.4); a tie for third on vault (9.05); fourth on beam (8.8); and seventh on bars (8.45).

Livonia Red's Alyssa Gonzales took seventh in the Division II all-around (33.7), with her best finish a third on beam (8.75).

Also in Division II, Kelly Tapella (Livonia Blue) added a third on bars with a score of 9.05, while Margarita Lazarevska (Livonia Red) placed seventh on floor (9.15). Mandi Boulier (Livonia Red) tied for 10th on bars (8.3).

Wayne rallies behind Woodson; Rocks' Stone shatters Churchill

Wayne Memorial overcame a 15-point second quarter deficit and rallied for a 60-55 boys basketball win Tuesday at Walled Lake Western.

Sophomore guard Robert Woodson scored 18 points to lead the victorious Zebras, who improved to 7-5 overall and 3-2 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Wayne found itself down 29-14 during the second period, but made a 15-1 run to end the half thanks to nine points from Woodson along with a pair of triples from junior guard John Hill.

Wayne outscored Western 31-25 in the second half and held on for the win by making 9-of-12 free throws during the decisive fourth quarter.

Junior guard Martez Abney chipped in with 15 points, while junior center Jeremy Lovelady had another double-double with 14 points and 16

BOYS BASKETBALL

rebounds.

Senior guard Darryl Warthen paced the Warriors (3-9, 2-3) with a game-high 25 points, including five triples. Senior guard Tony Morgan added 10.

"We hung in there," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "We were on the verge in the second quarter, then we were able to close it at the half."

"We didn't start out with a lot of energy and it showed in practice on Monday."

Wayne made 12-of-18 free throws on the night, while Western hit 5-of-7.

JOHN GLENN 56, STEVENSON 38: Earl Hardison poured in a game-high 18 points to lead a balanced attack Tuesday as host Westland John Glenn (8-4, 5-0) stopped Livonia Stevenson (2-10, 1-4) in a WLA-Lakes Division game.

Glenn, which led 30-17 at half-time, also got 12 points from Stefan

Marken and 10 from Rob Jones. Point-guard Keyshawn Martin added nine points and 11 assists for the Lakes Division leaders.

Senior guard Luke Knochel paced the Spartans with 15 points.

Glenn was 2-of-6 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 5-of-10.

SALEM 58, CHURCHILL 54: Junior guard Grant Stone, limited to one point in the first quarter, exploded for 30 points over the final three periods Tuesday to lead the host Rocks (7-5, 4-1) to a WLA-Lakes Division triumph over Livonia Churchill (5-7, 1-4).

Stone, who finished with a game-high 31 points, made 9-of-14 free throws.

Senior Dan Cassidy added 10 for the Rocks, who overcame a 17-6 first-quarter deficit with a 21-12 second-quarter run thanks to 17 points from Stone.

"We got into foul trouble, we had three starters on the bench in the second quarter and they (Salem) took advantage of it," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "Nobody stepped up to guard Stone."

Senior guard Kirk Ciarrocchi scored a season-high 23 for the

Chargers. He was 9-of-13 from the field, including two triples. Junior forward Ryan Rosenick contributed 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Churchill made 13-of-19 free throws, while Salem was 13-of-21.

"We've lost three close games in a row, but I still like this bunch," said Solak, whose team was outrebounded 34-18. "We just have to get over it and find a way to win these games."

PLYMOUTH 52, FRANKLIN 40: Juniors Brandon Roberts and Myron Puryear scored 13 points apiece Tuesday to lead the host Wildcats (4-8, 1-4) to a WLA-Lakes Division triumph over Livonia Franklin (2-10, 0-5).

Jake Hager and Navraj Sandhu added nine points apiece for Plymouth, which pulled away with a 14-4 third-period run after leading 32-26 at the half.

Tyler Canyock scored a team-high 14 for the Patriots, while Alex Reid added seven points and 10 rebounds.

"When we had opportunities to play with poise and composure, we'd make mental mistakes," Franklin coach Russ Keberly said.

Franklin was 9-of-18 from the foul line, while Plymouth was 2-of-4.

Blazers fall prey to power plays

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

GIRLS HOCKEY

Behold the power of the Penguins — and the Penguins' power play.

Both were on display during the third period of Saturday night's crucial Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League showdown between unbeaten Plymouth-Canton-Ladywood.

Energized by power-play goals from Edra Burris and Shauna Siebert less than two minutes apart, the Penguins broke a 2-2 deadlock and skated past the Blazers, 5-2, in a fast-paced, entertaining game played at the Arctic Pond in Plymouth.

The victory propelled the Penguins to 10-0-1 and gave them sole possession of first place in the MMGHSHL standings. Ladywood slipped to 9-1-1. The two teams played to a 5-5 tie in December.

The scoreboard was lit up like a Christmas tree throughout the third period due to an abundance of penalties, most of which were committed by the Blazers.

"I liked the way we kept our composure in the third period, especially with all the penalties that were being called," PCS coach Eric Mink said. "I told the girls to relax, settle down, keep skating and play some hockey, and that's what they did. Shots were pretty even after the first two periods, but we outshot them 13-6 in the third because we were getting a lot of rebound shots."

Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said his team's penalty-fest was out of character.

"I think we had twice as many penalties tonight than we've had in any single game all season," Peck said. "It's very uncharacteristic of this team. The penalties in the third period killed us. You can't play short-handed

as much as we did against a good team and expect to win."

"I thought the girls played hard and with a lot of heart in the first two periods. We did everything we needed to do to keep ourselves in the game. I know the girls were pumped and ready for this game. They've been looking forward to it. Hopefully, we can meet them again in the playoffs."

PCS skated to a 1-0 lead seven minutes into the contest, when Nikki Songer tallied a power-play goal off assists from Keely Kowalski and Katie Zimmerman.

The Blazers evened the ledger at 1-1 with 3:51 left in the second period, when Prenella Semma netted an unassisted power-play goal.

The Penguins regained the lead, 2-1, 37 seconds into the third stanza when slick-skating sophomore Katie Zimmerman buried a short-handed, unassisted goal past Ladywood goalie Michelle Wyniemko, who, up until that point, had covered the opening of the net like a post-to-post sheet of Saran Wrap.

But Semma struck again five minutes later to even things up at 2-2.

Burris's game-winner was a thing of beauty. Stationed five feet in front of the goal crease, she secured the rebound off a shot by Songer, then — from her knees — slapped the puck past Wyniemko to give the Penguins the lead for good with 6:24 left.

Siebert and Adrienne Cercone chipped in with insurance goals to seal the deal for the Penguins.

