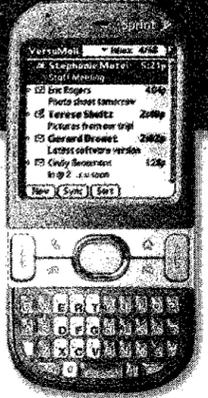




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Clerk predicts average turnout for election

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

The vast majority of Westland voters will likely remain silent in Tuesday's election, officials predict, even though key decisions will

be made to choose city leaders and decide a property tax renewal.

Only 22-25 percent of Westland's voters, who number just more than 59,000, are expected to cast ballots, City Clerk Eileen DeHart said.

"That's average for a general election for the city," she said, although voter turnout tends to swell when ballots are cast for higher offices, particularly the U.S. presidency.

Local voters Tuesday will decide between appointed

incumbent Mayor William Wild and challenger Charles Pickering for a two-year mayoral term. Wild previously served on the Westland City Council. Pickering, the current council president, was mayor in 1982-85.

The winner will finish the remaining two years of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's term. She stepped down in January to become a district judge.

Voters will choose between DeHart and challenger Bruce Paige, a certified public

accountant, for a four-year clerk term.

Voters also will elect four council members from a field of eight candidates, including elected incumbents James

Please see **ELECTION, A3**

Mix and Match



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grillers Jacob King, 18, (left) and Shayne McDonald, 21, heat up stir fry dishes at the new Genghis Khan's Mongolian Grill & Sushi Bar in Westland.

Diners get creative with their meals at Genghis Khan

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A new Westland restaurant named after a 13th century Mongolian emperor aims to conquer customers by letting them create their own stir-fry dishes and savor their favorite sushi.

Genghis Khan's Mongolian Grill & Sushi Bar has become the latest eatery to dot the restaurant landscape on Warren Road near Central City Parkway.

Genghis Khan, similar to the popular BD's Mongolian Barbecue restaurants in places like Royal Oak and Canton, has opened in the old Baker's Square building along the city's restaurant row. Already, it has drawn customers ranging from city officials to auto executives.

"We think Westland is the best area around here for our restaurant," Qing Li, one of four partners, said through an employee and interpreter.

For the novice, it works like this: Customers get a bowl, pack it with meat or seafood and vegetables, choose the oils and spices they want, then hand it to chefs who stir it and sizzle



Before heading to the grill, Genghis Khan general manager Sam Ali and restaurant partner Qing Li fill up their bowls with meat, seafood and vegetables.

it over a large, round, flat grill that reaches 625 degrees.

"They've got a lot of tricks," restaurant general manager Sam Ali of Canton said.

As if to prove him right, 21-year-old griller Shayne McDonald used his cooking sword to scoop up shrimp, toss it in the air and let it fall onto a plate of steaming vegetables. He and griller Jacob King, 18, worked at a quick pace.

Patrons can choose from

about 10 varieties of seafood and meat, ranging from calamari to chicken to Angus beef, that are sliced and diced in-house. They can top it off with a wide array of vegetables to add taste and color.

Customers choose from more than 20 spices, ranging from mild to wild, and they can dip into 21 sauces ranging from mustard to plum to what Ali calls "fire in a bucket."

Those who don't trust their

IF YOU GO

What: Genghis Khan's Mongolian Grill & Sushi Bar, offering create-your-own stir fries, sushi, salad/fruit bar and homemade soups.

Where: 36101 Warren Road, between Central City Parkway and Wayne.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Information: Call (734) 326-6888.

instincts for mixing up ingredients may simply follow some of the 18 recipe cards made by Ali, whether it be for Kongpao beef or spicy garlic shrimp or even New Orleans-style jambalaya. Vegetarians may prefer a tofu dish.

It's all served up with rice and tortilla wraps. The restaurant is named after the Mongolian ruler who, with his warriors, would set up camp and prepare feasts using their swords and

Please see **GENGHIS, A3**

Baracy: Report is 'irresponsible and inaccurate'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Calling it "dangerous" and "very harmful," Wayne-Westland Schools Supt. Greg Baracy is challenging a newspaper story that tags Wayne Memorial High School as a "dropout factory."

Published Tuesday in *The Detroit News*, the story is based on an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data by researchers at Johns Hopkins University for the Associated Press.

"I'm appalled that they would report such erroneous and inaccurate information," Baracy said. "It's an inaccurate representation that continues to tarnish the good name of this school district. It's hurtful to the building administration, the staff and especially the students, who deserve better."

The study was conducted by the university's Center for Social Organization of Schools. Research scientists used fall enrollment figures from the U.S. Department of Education to determine that schools with a promoting power of 60 percent or less for the classes of 2004, 2005 and 2006 were dropout factories.

In explaining the methodology used for the AP study, research scientist Robert Balfanz described weak promoting power as the number of seniors being routinely 60 percent or fewer than the number of freshmen four years earlier. In the case of Wayne Memorial, the report found its retention rate was 58 percent.

In a report posted on Hopkins' Center for Social Organization of Schools Web site, researchers stressed they were not following individual students over time, they were comparing enrollments "at one point in time to enrollments at another point in time."

They also acknowledged that people may view the term dropout factory as "harsh and unfair," but said that they used it to describe a "harsh and unfair situation, under-

resourced and over-challenged high schools which educate primarily low-income and minority students and year after year are unable to graduate the majority or near majority of students who enter the school."

"We recognized that these schools are filled with hard-working and dedicated teachers and administrators and resilient students," Balfanz wrote.

Baracy, however, disputes the findings, saying that Wayne Memorial had an 86.5 percent graduation rate for 2006 and a dropout rate of 4 percent, as calculated by the Michigan Department of Education. The district's other high school, John Glenn, had similar rates — 86.5 percent for graduates and 3.91 percent for dropouts.

He added that the report doesn't reflect the numbers of students the district "legitimately tracks" who leave for other schools or leave the state completely.

"If 100 students move out of the district legitimately because of the economy, they don't know that," he said. "These outstate researchers are out of touch with the reality here in Michigan."

Baracy likened the report to a media report several years ago, in which "selective factors" were used to determine a report card grade for school districts in the Detroit metropolitan area. He added that the district will dispute the findings with the appropriate people, but "expects it will fall on deaf ears."

"The methodology Hopkins used is so significantly flawed that it's harmful to the school district and a good high school," Baracy said. "We don't know how they conducted their research and we don't know where they got their information, but it certainly wasn't from us."

"It's outright shameful to harm such a good school," he added.

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Check helps to correct problems with car seats

About 20 people stopped by Gordon Chevrolet recently to make sure they were installing child car seats properly and as it turned out, most were doing it incorrectly.

"Of those, 95 percent were not installed properly, it was not the proper seat or the child was not in it properly," said Susan Ianni, general manager.

The dealership provided five new child care safety seats at no charge after finding the participants had the wrong type of seat.

Gordon Chevrolet co-sponsored the program with Oakwood Hospital, whose staff were assisted by Garden City Firefighters Steve Rhea and Darren Candela. Both firefighters completed 40 hours in training on child car seats at Oakwood.

"They are both certified in child safety seat installation. We do the checks at the Fire Department by appointment," said Fire Chief Bill Forbush. "A lot of people came (through the dealership program). We were

very happy with the turnout."

The dealership and Oakwood offer the child car seat safety check three times a year. The majority of child seats are not properly installed either due to the type of child seat or the vehicle seat, or isn't the correct child seat for the particular child, Forbush said.

"People aren't aware. We show them how to install them in their own vehicle - they need to be installed correctly with the model (vehicle) seat," said Forbush.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Perry of Ypsilanti gets some instruction from child car seat specialist Jennifer Shea of Oakwood Hospital on properly installing her car seat during free car seat inspections at Gordon Chevrolet.

Police seek information on churches' vandalism

Police are continuing to seek information that could help them solve two incidents of vandalism at Westland churches.

During one incident, vandals broke a window and went inside Kirk of Our Savior on Cherry Hill near Carlson, stealing a container with a small amount of money, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

The break-in happened on the night of Thursday, Oct. 18. Other than the broken window and stolen money, no other damage was done inside the church, Harhold said.

That same night, a door was damaged at St. John's Episcopal Church at Wayne Road and Bayview.

"They found nothing missing, and nothing was destroyed inside the church," Harhold said.

Church officials hadn't speculated about anyone who might have been involved in the incidents.

Anyone who has information about the church vandalism is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

Story prompts scarf collection

Ask a cotton ball what it aims to be when it grows up, and a scarf may very well be the answer - at least according to Westland author Nancy Spinelle's *Cotton Ball ... A Holiday Story*.

The holiday tale, which tells the story of a small cotton ball and his journey to be made into a special holiday gift, has spurred a community-wide scarf collection headed by Westland Mayor William Wild who has declared November as Community Scarf Collection Month in Westland.

Residents can drop off new, un-used scarves in the

lobby of Westland City Hall through Friday, Nov. 30. The scarves will be donated to the Westland Salvation Army which will then distribute them to deserving families.

"Within Ms. Spinelle's story lays a message that is not only amusing, but one that truly captures the holiday spirit and what it means to help others," said Wild. "She is a talented author whose words can ultimately help those within our own community."

Spinelle, who will serve as storyteller at the city's tree lighting ceremony for the fifth consecutive year, applauds Wild's efforts and

is encouraged by the prospect of inspiring a younger audience.

"This is an opportunity of not only gift giving at this time of year, but an incentive for our youngsters to understand the need to help those who are struggling with their basic needs of keeping warm," she said.

Spinelle will read *Cotton Ball ... A Holiday Story* in its entirety at tree lighting ceremony, planned for 6:15 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3, on the front steps of Westland City Hall. New scarves will be accepted at the ceremony as well.

Jury: Man guilty of robbery, shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has been convicted of multiple felony charges for a robbery and shooting that happened Feb. 3 on Belding Court, on the city's south side.

Vincent Edward Emery, 25, was found guilty Friday by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury that convicted him of armed robbery, assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder), felony firearms and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Emery could face penalties ranging up to life in prison

when he is sentenced Nov. 8 by Judge Gregory Dean Bill.

Jurors returned a guilty verdict Friday, following a three-day trial that included testimony from victims in the robbery, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

Emery was charged with shooting a 29-year-old man in the left arm during a robbery inside a Belding Court residence in the city's Norwayne subdivision. The victim, treated at Garden City Hospital, was visiting with a 23-year-old woman who told police she had known Emery since high school.

Emery fled Michigan after

the incident, but was extradited after he was captured near Huntington, W.Va., where he had been doing work for a Red Roof Inn.

A second defendant, 24-year-old Jason Shuford, already is serving 7-20 years in prison for the robbery. He was accused of holding the same gun and threatening the female visitor.

Shuford also is serving one to four years in prison for escaping from the Wayne County jail before he was captured in Ohio. Shuford managed to slip from jail after he and another inmate switched identities.



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GENGHIS

FROM PAGE A1

upturned shields, heated by a blazing fire.

Stir-fry dishes aside, sushi lovers can choose from numerous entrees, such as broiled eel and pickle or a salmon/tuna/shrimp mix. They may opt for handmade rolls ranging from avocado/cucumber to shrimp tempura.

Genghis Khan also offers a salad/fruit bar and homemade soups — usually wonton and eggdrop but sometimes hot and sour or chicken tortilla.

Generally, prices range from a \$5.99 fast-lunch special to a \$15.99 dinner of unlimited stir fry with sushi. The restaurant also offers up its Bowl of the Day, which recently included sliced New York strip steak, onions, peppers, pineapple, carrots, mushrooms and barbecue sauce.

Patrons who prefer to dine at their table also can order from the menu without going to the self-serve stations that offer meat, seafood, vegetables, spices and sauces.

Westland Deputy Police Chief Alan Ramsden and other police employees are among those who have been spotted at Genghis Khan.

"We as a group eat there often and really enjoy the friendly atmosphere and quick service," he said. "And the food is excellent."

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ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

Godbout and Michael Kehrer, appointed incumbents Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves and challengers Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Gary Bulson, Harold Dunn and Mark Rodriguez.

The top three vote-getters will each earn a four-year term. The fourth-place finisher will win a two-year term.

In a separate council decision, DeHart confirmed that voters will choose two write-in candidates to serve only through the end of this year, when the council terms of Wild and former Councilman Richard LeBlanc are set to expire. Wild left the council to become mayor, LeBlanc to become a state representative.

However, only the two appointed incumbents made the filing deadline to qualify for write-in votes, meaning they will serve through Dec. 31.

Lastly, local voters who live in the Wayne-Westland school district portion of the city will help to decide a 1.5-mill property tax renewal for Wayne County Community College. The ballot measure calls for a 10-year renewal of a tax that is set to expire in 2011.

The tax means about \$105 a year for the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$70,000. That home would have a market value of \$140,000.

Meanwhile, DeHart said Monday the clerk's office had mailed out 4,600 absentee ballots and received back about half of those. Voters who need absentee ballots can stop by the clerk's office, including special office hours 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

As a reminder, DeHart said voters who cast ballots at polling places will be required to show a picture ID under new election laws. However, those who don't have a picture ID may sign an affidavit at the polls to declare their identity and to say that they don't have an ID.

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Tammy's Heart

There's still time to sign up for a Saturday, Nov. 10, Texas Hold 'Em charity event, benefitting Tammy Henderson who is raising money to have stem cell treatment for her damaged heart.

The event will be held at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland, starting at 5 p.m.

Register by Saturday, Nov. 3, and buy in at \$60. Buy-in at the door will be \$80. Participants get 2,500 chips and an entry for chance to win a team-signed Detroit Red Wings jersey. Additional entries can be bought

at the event. Additional chips can be purchased at registration - get 1,000 chips for \$20, one time only. No rebuys. Blinds start at 25/50 with 20-minute levels. A first-place prize is guaranteed with 100 players.

There will be free hot dogs, chips and pop throughout the event, and a cash bar will be available.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Tim at (734) 788-1617 or Sheryl at (734) 765-0771.

'Power of Praise'

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will host a "Power of Praise" concert, featuring the Eastern Michigan

University Gospel Choir, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the church, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call (734) 728-3440 or go online to www.thelutheranchurchofoursavior.com

Ballroom dancing

Westland senior Friendship Center already has the instructor, now it needs a minimum of 10 people interested in joining a ballroom dance class that will be offered 12:30-1:30 p.m. Fridays. Participants do not need to bring a partner. The cost is \$3 per class.

Anyone interested can sign up at the front desk of the Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford Road.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland Civitan Club is asking resident to come and enjoy a short stack for a tall cause at its all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, Applebee's, Warren & Central City Parkway. The cost is \$6, children under age 3 free. Breakfast includes bacon, sausage, your choice of beverage (non-alcoholic). Proceeds will be used for community projects for the mentally and physically challenged.

