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THURSDAY
February 7, 2008

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WESTLAND Observer

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Ex-con faces new child molestation charges

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who did prison time for sexually assaulting an 8-year-old nephew was arraigned Tuesday on new charges he molested a great-niece when she was only 6.

Raymond Lawrence Perkins, 55, also has admitted he sexually molested two other nieces and one nephew years ago, but police Sgt. Debra Mathews said he can't be charged for those incidents because no one came



Perkins

would still be in prison," Mathews told Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli during Perkins' arraignment.

Perkins was released from

forward before the statute of limitations expired.

"It's a shame the others didn't come forward in time, because I believe he

prison in June 1991 after he served 3½ years for molesting a nephew who, along with the nephew's mother, now lives in Perkins' residence on Alberta, in the city's Norwayne subdivision. The mother told authorities that the family had forgiven Perkins, Mathews said.

But Perkins was arraigned Tuesday on two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct after a 12-year-old niece came forward in December and accused him of

molesting her when she was 6 years old. The girl told police she was asleep and woke up to find Perkins fondling her, Mathews said.

Cicirelli ordered Perkins jailed in lieu of a \$1 million cash or surety bond, entered a not-guilty plea for him and scheduled a Feb. 14 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. The charges against him carry a 15-year prison term upon conviction, but any sen-

tence could be harsher because he is considered a repeat offender.

Cicirelli granted Perkins' request Tuesday for a court-appointed attorney after he indicated that he has little income.

"I get a check every month from Social Security," he told the judge.

The latest charges followed an incident in December in which a nephew that Perkins had molested years ago went to his house after finding out

that he had sexually assaulted the great-niece when she was 6. That nephew started beating on Perkins but was shot and wounded by another relative who was in the house.

That nephew is facing trial for home invasion and felony assault charges for going inside Perkins' residence and attacking him. The shooter, however, is not facing charges because his actions were considered defensive.

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



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local teens Don Gurka (left) of Livonia and Zachery Gizicki of Westland stand near their beloved Quo Vadis Theater, a once-plush movie house they tried unsuccessfully to save.

Teens lose bid to save Quo Vadis

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

When they look at the old Quo Vadis movie theater in Westland, teenagers Don Gurka and Zachery Gizicki don't see a dilapidated old building that needs demolishing to make room for progress. They see a historic trea-

sure they fought to preserve. They see unique architecture that theater architect Minoru Yamasaki used on a much grander scale when he designed the former World Trade Center in New York City.

"It's such an awesome place, unlike any other place," said Gizicki, 15, a Westland resident and Livonia Churchill High

School 10th-grader.

Gizicki and Gurka, a 16-year-old Livonia resident and Churchill 11th-grader, rallied their friends and even solicited strangers to try to save the Quo Vadis after they heard that developers planned to raze the 1966 theater on Wayne Road, north of Warren, and build a \$5 million fitness center in its

place.

They circulated petitions at school and at Westland Shopping Center, collecting more than 200 signatures from supporters. They formed the Quo Vadis Preservation Foundation and started a Web site, www.savetheqv.org, that

Please see **QUO VADIS, A3**

Gunman gets stiff prison sentence

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 26-year-old gunman will spend 20-52 years in prison for robbing and trying to kill a Westland man last June after kicking in a door on South Hubbard near Palmer, barging into the house and opening fire on a resident.

The gunman, Jason William Hicks, had gone to the house to rob 25-year-old acquaintance Jason David Shuford, who wasn't at home. Instead, Hicks shot Shuford's roommate Michael Neibert, 26, even though Neibert gave him the only \$7 he had.

Hicks was sentenced in January after he pleaded guilty to charges of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery and felony firearms.

He accepted a plea agreement offered by Wayne County prosecutors.

Hicks will not be eligible for possible parole until June 2027. His sentence, handed down by Wayne County Circuit Judge James Callahan, was welcomed by Westland authorities.

"As the officer in charge of the case, I'm very satisfied with the outcome," police Sgt. David Heater said. "That's a substantial sentence, and it certainly was warranted in this case. The victim in this case is lucky to be alive."

In June, Neibert testified during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court that Hicks, accompanied by two other men, kicked

Please see **SENTENCE, A3**

City seeks help with recreation wish list

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland residents who have a wish list for sprucing up city parks and improving recreation programs will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to city officials.

As the city moves to update its master plan for parks and recreation needs, residents will be brought into the fold during a workshop scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on

Ford Road.

City officials need to update their plan to qualify for state grants that may become available to help pay for big-ticket projects.

"It's kind of like ranking how we want things done," Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said.

Two projects that will remain top priorities will be a soccer complex at Curtis Woods Park, on Palmer between Wayne and Newburgh, and improved baseball amenities at Voss

Park, at Palmer and Henry Ruff, Kosowski said.

Already, city officials and volunteers have raised \$35,000 for the Curtis Woods soccer project, but they hope to collect another \$30,000 to reach the \$65,000 level they will need to potentially qualify for a \$260,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Kosowski said.

One group, Citizens for Frontier Park, has pushed in recent years for a vast recreation complex on land west

of Central City Park, which is currently fenced off until a plan is developed to address such problems as lead contamination.

Frontier Park proponents have said the complex could include ice facilities for hockey and figure skating, soccer fields, basketball courts and a special needs playing field, among numerous other amenities. One Frontier Park leader, Mark Rodriguez, said the group will have representatives at Wednesday's meeting.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's sumo-rific

It wasn't quite a V for victory for Wayne Memorial teacher and football coach Kevin Weber, 'The Touchdown Warrior,' who raised his arms after defeating Principal John Albrecht, 'The Half Sweep King,' in a sumo wrestling match during the school's Cominghome pep assembly. For more on the assembly, see Page A3. Catch more in our Photo Gallery online at www.hometownlife.com, and click on the Westland home page.

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Coming Sunday in Health



Book touts heart health
benefits of dark chocolate

Open house

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools' William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland, will hold its annual Open House and Career Expo 6-8 p.m. this evening (Feb. 7). The Career Tech center offers 23 different technical training programs and is open to high school students in south eastern Wayne Counties. Students, parents, community residents and business repre-

ON THE WEB

For expanded versions of Around Westland and the Community Calendar, visit our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on Westland.

sentative are invited to explore demonstrations in such technical programs as auto body repair, automotive technology, business/ computer technology, child care, computer aided design,

AROUND WESTLAND

computer aided manufacturing, construction technology, cosmetology, culinary arts, desktop publishing, digital media, electronics technology, graphic design, health occupations, heating/air conditioning refrigeration, integrated web design, marketing, media production, medical assisting, Oracle Internet Academy, printing technology and welding technology. Many programs will have hands on demonstrations.

The William D. Ford Career Technical Center is at 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Westland Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888)-737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Feb. 11.

He will be at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Bowling fund-raiser

A bowling fund-raiser to benefit the Motor Bulldogs Baseball Association will be held at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at Super Bowl, 45100 Ford, Canton. Check-in time is 8 p.m., bowling starts at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a raffle ticket to win a 36-inch TV, three games of bowling and pizza.

There will also be 50/50 drawings, mystery games and raffles. For tickets or more information, call Dennis Montie at (734) 306-2706.

The Motor Bulldogs Baseball Association a travel baseball league made up of children age 8-13 and under from Garden City, Westland, Redford, Livonia and other surrounding communities.

Council OKs buy-local policy

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland companies bidding on city contracts will be given preferential treatment under a new ordinance that won broad support Monday night from a city council that hopes to boost the local economy.

Local businesses will be considered the low bidder as long as their prices don't exceed those of outside companies by 3 percent for items less than \$100,000 or by 1 percent for bids more than \$100,000.

Put another way, a Westland company that bids \$80,000 on a city contract would be considered the low bidder even if an outside business offers the same service or product for \$78,000.

Mayor William Wild proposed the ordinance as a way to help local businesses that pay taxes here and that support Westland's charitable organizations.

With little discussion, the council voted Monday to approve the new ordinance, which still gives the city options for choosing a lower-bidding outside company. The new measure simply strengthens Westland's ability to favor local

businesses by putting a policy in writing.