PCS goalie Kristie Kowalski was solid — and, at times, spectacular — all night, stopping 22 Blazers shots. Wyniemko also played well, registering 26 saves.

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Fairfax's triple-double sparks Clarenceville

Lonnie Fairfax turned in a Magic Johnson-like performance with a triple-double, propelling Livonia Clarenceville to a 55-38 Metro Conference boys basketball triumph Tuesday at home over Clawson.

The junior point-guard finished with 12 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds as Trojans improved to 2-8 overall and 2-4 in the Metro.

Senior forward Eric Jones contributed 12 points, while sophomore Matt Garant finished with 10 as all seven Clarenceville players scored.

David O'Connell scored 22

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

of his game-high 25 points in the opening half for Clawson, which led 28-23 at halftime before being outscored 32-10 in the second half.

"We put Brian Davis on him (O'Connell) for the second half and he did a great job," Clarenceville first-year coach Corey McKendry said. "And in the third quarter we did a great job on the glass."

Clarenceville outrebounded Clawson, 45-27.

The Trojans were 7-of-17

from the foul line, while Clawson was 8-of-14.

The loss drops Clawson to 2-10 and 1-5.

CRANBROOK 56, LUTH. WESTLAND 44: Senior guard Alex Strek sparked a 17-3 fourth quarter run Tuesday as Metro Conference leader Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (10-2, 6-0) downed host Lutheran High Westland (7-4, 3-2).

Strek scored 10 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter as Cranbrook rallied from a 35-34 deficit after three periods.

Chris Rencher, a 6-foot-6 senior center, added 15 points for the Cranes.

Senior guard Kyle Ramthun scored 20 for the Warriors, while

senior guard Sean Vandenbrink added eight points and seven rebounds.

"They (Cranbrook) made shots and we didn't," Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun said. "It was a good effort by us. We had our chances."

Cranbrook was 12-of-17 from the foul line, while the Warriors were 5-of-9.

LENAWEE CHRISTIAN 68, HURON VALLEY 16: Austin Porter tallied a game-high 25 points as Adrian Lenawee Christian (9-3), ranked in Class D, rolled to a non-conference victory Tuesday over visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-10).

Kurt Metzger scored eight for the Hawks, who trailed 45-10 at the half.

Lady Ocelots overcome Kirtland with 78-71 victory

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team defeated Kirtland Community College, 78-71, in a matchup Saturday of MCCA-Eastern Conference teams.

Maricka Seay was a major factor, scoring 24 points and grabbing 15 rebounds for the visiting Lady Ocelots, who won their 11th straight game to improve to 18-2 overall and 11-

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

0 in the conference.

Contributing 14 points, five boards, four assists and four blocks for the No. 4-ranked team was Ashley Sibby.

Antoinette Brown and Britney Ivey added 12 and 11 points, respectively, helping a balanced Schoolcraft attack.

For Kirtland (9-13, 5-7), Natalie Foster and Chelsey Williams each registered 17 points.

MU women edged

Despite 19 points Saturday from Redford Union alum Martina Franklin, visiting Madonna University lost 84-73 to Davenport University.

The Crusaders (8-16, 3-5 in

the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference) trailed 41-38 at halftime, but could not slow the hot-shooting Panthers (18-6, 6-2) during a 16-4 run that opened the second half and put the game away.

In addition to junior forward Franklin, the Crusaders received an 18-point performance from junior guard-forward Caryn Inman (Oxford).

Late Davenport layup sinks Crusaders in one-point loss

Davenport University freshman guard Sai-Quan Griffith drove the length of the court for a last-second layup to give the host Panthers a 78-77 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball win Saturday over visiting

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Madonna University.

MU led by as much as 12 points, but Davenport battled back late in the second half to force the Crusaders (8-16, 4-4

WHAC) into a couple of costly turnovers and missed shots which shifted the momentum in favor of the Panthers.

Junior forward and Canton product D. J. Bridges led the Crusaders with 25 points. Senior forward Derrick Mudri contributed 19 points off the bench in the losing effort for MU.

The Panthers, led by Griffith's 18 points and 17 more from Ryan Farmer, improved to 8-15 and 2-6.

Ocelots emerge

Joshua Samarco's 36-point outing lifted Schoolcraft College to a 93-72 victory Saturday at Kirtland Community College in Roscommon.

Augmenting Samarco's offense for the Ocelots (13-7, 8-3) were Corey Spates (20 points) and Jon Yeazel (16 points).

Kirtland's (11-10) top scorer was Brian Christian (23 points).

Grosse Pointe North upsets Chargers, 3-1

State-ranked Livonia Churchill suffered only its second boys hockey setback of the season in a 3-1 loss Saturday to host Grosse Pointe North at Mount Clemens Arena.

Churchill, rated No. 3 in Division I, is now 13-2 overall. The Chargers opened the scoring at 2:54 of the first period on Dustin Wischmeyer's goal from Tyler Cotter and Jason Proctor.

North's Eric Rohrkemper tied it up at 8:44 of the same period on assists from Mike Neveux and Ben Scarfone on a power play.

Doug Rahaam tallied the game-winner on a power play at 6:49 of the second period from Scarfone and Aaron Davenport.

Anthony Paglino's short-handed effort with 15 seconds left in the second period gave the unranked Norsemen (6-9-1) a two-goal cushion.

"We played well, we just didn't get any of the breaks," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team outshot North 31-13. "We scored the second goal on ourselves and the third. We had the puck deep in their zone

PREP HOCKEY

with a guy coming out of the penalty box — who's going to the bench — and they hit him with a long stretch pass.

"The third period we held them to two shots and could not score. Their goalie (Erik Rohrkemper) played really well."

Scott Lewan was in goal for the Chargers.

LADYWOOD 6, LIGGETT 0: Prenella Semma scored a hat trick Tuesday as Livonia Ladywood (10-1, 10-1-1) blanked host Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (2-10, 2-10) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game played at McCann Arena.

The Blazers scored three goals in each of the first two periods.

Laura Szwed, Maria Rotondo and Elyse Lorenz also tallied goals for the Blazers, who outshot the Knights 40-12 on the night.

Ladywood goalie Michelle Wyniemko (12 saves) earned her third shutout.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

DOUBLE-DUAL MEET RESULTS
Jan. 29 at Plymouth H.S.
TEAM SCORES: Livonia-Red, 142.80 points; Salem, 142.30; Livonia-Blue, 142.65; Salem, 142.30.

RED-BLUE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
(Blue): 9.4; 3. Laura Nomura (Blue), 9.0; 4. Meghan Powers (Blue), 8.85; 5. Andrea Pisani (Red), 8.8.
Uneven bars: 1. Guzik (Red), 9.65; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.5; 3. Pisani (Red), 9.3; 4. Powers (Blue), 9.15; 5. Kelly Tapella (Blue), 8.8.