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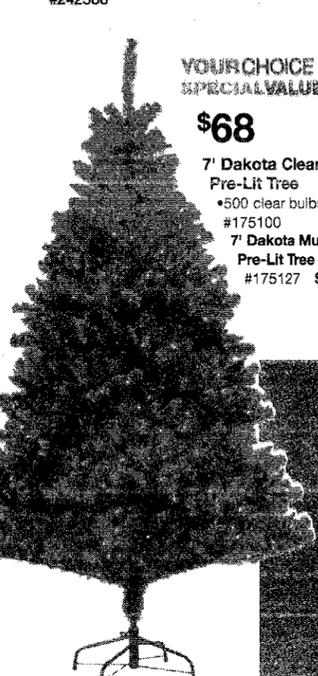
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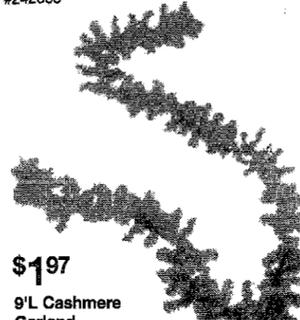
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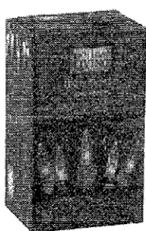
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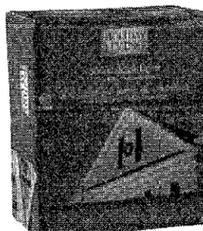
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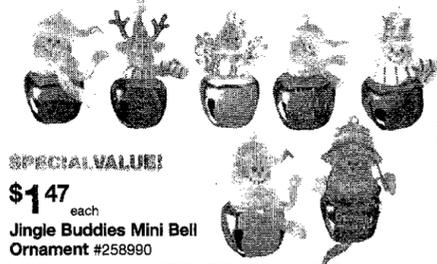
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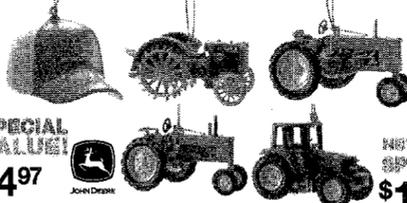


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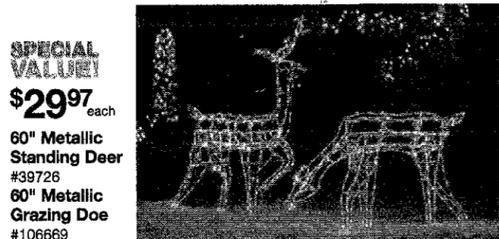
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Toy stores collect gift cards for Children's Leukemia Foundation

A gift card drive that got its start at the K&B Toys at Westland Shopping Center last year is being expanded to all 13 stores across Michigan.

The stores will be collecting gift cards now through Nov. 21 to support the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan "Holiday Toys" program. The program provides individualized holiday toy packages for children and teens throughout Michigan affected by leukemia, lymphoma or related blood disorders. The gift card drive will provide additional funding. Last year, more than 1,100 children and teens received packages from CLF's holiday toys program.

Westland Mall store manager, Tonia Schneider, developed the promotion last year for her store and encouraged the other store managers to

join in.

"Cancer impacts the entire family. I know the last thing anyone in a family impacted by cancer thinks about is buying gifts," said Schneider.

She also credits the retail industry in general with being very community-minded and therefore willing to donate to local charities like CLF that support their customers in Michigan.

K&B Toys shoppers can purchase gift cards for CLF, beginning at \$3 and up, at store locations in Westland, Auburn Hills, Birch Run, Burton, Dearborn, Flint, Grandville, Howell, Lincoln Park, Monroe, Muskegon, Sterling Heights and Taylor. The stores also will be offering in-store promotions that can be found on the Web site, www.kbtoys.com.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan

(CLF) provides gift packages to child patients and their siblings, and to the children of adult patients through the holiday toys program. Each child receives three-four new gifts, and the agency expects to surpass last year's number of 1,100 children.

"Our hope with these gifts is to not only lift families' spirits, but to let them know that they are supported and cared about," said Kristen West, patient services director.

To learn more about the CLF holiday toys program, visit the Web site at www.leukemiamichigan.org. Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is an independent state-wide organization that provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to families of adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma and related blood disorders.

Female Olympians team up to inspire, train youngsters

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Five Olympic women — a gymnast, hockey defenseman, pentathlete in training and two weightlifters — will gather in Livonia Saturday, Nov. 3, to inspire young people toward their goals.

"Get to know an Olympic athlete and you could realize you could be one too," said Sheila Taormina, a Livonia native and Olympic gold medalist, who helped organize the "Sharing the Dream" event.

In addition to inspiring youngsters, Taormina wants them to know Olympians don't come from one set mold. Each one of the panelists is different, not only in size and shape and talent, but also in where they grew up and even what they chose to study in college. They each had goals and will talk about their journey to success.

Taormina is a swimmer and triathlete with a master's degree in business. Now training for the modern pentathlon, her goal is to become the first person in history to qualify and compete at the Olympic Games in three different sports.

Also on the panel are Shannon Miller, a seven-time Olympic medalist and graduate of Boston Law; Angela Ruggiero, a three-time medalist for ice hockey, a Harvard graduate and a finalist on Donald Trump's "Apprentice" show in 2006; weightlifter Cheryl Hayworth, the strongest woman in the Western Hemisphere, she earned a degree in historic preservation; and champion weightlifter



Taormina

Natalie Woolfolk, who is studying business at the University of Colorado.

Each of the women signed on with New York sports marketing agency StantonShade, which promotes female athletes as role models.

"It's nice to have a good female role model for young kids, rather than Britney Spears," said Jennifer Lewis, who coaches the club team at Ms. Peggy's Presents Livonia Ultimate Gymnastics. "It might be motivational for me as a coach."

Owner Peggy Stevens will close the gym Nov. 3 so her students and coaches can attend.

"Everyone has a dream, it doesn't have to be an Olympic dream," Stevens said.

Helen Moore of Livonia wants to see Miller, a fellow gymnast.

"I just want to see how they became what they are today and see if maybe I could do it," said Moore, 12, who began taking lessons six years ago.

The athletes will talk about

SHARING THE DREAM

When: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 3. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.
Where: Churchill High School auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy, Livonia
Tickets: \$3 if purchased in advance at Livonia Community Recreation Center and Eddie Edgar Arena; \$5 at the door.
Call: (734) 466-2411

their journeys toward personal success, and an emcee will pose questions on everyone's mind, like, What does an Olympian eat? How much does she train? Do you ever get nervous?

Participants can enter a drawing for a two-hour personal training session with them that afternoon.

Livonia Public Schools, the city's parks and recreation department and St. Mary Mercy Hospital teamed up to sponsor the event and keep ticket prices low, Taormina said.

"It's going to be a real motivational morning," Supt. Randy Liepa said. "We think there's going to be a big crowd."

The Churchill auditorium can seat 900 people.

The event is recommended for ages 9 and up. It's open to boys and girls and their parents. Participants don't have to be athletes.

Personal training takes place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., so those interested in taking part should bring their gear.

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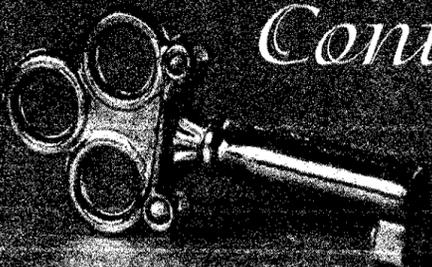
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"The Key" Contest



By Choy Jordan

The Key. Celebrated People Unlock the Secrets to Life. A book by Choy Jordan, author and award-winning motivational speaker and author of "The Key to Success."



The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is giving away 10 autographed copies of Solomon's book to readers who write about or show (in a photograph) their personal key to courage, strength, faith and hope.

Deadline to submit a story, poem or photograph is 5 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007.

Don't miss this chance to win an autographed copy of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. The contest ends November 8, 2007. For more information, contact Choy Jordan, author of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Only one entry per person will be accepted.

All entries must include name, address (include zip code), day and evening phone numbers. Photographs should be submitted in a jpg format as large as possible. Email all entries to Choy Jordan, marketing manager, at: cbjordan@hometownlife.com.

Solomon spent a year gathering the words and carefully selecting keys for her book. She collected quotes from actor Jim Allen and golfer Tiger Woods, a waitress, a cable comic and author. There is enough in the pages of the book to read from Solomon's book will be benefit the fight against breast cancer.

Got Game?

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Check today's SPORTS

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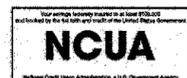
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Catherine's kicks off its Toys for Tots drive

Halloween may have just past and Thanksgiving is looming on the horizon, but employees at Catherine's clothing store in Westland are already thinking Christmas.

The store will kick off its fifth annual Toys for Tots collection Saturday, Nov. 4, with a day of fashion, food and fun Saturday to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves program.

From 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., the plus size women's clothing store at 34764 Warren at Wayne Road stage fashion shows featuring customers and give people who bring in a new unwrapped gift raffle tickets for a variety of gift certificates and gift baskets.

The prizes include movie passes, a movie and dinner package from Red Robin Restaurant and gift certificates for restaurants like DeLuca's, Outback and Longhorn Steakhouses and Baker's Square. There also will be gift baskets including those by Avon Representative Elaine Hain and Mary Kay representative Veronica Waugh.

Catherine's employees also

are baking a variety of items to sell at a bake sale, with the proceeds being used to buy gifts for older children, ages 10-12.

The Catherine's staff is focusing on that age group because many donations are for younger children. Older children are looking for gifts like AM-FM clock-radios, sporting goods, curling irons, bath and body care baskets and board games.

And back for a fifth year, a representative of the U.S. Marine Corps will be at the store for the event. The Toys for Tots program got its start in 1947 in Los Angeles, Calif., when a group of Marine Corps reservists collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. Now the official activity of the Marine Corps Reserves, Toys for Tots distributed 19.2 million toys to over 7.6 million children in 2006.

Catherine's will be collecting toys through Dec. 8. The store is located in the Westland Crossings shopping center at Warren and Wayne Road in Westland.

For more information, call (734) 422-2527.

Inventor brings box bass to coffee shop

The inventor of the Bogdon Box Bass, a cardboard upright bass, may not be "famous musician" but he's celebrating like one.

Chris Badynee of Westland will be a celebration/gig with his band, Bogdon Vasquaf and his Band of Curative Measures, at 8 p.m. Nov. 17, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co., 884 Penniman Ave., Plymouth.

The celebration comes on the heels of news that he is being featured in the December issue of *Bass Player Magazine*.

"Managing editor Greg Olwell talked to me and

offered to do a story on my cardboard box two-string electric upright bass that I manufacture as a hobby and sell, I call it the 'Bogdon Box Bass,'" Badynee said. "In one year, I've sold more than 300 cardboard box upright basses from Switzerland to Uruguay and everywhere in between using eBay and my own Web site."

According to Badynee, *Bass Player Magazine* printed a small item about his box bass invention in their June 2007 issue, then they asked if he would send them a box bass so they could do a formal review.

"Of course, I did because

my cardboard box two-string electric upright bass has a sound that rivals any electric upright bass made at any cost," Badynee said.

So far, he has Elderly Instruments selling his box bass in their store and catalog, online at www.elderly.com and is also exporting them to the Quality Guitar Store in Mexico City - www.qualityguitar.net/bassbox.html - which now stocks the Bogdon Box Bass.

The Bogdon Box Bass is made of cardboard, that can be plugged in and made electric. Assembly requires

a screwdriver, hot glue gun, packing tape and a knife.

Badynee has put it to the test by performing onstage at Pine Knob last year after the Dwight Yoakum and Clint Black performances. He also rub shoulders with the likes of Carl D. and The 100 Proof Band while in Nashville for the Music City Winter Guitar Show.

The Bogdon Box Bass kit costs \$69.95 and is available online at www.BogdonMusic.com. A fully assembled box bass is available online for \$119 from Elder Instruments at <http://elderly.com>.

Statutory Pet Trust is easy way to protect your best friend

A few weeks ago, I was asked about the Leona Helmsley bequest of \$12 million to her dog.

The question — is the bequest legal and is it something that people who are pet lovers should consider?

Although Leona Helmsley was a colorful figure and the bequest seems a little eccentric, most people are surprised to find out that money set aside for the care of a pet after death is legal. In fact, 38 states around the country (including Michigan) have recently enacted laws that make it easier to leave money for the care of a pet.

In the past, the very wealthy did set up separate trusts for their pets. Typically, these trusts were expensive to establish and maintain. Because of the expense, the great majority of people could not do any



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

estate planning with regard to their pets. After all, pets are considered property and unless something is specifically spelled out in a legal document,

there is nothing that would protect the pet. However, now in Michigan and most other states, there is a mechanism, a Statutory Pet Trust, which is legally binding, enforceable and easy to establish. Typically, a Statutory Pet Trust can be added to someone's will or trust by a short amendment. It allows one to set aside money for the care and custody of a pet.

In establishing a Statutory Pet Trust, one of the keys is who

is in charge upon your demise. It is important to select someone that likes your pet and can handle the duties of taking care of them — detailed instructions as to the pet's needs.

One important issue is how much money should fund the trust. This all depends upon the individual pet's needs. In addition, in funding that portion of the trust, you should give consideration to what happens to the pet upon death.

Another element of pet trust is to consider what happens to the unused funds upon your pet's death. Some people are concerned that if the caretaker receives the unused funds, they may have a disincentive to care for the pet and may skimp on certain expenses. One way to avoid this is to have the unused funds go to charity.

I know this may sound strange, however, in establishing a Statutory Pet Trust there could be income tax issues. If the trust is invested and earns at least \$100, then the trust itself could be liable to pay income taxes.

In those situations, the caretaker for the pet would complete IRS Form 1041 and use some of the assets of the trust to pay taxes, if any.

In establishing a Statutory Pet Trust, it is important to make sure you identify what pet the trust is established for and whether it includes future pets that you may own. After all, many people, once they do any estate planning, never revise their documents and certainly in a situation of a pet this can cause issues.

Pets are an important element of American life and more and more people are concerned about what happens to their pet upon their death. For the great majority of people, I believe a simple and inexpensive solution is a Statutory Pet Trust.

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

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, November 15, 2007, various items of the City Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year Make	Model	VIN
3321608	1998 BUICK	REGAL	2GWB52K0W1531336
3321620	2000 JEEP	CHEROKEE	1J4FF48S7YL244979
3321649	1993 CHEVY	ASTRO VAN	1GNEL19W8PB213374
3321657	1995 PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1G2JB1247S7510381
3326419	1994 JEEP	CHEROKEE	1J4FJ68S2RL221413
3369351	1994 CHEVY	CORSICA	1G1LD55M5RY274635
3380830	1996 FORD	MUSTANG	1FALP42X8T217197
3380857	2004 SUZUKI	GSX-R600K	JS1GN7CA442106498
3380881	1995 FORD	CONTOUR	1FALP66LXSK223513
3380897	1996 PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1G2JB1246T7574865
3521142	1997 DODGE	STRATUS	1B3EJ46X9VN667241
3521167	1989 CHEVY	CAPRICE	1G1BN51E0KR118185
3521187	1996 DODGE	RAM TRUCK	3B7HC13Y1TG155349
3521201	1993 BUICK	PARK AVENUE	1G4CW53L4P1602804
3541943	1994 FORD	MUSTANG	1FALP4046RF16158
3541970	1992 FORD	CROWN VIC	2FACP74WXXN192462
3554732	1986 CAD	SEVILLE	1G6KS6983GU817449

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold.