Council President James Godbout said he already has heard from local businesses that are eager to try to boost the local economy by winning city contracts.

"They're excited about it," he said.

Under city rules, officials have to seek competitive bids for public work costing \$5,000 or more and for materials, tools or similar items with a price tag of \$750 or higher. The new policy is intended to give local businesses a slight edge.

To help promote the new ordinance, the city's controller and purchasing agent, Jade Smith, already has started contacting local businesses to make them aware of the latest plan to help them.

The Westland Chamber of Commerce also supports the plan. Chamber President Brookellen Swope said she believes the new ordinance will help local businesses as they struggle to survive Michigan's ailing economy.


"We are thrilled about it," she said.

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY**
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties, the Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at:

<http://www.gardencitymi.org>

You can access this information at City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: February 7, 10 24, 2008

CE08080251

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, February 12, 2008 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#
1990 Cadillac Deville	4 Dr	1G6CD533414259336
1995 Dodge Neon	4 Dr	1B3ES67C2SD611535
1993 Ford	4 Dr	1FMDU34X0PUC52294
1996 Mazda	4 Dr	JM1TA2225T1205073

Publish: February 7, 2008

CE08080251 - 2x5

CITY OF WESTLAND
2008 ANIMAL LICENSES

Licenses must be obtained by Friday, February 29, 2008 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Starting March 1, 2008, a \$2.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:

WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36601 Ford Road

OR

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marquette

EILEEN DeHART, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: February 7 & 21, 2008

CE08080301 - 2x5

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **February 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

VoIP E911 SYSTEM

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller/Purchasing Agent

Publish: February 7, 2008

CE08080505

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 2/22/2008 at 9:30 am.** Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

518- Ann Marie Swift-box,sofa,tv
0134-Bruce Leaman-boxes,bags,totes
1014-Deborah L Carr-boxes,bags,totes
1016-Jon Byrne-boxes,bags,totes
1032-David Kankula-boxes
106-Deanna Harper-boxes,bags,totes
1121-Joseph Swiney-boxes,bags,totes
126-Stephanie Gestrich-boxes,bags,totes
139-James Davis-boxes,bags,totes
149-Audrey Williams-boxes,bags,totes
218-Krystyn Overbeck-boxes,bags,totes
422-Rikki Manning-boxes,bags,totes
641-Christine LaPalm-boxes,bags,totes
914-Alicia Puckett-boxes,bags,totes

Publish: February 7 & 14, 2008

CE08080502 - 2x5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 2/22/08 at 10:30am** Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

2031-Larry Adams-sofa,dresser
3082-Michael Height-boxes totes bags
3097-Thomas Lippford- ent center tv sofa
3046- Aaron Mccaskey- boxes,bags,totes
3078- Dennis Ruivo- boxes
3090- Borders Books- books
6050-Fatme Berry Yamani-boxes totes bags
6055-Debra Bynum-tv freezer hutch
6093-Rosemarie Schafer-chairs totes
9084-Demetrius Terrell-boxes totes bags
4043- Jacqueline Yurkovich- box,totes,bags
4071- Brenda Kline- boxes
6121- Kimberly McMillan- box,bags,totes
7029- Mansfield Sports Cards- boxes
7107- Kevin Cotton- boxes,bags,totes

Publish: February 7 & 14, 2008

CE08080514 - 2x5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 2/21/2008 at 9:30 am.** Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

2464- Nicole Turner- boxes,bags,totes
2283-Tammy Butler-boxes totes clothes
2464-Nicole Turner-boxes table bags
1008-Candy Chartier-boxes,bags,totes
1014-Moses Temple Baptist Church-boxes,bags,totes
1088-Ernell K. Ware-boxes,bags,totes
1154-Nicole Allen-boxes,bags,totes
1224-Sammy Williams Jr-boxes,bags,totes
1252-Khadijah Robinson-boxes,bags,totes
1320-Jessica Moore-boxes,bags,totes
1338-Kenisha Mabone-boxes,bags,totes
1360-Scott Ford-boxes,bags,totes
1430-Kathryn Willis-boxes,bags,totes
1448-Franklin R Jones-boxes,bags,totes
1506-Kevin Cutler-boxes,bags,totes
1554-Be Da 1st Inc-boxes,bags,totes
1550-Be Da 1st Inc-boxes,bags,totes
1560-Meraj Yunus-boxes,bags,totes
2026-Montez Barr-boxes,bags,totes
2038-Jean Kirby-boxes,bags,totes
2400-Jodi Beydoun -boxes,bags,totes
2406-Peggy Lillie-boxes,bags,totes
2458-Kelly Bazzi-boxes,bags,totes
2472-Alisa Shuddel-boxes,bags,totes

Publish: February 7 & 14, 2008

CE08080506 - 2x5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF

WESTLAND BUILDINGS SECURITY UPGRADES AND WAYNE BUILDINGS SECURITY UPGRADES

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: February 25, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after Monday February 4, 2008.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Detroit, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: February 7, 2008

CE08080202 - 2x5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF

WESTLAND BUILDINGS SECURITY LIGHTING UPGRADES AND WAYNE BUILDINGS SECURITY LIGHTING UPGRADES

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: February 25, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after Monday February 4, 2008.

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Publish: February 7, 2008

CE08080202 - 2x5

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

B160- Tamarka Davis- dryer,refrigerator,bags
C025- Lola Yonko- box,bag,tote
D042- Linder Magwood- box,bag,tote
E040- Denise Hearn- headboard,mattress,dresser
A011- Brian R. Davis- box,bag,tote
A016- Tracey Wilburn- box,bag,tote
B048- Keyanna Wafford- box,bag,tote
B072- Michael Kowalski- totes,vac,tools
B081- William Childress- box,bag,tote
B097- Margret Mercing- box,bag,tote
B109- Latanya Harris- box,bag,tote
B117- Engrid Gudger- box,bag,tote
B118- Robert Smith- washer,dryer,entertainment center
B126- Jeffrey Johnson- box,bag,tote
B131- Catherine McDonald- box,bag,tote
B149- John Mason- boxes,refrigerator
B269- Thessalonia Stubbs- box,bag,tote
B282- Nefertiti Morris- bed,couch,washer
B309- Jason Herdandez- box,bag,tote
B321- Tisha Delaney- box,bag,tote
B345- Audrey Powell- box,bag,tote
B392- Lacie Lesniewski- box,bag,tote
C016- Katie Day- box,bag,tote
C025- Lola Yonko- box,bag,tote
C043- Tonia Johnson- box,bag,tote
D001- Trinity Ministries- box,bag,tote
D007- Sharon Mitchell- box,bag,tote
D026- Cher- ri Pye- box,bag,tote
D034- Julia Hightower- box,bag,tote
D037- Charmaine Land- box,bag,tote
F003- Anthony Woods
F018- Bradley Moscarello

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CE08080504 - 2x5



Nathan Byberg has plenty to smile about as Wayne Memorial's 2008 Cominghome King.



Sophomore Clentel McCoy helps his teammates to win a tug-a-war match during Wayne Memorial High School's 'Vegas, The City of Lights' Cominghome pep assembly.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students pep it up for Cominghome

Who has the most spirit at Wayne Memorial High School? When it comes to last week's Cominghome, it was the juniors who did the best job of plastering their corner of the gym with Class of 2010 posters.

The announcement was only one of several made during a pep assembly. Activities included a slam duck and three-point contests, performances by the Step team and the JROTC Zebra Battalion's drill team perform.

The drill team wowed the audience with their precision work that included Joshua Fletcher, a sergeant first class, performing at the top of a three-step ladder, made of guns held by fellow cadets.

"They've been training for several years and put that together last week," said JROTC instructor Steve

LaHaine.

The classes also squared off in tug-of-war, with the final contest pitting the senior class against the staff. After finishing a dismal last in the spirit wall competition, the seniors proved they had the might to drag the teachers across the line to win the tug-of-war.

Drawing the loudest laughs was sumo wrestling that saw Principal John Albrecht — The Hall Sweep King — challenge teacher and football coach Keith Weber — The Touchdown King. The two men donned body suits and took to the mats in a three-match event that gave the title to Weber who managed to stay on his feet for two of the three events.