Balance beam: 1. Pisani (Red), 9.3; 2. Guzik (Red), 9.25; 3. Margarita Lazarevska (Red), 9.2; 4. Powers (Blue), 9.1; 5. Quint (Blue), 8.85.
Floor exercise: 1. Guzik (Red), 9.675; 2. Pisani (Red), 9.4; 3. Powers (Blue), 9.4; 4. Quint (Blue), 9.225; 5. Lazarevska (Red), 8.55.
All-around: 1. Guzik (Red), 38.025; 2. Quint (Blue), 36.975; 3. Pisani (Red), 36.8; 4. Powers (Blue), 36.5; 5. Nomura (Blue), 35.45.
Dual meet records: Livonia Blue, 7-0 overall; Livonia Red, 6-1 overall; Salem, 4-3 overall.

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT

Sweet Thangz!

Precious Jewel: Sparkled as AAU swim coach

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

To countless young swimmers who knew Jewel Cooke, she was a rare gem.

The 98-year-old Cooke, a former Farmington Hills resident who died Jan. 21 in Illinois, inspired former pool pupils such as Patti Poirier during a legendary career as a youth swimming coach. Cooke mentored girls through Garden City Parks and Recreation from 1956-76, leading 15 consecutive Amateur Athletics Union championships in the process.

"Developing my strokes to be able to swim at the collegiate level, I was lucky," said the 49-year-old Livonia resident. "I was probably not one of her finer swimmers."

But as a pre-teen, Poirier was part of a national record-winning 12-and-under medley relay team along with former Garden City residents Kay McDonald and Sharon Burlingame (and former Westland resident Carol Ruis). They set the record in a competition at Erie, Pa.

"She taught us lifelong skills, like discipline and when you start something, you finish it," said Poirier, a Garden City student of Cooke's from 1967-76. "And, to not be afraid to fail. It's OK if you fail, you just have to get up and give it a try again. Those skills all made us pretty successful as adults."

Her coaching philosophy had a lot to do with a huge string of swimming successes, too. For two decades beginning in 1956, her Garden City youth teams produced countless state and national champions and swam to 15 consecutive AAU championships.

Poirier later competed on swim teams at now-defunct Livonia Bentley and Eastern Michigan University, always mindful of Cooke's stance: To push themselves to the limit whether in speed swimming or synchronized swimming.

One of a kind

That unwavering approach enriched lives of the coaches



There were always plenty of smiles to go around whenever there was a reunion of former Garden City AAU swimmers and their coach, the late Jewel Cooke (front row, middle). Flanking Cooke in this undated photo are Sharon Burlingame (left) and Kay McDonald (right). Standing is Patti Poirier.

swimmers' both athletically and in other endeavors. For example, Poirier is a high school teacher at Dearborn Divine Child and she noted many others who swam for coach Cooke also went on to become professionals.

According to Patricia McKarge, director of Garden City Parks and Recreation, "I am sure Mrs. Cooke has influenced the lives of many, many people. She was truly an amazing person."

McKarge said the coach made a dramatic impact on her own life, beginning when Cooke found room for a "weak, older swimmer" of 12 years of age on her AAU team.

"Since I could not compete well, she encouraged me to teach and to coach," McKarge said.

Cooke urged McKarge to pursue degrees in recreation and physical education, and that in turn led to her current career.

Former swimming pupils such as Poirier and McKarge also marveled at how Cooke

never really slowed down, even many years after the Garden City AAU juggernaut ended.

Although Cooke, in 1976, stepped away from instructing swimmers through the Garden City Parks and Recreation program (classes were taught at Garden City High School), she went on to teach another generation the intricacies of the sport.

Masterful

Until 1990, she voluntarily taught swim classes for the American Red Cross, wrapping up a 75-year association with the organization. The Red Cross honored her for such distinguished longevity.

But coaching wasn't her only contribution to the sport. She was a Canadian breaststroke champion during college and - decades later - apparently never forgot her swimming skills.

In 1981, as a spry 72-year-old, Cooke signed up with a United States Masters Swimming program in suburban Detroit and started a long career.

Despite a broken foot, hip surgery and other medical woes, Cooke kept competing in the USMS, setting many new standards of excellence into her eighties and nineties.

For example, in 1999-2000, competing in the 90-to-94 age group, Cooke set 11 world records and 23 national records.

Even in subsequent years, Cooke's competitive zest never really subsided - much to the amazement of Poirier.

"Even recently, she challenged herself to keep walking each day in the nursing home even though she was wheelchair bound," added Poirier. "She truly lived life to the fullest and challenged others to do the same."

Cooke is survived by daughters Stephanie (Bob) White, Johanna (Bob) Elliott and son Peter (Linda) Cooke, six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Memorials in Cooke's name can be made to the American Red Cross.

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John Glenn spikers take Salem to limit in Lakes Division clash

The Westland John Glenn girls volleyball team put up quite a fight Monday in a loss to WLAA-Lakes Division co-leader Salem as the Rocks won in five games 25-19, 25-14, 19-25, 22-25, 15-5.

The Rockets (11-11-3, 1-3) were led by middle hitters Virginia Butler and Brittany Holbrook, who combined for 19 kills and five blocks to pace the offense.

Kirstin Kirk led the defense with 29 digs, while Amber Sportsman added 13.

Setter Katie Tratar finished with 26 assist-to-kills and three aces.

Jansan Falcusan paced the Rocks with 38 assists, 10 digs and four service aces. Other standouts for the winners were Teresa Coppellie (18 kills and 17 digs), Lauren Kurtz (11 kills, three aces and 12 digs), Courtney Seiler (17 digs) and Kelly McDonald (seven kills and five digs).

"We struggled with our hitting tonight," said Salem coach Amanda Suder, whose team is 5-0 in the Lakes. "Overall, our hitting percentage has been lower than it should be. John Glenn played very well. They're a scrappy team."

Churchill tops Vikings

Lauren Krupsky finished with 20 kills and Kyndra Abron contributed 15 kills and four blocks Monday as host Livonia Churchill (27-2-1, 4-0) downed Walled Lake Central in three games, 25-13, 25-14, 25-16.

Churchill, ranked No. 7 in Class A, also got strong performances from setter Kelsey McKenzie (32 assists), Anna-Marie Gatt (10 digs and four aces) and Kelly Archer (13 digs, 18-of-18 serve receive).

The loss drops the Vikings to 0-4 in the WLAA's Lakes Division.