Publish: November 1, 2007

OE0867315 - 2x4

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN#
1991 GMC JIMMY	SW	1GKCS13Z1M2506233
1989 FORD F-150	PU	1FTDF15Y5KLA79946
1995 MERCURY	4 DR	1MELM6539SK606278
1996 MERCURY	4 DR	1MELM65L0TK636058
1993 PONTIAC SE/NOIR	2 DR	1G2JC14H7P7581004
1994 GEO PRIZM	4 DR	1Y1SK5385RZ095645

Publish: November 1, 2007

OE0868445 - 2x4

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI, November 17, 2007 @ 1:00 PM.

#428 Christina M. Breitenbach, #655 Angela Ajaero, #943 Keven S. Gamburd, #1301 Billie Wiacek.

Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: November 1 & 8, 2007

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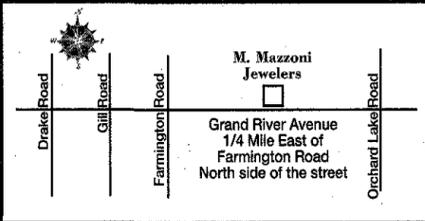
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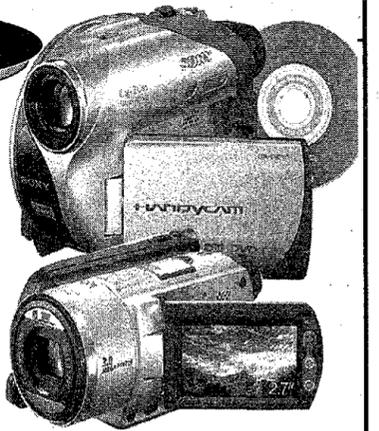
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- DCRSR80... Was \$799⁹⁵ Now **\$450** Demo
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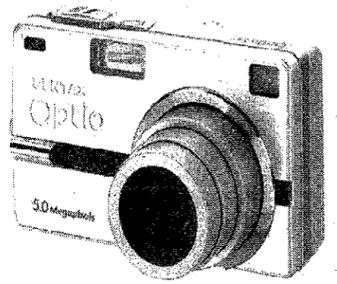


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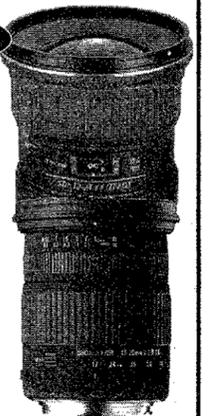
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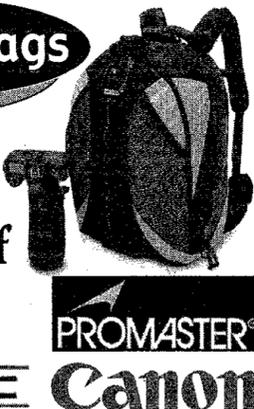
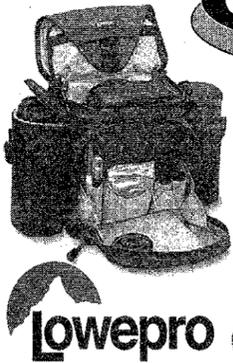
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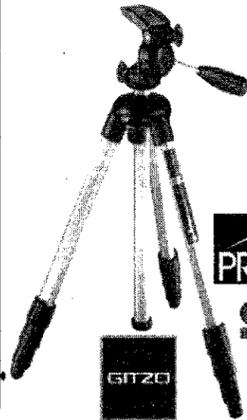
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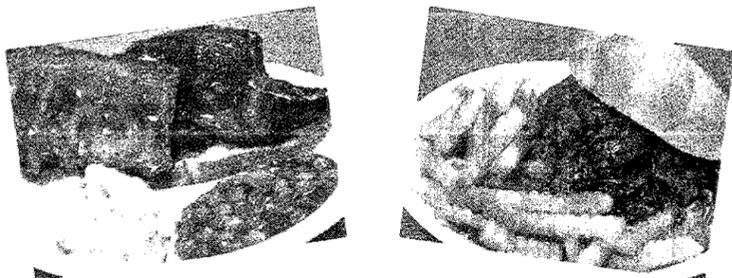
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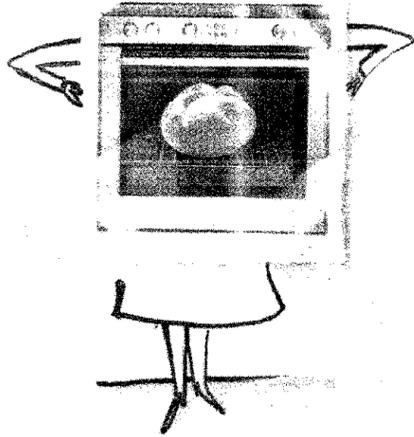


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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elizabeth Telfer and her husband George of Troy join Chuck Gaidica of WDIV Channel 4 News as they watch dancers Leonid Sidaranko and Olga Agafonava of Fred Astaire Dance Studio perform during their dinner at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills.

Troy woman recalls Gaidica's kindness

Lots of readers wanted to dine with Chuck Gaidica, the affable WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weatherman, but it was Elizabeth J. Telfer of Troy who wrote the winning entry in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and Buddy's Pizza "Dining With the Stars" contest.

"He was kind, friendly and just so comfortable to talk with," Telfer said, adding, "the whole experience deepened my respect for him."

Telfer and her husband, George, were treated to a limo ride courtesy of All Class Transportation & Limousine Services; makeover from Beauty Salon by J. Lyle Lmt, featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick; \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield; dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio



The Buddy's Pizza marquee welcomes the latest Dining With the Stars winners Elizabeth and George Telfer of Troy.

of Bloomfield Hills; and lunch Oct. 11 at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills.

In her winning entry, Telfer wrote how she always enjoys watching Gaidica, director of meteorology at Channel 4. He's a familiar face in the metro area; he's on Channel 4 weekdays at 5, 6 and 11 p.m.

In fact, years ago, Telfer's daughter sent in a picture and was chosen as a "Channel 4 Weather Kid."

"We were watching Channel 4 while preparing dinner and her name and picture came on the television," Telfer wrote. "We didn't know until then that she was chosen. We were surprised and pleased. Later that week, we received a personal note from Chuck apologizing for not letting us know ahead of time that she was chosen."

"My thought was what a sweet and thoughtful gesture from him — taking the time to write. Chuck is most certainly a kind and gentle man," Telfer wrote of that incident years ago.

The "weather kid" Telfer wrote about is all grown up. Telfer says her daughter, the weather girl, is married now,

'He was kind, friendly and just so comfortable to talk with. The whole experience deepened my respect for him.'

ELIZABETH TELFER

has her Ph.D. in epidemiology and recently moved with her husband to Seattle and a new job at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/University of Washington.

The Telfers, the parents of three grown children, enjoyed everything about their special day.

"Marcy (Marcy Brontman of Buddy's) made everything special," said Elizabeth, who works part time at First Presbyterian Church of Troy.

Elizabeth has a birthday coming up and plans to use the \$100 gift certificate for a special pair of earrings.

A two-time Emmy Award winner, Gaidica recently helped launch a professional theatre — Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville. Buddy's donated \$500 to the theatre in honor of Gaidica's participation in "Dining With the Stars."

Win a chance to dine with Florine Mark

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Florine Mark of Weight Watchers. Mark is known throughout metro Detroit as a successful businesswoman and philanthropist.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you would like to have lunch or dinner with Florine Mark at Buddy's Pizza.

Mark has a "healthy" pizza named after her on the Buddy's menu. It's "The Florine Mark Pizza" with brick/fat-free cheese blend, spinach, mushrooms, diced tomatoes, garlic and black olives.

Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include

your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16.

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of All Class Transportation, makeover by Utopia Salon & Spa on Main Street in Northville (hair by Sebastian and makeup by ILSE), a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top "fan" letters. The star featured for the month makes the final selection.

Filer PURE ENTERTAINMENT! *Special Thursday!*

Get on the ball.
Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

GRAND OPENING

Dunham's

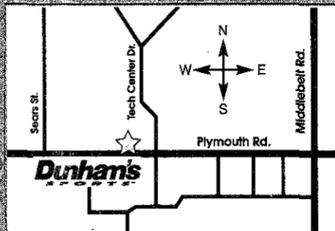
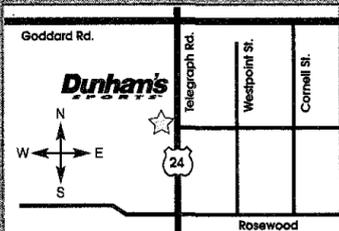
S P O R T S

Taylor

Livonia

TEL-GODDARD SHOPPING CENTER
11500 TELEGRAPH ROAD
734-759-1012

Hours: Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



LIVONIA PLAZA
30070 PLYMOUTH ROAD
734-793-1069

Hours: Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RIBBON CUTTINGS Friday, November 2, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Sale items good Friday, November 2 for Livonia and Taylor (Tel-Goddard) stores only.

7.99
~~15.99~~

MEN'S SUPER HEAVY WEIGHT 2 PIECE THERMAL SET
• Comfortable wear for work and sports.
• 60% cotton, 40% polyester.
Orig. \$15
2XL - \$8.99

CANYON CREEK

7.99
~~14.95~~

FLANNEL QUILT SHIRT
• Poly filled quilt lined for warmth.
• Makes a great light jacket.
Orig. \$17

CANYON CREEK

2 for \$15
~~20.00~~

MEN'S POLARNYLON COMPOSITE JACKET
• Colors vary by store.
• M-XXL
Orig. \$35

BEREY HILLS Polo Club

7.99
~~12.99~~

JACOB ASH LEATHER GLOVES
• Choose from men's and women's styles.
• All Jacob Ash gloves lined with 3M insulate™ insulation.
• Assorted styles.
Orig. to \$25

Jacob Ash®

17.99
~~24.99~~

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER CHIP SET - 11.5 GM
• 500 piece, 11.5 gm dice casino style chip.
• Aluminum case for transportation and protection.
• Styles vary by store.
Orig. \$80

2 for \$15
~~20.00~~

2000 COUNT HOT SPOT
• 2000 practice grade paintballs.
• Shell colors will vary.
Orig. \$30

NELSON SPORTS®

10.99
~~15.99~~

CORE-LOKT AMMO
• Choose from 243, 270, 308, or 30-06 ISO or ISO grain PSP ammo.
• Excludes managed recoil styles.
Orig. \$22

5.00 MAIL IN REBATE
5.99 LIMIT 2 BOXES
YOUR FINAL PRICE!!!

Remington.

2.29
~~3.99~~

12 OR 20 GA SLUGGERS
• 2-3/4" slugs.
• Five per box.
Orig. \$4.29

Remington.

2.99
~~3.99~~

6-10 BLIND
• 68" square x 78" tall.
• 4 windows.
• Heavy duty polyester fabric.
• Spring steel construction.
• Comes with stakes and carry case!
Orig. \$80

AMERISTEP

99.99
~~129.99~~

64 SEMI-AUTO COMBO
• Semi-auto 10 rd. .22 L.
• 4 x 15 mm scope and rings included.
Orig. \$130

Sears Roebuck

FREE GIVEAWAYS

Friday, November 2 Only! Six-pack of Coke or Diet Coke with a \$10 purchase. Limit one per person. While supplies last.

Friday, November 2 Only! The first 25 people will get a Dunham's t-shirt. Limit one per person.

Friday, November 2 Only! The first 50 people will get a Dunham's baseball cap. Limit one per person.

Sunday, November 4 only! A \$10 gift certificate for the first 50 people. Limit one per family.

ENTER TO WIN GREAT PRIZES

Must be 18 years old to enter.

Monday, November 12
Drawing for a Carhartt Worksite Package. Includes Hat, T-shirt, Thermos, and Thermal Mug. Valued at \$60.

Carhartt

Tuesday, November 13
Drawing for a Berne® Hooded Duck Jacket, size large regular. Valued at \$40!

Wednesday, November 14
Topps Hall of Fame Autographed Baseball. Valued at \$100!

LEGENDS

Thursday, November 15
Drawing for a Men's Columbia Windstorm Bike. Valued at \$280!

Columbia Sportswear Company

Friday, November 16
Drawing for a Spalding® Heilix 52" Portable. Valued at \$400!

SPALDING

Saturday, November 17
Drawing for a Adams Idea Graphite Irons. Valued at \$500!

ADAMSGOLF

Giveaways and Prizes listed above are for Livonia location only.

Come out to the Livonia location on Saturday, November 3 and meet:



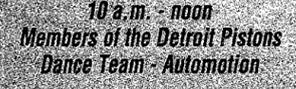
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Detroit Lions Mascot - Roary



1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Peter Nielsen of Peter's Principles



3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tigers Great Willie Horton



10 a.m. - noon
Members of the Detroit Pistons Dance Team - Automotion



10 a.m. - noon
Joel Harris - NTA Thermologic Hunting Apparel



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: oebits@hometownlife.com



BRUCE FOUST BUSZARD

Died October 25th, 2007. The youngest of three brothers, he was born in Battle Creek on August 19, 1941 to Henry Milton Buszard and Ruby Grace Foust. After graduating from Redford High School in 1959 he attended Wayne State University, earning a B.A. in Geography in 1966 and an M.A. in Education in 1970. He was a teacher for 34 years, from 1965 until his retirement in 1999. For 3 years he taught in the Detroit Public School system, but spent the majority of his career in the Livonia Public School system, teaching 4th through 6th grade for 15 years at Tyler Elementary, and Science for 16 years at Emerson Middle School. Bruce was a lifelong music lover and amateur pianist; he played at home every day and every holiday season at the Wilson Barn Christmas sing along. While attending Wayne State he worked nights as the pianist at the Dakota Inn. It was at the Dakota Inn in 1962 that he met his future wife, Ann Marie Stamply, who was introduced to him by their dear friend Kerry Nelder. They date for 3 years and were married on December 18, 1965. They had two children, Bradley Bruce and Laura Ann. Though Bruce had numerous interests outside of this family and work, his overriding passion was cars. He collected, restored and showed antique cars his entire adult life. At his death he had four antique cars that spanned four decades and was a member of the Ford and Mercury Restorers Club. He also loved dogs of all breeds, especially mutts. After retiring he volunteered at the Michigan Humane Society walking dogs. He is survived by his wife, his two children, his daughter-in-law Michelle, his son-in-law James, his grandson Jonathan Nicolas, and his brothers Roderick and Dean. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which was Bruce's favorite charity. Arrangements handled by Fred Wood Funeral Home, Livonia, MI.

CHARLES G. NELSON Sr.