"He pulled me down the second time," said Weber, referring to Albrecht's second trip to the mats.

"It's really tiring out there," added Albrecht. "These suits are heavy."

Senior Nathan Byberg elected as Cominghome king. Members of the court included Jordan Dottor, Kenny Ester, D.J. Freeman and Jack Zimmerman.

The enthusiasm at the assembly bode well for Wayne Memorial which defeated Plymouth 83-62 on the basketball court.

— By Sue Mason

SENTENCE

FROM PAGE A1

in the door and demanded money that Shuford had received by selling a Chevrolet Suburban. Hicks ordered Neibert to find the cash even though Shuford wasn't at home.

(In an unrelated case, Shuford has since started serving 9-22 years in prison after pleading guilty to charges of armed robbery, felony firearms and briefly escaping from the Wayne County Jail.)

During Hicks' preliminary hearing, Neibert said he

couldn't find Shuford's money when Hicks barged in, and he said Hicks shot him in the left neck/shoulder area before fleeing. The other two intruders — including one who possibly saved Neibert's life by pushing Hicks' arm and deflecting a second shot — were never arrested, Heater said.

"A second shot was fired with the intent to finish the job," Heater said. "Hicks fired, but one of his associates pushed his hand away, really saving the victim's life. This was clearly a brutal crime that could have been a homicide."

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

Firefighters douse gas station fire

A fire erupted at a gas station at Cherry Hill and Newburgh after a driver lost control of his vehicle just before 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, Westland Fire Marshal

Chris Szpara said.

The driver had a mechanical problem with his 1989 Ford F-110 and hit a gas pump, causing a fire that also damaged his vehicle, Szpara said.

Firefighters responded quickly to the scene and extinguished the blaze, which occurred on a windy day. No one was injured. "It certainly could have been a lot worse," Szpara said.

QUO VADIS

FROM PAGE A1

drew thousands of hits from people near and far away.

"We put our heart and soul into it," Gurka said.

Nervous and feeling a little self-conscious in their sports jackets and ties, the teens went to a Westland Planning Commission meeting Tuesday night to try to convince city officials and the developers, Lake Bellaire Properties LLC, to spare the Quo Vadis. They took along another friend and Churchill student, 17-year-old Ryan Stevenson, to help them.

The teens lost their battle, but they're not bitter.

"They listened to us, and they were very kind to us," Gurka said. "We respect the developer,

and we don't have any hard feelings."

Gurka and Gizicki recall seeing movies at the six-screen Quo Vadis before it closed in 2002. They had hoped the theater could be restored and possibly used as a teen club or as a performing arts center for live bands and comedians.

The teens had hoped that, at least, the front part of the theater could be restored and incorporated into the fitness center's design. But they were told Tuesday that the building was in such disrepair that it must be demolished, possibly as early as spring.

Gurka and Gizicki chalked up their efforts as a learning experience.

"This is our first time getting involved in anything like this," Gizicki said. "We wanted to do something in our lives — some-

thing with meaning. We wanted to show that teenagers can get out and do something to help their community."

The teens plan to remain involved in community causes. Already, Gizicki has been involved in his school's environmental club, and Gurka has had some involvement in a school philosophy group.

Gurka has said that anyone who has comments or questions about the theater may send him an e-mail at don@savetheqv.org. He said developers have granted a wish to give the teens one last look inside the Quo Vadis to take pictures before it is demolished.

"It's the final chapter for the Quo Vadis," Gurka said, "but we want to take one last walk through."

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Investing, saving may be best use for government check

At a recent investment speech I gave, several people wanted to know my opinion about the economic stimulus package proposed by the president and Congress.

Will it work and what should they do with their money?

I believe the American people are wiser than the government about their money. Whenever people get more money it generally is a good thing. That being said, there are some issues.

First, no agreement has been reached on the stimulus package. The Senate version is different than the one offered by the president. I am concerned about the "pork" that eventually will be added on to the bill. No matter who's in power, Democrats or Republicans, we all know how they love to spend our money.

I do believe that some economic stimulus package will be passed and a great majority of Americans will be getting money back from the government. It would like us to spend the money in order to stimulate the economy. However, even though that may be good for the economy as a whole that may not be what's good for you or me.

Those who have charge card balances should use the money to pay off debts. The majority of people who have charge card debt are paying 18½ percent interest that is not tax-deductible.

For others, before rushing out and spending the money, consider investing the check. It is not too late to make a Roth IRA contribution for 2007.

Another option for the money you may receive is to your child's or grandchild's college education fund. Fees and tuition are going up as is the number of years it takes to complete a degree. When I went to college, the aver-

age student completed an undergraduate education in four years. In today's world, the average is closer to five years. The Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) is a great way to save. It takes \$25 to open an account and in addition, you can deduct your contribution off your Michigan Income Tax Return. The MESP is a noncommission investment and it has low management fees. To find out more about the MESP, go to www.misaves.com.

Paying off debt, saving for your retirement or investing in your child's or grandchild's college education are better than spending the money. Although spending the money is good for the economy it may not be good for your individual situation. We live in a society where we are forced to take more responsibility when it comes to personal financial affairs so we need to take advantage of opportunities when they come along.

One side note, the low-lives in our society already are starting to prey on individuals with regard to these tax rebates. The IRS recently issued a warning that individuals are being contacted either by phone or e-mail requesting information so that they can send you your tax rebates. This is just another identity theft scam.

Never give sensitive information to anyone who claims by phone or e-mail they are with the IRS. The IRS does not correspond with taxpayers through e-mail. If you receive an e-mail claiming they are the IRS, it is bogus. On the other hand, the IRS does sometimes communicate through telephone; however, they do not initiate the contact. If you receive an unsolicited call from the IRS, hang up.

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



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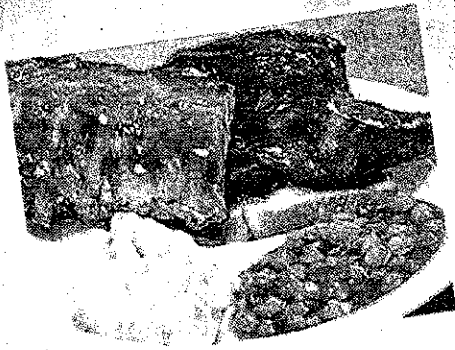
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Deanna recommended Parkside Dental Team to all her family and friends and advises, "If you're suffering from dental pain, don't wait another minute. Give Parkside Dental Team a chance!"



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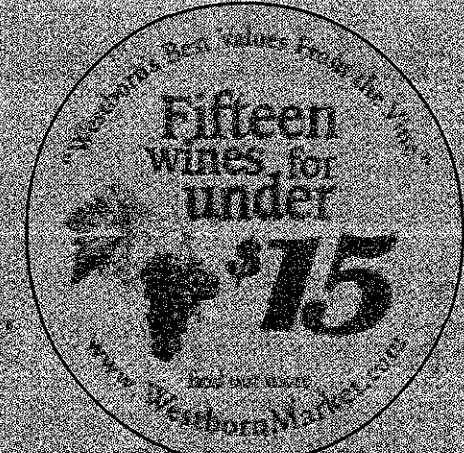
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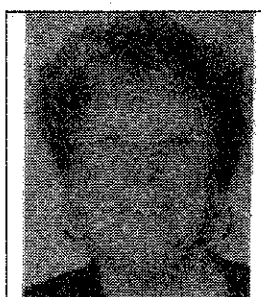
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DONALD CLAIR MOORHEAD

Sept. 1924 to Jan. 2008. Son of Edward & Mary. Beloved husband of Delores (Dee). Father to Craig, Chris, Pam & Rand. Brother to Louise & Linda. 14 grandkids. Best friend to Eddie & Roge. Served WWII in India. Avid athlete. Always lending a hand. Service held on St. Pete Beach, FL, true to Don's spirit, a rainbow appeared! Donations please to assist laser cancer treatment research: ASLMS, 2100 Stewart #240 Wausau, WI 54401. We really miss you, Papaw; the piper of Beverly Hills!