Pats down Canton

Senior Liz Dempsey led the way with 17 kills and three blocks Monday as Livonia Franklin (10-13-3, 3-1) defeated host Canton in a WLAA-Western Division encounter, 20-25, 25-20, 25-14, 25-21.

"We had a scare as we came off the bus as Liz (Dempsey) slipped down the bus stairs and injured her calf muscle," Franklin coach Linda Jimenez said. "We taped it and iced it after the game. We'll re-evaluate it (Tuesday)."

Setter Kelly Powers added 29 assists and four blocks for the victorious Patriots. Andrea McCall contributed six kills, while Laura Marshall had six blocks. Libero Cassie LaPrairie finished with eight digs.

"I think our strength right now, believe it or not, is team chemistry," Jimenez said. "The positive energy is

PREP VOLLEYBALL

unbelievable whether we're winning or losing. Our setter Kelly Powers is improving with each game and practice."

Knights trip Spartans

In a WLAA-Lakes Division match Monday, host Walled Lake Northern defeated Livonia Stevenson in four games, 19-25, 25-11, 25-20, 25-22.

The loss drops Stevenson to 11-5-1 overall and 1-3 in the division.

Setter Jill Flaughter had 29 assist-to-kills and was 14-for-14 serving for the Spartans.

Kelly Snitcher added 20 digs and four kills, while Amber Sharp had 18 digs. Top attack leaders for Stevenson included Hannah Diebel (10 kills), Laura Khalil (nine kills) and Jamie Pouders (six kills).

Hawks rally for win

Sarah Schaffer served out the fifth and deciding game with 10 straight points Tuesday in Westland Huron Valley Lutheran's comeback from behind 23-25, 19-25, 25-6, 25-16, 15-3 triumph over visiting Canton Agape Christian.

Schaffer also had five kills and four aces as the Hawks improved to 11-1-1 overall and 5-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division.

Emily Helwig added six kills and two blocks in the win, while setter Amanda Gruenewald recorded 16 assists.

"We did not play well the first two games, but we showed some character the last three games and got the momentum," Huron Valley assistant coach Kris Ruth said.

Warriors survive in 5

Sophomore Rebecca Refenes had 13 kills, seven solo blocks and 21 digs Tuesday as Metro Conference co-leader Lutheran High Westland outlasted host Bloomfield Hills Kingswood in five games, 22-25, 25-17, 25-12, 12-25, 15-12.

"It was a battle," said Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose team is 17-2-4 overall and 3-2 in the Metro. "We played well at times and they played well at times."

The Warriors' Kayla Gieschen served 17 points added 30 digs and had five kills in the win. Lauren Schwewe contributed 21 digs.

Both Lutheran Westland setters also contributed as Julie Jongsma recorded 14 assists and served 17 points, including four aces, while Lauren Gieschen had 12 assists.

OBSERVERLAND

FROM PAGE B1

"Scott is a talented young man," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "He just has to keep working hard. He's starting to get his confidence and starting to build on that."

"We've been on a rollercoaster the last couple of weeks. We had a lot of ups and downs today. There were some matches where unfortunately we did not come out on top. It was kind of bittersweet. Some stepped up and some stepped back. It shows where we're at, but overall I'm not disappointed."

Donnie Watkins (103) and unbeaten Corey Phillips (140), the meet's only repeat champ, captured firsts for Canton. Watkins decided Wayne's Chad Dunn, 10-5, while

Phillips took down Belleville's Steve Coak, 7-1.

But Canton coach Casey Randolph wasn't around for the finish after being ejected late in the day during a consolation-round match officiated by Eric Hebestreit.

Wayne, meanwhile, was led by Jamie Preiss (119) and Jeff Elswick (171), both bringing home crowns. Preiss pinned CC's Niekoo Ianni with four seconds to go in the final period, while Elswick came up with a two-pointer late in the third period to edge Glenn's Andrew Hein, 3-1.

CC had a pair of winners, including lower weights MVP Shea Hasenaur (135), a transfer from Birmingham Brother Rice, who scored an impressive technical fall over Franklin's Jon Roos, 19-4. The Shamrock's Joe Kinville (189) then pinned Plymouth's Vince Darofli in



Lutheran Westland's Matt Edwards (top) pins Belleville's Steve Sherman for a first place finish in the 145-pound weight class at Saturday's Observerland Invitational held at Livonia Churchill.

1:16. Scoring the fastest pin in the finals was Lutheran High Westland's Matt Edwards (145), who used his signature cradle move against Belleville's Steve Sherman in 0:58.

And Churchill's Greg Roberts (130) gave the home fans something to cheer about when he pinned Belleville's Brian Augsberger in 3:22.