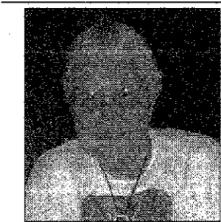
Passed away on October 30, 2007 at the age of 83. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 23, 1924 to the late Floyd and Sylvia (Morovic) Nelson. He was a wonderful, caring, and loving man. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved being with his family. He served in the US Army during WWII and was part of the Battle of the Bulge. He was affectionately known by his grandkids as grandpa and papa. He is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Ruth B. His beloved children; Shonna Marie (Dean) Dolley, Jody Ann (Steve) Sherman, Charles Gerald (Paula) Nelson, Jr., his adored grandchildren; Ryan, Kristen, Eric, Sarah, Hannah, Maria, Samantha, Charlie, and Jacob. Also survived by two brothers; Arnold and David, one sister Janet. Visitation will be held on Friday, November 2, 2007 from 3-9 PM with a Rosary being prayed at 7:00 PM at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 11:00 AM, with final visitation at 10:30 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon, 48178 with Rev. Fr. Kenneth Chase officiating.

CHARLES G. RICHARD

Passed away October 26, 2007 at the age of 75. He is the beloved husband of Ruth, having been married for 44 years on October 27th. Dear father of Lisa L. Richard and stepfather of Carol (James) Holtzclaw, Kathleen Bassler and the late Sandra Brown. Dear grandfather of Jessica (Steve) Hobart and the late Brianna Paulsen. Dear great-grandfather of Elianna Hobart. Dear brother of George (Phyllis) Richard. Mr. Richard was a quiet, down to earth, man who loved the Lord. He retired in 1969 from Dunn Steel, Plymouth, where he was an inspector. He was a resident of Westland, previously of Plymouth. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 30, 2007, at Riverside Park Church of God. Memorials may be made to Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Rd., Livonia 48150. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

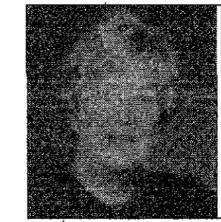
DEAN O. COREY

Age 76, died Monday, October 22, 2007 at DuBois Regional Medical Center in DuBois, Pennsylvania. He was born January 17, 1931, in New Troy, Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University. A veteran in the U.S. Army, he served in Germany. He retired as a commercial interior designer in 1989. In 1997 Dean and his wife Barbara moved from Farmington to Ann Arbor to be near their children. A memorial service is scheduled at the First Presbyterian Church of Saline at 2:30 p.m. Sat. Nov. 3. A Committal service will be held at the Cope Memorial Garden of the First Presbyterian Church in Farmington on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to the Memorial Funds of the First Presbyterian Church of Saline, 143 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176 or the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334.



DOROTHY I. ROHDE

Age 87, of Lewiston, Michigan, passed away peacefully on October 28, 2007 at Aspen Ridge Retirement Center in Gaylord, Michigan. She was born on November 3, 1919 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, the daughter of Paul and Amanda (Jens) Schloff. Dorothy graduated from Mishicot High School in 1937. She then worked at the Mirro Aluminum Goods Mfg. Co. in Manitowoc. During World War II, she worked at the Manitowoc Ship Building Co. in Manitowoc and Burroughs Adding Machine Co. in Plymouth, Michigan. On April 29, 1944, Dorothy was united in Holy Matrimony to Gilbert B. Rohde in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. After her marriage to Gilbert, they moved to Plymouth, Michigan and later to a farm in Livonia, Michigan. She and her family then moved to Base Line Lake in Dexter, Michigan. Gilbert preceded her in death on October 8, 1986. She moved to Lewiston, Michigan in 1999. After moving to Livonia, Dorothy drove school bus for the Livonia Public Schools and later for the Dexter Public Schools where she retired in 1983. Throughout her life, she enjoyed camping, fishing, traveling, reading, arts and crafts, and bird watching. Dorothy was a life member of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Auxiliary of American Legion Post 32 in Livonia, Michigan. She also was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lewiston, Michigan. Dorothy will be remembered by her family and friends for her enduring love and strong devotion to family, her love of wildlife, especially birds, and her exceptionally strong faith in God. Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Sharon Parker (Ron) of Rives Junction; a son Wayne (Karen) of Brandon, South Dakota; and a son Timothy (Carol) of Lewiston; a sister Grace Carstens of Manitowoc, Wisconsin; a sister-in-law, Bernadine (Bernie) Schloff; seven grandchildren; six great grand children; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Dorothy is also survived by her beloved cat, Whiskers, her dear companion for nearly fifteen years since she was rescued as an abandoned kitty by her four youngest grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Amanda Schloff; her husband, Gilbert; a brother, Vernon Schloff; a grandson, Lloyd Rohde, and a step-great grandson, Johnathon Fulcher. The funeral service for Mrs. Rohde will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday November 2, 2007 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lewiston, Michigan. A viewing will be held 3:00 to 8:00 Thursday November 1, 2007 at Green Funeral Home, in Lewiston, Michigan. Interment services will be held on November 3, 2007 at Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia at 11:30 AM. Memorials may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hospice of Michigan or Montmorency Council on Aging. Condolence messages can be sent via our website: www.greenfuneralhomes.com



IRENE BERES LAPINSKI

October 30, 2007. Beloved wife of Eugene. Dear mother of David (Pamela), Rosanne (Gregg) Garrison and Carol (Joseph) Erdie. Grandmother of Gavin, Kristina, Brian, Chloe, Joey, Aurora and Summer. Sister of Ronald (Sharon) Beres. Resting at the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd. (at Ann Arbor Trail) Thursday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Friday 12 Noon - 9 p.m. Rosary Friday 7 p.m. Instate Saturday 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 23700 Joy Rd. (2 blocks East of Telegraph) until time of Mass at 10 a.m. Procession to St. Hedwig's Cemetery after Mass. Share a "Memorial Tribute" at griffinfuneralhome.com

NICHOLAS J. FLESHER

Of Plymouth. October 27, 2007, age 27. Loving son of Carol Flesher, Scott Folk and Matthew (Chelley) Arbour. Dear grandson of Donald James Flesher, Robert and Mary Folk and the late Mary Flesher. Beloved nephew of Daniel and Kathleen Flesher, David and Pamela Flesher and Mary Hammond. Also survived by many cousins. Nick was employed at Dearborn Moving and Storage and enjoyed Disc Golfing. Funeral Mass will be held Friday, November 2, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, 5481 Dixie Highway, Waterford. Celebrant Reverend Lawrence J. Delonay. The family will receive friends Thursday 2-8 p.m. at the RIVERSIDE CHAPEL, Simpson-Modetz Funeral Home, 5630 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford and at the church on Friday at 10:30 a.m. Vigil service Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Rite of Committal All Saints Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Mary's of Michigan Neurological Care Fund. Online guest book: www.modetzfuneralhomes.com



JAMES NELSON FANZINI

Age 73. Attorney & Professional Civil Engineer; a long time resident of Farmington Hills, passed away in Thailand on October 24, 2007. Jim was a graduate of Farmington High School (1952), Wayne State University College of Engineering (1961) & the Wayne State University Law School (1966). He served in the US Army for four years as a Radio Traffic Analyst during the Korean War. Upon completion of his education in 1966, he passed the Michigan Professional Engineering & Michigan Bar examinations during the same summer. During Jim's professional career he worked for the Detroit Water Board & the United States Overseas Mission. He founded & managed Environmental Engineering Inc., of Royal Oak & had been the County Engineer for Livingston Co., Jim most recently served as the head of Right of Way for the Engineering Department of the Oakland Co. Road Commission, from which he retired in 2002. Jim loved to travel & saw much of the world during his lifetime, traveling to South America, Australia, & extensively in Southeast Asia. He was an avid reader, amateur astronomer & a member of the Detroit Astronomical Society. Jim was generous to those in need & counted among his friends people of many languages, religions & cultures. Jim dedicated much of his energy after his retirement to improving living conditions for the people of rural Thailand. He will be deeply missed by his family & friends. Jim is survived by his three children, Angelyn (David) Lynch of Farmington Hills, J. Scott (Sara) Fanzini, of St. Joseph & Nelson (Kari) Fanzini of White Lake. His cherished grandchildren Jacob, Hannah, Amber, Alyssa & Lillian Fanzini. Jim is also survived by his sister Patricia Cameron, many loving nieces, nephews, other family members & his former spouse and dear friend, Nancy Fanzini of Farmington Hills. Memorial service, Friday, November 2nd, 11:30 AM at the Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (btwn. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River) Downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday from 10:00 AM until the time of service. heeny-sundquist.com

Let others know...

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

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

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 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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

For more information call: **Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067** or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION CALENDAR

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. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

NOVEMBER

Pontifical visit
Of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch of Catholics of All Armenians continues to Nov. 1, at St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Celebration Banquet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1 in the Cultural Hall. Cost is \$55, children under age 18 \$25. Space is limited. For tickets, call (248) 569-3405.

Church fair
The 61st annual O Christmas Tree church fair 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Nov. 1-2, at First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Towne Square at Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road. Coffee shop opens at 9 a.m., a la carte luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner served 5-7 p.m. (\$7.50 adults, \$3.50 children). Children activities 6-7:30 p.m. Fair features aprons, attic treasures, books, candy booth, boutiques, Christmas gifts, Country Store, decorations booth, pet shop, specialties booth, raffle and more. For more information, call (734) 729-7550.

Angel baby service
A special remembrance and healing service for parents grieving over the death of a baby takes place on All Saints Day 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, at Mt. Hope Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. There is no cost and no obligation of any kind. For more information, call (734) 425-7280.

Holiday bazaar
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy, between Inkster and Beech Daly roads. Raffle drawing at 3 p.m. and persons need not be present to win. Admission is free. A portion of proceeds go to help support the church's Mission Program. For more information, call (313) 274-3820.

Heroes
Series explores the lives of five ordinary heroes 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Dec. 2, at Life Covenant Church which meets at East Middle School, 1042 Lilley (S. Mill), Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 634-2697. At Life Church you can expect awesome music, casual attire, relevant messages, a children's program, and a hot cup of coffee.

Pasties sale
Taking orders during coffee hour Sundays, Nov. 4 and Nov. 11, and by phone 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Nov. 6-7, pick up times are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Pasties are \$3.50 each, gravy also available. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

Time change
The starting time for the traditional service is moving from 10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 464-6722.

Vegetarian extravaganza
20th annual Holiday Tasting event takes place 11 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, in the Metro Adventist School Gymnasium, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile, Plymouth. Cost is \$14 adults, \$5 for ages 6-12. For information, call the Hotline at (248) 446-9176.

Upper Room Ministries
Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, beginning Nov. 4, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

Music of the heart
Plymouth First United Methodist Church presents a musical celebration of hymns written by Charles Wesley in honor of the 300th anniversary of the lyricist's birth 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, in the church, 45201 N. Territorial, one mile east of Beck, Plymouth. No charge but a free-will offering will be received to benefit the church's Noteworthy concert series and AIDS victims in Africa. For more information, call (734) 453-5280.

Benefit
Jeremy Wagner Games Night Benefit: A Fun Filled Night of Card Games & Mahjong 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, Temple Shir Shalom at Walnut Lake Road & Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Donation is \$25, 100 percent of proceeds go to the Jeremy Wagner Family. Jeremy is a West Bloomfield High School student with bone cancer. Light snacks available. Please send a donation made out to Jeremy Wagner and mail to 5025 West Pond Circle, West Bloomfield, MI 48323. For information, call Lori Lieberman, (248) 892-3455, Franci Silver, (248) 505-9007, Julie Horn, (248) 914-7533, or Allison Berzin, (248) 770-4890.

Holiday bazaar
4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, and 9 a.m. to 4

p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, a turkey dinner will be served 4:30-7 p.m. Friday (cost \$7 adults, \$4 ages 3-11, free under age 3), snacks and lunch will be available at a low cost on Friday-Saturday. Bazaar includes cookie walk, bake sale, Christmas shop, Crafty Corners, silent auction, and Grandma's Attic (nearly new items), at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford road. Everyone is welcome. Call (734) 421-7620.

Reformed Protestant service
The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism will be preached 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at the regular, monthly worship service of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). The services are held at the Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. All are welcome to attend. The Rev. Sean Humby of Dayton, Ohio will preach the service. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170, or visit www.westminsterconfession.org or call Humby at (937) 252-1156.

Alternative Christmas Fair
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 West Twelve Mile, east of Haggerty, Farmington Hills. Admission of \$1 will be charged at the door. Call the church at (248) 553-7170 for more information.

Course in Miracles
Introduction seminars based on A Course in Miracles spiritual self-study book 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8; 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12, and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Understanding A Course in Miracles takes place 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, and Dec. 15. For more information, contact Jim White at (734) 259-0207 or send e-mail to love.com@hotmail.com.

Mama's Coffeeshow
Featuring Dave Boutette and Jen Sygit Saturday, Nov. 10 (7:15 p.m. open mic, 8 p.m. show), at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 N. Woodward near northwest corner of Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$12, \$10 seniors and age 16 and under. Call (248) 569-0965 for information. To reserve a slot for open mic, call (248) 626-4650.

Veterans Day Mass
St. Michael the Archangel Parish hosts a special Veterans Day Mass for all veterans and active military to thank them for their service to our country Sunday, Nov. 11, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. There will be a color guard and flag raising ceremony on the flag pole in front of the church at 11:40 a.m. followed by the Mass at noon. An informal reception with light refreshments will follow the Mass and all military members attending will receive a small memento of thanks. For additional details, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Veteran's Day
The congregation of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church honors and thanks all veterans and those on active duty along with their loved ones by honoring them 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at church, 37775 Palmer road, Westland, Ch. (Col.) Herb Heavner, State Chaplain Michigan Guard, will preach. All veterans and those on active duty along with their loved ones are invited. For more information, call (734) 722-1735 or (734) 722-4363.

Sisterhood luncheon
Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Paid Up Membership Luncheon is to be held 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at Congregation Beit Kodesh, 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. For more information or to RSVP (by Nov. 1), call Esther Green at (248) 477-8974. Visit Web site www.beitkodesh.org.

Church concert series
Continues with the Schoolcraft College choral Union 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive), Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.

Special presentation
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia and St. Gerald Church of Farmington are co-hosting a special presentation, God's Will for the Family: How to Live it with noted Catholic apologist, Rosalind Moss 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at St. Michael's Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. All are invited to hear this dynamic speaker explain the daily, concrete steps one can take to conform their own family to Christ's teachings in today's hectic world. Moss is well known as a staff apologist for Catholic Answers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to explaining the Catholic faith as well as for her regular appearances on the Eternal Word Television Network. She is the editor of the book Home at Last: 11 Who Found Their Way to the Catholic Church which includes her own story and hosts a bi-monthly radio program From the Heart on the syndicated apologetics program, Catholic Answers Live. The event kicks off the new Faith and Family Series to be offered at St. Michael the Archangel Parish over the next two years and is open to all in the area. The series' focus will be on the dynamics of the Christian family, with particular emphasis on practical,

hands-on methods of achieving that goal in the modern world.