GLORIA ANN DeWOLF

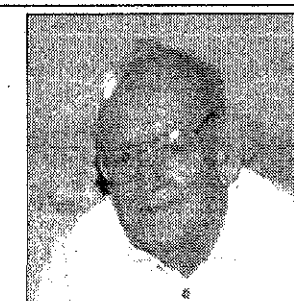
Passed away January 28, 2008. Beloved wife to Albert T. DeWolf. Loving mother of Mary (Ed) Pieniazek, Dolores (Larry) Niscoromi, Albert (Lisa), Mark, Cheryl Hodgins (Frank Strucel), John (Ruth), April (Randy) Tasco, May (Gene) Desjarlais, Joseph (Cindy), and William (Kathy). Loving grandmother to 25 beautiful grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren and two brothers, Jim (Nancy) & Doug Leflar. We will all miss her dearly. Visitation February 10th 1 to 4 pm at Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 17000 Middlebelt Road (S. of 6 Mile). Memorial Service at 3 pm. Memorials to St. Jude's. Share a memory at: www.mannsfuneralhome.com

HARRY H. BLACK

February 1, 2008, age 86, of Canton, MI. Honored Navy Veteran of WWII and the Korean War. Beloved husband of the late Lorraine. Dear father of Cary (Jer) and Sanford (Kathy). Grandfather of Andrew, Gregory, Julie (Mark) Stanton and Jacob. Great-grandfather of Sydney and Isabelle Stanton. Brother of Shirley (John) Kniess and the late Ralph, Leon, Guy, Derwood, Carl, Michael, Norman and Dorothy Black. Services were held Tuesday at the UH Funeral Home, Westland with Pastor Mick Devins officiating. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhf.com

HUGH ELMER (Pat) CRESSWELL

Age 86 formerly of Rochester Hills, MI died Saturday, February 2, 2008 in Placida, Florida. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. at the St. Louis First United Methodist Church. Pastor Terri Bentley will officiate with burial at Wildwood Cemetery, Chesaning, MI. at 1:30 P.M. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service from 10-11 A.M. He was born on April 22, 1921 in St. Louis, MI the son of John Elmer and Vera (Henry) Cresswell. Mr. Cresswell graduated in 1940 from St. Louis High School. He attended Alma College and completed officers training at Western Michigan University before proudly serving in World War II and the Korean War. He served as a Captain in the Marine Corps, training troops for the amphibious tank divisions. He was stationed in the Pacific and was part of the occupation forces stationed outside Nagasaki, Japan. Pat was married to Marilyn M. Miller on June 28, 1943 in Petoskey, Michigan and they celebrated 63 years of married life before she died in March, 2007. They were residents of Rochester Hills, MI for most of their married lives and enjoyed being members of North Star Sail Club where Pat was an avid sailboat racer and winner of the 1972 Mackinac Race. He was also a member of the Masons, Kiwanis, Elks, and Macomb County Independent Agents Association. Pat was owner and President of The Cresswell Insurance Agency in Utica, Michigan which he founded in 1954. In 1974 he established Oakland General Underwriters in Rochester Hills, Michigan. He retired in 1991 to enjoy time between Charlevoix, MI and Placida, FL. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, cultivating flowers, watching football and he had a great love for animals. His devotion to his family, strength of convictions, strong leadership, honesty, independent spirit, sense of humor, and tender heart allowed him the ability to be successful in business as well as personal friendships while always focusing on the future. Mr. Cresswell is survived by his devoted son, James T. (Candace) Cresswell of Harrison Township with whom he shared a special bond and partnership, not only in business but in all aspects of life, one daughter Mary Jane (David "Jack") Brillman of Pittsburgh, three grandchildren; Jon Cresswell, Alex Brillman, and Laura Brillman whom he loved dearly and his sister Faith (Peach) Best of Alma, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Marilyn Cresswell, and two brothers; Richard Cresswell and John Cresswell. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, St. Louis Chapel, 117 North East Street, St. Louis, MI 48880



IN LOVING MEMORY OF WM. TAYLOR BALL

Who Passed away on Feb. 5, 2004. You are dearly missed. Esther Stuky



JACQUELINE RAE STEUER

Passed away February 02, 2008 - Age 64; of Farmington, MI. Memorial Service to be held at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville, Saturday, Feb. 9th at 11:00 A.M. In lieu of flowers please make charitable contribution, in her name, to one of the following: Heartland Home Healthcare and Hospice, Farmington Area Goodfellows, Meals On Wheels - Farmington Hills, New Century Home Healthcare Inc., Ward Church. She was survived by her mother Laura Sambrookes, sister Phyllis Knoerzer, sister Eileen Boren, son Matthew C. Steuer, grandson Jeffery P. Finke

JAMES K. ORR

Of Whitmore Lake, MI. Age 46, Jim was employed as an Engineering Tech with Aerotec. Survivors include his wife Jan Jagielly, his children; Jimmy K., Jessica and Brian Orr, his stepchildren; Melissa and Robert McIntyre. A Simple Farewell will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Visitation will be held Friday from 2-4 & 6-8 PM. Please leave a Message of Comfort for Jim's family at 877-231-7900 or visit his guestbook at: www.borekjennings.com



LINDA M. SHARPE (nee Monforton)

Age 58, January 31, 2008. Loving mother of James, John (Nina), Dee-Ann (Mike) and Jeff (Becca). Grandmother of 11. Sister of Ken, Denise, Dan, Phil, Mary and the late Andrew. Preceded in death by parents, Shirley and Earl Monforton. Visitation Wednesday 2-9pm and Thursday 1-9pm with a vigil service at 7pm, at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd. (E. of Beech Daly), Redford. Friday instate at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 27101 W. Chicago (at Inkster) at 10 am with a celebration of life Mass at 10:30. Burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens-West. Memorials may be made to the American Stroke Association

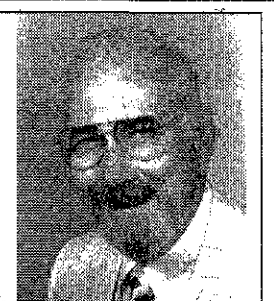


PATRICIA MORAT

Age 73, born April 3, 1934, of Bloomfield Hills, MI, passed away after a three and a half year struggle with cancer on February 2nd, 2008. Born in Pontiac, Michigan, Patricia was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Patricia was a true extravert and made many friends wherever she went. She was generous, loving and an open book to all who would listen about her many adventures. Her adventures were shared by her devoted and loving husband Arthur Morat. They were married on February 8, 1964, at Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan. Patricia is survived by her husband Arthur, their two daughters Monica L. Malvich (Scott) and Michelle E. Morat, her siblings James, Joseph and Anita McEwan, her two grandchildren Rachel and Scott Jr. and the many friends who loved her. Her parents Marguerite B. and James J. McEwan, pre-deceased her. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday Feb. 5, at St. Regis Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills. Memorial tributes to Susan G. Komen for the Cure P.O. Box 650309 Dallas, TX 75265-0309. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RICHARD L. WHITE

of Bingham Twp, passed away Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 at Cherry Hill Haven. Richard was born Nov. 4, 1938 in Detroit the son of George and Mary (Dixon) White. On Sept. 26, 1959 in Redford Twp, MI, he married his loving wife of forty eight years, Sharon Souder, who survives. Richard graduated from Redford Union High School. As a young man he served his country in the Air Force from 1959 to 1963. Afterwards Richard worked for General Motors for forty years. Richard is survived by his wife Sharon, three children, Mark R. White of Royal Oak, Terry J. (Karen) White of Plymouth Twp, Susan L. (Steven) Zurek of Chicago; two brothers, George (Gerry) White, Paul (Pat) White and five grandchildren. No services are planned at this time. Please sign Richard's online guestbook at www.legacy.com/record-eagle/. Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay.