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 92, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 85 (Jan. 30 at Franklin)
200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Kevin Chappelle, Josh Eldridge, Jon Whitt, Shawn Long), 2:00.27; 2. Franklin (Ken Wood, Bryan Mandeville, Scott Ansteth, Galyim Tusupov), 2:09.39; 3. John Glenn (Nolan Langlois, Levi Cavender, Andrew Thorne, Ja-Cory Frawner), 2:23.18.
200 freestyle: 1. Shane Shelton (LF), 2:06.25; 2. John Burgess (WJG), 2:11.63; 3. Joe Michniewicz (LF), 2:17.04.
100 individual medley: 1. Nick Anthony (LF), 2:17.35; 2. Ansteth (LF), 2:36.91; 3. Billy Lyons (WJG), 2:39.81.
50 freestyle: 1. Matt Espy (WJG), 24.13; 2. Mike Wood (LF), 24.86; 3. Long (WJG), 26.37.
1-meter diving: 1. Whitt (WJG), 206.60 points; 2. Thorne (WJG), 121.70.
100 butterfly: 1. Anthony (LF), 1:00.56; 2. Ansteth (LF), 1:06.2; 3. Chappelle (WJG), 1:09.39.
100 freestyle: 1. Espy (WJG), 53.93; 2. M. Wood (LF), 59.23; 3. Andy Rossiter (LF), 1:00.5.
500 freestyle: 1. Shelton (LF), 5:46.62; 2. Burgess (WJG), 6:04.45; 3. Michniewicz (LF), 6:14.25.
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Espy, Lyons, Burgess, Whitt), 1:40.04; 2. Franklin (Rossiter, Anthony, M. Wood, Shelton), 1:44.88; 3. Franklin (Ansteth, Tusupov, Michniewicz, Tyler Lee), 1:54.55.
100 backstroke: 1. Chappelle (WJG), 1:08.02; 2. K. Wood (LF), 1:13.3; 3. Jon Lara (WJG), 1:19.24.
100 breaststroke: 1. Thorne (WJG), 1:18.18; 2. Eldridge (WJG), 1:23.05; 3. Mandeville (LF), 1:28.72.
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Espy, Lyons, Burgess, Whitt), 3:47.07; 2. Franklin (Shelton, M. Wood, Anthony, Rossiter), 3:54.35; 3. Franklin (K. Wood, Mandeville, Michniewicz, Eric Madai), 4:27.1.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 1-6 overall; Franklin, 1-3 overall.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 113, DEXTER 72 (Jan. 30 at Stevenson)
200-yard medley relay: Stevenson (Jeff Pauza, Joey Wingett, Robert Luke, Ryan Scott), 1:44.64; 200 freestyle: Kyle Hermann (LS), 1:50.11; 200 individual medley: Kirk Rumbler (D), 2:06.5; 50 freestyle: Hermann (LS), 23.88; 1-meter diving: Jeff Kinsvater (LS), 199.88 points; 100 butterfly: Luke (LS), 56.25; 100 freestyle: Travis Hatt (LS), 48.47 (breaks pool record of 48.92 held by Keith Falk); 500 freestyle: Ben Stevenson (D), 5:09.2; 200 freestyle relay: Stevenson (Hatt, Michael Cruce, Scott, Hermann), 1:33.6; 100 backstroke: Jeff Pauza (LS), 55.31; 100 breaststroke: Hatt (LS), 1:01.85; 400 freestyle relay: Stevenson (Hermann, Charles Turlo, Cruce, Pauza), 3:28.47.
Stevenson 2nds: Cruce, 200 IM (2:06.79); 100 freestyle (53.02); Turlo, 500 freestyle (5:15.89); Geverink, 100 butterfly (59.33); Brendan Schoff, 100 backstroke (1:03.82); 3rds: 200 medley relay (Jimmy Yavis, David Bladdecki, Geverink, Jerome Pesta), 1:53.12; Bryan Bielecki, 200 IM (2:15.31); Luke McCay, diving (149.33); 200 freestyle relay (Daniel Schoff, Adam Dabkowski, Jared Diebel, Sam Loria), 1:42.6; Wingett, 100 breaststroke (1:05.11); 400 freestyle relay (Chris Behler, Scott, Diebel, Luke), 3:46.22. Stevenson's dual meet record: 7-1 overall.

Clarenceville girls stay perfect in conference

The state-ranked Livonia Clarenceville girls bowling squad started slowly Monday, but roared back from a 10-point deficit to defeat Livonia Ladywood, 20-10, at Woodland Lanes.

Clarenceville, ranked fourth in Division II, is now 10-0 overall in the Wayne-Oakland Bowling Conference, while Ladywood is 4-6.

Ladywood jumped out to a 10-0 lead by winning both Baker games, 153-149 and 150-147, along with totals, 303-296.

The Trojans, however, regrouped with team totals of 883-944-1,827 led by junior Kayla Barber's 224-175 two-game set.

Other Clarenceville scorers included senior Erica Charboneau, 177-196; sophomore Amanda Dailey, 151-215; senior Danielle Fecso, 175-193; and junior Sara Brown, 156-165.

"It was not a good way to start 0-10," Clarenceville coach Pam Jones said, "and at Ladywood's house. They were rolling the ball really well and I was worried, but our girls buckled down and won match points and games to shut them down."

Ladywood's two-game totals were back-to-back 735 for a 1,470.

Among the Ladywood scorers included Melissa Handschumacher, 142-162; Janelle Farris, 136-179;

PREP BOWLING

Chelsea Hewitt, 144-128; Emily Pugmire, 162-126; and Courtney Johnson, 151-140.

Bentley lifts C'ville boys

Brandon Bentley's 299 in the second game helped the Clarenceville boys defeated Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 17-13, in a Wayne-Oakland Bowling Conference boys match Monday at Woodland Lanes.

The Trojans led 6-4 after the Baker games with 206-221-427, while CC had 213-178-391.

In match play, CC took a 12-7 lead by winning all but one point and the opening game team totals by 161 pins.

But sparked by Bentley, Clarenceville rallied and captured the second game with a team total of 1,118, along with totals by 15 pins, 1,988-1,973.

Senior Andrew Abbott won both match points with games of 181 and 234. Other top games were rolled by senior Mark Zupancic (235), freshman Christian Grates (195), and freshman Jason Bertera (155), the latter whom had the high-game (279) at the recent Oakland County Tournament.

Clarenceville is 6-3-1 in the conference, while CC is 7-2-1.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 2

W.L. Northern at Churchill, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Northville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Luth. North, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Clawson, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Feb. 1

H.W. Regina at Ladywood, 6:30 p.m.
Luth. North at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.
Clawson at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
Macomb Christian at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Feb. 2

Churchill vs. W.L. Northern at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. Pinckney at Kensington Valley Ice House, 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Thursday, Feb. 1

W.L. Central at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
John Glenn at W.L. Northern, 6:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2

Lathrup at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3
Memphis Invitational, 9 a.m.
Dundee Invitational, 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday, Feb. 1

Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
W.L. Central at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Wayne at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Saturday, Feb. 3

Canton Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP BOWLING
Saturday, Feb. 3
Tri-County Inv. at Five Star Lanes, noon.

PREP SKIING

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Ladywood vs. Novi at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Feb. 3
Ladywood Invitational, 1:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 3

Henry Ford at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
Aquinas College at Madonna, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 3
Henry Ford at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
Madonna at Aquinas College, 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Thursday, Feb. 1

Whalers at Sarnia Sting, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2
Whalers vs. Erie Otters at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3
Whalers vs. London Knights at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Saturday, Feb. 3

Ignition at California Cougars, 7:35 p.m.

Smith cops a winning formula in



Coach Fred Miller (left) and his longtime assistant Sonny Micallef have been fixtures in the Falcons Unit varsity football program in Livonia.

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith would be envious of Fred Miller.

That's because the Livonia Falcons varsity coach knows a thing or two about winning Super Bowls ... in the Western Lakes Junior Football League.

Smith has been coaching junior league football for the past 35 years, starting in 1972 with the Falcons as an assistant coach under Bill Rice before taking over as the varsity head coach in 1973.

And Smith has put together quite an impressive resume in 275 games, going 214-50-11, including 30 winning seasons (11 undefeated), and winning two of the first three Super Bowls in the newly formed WLJFL.

Yet, Smith doesn't look at his worth in terms of

wins or losses.

"We just try to play basic football," said Smith, who played high school football at Redford Union. "We'll run the slot-I (formation), but I might change up. I teach fundamentals, try to build a foundation and hope they grow and learn. I like to put game plans together, see how they progress. We don't win all the time, but we win our fair share. My thing is to always play hard and do your best."