Many voices...one song
Welcomes the Biakuye Unity Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, 22055 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. No charge although a free-will offering will be collection. Meet the artists reception follows the concert. For more information, call (248) 540-9124. Biakuye (which means unity) brings together the cool sound of American jazz vibraphone, drumset and electric bass with the meliorhythmic richness of African marimba, kaifimba and hand drums. The group includes Ghanaian drummer Kofi Ameyaw, American percussionist Roger Braun, Senegalese bass player Issa Sall, and Mark Stone, a performer of global melodic-percussion. Joining Biakuye on the program will be the Many Voice...One Song Choir. The audience will be invited to join in the joyous music making near the end of the program.

Bazaar & mini cookie walk
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 23310 Joy, a few blocks east of Telegraph, Redford. Use Joy entrance to Basement Hall. Proceeds go to School/Building Fund.

Fashion show
Monday, Nov. 19 (doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.), presented by Women of the Immaculate Conception at Knights of Columbus Hall, 30759 Ford road. Cost is \$15. For tickets, call Noreeno Debono (734) 722-8360 or Shirley Rourke at (734) 721-1794.

Luminescence for Advent
A women's afternoon of reflection to prepare for the upcoming Advent season takes place 1:31-4:31 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, at St. Hilary's Church, 23901 Elmira, one block east of Telegraph, south of Plymouth road. Enter off Appleton and turn right on Elmira. Designed for women ages 18 to 99, combines music, presentations, discussions and creative expression. People of all faiths welcome. Presenter is Sister Pat Hergenroether. Cost is \$20, includes materials and refreshments. Reservations with payment are due Nov. 19. For more information, call (313) 533-1560 or send e-mail to shilary@twm1.rr.com.

Heart quest
A series of seminars being broadcast worldwide, via satellite, started 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at Cherry Hill SDA Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, west of Yenor, Garden City.

F.I.R.E. ministries
With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

UPCOMING
Gingerbread open house
The Inn at St. John's Gingerbread Open House takes place 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at 44045 Five Mile at Sheldon, Plymouth. The free family event features live reindeer petting, carriage rides, a gingerbread house display, visits with Santa, music and refreshments. Donations of non-perishable food items are requested to benefit St. Vincent De Paul. Additional information can be found at www.theinnatstjohns.com or call (734) 414-0600.

ONGOING
Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Rd. at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.
Worship services
10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.
Chapel service schedule
Chapel service begins at 8:45 a.m. and includes simple worship and Holy Communion; adult Sunday school and Bible Cinema are at 9:30 a.m. nursery care provided. Worship and Sunday school for children through eighth grade is during the 10:30 a.m. hour. Nursery care also provided during the service. On the fourth and fifth Sundays we will be participating in community worship which includes everyone. Senior High youth are invited to meet 7 p.m. Sundays, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-6038.

Singers wanted
Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. If you like to sing and love God (or just want to get to know God) join in. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Please see RELIGION, A11

RELIGION FROM PAGE A10

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall on a new time and time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford.

Fall schedule

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, has new worship hours for Fall - Three Hours Of Power! Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program began 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, and continues on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church.

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month.

by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Worship change

Began Sunday, October 7, the early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia will be at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese's ENDOW program.

of women of all ages and faiths. The group meets 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays to Dec. 5, in the Convent Meeting Room behind the school, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road.

ENDOW

Educating on the Nature & Dignity of Women, a women's study group to discover their God-given dignity and femininity through Catholic teaching runs Thursdays to Nov. 15.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30

a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Ladies Bible study

Women of the Word Ladies Bible Study began focusing on the Book of James Tuesday, Sept. 11, and continues 9:30-11:10 a.m. Tuesdays to Nov. 13.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96.

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 Virgil Humes, Pastor

Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-837-3170

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830

Canton Christian Fellowship "Where the Word is Relevant, People are Loved and Christ is the Key" Join us for Worship Service at 10:30 am

More than Sunday Services! Worship Services 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 9600 Leverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424

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BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program

Worship in Downtown Plymouth First Presbyterian Church Main & Church Streets - (734) 453-6464

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH 48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 451-0444

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1926

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494

Worship in Downtown Plymouth First Presbyterian Church Main & Church Streets - (734) 453-6464

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1926

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 594-7730

Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. Livonia • 427-2290

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

OUR VIEWS

WCCC mailer at least violates law's spirit

Shocked is the right word for the reaction to a Wayne County Community College mailer that is trying to sell voters on a millage renewal that goes before the voters Nov. 6.

We strongly agree with Redford Township Clerk Garth Christie's assessment that the mailer clearly looks to be using public money to campaign for the ballot proposal. We support his challenge over the legality of the item.

If this kind of mailer, with its "Top 12 Reasons Why We Should Support" WCCC isn't illegal, it should be.

A spokeswoman for the college says the mailer's attorneys checked it out and found it to be legal. After all, WCCC has the "public obligation to provide information" so that people can make up their minds, according to spokeswoman Tina Bassett. "It does not tell people how to vote," she said.

That may be a technicality. However, the words "why we should support" seem to obviously cross the line from information into endorsement. "Support" quite clearly means the same thing as "vote yes," even though it doesn't precisely say "vote yes." It's a mighty thin hair to split.

If this flier is somehow ruled legal, state lawmakers need to follow up to fix this loophole in the state's campaign finance law.

While we agree that a public entity such as the college should be able to inform the public about facts facing the college, state law should prevent such blatant attempts to spend taxpayer money to promote a tax renewal. In the end, the judgment must be made based on the spirit of the "informational" item and the timing of when it's sent, not whether the specific words "vote yes" or "vote no" are included. If there's a group wishing to promote "support," it should be done with private funds, not public.

For those of us who care to notice, these types of mailers that violate the intent of the law but not its letter erode public confidence in our electoral system.

Remember to fall back

Yes, it's fall, and yes, it's time to fall back. So get ready for some extra sleep this weekend with the end of daylight savings time.

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. That way, you'll be on time for church and settled in for the 1 p.m. kickoff of the Detroit Lions-Denver Broncos game.

And if you haven't done so lately, it's also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms to help keep your family safe from home fires.

Put budget in play sooner

Talk about the poor getting poorer — that certainly applies to school districts, which don't have the fund balance to tide them over until they receive their first state aid payment. They end up paying more because of it.

The situation is this: School districts pass budgets that begin on the first day of their business year, namely July 1. The state's new budget, however, doesn't begin until Oct. 1. The end result is that school districts start spending money before the state decides how much it will allocate to the locals.

Remember Proposal A? That's what mandated the state to fund education, so districts are by and large dependent on the state for operating funds.

State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi has introduced House Joint Resolution AA, which could change this scenario. Vagnozzi, now in his final term, has proposed that all general appropriation bills for the succeeding fiscal year be presented to the governor on or before July 1 of each fiscal year.

The proposal is now before the House Appropriations Committee, which ought to give it serious consideration.

There's a lot at stake. Consider Garden City Public Schools, which must borrow \$13 million to cover expenses until it receives its first state aid payment in October. In recent years, it has scaled back the amount it borrows from state — and pays interest on, hence getting poorer — by opening up lines of credit with its lending institutions.

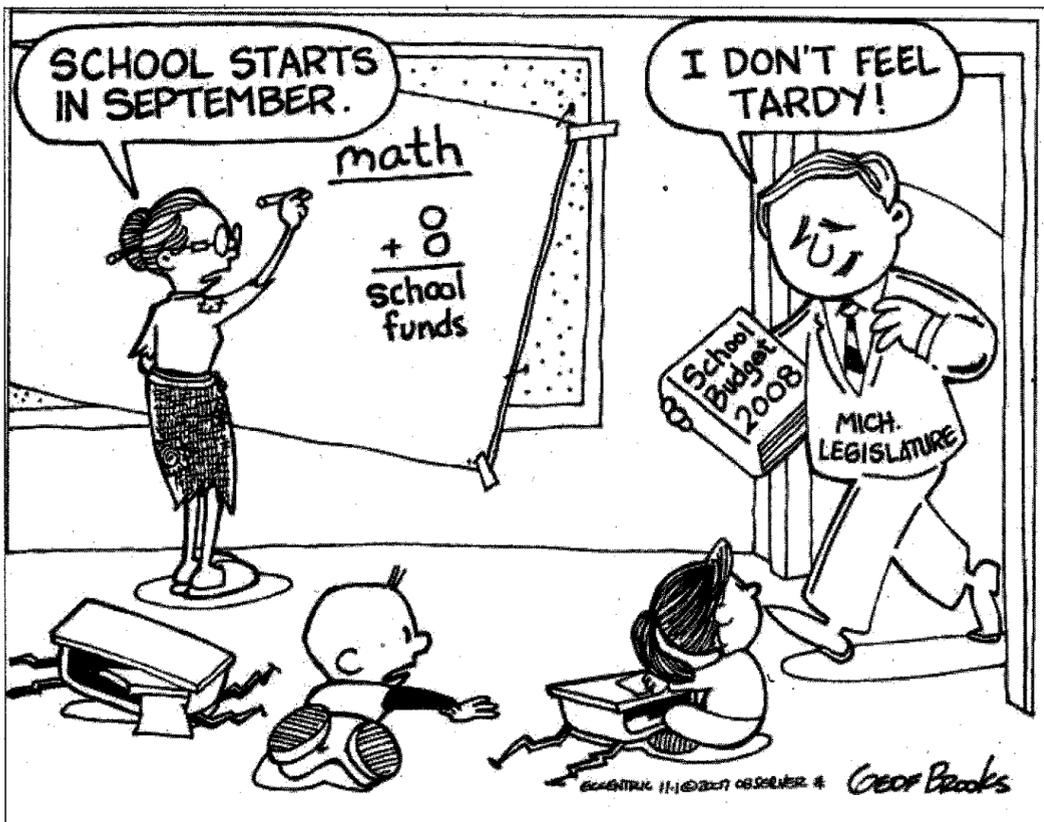
But that's not the end of the story for a district that's in the second year of a three-year deficit reduction plan with a hole that's \$3.2 million deep.

Garden City isn't alone. Wayne-Westland is projecting that it will have to begin borrowing money to cover expenses in the 2008-09 budget year.

Other wealthier districts in Oakland County also complain that they are trying to hit a moving target — the amount of state aid per student that the state must deliver.

State legislators have to realize that school districts are the ball that has been dropped when budget deliberations are fumbled.

Someone has to come up with a new game plan. Put Vagnozzi's plan on the board.



LETTERS

Supports zoo millage

I am a student at Henry Ford Community College. I was recently asked to write a political engagement report about an issue in my community that I feel strongly about.

I'll be honest, at first I had no idea about any issue going on in my community, that is, until I came across your opinion column in the *Westland Observer*. Seeing that article prompted me to take a closer look at this issue and ultimately make it the topic of my report.

I strongly support the regional property tax proposal to save our zoo, both as a mother and a citizen of Detroit. The Detroit Zoo brings so much to our community as far as economic income, job opportunities, and education for all of our citizens. Shutting down the zoo would hurt our community more than a measly 1-mill property tax.

I am writing you to ask for your help in increasing voter education on this issue. After all, when I first read your article, I knew nothing about this tax, but after researching the details I am all for saving our zoo.

Jessica L. Haase
Westland

Hines Park is a jewel

Three Cheers to Wayne County Parks and Recreation for their effort in keeping Edward Hines Park the local jewel that it is. Scenic river and lake views, picnic and pavilion areas, ballparks, soccer fields, nature trails, biking and jogging paths, fishing docks, children playgrounds, winter sledding hills, Nankin Mills, on and on, winding for 27 miles through Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Garden City, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Northville.

If you haven't visited the park lately, you're missing nature at its best doing its fall colors thing, and it's all happening near your neighborhood. During our tough economic times with high gas prices, it's good to have a local park like Hines.

I feel additionally lucky living a hop-and-a-skip from the park. Keep up the good work WPCR. Looking forward to the Wayne County Light Festival in Hines Park.

Carlos Manzo
Westland

Fund care for elderly

As the governor and legislature deliberated on the 2008 budget, the issues of cuts and revenue enhancements were hotly debated. One issue that needs to be thoroughly evaluated is the issue of long-term care and elder care.

The issue of long-term care and elder care in the near future is one that politicians and the general public tend to avoid at all costs. Politicians do not want to think about the cost to care for the burgeoning elderly population and the general public for the most part does not

want to deal with their own mortality.

The train is coming down the track and we must deal with the reality that the 85-plus population will increase 40 percent in the next seven years (2015) and the baby boomers will swell the 65-plus population 26 percent by 2015. These numbers indicate that new tracks need to be laid in preparation for the train that will demand more services for the care of the elderly.

When the general public thinks of long-term care, most think of nursing homes. What they don't realize is that most nursing homes have evolved to become places for short-term rehabilitation. Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University reports that two-thirds of people who enter nursing homes are out in six months. Most long-term residents found in nursing homes (skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers) tend to be dementia and cognitively impaired. The shorter stays and the increase in the 65-plus population has resulted in an increase in alternatives for nursing homes.

Shahla Mehdizadeh, director of research for the Ohio Long-Term Care Research project at the Scripps Gerontology Center stated, "Shorter stays in nursing homes are a result of increases in home care services as well as private assisted living options for seniors, combined with an increase in rehabilitation admissions covered by Medicare as a result of federal changes in hospital reimbursement patterns."

The growth in non-nursing home settings is due in part to the displacement of traditional nursing home residents by the rehabilitation clients, but also the desire of the growing elderly population wanting to stay at home as long as possible or live in a less medically intense environment (nursing homes), such as assisted living facilities.

Historically, nursing homes have received the lion's share of the state and federal elder care budget. Now with more services and options available, some advocates for the home and community-based service model have suggested a rebalancing of state and federal budgets by reducing funds to nursing homes and allocating more dollars to home and community-based services and assisted living facilities.

The idea that more funds are needed to pay for these alternatives to nursing home care is correct, but the idea of rebalancing is flawed simply because of the huge growth in the 65-plus population. There will be a great demand and increased funding needed for all levels of elder care services in the future elder care continuum (Home care, assisted living and nursing homes).

Colleen Cassidy
Four Chaplains Nursing Care Center
Westland

Help for polio survivors

Most Americans think polio is a disease of the past. With the introduction of the Salk Vaccine in 1955, we no longer had to worry about getting polio.

The senior citizens in your readership remember the thousands of people that contracted polio in the late 1940s and early 1950s and remember the polio survivors that wore leg braces, walked with crutches, or were in wheelchairs.

What happened to these polio survivors? The answer: many of us are still here. As we recovered, we learned to live with our handicap, we went to college, raised families, and led productive lives. The average age of polio survivors in the United States is about 63. Many of us are now faced with a new challenge called Post-Polio Syndrome. Our arms and legs, that helped us achieve our goals, are now weakening and we are back in braces, again using crutches, or in power wheelchairs or scooters.

Although there is no cure for Post-Polio Syndrome, there is some help. Post Polio Health International, based in St. Louis, Mo., (www.postpolio.org) is conducting a campaign, called "We're Still Here" to alert polio survivors to resources in their local areas.