ROBERT E. OSBORN

Of Northville, (formerly Livonia) Michigan lived a full 86 years of life. Bob left us in the early morning hours of February 4th, surrounded in love with his wife and family by his side. Bob (or better known as "Mr. Oh" or "Ozzy") is survived by his best friend and wife of 24 years, Sharon E. Osborn, a sister Dorothy (Karl) Fink, his children David (Sue) Osborn, Patricia (Bill) Tatarski, Jim (Carolyn) Osborn, Sharon Falk (Michael) Popiel, Lisa Falk (Daniel) Barron, nieces Barbara (Donald) Hunter, Cindy (Bill) Cole, nephew Gary Fink along with 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bob was born in Crosswell, Michigan on August 13, 1921. The son of Hazel and Elmer Osborn he graduated from Mackenzie High School in 1939. Bob worked at Ford Motor Company (joking that he was there before the unions!) He attended the University of Iowa as a Naval Cadet and served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1946. He worked and later retired from Michigan Bell in 1970. Bob then went on to serve 13 years as the Director of Public Works for the City of Livonia. Bob was very involved in the Livonia community serving as a Board Member of the Livonia Anniversary Committee (SPREE), Board Member of Laurel Woods Condo Association, Vice President of the Brashear Tower Management Company. In addition, he was a former Livonia Housing Commissioner, 1970-73, Trustee at St. Mary-Mercy Hospital from 1980-84 and was active in Little League baseball, football and the Livonia Y.M.C.A. Indian Guides. Bob along with his partners Ed McNamara and Haze Wilson designed, developed and owned The Oasis Golf Center in Northville Township from 1964 until 1994. The family will receive guests at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap Street, Northville on Thursday from 2:00 - 8:00 pm. The funeral service will be held at Casterline Funeral Home on Friday, February 8th at 11:00 am. Burial will be at Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville, Michigan. Memorial contributions to Northville Community Foundation, attn: Tractor Fund or Northville Twp. Professional Fire Fighters, Local 3961 Charity Fund, would be appreciated.

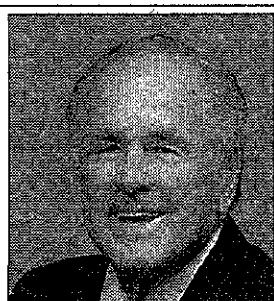
RUTH EVELYN WOODRUFF

Age 82, passed away at Heartland Health Care Center in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. She was born on March 24, 1925, in Detroit to John and Anna (Slaggard) Blunden and married Charles Woodruff on May 29, 1943, in Detroit. Ruth was currently a member of the United Methodist Church in Troy, Michigan. Ruth is survived by her children, Patricia (Barry Yates) Awood of Ann Arbor, David (Tonya) Woodruff of Branch, and Laura (William) Horwath of Beverly Hills; many grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and two brothers. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles in 1994; six sisters; and a brother. Funeral Services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 9, 2008, from the Fremont United Methodist Church with interment in Maple Grove Cemetery. For a more lasting memorial, friends are asked to consider the Fremont United Methodist Church. Friends may share memories and condolences with the family at www.crandellfh.com. Arrangements by Crandell Funeral Home 7193 W. 48th Street PO 148 Fremont, MI 49412, 1-888-464-7837.



SAIMA H. PALMER

Age 92, formerly of Farmington Hills, MI, passed January 31, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



The Honorable S. JAMES CLARKSON

Age 82 of Naples, FL passed away on February 1, 2008 surrounded by his loving family. Jim has practiced law for 50 years; and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, The Federal Courts, Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, the Circuit Courts of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties and many District and Probate Courts in Southeastern Michigan. He served as a Judge of the 46th District Court for ten years; appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to sit as a visiting judge in Wayne County Circuit Court, Recorder's Court and other District Courts in Southeastern MI. Jim acted as a visiting judge for an additional ten years. Jim was a mediator for 15 years in Wayne and Oakland County. In addition Jim served in three branches of government Legislative, Michigan State Representative from 1959 to 1960 Oakland County Board of Supervisors, 1961 to 1968. Executive, Mayor of Southfield, Michigan serving four terms from 1961 to 1968. Judiciary branch as District Judge, 46th District Court 1969 to 1979. In addition Jim also served on many government and community service boards. Jim served in World War II with Patton's Third Army; 26th Infantry Division (Yankee Division) 101st Infantry Regiment, awarded the American Theater Ribbon, EAME Theater Ribbon with four battle stars. Combat Infantryman's Badge, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Jim is preceded in death by his first wife and mother of his children Betty. He is survived by his four sons, Eldest son Jim (Pamela) is a practicing Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Kenneth graduated from University of Michigan Law School and is a practicing attorney in MI and FL. Don (Kim) graduated from the University of Michigan and is a Southfield Michigan fire fighter. Tom (Kelly) the youngest son is a graduate of University of Michigan and an Ann Arbor Schoolteacher. Jim is also survived by his loving wife of 20 years Millie and her children Chris (Dave) Colden, Larry (Brooke) Brown and Mark Brown; fifteen grandchildren Jim, Jon, Trent, Dylan, Samantha, Joe, Adam, Allie, Kate, Kelly, Larry, Ashley, Stephen, Hannah and Georgia; sister Trudy Morgan. Memorial gathering was held on February 4, 2008 from 6:00- 8:00 p.m. at Fuller Funeral Home 4735 Tamiami Trail East. Memorial Mass Tuesday February 5th, 8:00 a.m. St. Ann's Parish 475 9th Ave. South Naples. In lieu of flowers memorials in Jim's name may be made to Avow Hospice 1095 Whippoorwill Lane Naples, FL 34105 or St. Ann's Parish 475 9th Ave South, Naples or St. Ann's Parish of Muskoka Lake P.O. Box 32 82 Joseph St. MacTier Ontario Canada POC-IHO. Fuller Funeral Home, Naples, Florida 239-417-5000.



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
oeobits@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

0208010992

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.

FEBRUARY

World religions

Have you ever wondered why are there so many different religions? How should Christians view other religions? How is God at work in other religions? What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions? Join Farmington First United Methodist Church for a six-week, video-based study on Christianity and Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. Morning and evening classes available beginning 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday Feb. 7, Tuesday class began 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 5, at the church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. Call (248) 474-6573 for details.

Divorce recovery

The winter/spring workshop meets 7-9:30 p.m. every Thursday until March 13, at Ward Church, Northville. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and includes materials and refreshments. Free childcare provided and financial help is available if needed. Deadline for registration for current session is Feb. 7, call (248) 374-5920.

Lenten fish dinners

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites everyone to it's All You Can Eat Lenten Fish Dinners, beginning 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8 and continuing Feb. 15, 22, 29, and March 7 and 14, in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd. Livonia. The dinners feature a choice of hand-dipped fried or baked cod along with a large assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for children ages 3-11, free for age 3 and under. Carry-out orders available at \$7 each. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Hunger workshop

Presented by Bread for the World, a Christian non-partisan hunger legislation organization, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 North Campbell, Royal Oak. For information, call (734) 487-9058, send e-mail to wolverbob@yahoo.com or visit www.breadmichigan.org. No charge. During an offering of Letters, individuals and congregations are asked not to donate funds, but write Congress on specific hunger-fighting legislation.

Widowed Friends

Italian buffet dinner, conversation and cards for widowed men and women of all ages Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Corsi's Italian Restaurant, Seven Mile near Inkster, Livonia. Social time from 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. followed by social time and music until 9:30 p.m. Cost \$15, includes buffet. Send payment by Feb. 9. For information, call Chet at (734) 459-4316 or Gloria at (313) 381-4187.

Single Place Ministry

Upcoming activities include Dining Out Group at Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway, east of I-275 at Seven Mile exit 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, reservations mandatory, call Grace at (734) 464-4029. Buffet dinner at Northville Downs 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, \$33, advance paid reservations by Feb. 9, call (734) 459-7235. Dinner and movie 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Grape Expectations Wine and Tapas Bar, Plymouth, call Bruce at (734) 459-7235. Single Place Ministry meets Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5 per person.

Court of St. Brigid

Scholarship Program sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Rose Kennedy Division, will be held Saturday, Feb. 16, at the AOH Hall, 24242 Grand River, Detroit. Educational scholarships will be awarded to the winner and her court. Eligible for the program are girls, ages 17-22, who are Irish and Catholic. For application and more information, call Maureen Kelly at (734) 632-0334 or visit www.detroitirish.org. Deadline for application is Friday, Feb. 9.