The thought of coaching another season never gets old for the 55-year-old Smith, who works inside for the Detroit Police Department's Violent Crimes Task Force Unit.

When August rolls around and conditioning starts, Smith begins to mold a team of varsity players who range in age from 12-14 and weigh anywhere up to 170 pounds.

"I just said that when it stops being fun ..."

Smith said. "That's when I'll step back. It's just really rewarding and humbling. It's just a joy to watch the boys and seeing what I can do. It's been tremendous."

Smith can't stop now anyway.

That's because his son Matthew, 12, who has played two seasons each at the freshman and JV levels, becomes eligible to play for his dad at varsity level.

And Smith embraces the idea of coaching his own son. He has no reservations.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said.

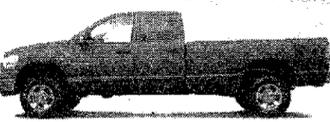
He's even convinced his wife, Beth, once a non-football fan, to take an interest.

"She loves it, she's very supportive," he said. "Even though it takes a lot of time away, she understands."

Smith has developed many surrogate father-son relationships over the years.

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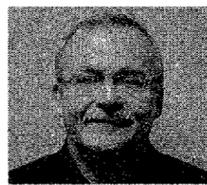


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"Having my own son (Nicholas) play for this man the past two seasons and watching him turn my son from a little boy to a young man made me realize what a truly remarkable man Fred is," said Michael Rotter, Falcon Unit Director and Football Commissioner for the Livonia Junior Athletic League. "He demands only that the players give their all and leave nothing on the field."

"What is totally amazing is that the LJAL is a first-come sign-up, and not a tryout team. And yet he has recorded that many victories. That alone tells you what kind of coach he is."

Sonny Micallef, Smith's assistant the past 17 seasons, started as a field director in the LJFL in 1981 and sent two of his sons, Ryan and Randy (now the offensive coordinator at Walled Lake Central High), through the Falcon program.

Both played under Smith.

"He cares about kids so much, and as far as teaching the game, he's wonderful at it," said Micallef, a retiree from Ford Motor Co. who spends his winters as a "snowbird" in Venice, Fla. "I've been around him for 25 years and the kids have so much respect for him. I can't explain it. He's just great. His leadership keeps everything going."

Micallef and Smith are also adept at playing the role of good cop, bad cop. They've got the routine down pat.

"I'm very emotional, a holler guy, rah-rah," Smith admits. "I'll read them the riot act when I have to, but I'll also praise them. You can only beat them down so much or you'll lose them. Sonny is the guy who smoothes things over. We have a very good working relationship."

Adds Micallef: I'm the one they come to after ...

I'm 'Father Sonny' Fred will never take you down too far. He'll build you back up and give you praise. He's also got real sense of humor to coach as long as he has."

Despite the impressive record, Micallef said Smith has it all in perspective.

"If you don't succeed, it's not the end of the world and that's why he's been successful," Micallef said. "He wants his kids to put out the extra effort, but he's never preached winning, and the kids respect and understand that."

Smith also keeps tabs on his former players. Many have excelled at the collegiate and high school level.

Among Smith's former standouts from Stevenson High include David Hall, a former Michigan quarterback who played tight end and defensive end for the Falcons, along with his brother Jeff, and Jim

Spala (Wayne State).

Smith also coached brothers Mike and Jeff Gatt, who later went on to play at Redford Catholic Central High and Hillsdale College.

Smith said he'll probably view Sunday's Super Bowl in Miami from his own home.

When asked who he was rooting for, Smith didn't hesitate.

"Dungy's from Michigan, I'd like to see him win," said the Falcons coach.

Coaches come and go in the NFL, but Smith appears to be on his way to a Joe Paterno-like tenure in the WLJFL.

"They'll have to carry him off the field," Micallef said. "He just loves teaching the game all these years."

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Wayne-Westland Soccer League's under-10 Firecrackers finished in first place with an 8-1 season. In the regular season and tournament play, they scored 66 goals, giving up only 18 goals to their opponents. They posted four shutouts, including an 11-0 win. Members of the Firecrackers include (back row, from left): coach Dale Charron Venessa Gocal, Jaclyn Richter, Amanda Beliger, Navreet Bhangu, assistant coach Michelle Lavin, Lydia Derr, Haley Perkins; (front row, from left) Gabrielle Charron, Katelyn Rodriguez, Rachel Charron, Jamie Nutt and Rachel Lavin.



Cheer champions

The Livonia Stevenson freshman girls competitive cheer team, coached by Eric Kaitz, finished first in their division Jan. 20 at the Brighton Invitational. Team members include: Courtney Adkins, Kristina Allen, Shannon Angel, Rachel Buttigieg, Jordan Cumbo, Chelsea Davis, Lauree Glover, Heather Hourigan, Emily Korpela, Casey Krist, Sara Lubanski, Holly Mykolaitis, Ashley Naubert, Gina Pearson, Hannah Smith, Amanda Sonkiss and Tiffany Strobl. The JV Spartans, coached by Jen Combest, was runner-up, while the varsity squad, coached by Marcia and Erin Hermann, placed fifth.

Hitting-Fielding Clinic

A hitting and fielding clinic for students currently in grades 3-8, conducted by the Livonia Stevenson baseball coaching staff, will be from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the high school fieldhouse.

The hitting session involves proper grip, stance, balance, stride and swing. The field session gives participants the chance to learn proper glove techniques, footwork, positioning, throwing and drills.

The cost is \$35. Enrollment is limited to the first 60 registrants.

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

Young pitchers clinic

The Livonia Stevenson High baseball coaching staff will conduct a clinic to learn the basics of pitching for current grades 3-8 from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10, at the school's fieldhouse.

The two-hour clinic with teach young pitchers proper throwing mechanics, injury prevention, wind-up, stretch, pick-off moves and the mechanics of different pitchers. Parents and coaches are welcome to attend.

The cost is \$35. Enrollment is limited to the first 40 registrants.

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

WYAA baseball-sball

Registration for the 39th season for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball will begin Saturday, Feb. 3 (through March 31) at the WYAA's

Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The WYAA offers programs including: T-Ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch with machine (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16), Palamino (17-18), along with girls slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 (during normal business hours or 10 a.m. until noon Saturday and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays; leave a message).

You can also visit www.wyaa.org.

Churchill Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill Athletic Patrons will stage their fifth annual Hall of Fame dinner 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at Italian-American Club in Livonia.

Among the honorees are former basketball standout Ken Landini, boys basketball coach Pat Montagano and the 1972 undefeated Charger football team coached by Ken Kaestner.

Several members of the '72 football team still need to be located.