In Michigan we have the Michigan Polio Network Inc. (1-989-739-4065 or www.geocities.net/mi_polio_net). We also have a number of Post-Polio Support Groups to help educate polio survivors about available resources. One major resource is the St. John Post-Polio Clinic in Warren. This is one of two clinics in Michigan (1-586-778-4505). In the metro area we have the Southeast Michigan Post-Polio Support Group.

This September, we had two activities for polio survivors. On Sept. 10-15, Dr. Frederick Maynard, director of Marquette's Post Polio Clinic sponsored a wellness week at Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay. On Sept. 21-22 the Michigan Polio Network sponsored an educational conference held at The Soaring Eagle Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant.

There are more than 14,000 polio survivors in Michigan, many who are not aware of the available resources. If you are a polio survivor or know someone who is, you are encouraged to contact the organizations listed above.

Bruce E. Sachs, chairman
Michigan Polio Network Inc.

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.

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 459-4224

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"We realize that this could disrupt some school activities, but in this age of technology — with text messaging, blogging, and MySpace that kids use every day — we now have to resort to these additional security measures." — Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan about the retaking of the writing portion of the MEAP test by fifth-/sixth-graders around the state

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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.

LETTERS

Dodge abuses position

Dear Friends and Fellow Residents,
Does my salutation sound familiar? It is the same one that was used by Mrs. Joanne (Jody) Dodge in her campaign flier titled "Working Harder and Smarter for You!" Simply stated, this article sums up Jody Dodge's contribution to this city's leadership in her typical style — berating the mayor, council, administration and staff to ensure all residents that she is ONE that is there to protect YOU from higher taxes, increased water rates, and "wasteful spending." For four years I have listened to Mrs. Dodge abuse her position to mislead and misinform all of you for her own political gain at the expense of your best interests, hoping that the majority of you would see through her. I have heard from many and know that most of you do. I am writing today to address those of you who still believe in and support her to educate you on the facts.

First of all, Mrs. Dodge claims the city has done nothing to cut costs, save money or plan for our future. The city administration, staff, and council have worked incredibly hard over the last several years to cut operating costs by reducing the labor force, utilizing technology, refinancing debt, reorganizing departmental duties, streamlining processes and coming up with effective and innovative ways to fund departmental expenses and conduct business. This has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars annually without eliminating services.

The city's new Web site, along with the automated phone system increase the effectiveness of workforce by making city information available to residents 24/7, while reducing the number of calls into our offices and reducing labor costs by 20 percent. The new telephone system alone saves the city \$150,000 a year, and \$450,000 since the conversion three years ago.

Refinancing of the city's debt is saving the taxpayers \$135,000 dollars a year in interest. The reorganization of the Building Department shifts the majority of their service costs to the developers and contractors that use them, resulting in an approximate \$100,000 dollars in savings this year, and an estimated \$250,000 dollars annually in years to come.

The utilization of the Michigan Employee Benefit Service program (MEBS) is currently saving the city an average of \$350,000 a year in employee health care costs, and approximately \$900,000 since it was implemented in 2004. The Police Department utilizes Asset/Drug Forfeiture monies, to fund the canine program, firearms, ammunition, departmental cell phones and five vehicles in the city's fleet, that would otherwise would have come from the General Fund.

The Fire Department has successfully garnered \$352,000 dollars in federal, state and private grants including \$150,000 for the "Fire-Safe Home Project," a backup fire engine and the department's air packs, generator, portable radios, community response team initiatives and homeland security training — all that would have required funding from the General Fund. The firefighters completely remodeled their own black mold-infested kitchen in the fire station using grant monies from ADA, Block Grants and the DDA.

The Department of Public Services did their own crack-sealing and saved the city \$30,000 on the Block Street project alone. They remodeled the restrooms at the Ice Arena and at Garden City Hall, to save us \$15,000. The Family Resources Center has garnered numerous grants to fund their programs over the years, and was recently awarded the Governor's Discretionary grant for \$50,000 for early prevention programs.

The administration sought federal and state grant monies that resulted in the \$2.4 million in

grants to cover the replacement of Maplewood. The administration also embarked on a visioning program that enlisted representatives from community to create the top 10 goals for our future.

These are only a few of the accomplishments made by our city's administration, staff and the majority of council that approved the budgets. So please, do not believe Jody Dodge when she says the city has not done anything to save money, cut costs, generate revenue, or plan for our future. Her claims are blatant lies, not ignorance that could be expected from a new candidate, but far worse than that — they are blatant lies from someone who knows the truth, and intentionally misrepresents it for her own political gain.

Much of the city's largest expenses are beyond local government's control; the change in funding for retiree health care alone costs the city a roughly \$1 million a year from the general fund and is growing. The rising cost of utilities, equipment, materials, gas and professional services is driving their costs up, just like they do in our homes, but tenfold.

The increase in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality water quality levels is going to cost us millions, and at the same time the state is increasing our costs, they are cutting our revenue sharing. We have formed a consortium with other cities and are fighting it. These efforts have reduced our estimated cost by \$20 million and we are still negotiating.

The taxes in our city are high, because we lack an industrial tax base, and have to pay for our services ourselves. We raise the taxes in accordance with the law, just like every community does. Not to say that I agree on every individual's property tax assessment because I do not, and I encourage you to fight them if you think that they are unreasonable, but our tax structure is what it is, and her vote has nothing to do with it.

All of our residents are upset with paying the Wayne Oakland Contracting settlement, and I count myself among you. Learning of it was a primary reason I decided to run in 2003. Mrs. Dodge's negative remarks made publicly about that contractor were cited as reason for the defendant's refusal to settle out of court with the city when the \$750,000 offer was made.

The majority of the water and sewer rate hikes come from the City of Detroit. The small portion the city has to tack on to maintain the infrastructure, would not be as high as it is today had council members like Mrs. Dodge been fiscally responsible enough to raise the water rates slightly over the last 20 years before the bottom fell out of our economy.

Mrs. Dodge was on the council for several of those years and did the "political thing" instead of the "responsible thing." You fix it today or you fix it tomorrow — and we all know it is going to cost more tomorrow, a concept she still doesn't get!

Mrs. Dodge claims to support the police department, the fire department, the library, the seniors, the youth and everything else that is important to all of us as a community, yet she consistently votes NO on the budget that supports them. A vote against the budget is a vote against all city services, including the new garbage collection program that has done a great deal to improve the look of our community and that most people like. It amazes me that she boosts her voting record in her plea for re-election. It demonstrates her complete ignorance and insults the intelligence of our community. I urge you to vote for anyone but Mrs. Dodge on Election Day. She is counter-productive to the council, and the progress of this community.

Diane Webb
Garden City Council

Editor's note: Webb is not seeking re-election.

State needs to end archaic ban on embryonic research

History is full of examples of political authorities and churches making fools of themselves by making various kinds of scientific research illegal. Most of us know the story of Galileo, the great 17th century astronomer and physicist who proposed that the earth rotates around the sun. He was severely punished by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and the result embarrassed the church for centuries.

In this country, we had the 1925 Scopes trial in Dayton, Tenn., in which Clarence Darrow famously made monkeys out of William Jennings Bryan and the state authorities.



Phil Power

But we seem not to have learned very much from history. In 1978, the Michigan Legislature passed a law essentially banning all forms of research on human embryos. Then, in 1998, two years after scientists in Scotland cloned Dolly the sheep, our lawmakers amended that. The Legislature then made illegal reproductive cloning of any sort strictly illegal. That bill was, at best, unnecessary.

Nobody is speaking out in favor of cloning people. But what that bill did was help the Michigan Legislature put itself firmly on the side of repression and against science and progress. Any scientist who does research on human embryonic stem cells is now subject to jail time of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$10 million.

Michigan is one of only five states around the country that operates under restrictions anywhere near that harsh. (In California, when the Bush administration cut off funding for embryonic stem cell research, Californians voted to fund it with billions of state money.) So how has all this affected Michigan?

Well, it is helping transform us into a scientific backwater. It hasn't saved a single embryo — the ones that would have been used are left-overs from fertility clinics. If they can't be used for research, they are poured down the drain.

And the only thing we have been "protected" from is scientists who might have come here and found a cure for terrible diseases like Parkinson's, macular degeneration and Huntington's chorea.

Now for a better idea. Rep. Andrew Meisner (D-Ferndale) wants to hold a hearing next week on a bill that would allow embryonic stem cell research on embryos that have been discarded by fertility clinics, but only if the donor gives prior written consent and receives no financial compensation.

Meisner, who is 34 and in his final term, says it's both perverse and bizarre that present law makes it legal for fertility clinics to throw unused embryos into the garbage, but makes it illegal for a scientist to use those same embryos to try to cure disease.

Meisner thinks he's got the votes to get his bill out of the House Judiciary Committee, but he recognizes that it hasn't got a chance before the full House. That's why folks like Michigan philanthropist and shopping center magnate

Al Taubman are spearheading a group called Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research & Cures to explore whether to put the measure on the statewide ballot in 2008.

Judging from current poll results, a healthy majority of Michigan citizens would support such a measure. Opponents, including Michigan Right to Life and the Michigan Catholic Conference, say the research would destroy human embryos. They fear it could lead to outright cloning. The Catholic Conference this month launched a campaign by mailing DVDs to Catholic homes and asking priests to condemn the issue during Mass.

Opponents also argue that research on adult stem cells, which is deemed not to threaten life, is just as promising as embryonic work. Scientists disagree. They counter that adult stem cells are limited in their ability to grow and transform themselves into the kinds of tissue that would support wide-ranging research.

What many don't realize is that in addition to the scientific and moral arguments, there is an economic development aspect to this debate. Other states — California, Massachusetts and New Jersey — have concluded stem cell research could be a terrific boost to the life sciences and related industries.

Californians defied the Bush administration and passed a ballot issue that invested \$3 billion in state funds for stem cell research over a decade. The Analysis Group, an economic research company, predicts that this investment will snowball, generating state revenues and health care cost savings between \$6 billion and \$12 billion.

That's a lot of money, especially when you consider that scientists at the University of Michigan are among the national leaders in this field. But many are not willing to work here under current legal threat. Dr. Bennett Novitch, who was an assistant professor of cell and development biology, has taken his work on neuron stem cells to the University of California-Los Angeles.

Other startup firms around U-M are considering leaving the state, tired of trying to work within the restrictive Michigan law.

Prof. Sean Morrison, one of the most respected scholars in the field, and director of the University of Michigan Center for Stem Cell Biology, says bluntly, "As somebody who does adult stem cell research every day, if we're really serious about curing diseases, we should be studying both embryonic and adult stem cells."

He's right, of course. And even if he wasn't, Meisner's bill deserves a fair hearing. If he can't get that hearing in the Legislature — and maybe even if he can — the proposal to legalize embryonic stem cell research is so vastly important that it deserves to be taken to the people for a statewide up-or-down vote.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics. He is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here do not represent official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

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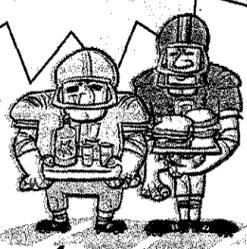
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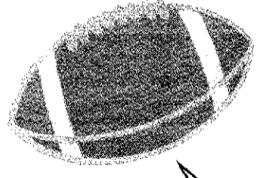


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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemons@hometownlife.com

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Spartans' offensive line produces record numbers

Novi next test for Stevenson

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to Livonia Stevenson's offensive line, the numbers are only part of the story.

The 10-0 Spartans, who play 9-1 Novi for the Division 1-Region 4-District 1 championship Friday night at home, have already shattered the school rushing mark with 2,617 yards this season, eclipsing the standard of 2,437 set in 2005.

Stevenson coach Tim Gabel had reason for optimism entering the 2007 season with the return of three seniors — 6-foot, 248-pound center Ricky Bell; strong-side tackle Matt Broome (6-3, 235); and weak-side tackle Jason Bajas (6-0, 213). Broome and Bell are captains.

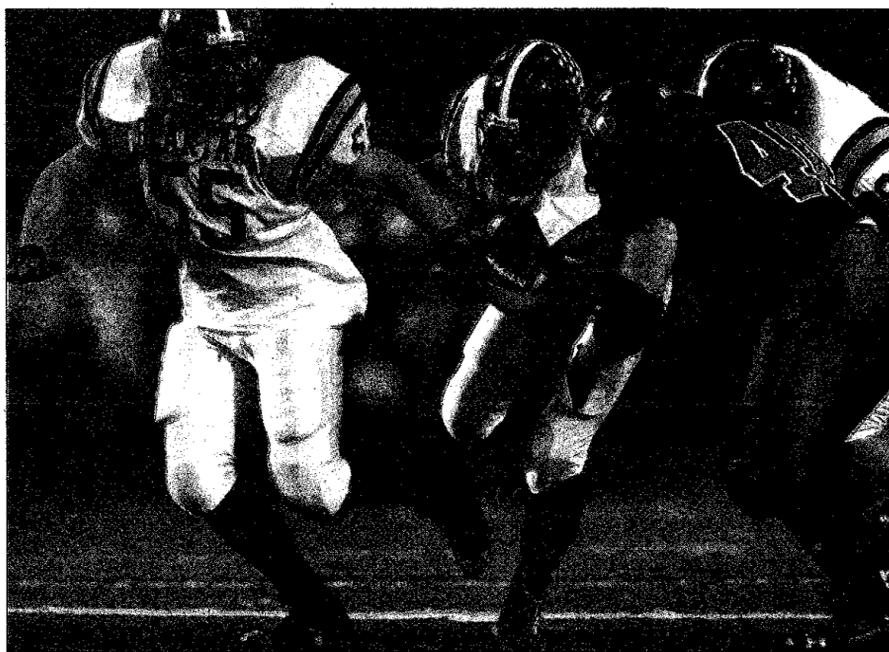
"We had a lot of confidence they'd be starting and anchoring our offensive line," Gabel said of the trio. "They've been our toughest kids as far as conditioning, being in the weight room, and having just a great attitude. They brought a lot of experience."

Stevenson's question marks at guard and tight end were answered quickly with three seniors.

Travis Austin (5-9, 231), who plays strong-side guard, and Joe Cantrell (5-8, 202), who plays the weak-side, have emerged along with tight end Mike Flynn (6-2, 204).

"Travis (Austin) has been very steady, he doesn't make mistakes," Gabel said. "He has a low base and once he

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**



Stevenson blockers like Joe Cantrell (55) helped provide big holes for backs like Wade Stahl in a game earlier this season against Churchill.

Sidelines

Blazers gain semis

A pair of 1-0 victories have catapulted Livonia Ladywood into the semifinals of the Michigan High School Field Hockey League Tournament.

The Blazers (6-6-4) travel tonight to face Ann Arbor Pioneer. Game time is at 6:30.

On Tuesday, senior Kristen Selasky's second-half goal assisted by Jenna Sheahan gave the Blazers a 1-goal victory at home over Dearborn, which falls to 5-8-1 overall.

Sophomore goalie Sara Burnosky made three saves in the win, while Dearborn goalie Elise Osenbaugh stopped nine shots.