Reformed Protestant services

A new series of sermons on the Doctrines of Grace is being preached by Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Road, Canton. For more information, call Richard Waldecker at (734) 664-1815, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@fuse.net.

Gospel concert

Many Voices...One Song honors Black History Month with a celebration of gospel and spiritual songs sung by the Festival Choir and Children's Choir, accompanied by African drums 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. No charge. A free-will offering will be taken at intermission. Child care provided through age 4. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

Christian comedian

Ed Thompson (www.edthompson-

live.com), 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 (Schoolcraft service drive), Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.

Curt Collins concert

Top 20 Christian Music performer Curt Collins will be performing 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at St. John Lutheran Church 23225 Gill, two blocks west of downtown Farmington. Admission is free. A Love Offering will be taken. Call (248) 474-0584.

Choir concert

The Courville Concert Choir from Detroit sings at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Rd., north of Eight Mile, Southfield. A free will offering will be collected. The youth choir will sing classical and gospel songs. For information, call (248) 569-2972.

From grief to new hope

Second week of an 8-week grief workshop continuing 7-8:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at Ward Church, Northville. Led by Cathy Clough, Executive Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. No pre-registration necessary. For information, call Single Point Ministries at (248) 374-5920.

Mid-week worship

Begins 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, and continues to March 12, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211. Evening begins with worship followed by a simple meal of bread and soup, and concludes with fellowship and mission projects.

Lenten services

Mid-week Wednesday Lenten Services 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 5 and 12, Holy week services 10 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; Good Friday (March 21) Reflections on the Passion 12:30-2 p.m., Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m., Easter Vigil 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday, March 22, and 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 23, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 427-1414. Weekly worship services 10 a.m. Sundays with nursery, Adult Learning and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. No 6 p.m. Sunday services during Lent or Easter Sunday. All are welcome.

Lenten services

Noon and 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, 20, and 27, and March 5 and 12, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. The Pulpit Theme is The Places of Passion. Holy Week Services 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16 with Confirmation; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; noon and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, March 21 and Easter Sunday, March 23.

Lenten services

Continue at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel every Wednesday through March 13, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 534-7730. Maundy Thursday service will be 7:30 p.m. March 20, the Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. March 23 in the sanctuary.

Prince of Peace Church

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Antique show

44th Annual Antique Show 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 26998 S. Woodward at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. This year 28 dealers show silver, crystal, china, pottery, clocks, jewelry, dolls & toys, garden décor, oak-pine-walnut furniture, sewing collectibles, vintage clothing & hats, orientalia. Homemade soups, salads, sandwiches, complete dinners & desserts available Friday. Luncheon menu only on Saturday. A country store offers homemade breads, cookies and candy. Also offered is an assortment of silk spring flowers and decorative items. Donation is \$5 per person. Ample on-site parking free. All proceeds help support St. John's Open Hands Food Pantry and a variety of missions and projects of the Episcopal Church Women.

Learning from loneliness

Dr. Paul Melrose talks about loneliness and how caregivers can assist their care receivers and even themselves with loneliness 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29987 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$10. RSVP by Feb. 14, Call (248) 474-4701.

The Catholic Marriage FAQ

Deacon William Meahan presents the things you thought you knew but didn't, things you didn't think you knew but, 10:45 a.m. to noon Sunday, Feb. 17, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., north of Six Mile, Livonia. Pre-registration requested, call (734) 425-5950. No charge.

The Jesus Prayer

A Lenten presentation by Byzantine Catholic Bishop Nicholas Samra 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Sacred

Please see RELIGION, A7

RELIGION

FROM PAGE A6

Heart Byzantine Catholic Church Banquet Hall, 29125 W. Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia. \$10 donation at the door covers hall and refreshments. RSVP by Feb. 20. Call (734) 422-0278. Presented by Pascha Books & Gifts now located at the Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church. Learn how the words are based on scriptural texts.

Clothing bank

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 23, and the fourth Saturday of every month, at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. Free clothing for men, women and children. For more information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Lenten symposium

Saturday, Feb. 23, at St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan, Sterling Heights. Featured

speaker is the Rev. Monsignor Charles Mangan of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Cost is \$40 advance (\$45 at door), \$20 students, free for seminarians. All speakers also attend the youth symposium (cost \$15 for ages 12-17). Registration begins at 7 a.m., followed by Mass at 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.holytrinityapostolate.com, send e-mail to barbaramm@sbcglobal.net or call Shirley at (313) 277-8905, Jerene (248) 625-2461 or Bonnie (586) 781-8523. Registration form must be received by Feb. 20.

Widowed Friends

Widowed men and women of all ages are invited to a 2:30 p.m. Mass Sunday, Feb. 24, followed by fellowship and refreshments at St. Columban Parish, 1775 Melton, north of 14 mile between Woodward and Coolidge. Enter the building door in back closest to rear parking lot. For information, call Marilyn at (586) 739-9406.

Men's retreat

Feb. 29 to March 2, at St. Paul of the

Cross Retreat Center, Outer Drive and I-96. Single rooms, own bath, all meals. Cost is approximately \$125. Call Ruben at (734) 261-5321 for appointment.

UPCOMING**Bethany Suburban West**

Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 1, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

VBS summer ministries

The International Christian Education Association presents its 42nd preview 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at Ward Church, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville. Get a head start on your church's summer program by viewing exhibits and demonstrations from national publishers, attend 4 of 20 workshops on organizing, planning and administering summer programs, also make and take puppetry and teaching techniques, morning refreshments and lunch included in

registration fee. The event is non-denominational and open to the public. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceaonline.org.

Garage sale

Includes household items, tools, books, games, toys, electronic toys/games/equipment, clean, gently used children's clothing & baby items 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, Grab bag noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, at St. Aidan Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Admission \$1 per person. Garage sale donations accepted before and after masses March 1-2 in parish garage. No furniture, adult clothing accepted. No strollers permitted during sale. For information, call Ruth McCarthy at (734) 464-5973.

Bethany Suburban West

Lenten Mass 9 a.m. Sunday, March 9, at Madonna Chapel, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Please use the Newburg entrance, breakfast to follow. Call Kathy for details (734) 513 9479.

Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March

14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.

Easter season worship

9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20, and 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 23, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia; noon Good Friday, March 21, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia and 7 p.m. Good Friday, at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia (contemporary service), and 7 a.m. Easter Sunday at Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh, north of Eight Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-0149.

Bethany Suburban West

Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday

March 22, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479. Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716. Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644. Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.

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20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
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Pastor Beth Librande
Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate
United Methodist
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313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

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313-937-2233

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MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a.
Sat. 4 p. Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-622-1616
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Sat. 6 p. Sun 9a

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Worship Service-Hispanic 12:30 p.m.
Wednesdays:
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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30
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Reading Room located at church
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10:30 am
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All Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast
11:00 A.M. Sunday
WRDT-AM 560
The WNUZ Word Station
For additional information
visit www.wardchurch.org

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(734) 453-5252

Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study 9:30 am
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Wednesday Lenten Worship
Feb. 6 - March 12, 7:00 p.m.
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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

OE05E3697

OUR VIEWS

Don't touch PEG channels!

A Comcast executive apologized last week for failing to communicate adequately and work cooperatively with local communities over the company's plans to move public-access cable channels to the 900 level on the program grid.

Now, we hope Comcast takes the next step and drops its plans.

That would be good news for everyone who cares about what their local city councils and school boards are up to, including residents in Westland.

It would be welcome news for city officials, too, who have used the channels to let residents view council and school board meetings, learn about new businesses in town, or watch different school programs and the State of the City address.

Officials say moving the channels from the lower tier, where they have been for years, would make them less accessible for subscribers, who may eventually stop viewing them.

How many people will have the patience to scroll past the pay-per-view and adult channel menu to find their local city council or school board meeting? How many people will even know they will still be able to find them?

Not only will a move to the 900 level inconvenience residents, it will result in added costs.