For more information, or to reserve a spot at the banquet, call the Churchill Athletic Office at (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

SHS orientation

Livonia Stevenson will host its annual incoming ninth-grade orientation night beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 at the high school.

The orientation is open to all middle school eighth graders and their parents that are considering attending Stevenson in the fall of 2007. (Students must be accompanied by a parent.)

The program includes meeting athletic department coaches and current athletes of all sports program in the Stevenson Competition Gym. Participants can obtain information about practice-tryout dates and sports signup sheets will be available. The evening also includes meeting high school counselors and members of the Student Senate, a tour of the school, and learning about extracurricular activities and clubs. The Stevenson High Jazz Band will also perform. The school store will also be open for business.

For more information, call the Stevenson athletic department at (734) 7644-2660, Ext. 48116.

Soccer signup

The Livonia Soccer Club is accepting spring registrations.

For more information, call (734) 464-8575; or visit www.livoniasoccer.org.

MU softball clinic

Madonna University will stage a girls softball fundamentals clinic for ages 7-18 from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 (Session II), at the MU Activities Building.

Specialized individual instruction is offered by MU women's softball coach Al White, the 2004 NAIA Region VIII and Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

The cost is \$150 and pre-registration is required.

For more information, call Al White at (734) 432-5783 or (734) 495-4719. You can also call Gentilia at (734) 414-8053.

AAU volleyball club

The Crusader Junior Volleyball Association, sponsored by Madonna University Volleyball, will stage registration tryouts for the following age groups on Sunday, Feb. 18: 12s - 2:30-4 p.m.; 13s and 14s - 4-6 p.m.; 15s and 16s - 6-8 p.m.; 17s and 18s - 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The program begins in March and continues through the end of June. Practice days are Tuesdays and Thursdays and designated Sundays. Tournament will be primarily on Saturdays.

The program fee cost is \$625 (includes AAU registration, uniform expenses, facility rental, equipment fees, travel, coaches salary and tourney entry costs).

For more information, call Jerry Abraham or Brian McClain at (734) 432-5612; or visit madonna.edu/crusaders/juniors.htm.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Hoops challenge

The 2007 Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Hoops Challenge, sponsored by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, will be Friday, Feb. 23 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Registration, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is free.

Awards will be given to the first- and second-place finishers in the following age groups for boys and girls: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15.

Winners advance to one of five area levels of competition with the state championship Sunday, April 15 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA girls hoops

Roster spots remain available for the Westland Youth Athletic Association girls freshman basketball program (ages 9-11).

Registration is from 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays at the WYAA's Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

For more information, call during regular business hours or leave a voice mail at (734) 421-0640.

Livonia Y leagues

The Livonia Family YMCA is offering a youth basketball league for boys and girls ages 5-14. (League play starts March 3.)

Registration is underway for the Livonia Y spring soccer for boys and girls ages 3-8, along with boys and girls under-9, -10 and -11. (The season runs April 14 through June 2).

Fees vary. For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

CHS spring tryouts

Livonia Churchill High School has announced its spring 2007 athletic tryout schedule for the following sports:

Boys tennis - 2:45 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the gymnasium. For more information, contact Reid Friedrichs at rfriedri@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Competitive cheerleading - 6 p.m. Monday, May 7 at the gymnasium. Contact Heidi Richardson at hrichard@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Girls golf - 3 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the Oasis Golf Dome. Contact Gary Harper at ggharper@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Boys baseball - 2:45 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the fieldhouse. Contact Ron Targosz at rtargosz@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Boys track and field - 2:45 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the gymnasium. Contact Rick Austin at raustin@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Girls track and field - 2:45 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the gymnasium. Contact Keith McDonald at kmcdonal@livonia.k12.mi.us;

Girls softball - 5 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the fieldhouse. Contact Meghan Misiak at misiakmc@wayne.edu;

Girls soccer - 2:45 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the gymnasium. Contact Dave Hebestreit at dhebestr@livonia.k12.mi.us.

All athletes must have a valid physical on file (conducted after April 15, 2006) in order to tryout, in addition to a Livonia Public Schools \$100 participation fee.

For more information, call the Churchill athletic office at (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

Whitetails banquet

Whitetails Unlimited is sponsoring the Livonia Area Whitetails Unlimited fundraising banquet Saturday, March 10, at Corsi's Banquet Center, 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with the buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets, which must be purchased by March 3, are \$45 each. (No tickets will be sold at the door.)

The event will also feature an auction, door prizes, sporting equipment, limited edition wildlife and outdoor art, and WTU collectibles.

Proceeds from the banquet will go toward local projects which uphold the mission of the WTU, a national nonprofit conservation organization with members in all 50 states.

To order tickets, call Durwin

Moisio at (248) 437-2670; Gary Jones at (313) 999-5842; or the WTU headquarters at (800) 274-5471.

You can also visit www.whitetailsunlimited.com for more information.

Hunter Safety

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a hunters safety class from 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 9 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Hunter safety allows individuals of all ages, 10 and up, to gain an understanding of proper techniques, legal requirements and a wide variety of equipment. Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 must receive certifications in order to obtain a hunting license. All participants must bring a bag lunch. Children ages 11-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.

The fee is \$15. Advance registration, which begins Feb. 5, will be at the LCRC office. Space is limited.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Girls slowpitch

Mail-in and fax-in registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation girls 10- and 13-and-under slowpitch softball will be from Feb. 19 through March 2.

Walk-in registration follows from Feb. 26 through March 9 or until enrollment limit is reached. Registration forms will be sent to schools in January or can be obtained the Parks and Recreation counter inside the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Registration is open to all girls residing in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

The season will be June and July with scrimmage played on Wednesday evenings.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Girls fastpitch

Registration for the 2007 Westland Lightning girls fastpitch softball program (ages 8-16) is being held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, Wetland.

Birth certificates are required. For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

T-Ball, Coach-Pitch

Mail-in and fax-in registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation 2007 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and Coach-Pitch (7-8) will be through Feb. 9.

Walk-in registration follows Feb. 5-16 or until enrollment limit is reached. Registration forms will be sent to schools this month or can be obtained at the Parks and Recreation counter inside the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Registration is open to boys and girls residing in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Need ballplayer

The 12-and-under WaCo Wolves need one experienced player for 2007 season, which will include 80 games from March 17 through July 28 with trips to national events in Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio and Michigan.

To arrange an individual tryout, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820; or visit www.wacowolves.org for more information.

Open swimming

Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation will stage open recreational swimming from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 29 at the Dyer Orthopedic Pool, located on Marquette Road (between Wayne and Newburgh roads).