On Saturday, Sheahan's first-half goal off a corner proved to be the difference as visiting Ladywood edged rival Farmington Hills Mercy, 1-0.

Burnosky made five saves for the Blazers. Mercy finishes its season 5-8-1.

Albion standouts

Neil Copeland (Livonia Franklin) was credited with a pair of fumble recoveries while Dustin Hess (Livonia/Detroit Catholic Central) had an interception Saturday as Albion College scored a 34-13 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association football win over host Kalamazoo College at Angell Field.

Albion (2-6, 2-3) returns to action Saturday at home to face Adrian (5-3, 2-3) in an MIAA matchup.

Hole-in-one club

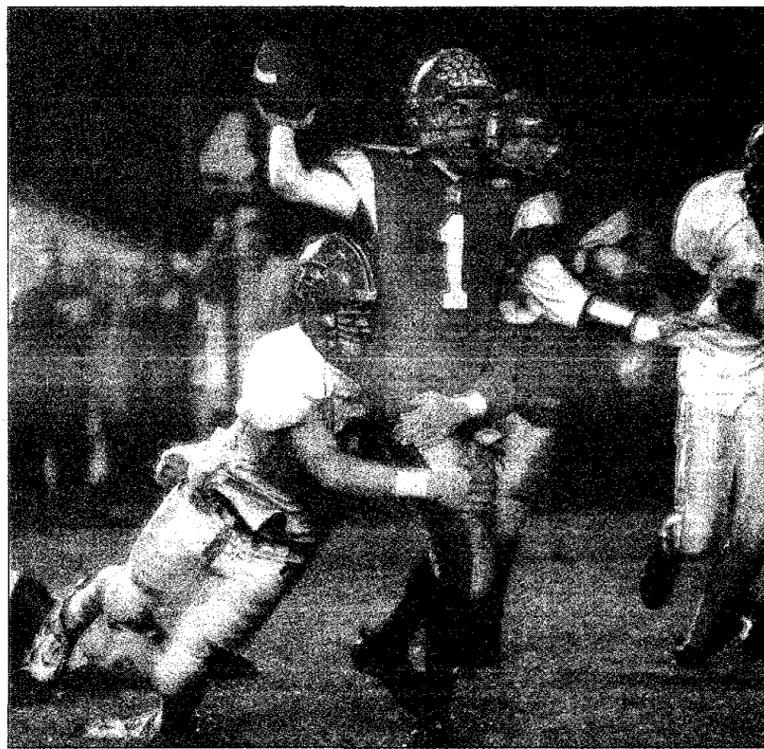
Jim Irwin of Livonia used a 6-iron to ace the par-3, 144-yard, No. 17 hole Sunday at Whispering Willows Golf Course. Irwin, who shot an 87, has been golfing for 37 years. It was his first hole-in-one.

Livonia Turkey Trot

The Livonia Turkey Trot walk-run to help the Livonia Goodfellows provide meals for Christmas will be Saturday, Nov. 3 at Bicentennial Park, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

The fee is \$10 per adult or \$5 per child (ages 3-17). Fee includes T-shirt, drink and snack.

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



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin outside linebacker Jeff McCullough (left) stopped Monroe quarterback Willie Johnson of fourth-and-goal during the first half in last week's dramatic 39-38 double-overtime win.

Defense digs in

Patriots' front 7 coming on strong

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

If there's a particular reason for Livonia Franklin's late season football resurgence, it might start with the Patriots' "front seven" on defense.

The 6-4 Patriots, who travel Friday to take on 8-2 Dearborn Fordson for the Division 1-Region 4-District 2 championship (7 p.m. start), have taken their defensive game to another level after an 0-3 start.

Franklin coach Chris Kelbert believes his "front seven" have solidified things during the past four games, including a 7-0 shut-out in the regular season finale against Livonia Churchill to earn the final spot as a 5-4 at-large in the 256-team field.

Middle linebacker Jordan Short, a 6-foot-3, 210-pound senior, has been a tackling machine of late. He leads the Patriots with 120.

"Jordan was on special teams last year as a wedge-buster, he'll

hit you and he's found his niche as a middle linebacker," Kelbert said. "He also adds speed at linebacker. For never playing the position, he's very smart and knows where the ball is going. It's just clicked for him this year."

Short is joined in the middle by fellow senior and hockey teammate Austin Mesler (6-0, 210), while-returning senior starter Jeff McCullough (6-5, 235) has found a home on the outside.

"Austin's a guy we've asked to stop the run, close the A-B gaps," Kelbert said. "He takes on the fullback on 'iso' plays. He's very physical."

"Jeff's played very well. I think maybe early on he pressed too much, and was out of his comfort zone. But he's been reason for our turnaround on defense and may have been our best defensive player the last four weeks."

Plugging the middle at tackle are two senior run stoppers — 6-1,

Please see **PATRIOTS, B2**

Chargers, Stevenson eye Michigan Speedway

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill was ahead of the class once again, repeating as Division 1 regional cross country champion Saturday morning at soggy Schoolcraft College.

The Chargers, placing four in the top seven, scored a team-best 34 points to earn a return trip to the state finals, which is scheduled for this Saturday at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Also making the cut as teams were Canton (67) and Livonia

Stevenson (72), led by individual winner Courtney Calka, who completed the 5,000-meter race in 18 minutes, 56 seconds.

Western Lakes Activities Association runner-up Plymouth took fourth with 89, but had three individual qualify by placing in the top 15. Salem also had an individual state qualifier along with Garden City.

Churchill coach Sue Tatro was pleased with her team's performance as WLAA champion Rachel McFarlane, a senior, finished runner-up to Calka in 19:06. Sophomore Sara Kroll and junior Alyssa Mira took

fourth and fifth, respectively, in 19:56 and 19:57, while sophomore Amanda Southwell added a seventh in 20:04.

Junior Hannah Otto was Churchill's fifth scorer in 16th (20:43). The Chargers' nonscorers were senior Michelle Verellen (21st) and freshman Sarah Bauman (28th).

"One of our goals coming into the season was to win the conference and regional, and we got the job done," Tatro said. "It's always comforting during the race when you have four runners in the top 10."

"We knew it wasn't going to

be a record-breaking day due to the course conditions, but we did what we had to."

The Chargers finished runner-up in last year's Division 1 state meet as McFarlane, Kroll and Mira all finished in the top 20.

"Rachel has been the backbone of our team all year, and as a team, we've had solid performances throughout the season," Tatro said. "Now we have to refocus for 'states' and we need our two-through-five runners to move a little closer to Rachel."

Stevenson, meanwhile, may

Please see **REGIONAL, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson junior Courtney Calka earned her second Division 1 regional title in three years.

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SPARTANS FROM PAGE B1

gets you down, he's going to have the advantage. "Joe (Cantrell) was a pleasant surprise in the off-season. He's been solid. He fits right in with Bajas and Bell. He plays excited and he plays hard." Flynn has only one pass reception, ironically for a touchdown. Blocking, however, has been his forte. "Mike's a great success story, a lot like Travis who struggled his junior year where getting into the mix was a little beyond him," Gabel said. "He had a good attitude, but maybe was a step slow. He's a great weight room kid who has been solid. He was already alternating at tackle when we decided who

would go where. All three of those guys (Austin, Cantrell, Flynn) have the same mentality. They take pride in doing their jobs and they do it well." As for Novi, Gabel will face a stellar defense, one that has allowed 14.3 points per game. The Wildcats are coming off a 13-9 win over Livonia Churchill. "They'll be going with eight kids right in your face always stunting one or two linebackers," the Stevenson coach said. "They run a complicated defense. It's a good scheme where they'll also rotate their inside kids. We scrimmaged them in the preseason and they bring a big presence. (Tyler) Hoover (6-7, 250) is a real load (at defensive end). He's a bona fide Big Ten lineman (headed to Michigan State)."

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Churchill spikers capture 6th straight WLAA championship

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

Six and counting. That's how many Western Lakes Activities Association girls volleyball titles Livonia Churchill has won in a row. The state-ranked Chargers, defending Class A champions, improved to 43-2-3 overall with a 25-18, 25-21 victory in the championship final Saturday at home against Canton, the Western Division champion.

All-State middle hitter Kyndra Abron, headed to Michigan State, finished the 6-0 day for the Chargers with a total of 76 kills and six aces. Junior Kristen Nalezchipped in with 42 kills, while Jaclyn Gribeck added nine kills and seven blocks.

Setter Kristy DeClercq also shined with a total of 96 assists with 34 digs.

Churchill, the Lakes Division champion at 10-0, captured all six games in pool play against Livonia Stevenson, Plymouth and Wayne. The Chargers then downed eighth-seed Walled Lake Western (25-18, 25-15) in the quarterfinals and No. 4 seed Walled Lake Northern in the semifinals (18-25, 25-12, 15-9).

In the final, Canton stayed close in both games, but couldn't get over the hump.

Jen (Barnes) has done a nice job with them," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said of the Canton coach and the 31-11-2 Chiefs. "They're a scrappy team and they've got some kids who can swing it. There's a reason why they won their division."

The triumph over Lakes Division foe Northern proved to be the most difficult of the tournament.

"When you play someone a couple of times, the gap seems to close a bit," Grenier said. "Walled Lake Northern

WLAA volleyball recap

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT Oct. 27 at Livonia Churchill

Championship final: Churchill defeated Canton, 25-18, 25-21. Semifinals: Churchill def. Walled Lake Northern, 18-25, 25-12, 15-9; Canton def. Northville, 25-19, 25-13. Quarterfinals: Churchill def. Walled Lake Western, 25-18, 25-15; Canton def. Plymouth, 25-20, 25-18; Northville def. Livonia Stevenson, 17-25, 25-12, 15-13; W.L. Northern def. Salem, no score available.

POOL PLAY RECORDS (based on total games)

(A): 1. Churchill, 6-0; 2. (tie) Stevenson and Plymouth, 3-3 each; 4. Wayne Memorial, 0-6. (B): 1. (tie) Canton and Salem, 5-1 each; 3. W.L. Western, 2-4; 4. Walled Lake Central, 0-6. (C): 1. Northville, 6-0; 2. W.L. Northern, 4-2; 3. (tie) Westland John Glenn and Livonia Franklin, 1-5 each.

ALL-WLAA TEAMS

All-Conference: Amanda Yerke, Jr., W.L. Northern; Kysta Cicala, Sr., Northville; Brittany Holbrook, Jr., John Glenn; Rachel Heaton, Sr., Plymouth; Marie Martin, Sr., Canton; Jordan Kielty, Soph., Canton; Jansen Falcusan, Jr., Salem; Lindsey Graciak, Jr., Churchill; Kyndra Abron, Sr., Churchill. All-Lakes Division: Kirstin Kirk, Sr., John Glenn; Kelly MacDonald, Fr., Salem; Jill Slabey, Sr., Salem; Meg Iafraite, Jr., Stevenson; Shelby Miller, Jr., W.L. Northern; Kristin Robinette, Sr., W.L. Northern; Sarah Glancy, Jr., W.L. Central; Kristin Nalezch, Jr., Jordan Kerr, Sr., Churchill. All-Western Division: Ashley Price, Sr., Franklin; Alyssa Maruccci, Sr., W.L. Western; Paige Partenio, Jr., W.L. Western; Beth Foucher, Jr., Northville; Allison Holmes, Sr., Northville; Hannah Mills, Sr., Canton; Kacy Moran, Jr., Canton; Amanda McManus, Jr., Plymouth; Briana Beyer, Jr., Plymouth.

LAKES DIVISION HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Jackie Gribeck, Shannon Warner, Jessica Stroud. Salem: Alyssa Matchette, Kerry MacDonald, Nicole Merget. W.L. Central: Jordan Serra, Lena Scarpace. John Glenn: Aranda Phare, Stacey Truskowski. Stevenson: Kaylee McGrath, Natalie Fenech. W.L. Northern: Malissa Guilles, Carissa McKenna.

WESTERN DIVISION HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Lauren McPartlin, Ellie Kenny. Northville: Kelly Maise, Megan Hofmeister. Plymouth: Kate Spangler, Lindsay Jewett, Ashley Beczko. W.L. Western: Cortnei Hicks, Rachel Giordano, Carly Zietlin. Franklin: Brianna Taylor, Brittany Taylor, Liz Hollaway. Wayne: Katie Wilson, Catie Badrak, Samantha Dye.

PATRIOTS FROM PAGE B1

300-pound Mike Birney and 5-9, 265-pound Dan Robinson. "Mike started every game for us as a junior, but he missed the first two-and-a-half games (due to injury)," Kelbert said. "He's our heavy-weight and we missed him in the middle."

"Dan has been our most consistent on defense the whole year. He plays with an angry streak. And he's done it all year long."

When Kelbert moved three-year starter Pat Cecile (6-3, 235) from outside linebacker to defensive end, he found a home. Cecile is flanked on the other side by junior Brandon Lane (6-3, 218).

"Pat's been one of our keys to our turnaround," Kelbert said. "We found out that his strength is all-out, get to the

backfield and make a mess there instead of dropping back into pass coverage.

"Lane has started for us all year. He reminds me of Tim Gault (from Franklin's 10-1 2005 team). He's not the biggest or strongest, but he knows where to be and gets to the ball. He's best when he's running things."

The Patriots, coming off a dramatic 39-38 double-overtime win over Monroe, the Region 4's top seed, can expect a physical game from the Tractors.

"Size-wise they're the biggest I've seen in a long time — they're huge," Kelbert said. "Their quarterback can throw and can loosen up your defense by throwing deep. They'll give you a heavy dose of 'iso' and 'power.' They have three different backs, all quick who can get behind that big line and go forward."

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played well. There was a lot of concern for us. We had to fend them off."

Lindsey Graciak served at 96 percent to go along with 63 digs, while Jordan Kerr had 30 digs and served a 98 percent for the victorious Chargers.

Jessica Stroud, Shannon Warner and Katie Matz also combined for 65 digs. The trio also teamed up to serve 58-of-62 balls (94 percent) to go along with seven kills and four blocks.

"I thought (Jessica) Stroud, (Jaclyn) Gribeck and (Katie) Matz were able to block balls, make great swings and keep teams honest," Grenier said. "I thought (Kristy) DeClercq set the ball wonderfully all day and we had kids diving all over the place. (Jordan) Kerr, (Lindsey) Graciak and (Shannon) Warner all did their roles picking up balls."

"When you get into certain games and situations, the bench gets short. You go with what you can. Our kids were

resilient. It was a nice team win for us."

The Chiefs, who returned 11 players off last year's 9-17-7 team, have shown significant improvement from last spring. It was Canton's first Western Division crown since 1997 (coached by Steve Anderson).

"It's a huge accomplishment for the girls," Barnes said of the runner-up finish. "Overall we had a great day. We played well and meshed well together."

But the Chiefs couldn't take advantage when the 6-foot-2 Abron rotated off the front row and onto the bench.

"As soon as she came out we wanted to put balls away," Barnes said. "We tried to work around her as much as possible, and tip to her as much as we could. We did it sometimes, and sometimes we didn't. Our defense and passing were fine, but offensively we made too many errors."