Viewers would need special converter boxes for each TV to access the channels because they will be carried in digital instead of analog format. Comcast has offered to supply one converter box per household for free after the change — but just for the first year.

On Jan. 14, U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts placed a temporary restraining order on the cable provider, halting its plan to shift PEG channels after Dearborn and Meridian Township, near Lansing, filed suit.

Comcast argues the move is needed because of competitive pressures and technological changes, which is true. It's facing stiff competition from AT&T which has placed Public Education and Government channels in a higher tier.

We hope the company takes another look at what it's proposing and decide to continue its longtime commitment to public access.

Cooperation critical to moving state forward

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State address fell on largely deaf ears last week. But that fact should not discount the significance of her speech before the Michigan Legislature, or the importance of several new initiatives offered in the address.

The governor had the misfortune of giving her sixth State of the State address one day after President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union address, and just prior to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's televised "I'm sorry" speech regarding his apparent affair with his now-former chief of staff and subsequent perjury allegations.

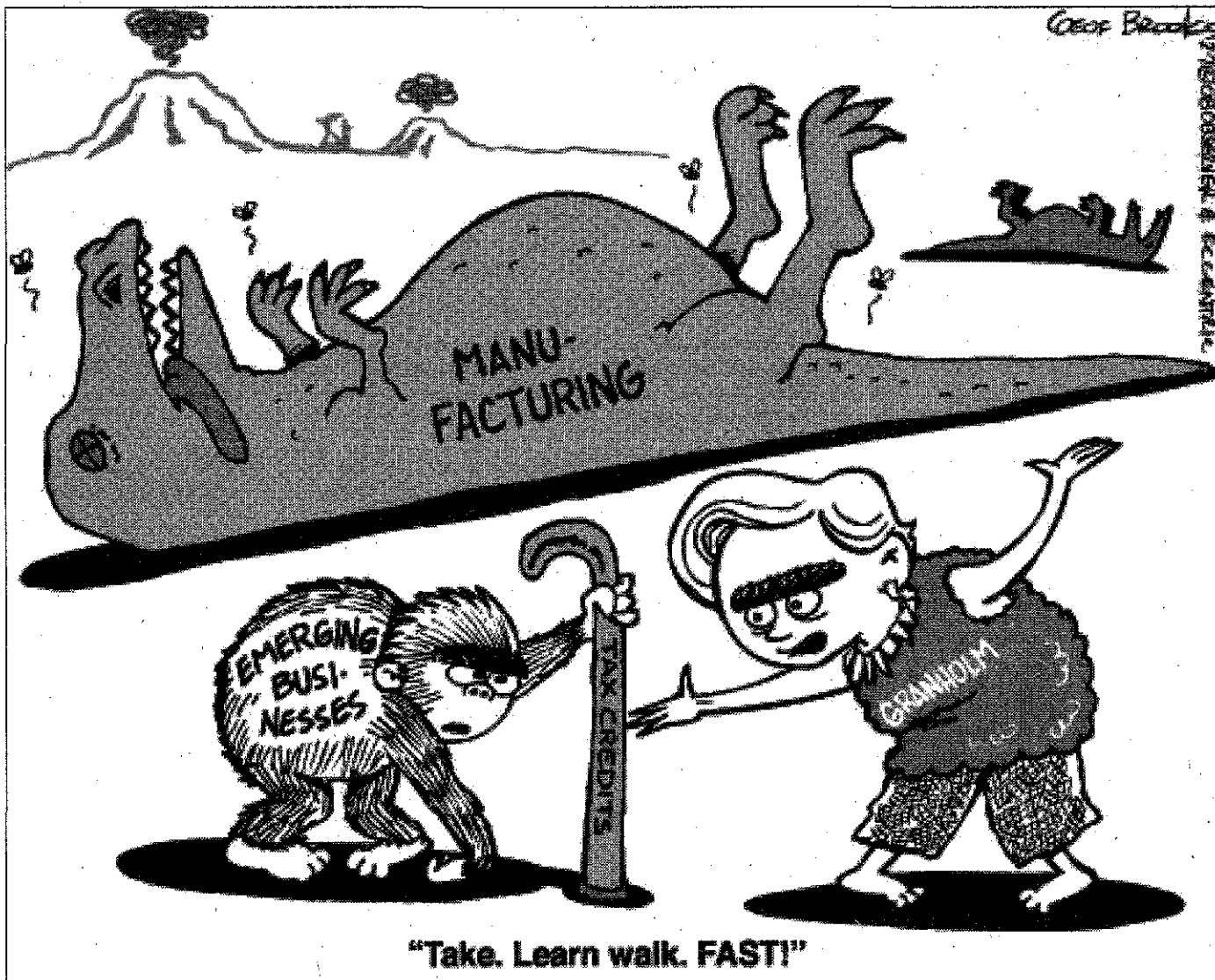
Hopefully, state legislators will pay more attention to the governor's budget when it is delivered to them in the next couple of weeks than to the growing Kilpatrick scandal. The governor's proposals will be fleshed out in the budget document, and will need the support of both the Democrat-controlled state House and Republican-controlled Senate to be realized.

Both Granholm and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop have pledged to set aside the partisan bickering that nearly bankrupted the state last fall and work together to draft a budget that both sides can live with. That's a far cry from last year, when every Granholm initiative was shot down by the Senate without being given serious consideration. New and bold initiatives should not be Republican plans or Democrat plans, but instead proposals that are best for all Michigan residents.

The governor called for several such proposals in her State of the State address, including opening dozens of new, smaller high schools, starting a massive retraining program for thousands of displaced workers, undertaking a huge advertising blitz to lure new jobs and tourists to the state and pumping millions of new dollars into our colleges and universities.

It would be hard for anyone — Democrat or Republican — to argue the merits of these proposals. But it will take both sides working together to determine how these proposals will be created and, more importantly, how they will be funded.

If the budget process again is reduced to personal attacks and partisan bickering, there may be a whole lot of state politicians looking for work after the November elections.



LETTERS

It's simple: Help our fellow man

Thank you for your follow-up article on Deborah with three children who lives in the Wayne County Homeless Shelter.

I work in the Human Resources of a major Livonia employer (American Community Mutual Insurance Co.) and when the article first appeared, our employment coordinator called the shelter and was told Deborah had already secured a position.

In reading the follow-up article, I was so happy to learn that she not only got a great job but a family offered her their vacant home with an option of rent to own and she only has to pay utilities for the first six months to help her get back on her feet.

Both her new employer and the generous family who offered their vacant home wish to remain anonymous. I can only say that this is a perfect example of what Jesus would want us to do with the resources we are given while living on this earth ... it's so simple, helping our fellow man. Why is it so hard for some people to "get it"?

Dorothy Petro
Livonia

Test new and old drivers

I found your cartoon in the paper showing kids driving while eating and talking on the cell phone kind of ironic.

It seems like everyone wants to show teenagers driving crazy while talking on cell phones. That is NOT the entire picture. I have seen ALL ages talking on cell phones. I have seen ALL ages eating while driving. How about the businessman who has his laptop open on the passenger seat so he can read his e-mails? How about the senior citizen who turns right from the left lane?

Every day we read about accidents caused by people not too young to drive but too old to drive. Remember the 85-year-old in Dearborn who backed up all the way across the street into his neighbor's garage just one week after he backed over his wife in the same driveway. Or we see pictures where senior citizens drive into a store because they mistake the gas pedal for the brake pedal.

We should not only test NEW drivers but also OLD drivers too. My parents made me wait until I was old enough to get a license, I hope my children take it away when I am too old.

By the way, I turn 60 in December.

Skip Wehrle
Garden City

Get them out now

No wonder Colin Powell had to exit the Cheney/Bush White House so quickly. No one of integrity could tolerate the greedy, unscrupulous actions of those two jokers. I don't care that it is nearly over. I want them out of office today!

Catherine VanHollebeke
Garden City

Truth about pain

Fibromyalgia (FM) is an emerging illness, as described in the book *Emerging Illness and Society: Negotiating the Public Agenda*. As such, it will and

should be in the forefront of our national consciousness, because of the long-term suffering it produces, because of its economic impact on our national economy caused by lost productivity and because of the impoverished quality of life that the estimated 10 million women, men and children who suffer daily from FM have to bear. These issues need to be considered when considering the realities of FM.