The one night fee is \$2 for Wayne County residents and \$3 for non-Wayne County residents. Five swim cards are \$10 for Wayne County residents and \$15 for non-residents.

For more information, call Margaret Martin at (734) 722-7620; or e-mail mmartin@ci.westland.mi.us.

PREP SKI RESULTS

PREP SKI RESULTS
LIVONIA LADYWOOD-SACRED HEART 14
WEST BLOOMFIELD 24
Jan. 30 Alpine Valley
Giant slalom: 1. Maggie Zygmontowicz (LL-SH), 32.5 seconds; 2. Shannon Corby (LL-SH), 34.59; 3. Caitlin Berry (WB), 34.76; 4. Torey Fifer (LL-SH), 35.16.
Slalom: 1. Zygmontowicz (LL-SH), 35.33; 2.

Cydney Seigerman (WB), 38.91; 3. Corby (LL-SH), 42.28; 4. Berry (WB), 43.58.
LIVONIA LADYWOOD-SACRED HEART 16
WALLED LAKE WESTERN 25
Slalom: 1. Maggie Zygmontowicz (LL-SH), 35.1; 2. Shaena Sparrow (WLW), 36.28; 3. Megan Meyens (WLW), 41.36; 4. Corby (LL-SH), 41.66.
Ladywood's record: 4-3 overall.

OVER 30 HOCKEY

FINAL LIVONIA MEN'S OVER 30 HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS
Livonia Auto Body 16-9-5/37 points
Hunt's Ace Hardware 17-11-2/36 points
Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumb. 14-10-5/34 points
D&G Heating & Cooling 13-13-4/30 points
Zaschak Enterprises, LLC 12-13-5/29 points
Daily Restaurant 11-12-7/29 points
Stante Excavating 11-15-4/26 points
LaSalle Bank 8-18-4/20 points

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 46 Tyrannosaurus

- 1 Imitate
- 4 Grease jobs
- 9 Tote
- 12 Domino dot
- 13 Ham and haw
- 14 Birthday count
- 15 Period of power
- 17 Door re odor
- 19 Trims back
- 21 Pub pint
- 22 Wrong sizes
- 25 Bottle top
- 29 S&L offering
- 30 Polar bear perches
- 32 Zoomed
- 33 Soup container
- 35 Alphabetizes
- 37 Role
- 38 John Glenn's state
- 40 Recital pieces
- 42 Not yours
- 43 Yellow part of an egg
- 44 Xylophone kin

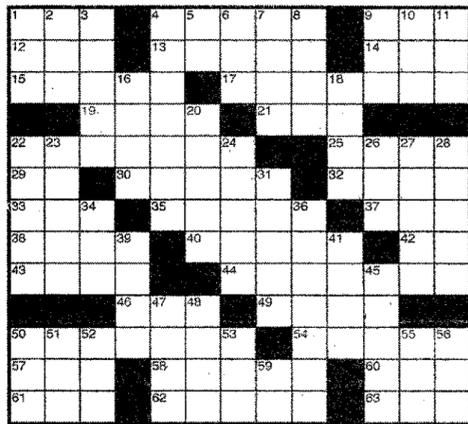
- 49 Paper toy
- 50 Vacuumed
- 54 Turkish people
- 57 "The Belts" author
- 58 Become acclimated
- 60 Majors or Remick
- 61 Outback jumper
- 62 "Great" dogs
- 63 Flight dir.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

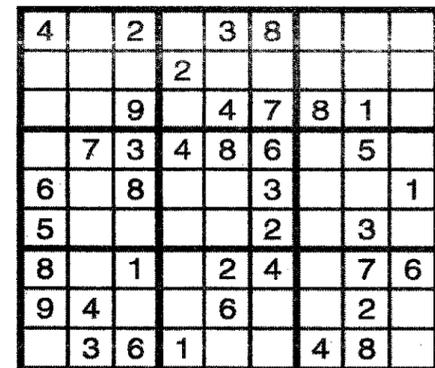
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APT AIMS RYES
ELIE SOAR ELK
RIEBAR TN ENYA
EPOCH HBO
CURSOR KABUKI
SKI FEELS GEL
TEA SWAMP HAL

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- 20 Waited in line
- 22 Kirk and Spook's friend
- 23 Where Pocatello is
- 24 Vaccine
- 26 Very long time
- 27 Ant's morsel
- 28 Safari country
- 31 Hearty entree
- 34 Goose egg
- 36 Breaks camp
- 39 Green pods
- 41 In (as found)
- 45 Oberon or Haggard
- 47 Phillips University town
- 48 Warrior Princess
- 50 EMT technique
- 51 Old card game
- 52 Help-wanted abbr.
- 53 Hassle a debtor
- 55 Cave, perhaps
- 56 Meet, in poker
- 59 Concerning



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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

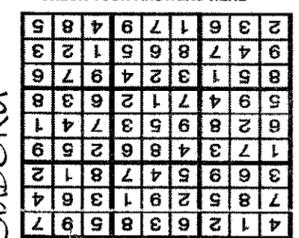
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- BERET
- BONJOUR
- CAFE
- CROISSANT
- EIFFEL TOWER
- FRANCE
- MARSEILLE
- MONET
- NICE
- PARIS
- THE SEINE
- VERSAILLES

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

C R O I S S A B N V T
E I F F E L T O W E R
A B E R E T S N D R E
F G T A H Y O J P S N
M K E N I C E O L A I
N B N C P C Z U E I E
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F Y M A R S E I L L E
A I O H I M A R S E H
C R O I S S A N T S T

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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- 3090...Clarkston
- 3095...Clawson
- 3100...Cohasset
- 3110...Dearborn
- 3115...Dearborn Hgts
- 3120...Dearborn
- 3130...Chelsea
- 3135...Dexter
- 3140...Farmington
- 3145...Farmington Hills
- 3150...Farmington
- 3155...Farmdale
- 3160...Fenton
- 3165...Franklin
- 3170...Garden City
- 3180...Grosse Pointe
- 3190...Hamburg
- 3200...Hedland
- 3205...Hazel Park & Madison Hgts
- 3210...Highland
- 3220...Holly
- 3230...Howell
- 3234...Huntington Woods
- 3235...Keego Harbor
- 3235...Lake Orion
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LIVONIA-36682 ANGELINE Updated 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fenced, wood floors, 2 car, finished bsmt. \$189,500 or \$1550/mo. Ramercia, 734-453-8700, Jeff 734-216-4398

LIVONIA-36682 ANGELINE Updated 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fenced, wood floors, 2 car, finished bsmt. \$189,500 or \$1550/mo. Ramercia, 734-453-8700, Jeff 734-216-4398

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