Warriors tripped up in Metro

Things didn't go quite according to plan Saturday for Lutheran Westland, the undefeated Metro Conference regular season girls volleyball champion.

After the top-seeded Warriors breezed past Harper Woods, 25-8, 25-12, in Saturday's conference tourney opener at Livonia Clarenceville, they were ambushed by Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (23-25, 25-9, 23-25) in the semifinals and lost to Macomb Lutheran North in the third place match (25-19, 22-25, 21-25).

Bloomfield Hills Kingswood (14-5), which defeated Northwest in three games for the tourney title, emerged as the overall conference champion based on a 50-50 formula calculated combining both the regular season and playoff performance.

"Sometimes when it rains,

it pours, and that's what seemed to happen to us," said Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose state-ranked Warriors slipped to 26-4-5 overall. "You can usually battle through one player having an off-day, but we had several players — who had great seasons — all off at the same time. We weren't able to match the intensity of Northwest in the semifinal match and they played out of their minds to beat us."

Becca Refenes had 46 kills on the day in a losing cause, while teammates Katey Ramthun and Allyson Yankee were next best with 15 and 10, respectively.

Refenes, a 6-foot-2 junior, also recorded nine solo blocks, served 19 points and had 36 digs. Ramthun contributed a team-best 37 assists and served seven aces among 33 points.

Spartans go 1-2-1. In the WLAA quarterfinals, Northville eliminated Stevenson in three games, 17-25, 25-13, 15-13.

The Spartans, now 19-20-4 overall, finished 1-1-1 on pool play, defeating Wayne Memorial (25-10, 25-6), while losing to Churchill (15-25, 19-25) and splitting with Plymouth (15-25, 25-19).

Stevenson digs leaders included Christine Armstrong (41), Ashley Edwards (24) and Shelby Wilson (13). Setter Katie Vellucci contributed 63 assists, while Natalie Fenech was 30-of-31 serving with six aces.

Meg Iafraite was Stevenson's top attacker with 21 kills. She also had five blocks. Kaylee McGrath and Alex Harbowy added 10 and four kills, respectively.

Patriots 1-5 in pool. Livonia Franklin failed to make it out of pool play in Saturday's WLAA tourney, losing to Northville (25-27, 13-25) and Walled Lake Northern (9-25, 15-25), while splitting with Westland John Glenn (25-27, 25-23).

Briauna Taylor had 17 kills for the three matches, while Ashley Price added 15 kills and 13 digs. Setter Liz Hollaway contributed eight kills and 32 assists, while Jessica Stailey finished with five kills and four service aces. Libero Amy McGaughey had a team-high 35 digs.

The Patriots played without junior Brittany Taylor, who suffered a cracked rib during last Wednesday's warmups against Canton. The basketball standout is expected to be out three-to-six weeks, according to coach Linda Jimenez.

"She swung so hard to hit the ball on a quick-set and cracked it," Jimenez said of the freak injury.

Freshman Chelsea Williams replaced Taylor in the lineup.

MU spikers salt away 11th straight crown

Madonna University's streak of conference women's volleyball championships is at 11 and counting.

The Crusaders made it 11 straight regular season titles with Tuesday's 30-24, 25-30, 30-25, 30-23 victory at Indiana Tech, finishing the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference schedule with a flourish.

The victory, coupled with Cornerstone's loss Tuesday at Michigan-Dearborn, means MU will host the upcoming WHAC volleyball playoffs Final four Friday-Saturday, Nov. 9-10.

Junior outside hitter Lubovj Tihomirova was the offensive catalyst with 23 kills, three aces and seven block assists. Mary McGinnis and Whitney Fuelling chipped in 17 and eight kills respectively. Reigning conference and regional setter of the week Inta Grinvalds posted 44 assists in the match for MU (28-10, 12-2).

"One of our goals every year is to win the conference title," said Madonna head coach Jerry Abraham, at the helm

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

for all 11 titles. "But it doesn't stop here, as we want to win the conference tournament and host regionals. One of our goals was to get better as the season went on and peak at the right time and I think that a game like tonight shows that we are doing that."

As for the WHAC tournament, No. 1-seed MU received a bye to the final four round. Joining MMU with a first round bye is Michigan-Dearborn who clinched the No. 2 seed with their win over Cornerstone Tuesday. The Golden Eagles can finish no worse than the No. 3 seed with one conference game remaining while Indiana Tech is locked into the fourth slot.

Crusaders drop 2

The second day of the Crusader Classic proved to be a dud for the hosts.

Despite another outstanding performance by Tihomirova,

the Madonna University women's volleyball team dropped both of Saturday's matches at Livonia Stevenson to finish in third with a 2-2 mark.

Tihomirova chalked up a combined 33 kills, but the Crusaders were stopped by No. 4-ranked Biola (Calif.) and Lee University (Tenn.) in a pair of three-game matches. The Latvia native was named to the All-Tournament team for her efforts.

Biola (23-4), who turned back MU by scores of 30-14, 32-30, 30-17, went on to earn the tourney championship with a 4-0 mark while Lee took second at 3-1.

Day 2 was a disappointment for the Crusaders, who captured both of Friday's matches at University of Michigan-Dearborn, including a triumph over No. 5-ranked National American (S.D.).

Biola had the better of the action, with decisive edges in kills (59-34) and assists (53-31).

The Madonna-Lee tilt was close throughout, with the Flames grinding out 30-29, 31-29 and 30-28 wins.

Expectations elevated for Madonna men's cagers

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference teams had better be prepared for a lethal one-two punch coming out of Livonia this winter.

Madonna University's men's basketball team will feature a deep, experienced lineup led by seniors Jon Battle and D.J. Bridges (Canton) — who were the top two scorers in the WHAC in 2006-07, albeit for different colleges — along with senior forward and defensive stalwart Mike Rashad (Wayne Memorial) and senior point guard Charlie Henry (Canton Agape Christian).

Battle comes over from Indiana Tech after leading the conference in scoring with 20.2 points per game, while Bridges (19.8 ppg for MU) recently was selected preseason Player of the Year by WHAC coaches.

"I think we're excited about the whole aspect of having, finally, six seniors and three juniors," said fourth-year Madonna head coach Chuck Henry. "This is the first time since I've been here that we have such a strong nucleus that's in the upperclass."

"From my experience here, you recognize that teams win with strong juniors and seniors."

That strength throughout the lineup indicates the Crusaders will jump up in the standings.

Last season, MU finished 12-19 overall and 8-6 in the conference (fourth place). Preseason polls have Madonna picked for third, with Bridges the favorite for Player of the Year.

But coach Henry recognizes it might take a little while for his team to click.

There are several newcomers, including Battle and all-around junior wing guard Cedric Sims (a Wayne Memorial alum who was red-shirted last season at Wayne State).

"Right now, we're really working on playing at a quick tempo, fast-breaking at every opportunity and I'm hoping we're going to play both ends well, offensively and defensively," he explained. "But again, that's a process. It's tough at this time because of the newness of everybody. It's hard to put a character to this team yet. We're still finding out."

One player Henry knows plenty about already is Bridges, who also led the Crusaders in 2006-07 with seven rebounds per game.

"D.J.'s what I call a warrior," Henry said. "He's an undersized post player (6-3) who gets it done with tremendous work ethic and strength."

Meanwhile, also having Battle in the lineup will give opposing teams' defenses fits trying to keep everybody in check.

"He's really a good scorer, he's physically a very, very strong kid," said the Madonna coach about Battle. "He was red-shirted for a year, so that gives us a kid who's 23 years old. He's fully developed, fully matured and strong with a lot of basketball background behind him."

Distributing the ball will be fourth-year point guard and co-captain Charlie Henry, while former Schoolcraft player Sims will be a threat at the other wing guard position.

"He (Charlie Henry) knows the game very well," the coach said. "His aspiration is to become a college coach, so he's been a stu-

dent of the game for many, many years."

Sims "is really a dynamite defensive player and an explosive scorer too," Henry continued.

"We really benefited from both of those guys (Battle and Sims) transferring in," he said. "Those two kids can score, defend and rebound. They've got a complete game."

Also up front will be 6-4 senior forward and co-captain Mike Rashad, who tallied eight points and five boards per contest last year.

"Mike's really a great rebounder, a very quick jumper," Henry said. "He's an adequate scorer but his forte is (defense), he was on the all-defensive team last year in the WHAC."

Madonna's solid depth will be spearheaded by senior guard Keith Hearn (Livonia Stevenson, 5.8 ppg), 6-7 freshman forward and Canton alum Ryan Waidmann, junior shooting guard Kevin McLoughlin (a transfer from Alpena) and 6-8 freshman center Geoff Gaylor.

Waidmann will see plenty of minutes from the get-go.

"We're real excited about the career he's going to have at Madonna," Henry said. "He's going to be a contributor."

When MU will need a key defensive stop, Gaylor might find himself in the fray despite being fresh out of high school. "He's probably one of the best shot-blockers I've ever seen."

Freshman point guard Bryant Slaughter (Westland/Cherry Hill Academy) will also be in the mix while Henry expects injured senior guard Karvens Paillere to return before December.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Lutheran Westland's Lyle wins regional championship

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Spencer Lyle won't have to go it alone in this Saturday's Division 4 boys state cross country finals.

The junior from Lutheran High Westland, who captured the regional title Saturday with a time of 18 minutes, 1.3 seconds for the 5,000-meter race at the treacherous Springfield Oaks course in Davisburg, will be traveling with his teammates to Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Southfield Christian earned the regional team title with 55 points, while the Warriors took second with 68. Newport Lutheran South took third with 121.

Lyle is a two-time individual state qualifier, placing 34th overall his freshman year and 32nd as a sophomore.

He became the Warriors' first boys regional champion since Brad Polkinghorne did it in 1995.

"We had five races in front of that (Division 4 race) and by the time it was ready to race it was so bad," Lutheran

CROSS COUNTRY

Westland coach Jeremy Fabris said of the sloppy conditions. "We had two guys slide into the finish. Spencer ran well, but he ran a slower time because of the course."

Lyle's best time this season is a 16:31 at Spencer Park in Rochester Hills, good enough for fourth in the Metro Conference meet.

"He's a good kid, hard-working most of the time, high energy," Fabris said. "He's a real team player. It's a cool feeling for him to be going with his teammates."

Senior Josh Rice added a fifth-place finish in 19:05.0 for the Warriors. Lutheran Westland's other scorers included senior Ross Pursifull, 19th (19:05.0); junior Cameron Banks, 23rd (21:08.3); and junior Alex Kemp, 27th (21:12.8). Also headed to MIS will be Paul Bealafeld (34th) and Zach Robinson (43rd).

"It's a great sendoff for Josh Rice, our captain," Fabris said of his cousin. "He works hard and is a class act. He puts in the most miles during the off-

season. I'm happy he gets to go to the state meet."

Division 1 qualifiers

In the Division 1 regional Saturday at Schoolcraft College, Salem (60 points), Canton (66) and Dearborn Fordson (70) made the cut to qualify for the state boys finals, which start at 3 p.m. Saturday at MIS.

Livonia Churchill, 22nd at last year's state meet, settled for fourth with 81 points and qualified two individual runners as junior Mark Waterbury placed eighth (17:00), while senior Joe Varilone took 11th (17:03).

Other area qualifiers included Livonia Franklin senior Evan Sirena, who returns to the state finals after placing seventh in the regional (16:57), and Livonia Stevenson junior Shawn Howse, who earned the final spot with a 15th (17:10).

Canton junior Duncan Spitz (16:27) edged Salem senior Kevin deBear (16:30) for regional individual first-place honors.

See complete regional results on hometownlife.com.

REGIONAL

FROM PAGE B1

have turned in its best performance of the season after finishing a disappointing fifth at last week's Western Lakes meet.

Calka, who took third at last year's regional after winning the title as a freshman, was able to shake McFarlane after placing second behind the Churchill senior just a week earlier at the league meet held at Willow Metropark in New

Boston.

This time, Calka had plenty of company as Stevenson placed four others in the top 22 — senior Denee Meier, 12th (20:21); senior Julia Schroeder, 18th (20:57); senior Samantha Kay, 19th (20:58); and sophomore Victoria Saferian, 22nd (21:02).

"I'm really happy we all qualified as a team," said Calka, who averaged 6:06 per mile. "I think (this week) we wanted it more. We were all focused and wanted to do it. We we all really happy when they told us (afterwards)."

Blazers' Field qualifies

Amanda Field placed 15th as Livonia Ladywood settled for sixth with 148 points in Saturday's Division 2 regional held at Springfield Oaks in Davisburg.

Field was clocked in 20:59 and will make the trip to MIS.

Lahser, led by individual winner Erin LaFave (19:13) captured the regional with 37 points and will be joined by Birmingham Seaholm (81) and Dearborn Divine Child (101).

See complete regional results on hometownlife.com.

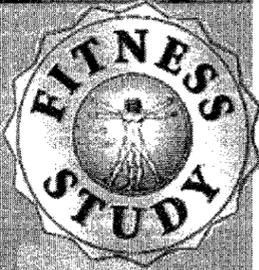
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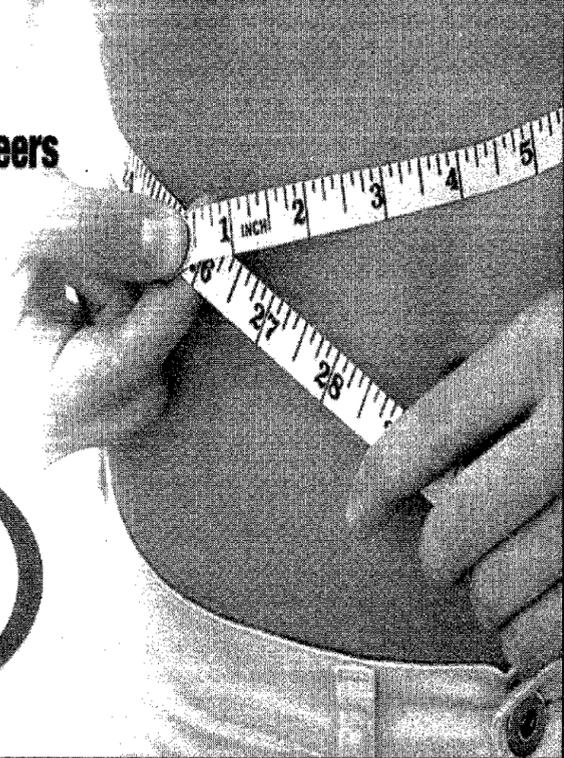
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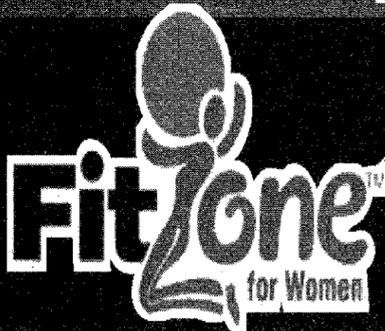
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