The New York Times on Jan. 14, printed an article titled, "Drug Approved. Is Disease Real?" has resurrected long disproven myths concerning the etiology and treatment of fibromyalgia that further contributes to the widespread misunderstanding by the general public about fibromyalgia. Rather than providing the public with contemporary thought and evidence concerning FM, this article confuses the readership as to the nature of this disorder as well as the efficacy of advances in its treatment.

The writer questions the pathophysiological basis of FM by offering an opinion that FM is not a real disease.

The reality of FM is supported by over 4,500 scientific papers. Abnormalities of the central nervous system, abnormalities of and in the brain, dysregulation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal glands, abnormally low serotonin levels linking to poor sleep and pain perception, headaches and immunoregulatory abnormalities have all been documented as the pathophysiological underpinnings of this illness.

The article failed to discuss the research and advances of the last decade by institutions such as the University of Michigan and Dr. Daniel Clauw, and the dedication of physicians devoted to helping and educating fibromyalgia patients, like Dr. Martin Tamler, of Beaumont Hospital.

Alex Berenson's portrait of the pharmaceutical industry and FM community is unbalanced. According to him, the role of the pharmaceutical companies is to make "millions in profits." To imply that the primary reason for marketing Lyrica is to make money off of the backs of desperate FM patients suggests that FM patients are "helpless" victims of the pharmaceutical industry. The pharmaceutical industry plays a significant role in the development of therapeutic treatment options for many illnesses.

The undertreatment of pain is widespread in the U.S. Fibromyalgia is among the many illnesses that are invoking a new era towards pain management treatments and quality of life issues.

Sharon Ostalecki
director, Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion

Is process open?

It is how much money they have raised; it's the momentum factor; and it's the star quality that news commentators talk about when referring to the candidates running for the nomination of their party for president of the United States.

There was the time when the presidential candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties were picked at their national conventions. Then it changed. We were told the electorate would decide. It would be more open, more democratic. Is it?

I envision a different presidential primary. The primaries and caucuses are all on the same day, taking place four weeks before the November election. At the national party conventions the candidates are given equal opportunities to explain why we should vote for them. There are individual presentations and there are debates. At the debates all the candidates are given the time to answer all the questions. The questions deal with the issues: foreign policy, the economy, jobs, health care, the environment, immigration, etc. There are no personal attacks.

The national conventions are broadcast on the network channels as a public service. By law, there is a cap on how much money the candidates can raise for campaigning which can only begin six months before the November election.

I could continue this scenario, but basically I would like to see an end to we have the best government money can buy.

Ann Abdoo
Livonia

Proposal 'gobbledygook'

Upon reading the "Proposed Ballot Language" the Michigan Health Care Campaign wants on a ballot, I was flabbergasted at the incredible subjectivity of the language. Examples:

■ Who is "every Michigan resident"? How about E.T. or an alien who just breached U.S. borders?

■ What's "affordable and comprehensive"? According to Bill Gates or some transient living under an overpass?

■ What's "fair and cost-effective"? Think Bush's military misadventures. And on and on and on ... Gawd!

Will Lansing's Solomons define the terms or will outside legal be engaged? Lawyers (inhouse or outhouse) will run up exorbitant fees analyzing terms employing the logic of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll of Alice in Wonderland fame) who brilliantly said, "A word means whatever I want it to mean." And Lew didn't even have a J.D.!

Question: Who IS the Einstein in Lansing who approved this abstract idiosyncratic gobbledygook?

William Carruth
Royal Oak

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We thank the community for their support of the sinking fund. Without it, this would not have been possible."
- Principal Joan Sedik during the dedication ceremony for John Glenn High School's new gymnasium addition

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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.

Watching the bobbing dance is lesson in party politics

Last week was time for the "State of ..." addresses. The lamest of lame duck presidents in recent history, George W. Bush, went first on Monday, continuing to justify seven years of bungled leadership. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who has also failed to establish a strong record or a real legacy, offered up her address on Tuesday.

The ongoing war in Iraq, the new aggravations in Afghanistan and a crumbling economy didn't stop the usual State of the Union bobbing dance. You know, whenever the president mentions "the Troops," "taking care of our veterans" and "the American Way of Life"

all members of the Congress rise en masse and applaud wildly. When he mentions keeping tax cuts for the wealthy and staying the course in Iraq, Republicans cheer and Democrats sit on their hands. When he mentions immigration reform, Democrats show polite approval while his fellow Republicans sit on their hands and grumble. (Sometimes it seemed that Speaker Nancy Pelosi wasn't quite sure when to bob up or stay seated.)

For Granholm, the bobbing dance was a little less well defined. After all the major theme this year is bipartisan cooperation. Republicans didn't want to appear uncooperative and surly. The biggest applause of course came when the governor promised to pay for her new initiatives without new fees or taxes. That brought thunderous approval from the Republicans and somewhat tentative approval from Democrats, who might not agree with her assessment but realize they can't fight that battle.

Republicans generally sat when Granholm opined that people do have a right to sue drug companies that cause injury and death, that residents do have a right to expect the state to argue against increasing insurance rates and that the state should investigate price fixing by oil companies (think Exxon and its record earnings for 2007). They also seemed unhappy with some of her school proposals. Some members of both parties, for different reasons, seemed less than enthused about having the state government invest in private business.

What do these annual orations mean, especially at a time when neither executive is popular? The bobbing dance gives us a little insight into the differences between the two major parties.

Those who say that there is no difference aren't really listening. True, both parties do not stray too far from an imaginary center that supports a general respect for the Constitution, a market economy and an internationalist

For Granholm, the bobbing dance was a little less well defined. After all the major theme this year is bipartisan cooperation. Republicans didn't want to appear uncooperative and surly. The biggest applause of course came when the governor promised to pay for her new initiatives without new fees or taxes. That brought thunderous approval from the Republicans and somewhat tentative approval from Democrats, who might not agree with her assessment but realize they can't fight that battle.

approach to foreign and military affairs (over the objections of members on each party's fringe) and both parties rely on rich people for support. Both parties are heavily lobbied and sometimes local interests supersede party philosophy.

But, generally, Democrats believe that government can be a force for progress, a protection against greed, an economic stabilizer and a support system for the vast majority of people who are not fully supported by the private economy no matter how hard they work or how much they save.

Republicans believe in the words of Ronald Reagan that government is the enemy. They harken back to Thomas Jefferson's saying that "The government that governs the best is the government that governs the least." Of course, the party's core belief is that private enterprise is better equipped to help us all prosper than government.

These are real differences. The CNN resident demagogue Lou Dobbs has been urging his viewers to abandon the parties and declare themselves independents. That's a sure way to disassociate from the political process without making any impact on changing our political system.

Some politicians are rogues. Most politicians who have reached any degree of power are beholden to someone. But that doesn't make them or the political process totally tainted, especially if we keep an eye on them and demand that they follow through on their promises.

All that bobbing up and down is a good thing. In America we're free to bob or sit whenever we want.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

In the midst of his misery comes her victorious day

In the eyes of a 13-year-old, it was the worst experience of his life. It was worse than the day his mom wore a funky looking wolf-head hat to his soccer game. Luckily, the coolest kid on the team assured him it was OK. Obviously, his soccer mom had done something just as outrageous in the past.

Ah, the torture of five hours of watching his



Sue Mason

sister compete at the Great Lakes Cheer Championship. Pounding music and perfume-laden air ... it was sheer torture and his punishment for misusing his cell phone.

What made it even worse was there was no escaping it, no going outside to kick a soccer ball around, no roaming the halls to find something to do. All he could do was sit

— or stand — and watch.

And when it was all over, all he could say was he was never doing that again.

What "that" was, I'm not sure. Could it be no more calling his friends in the wee hours of the morning while having a sleep-over? Or could it be not going to cheer competitions?

My hope is it's the former, but I'm sure he meant the latter. I say that because Dad has already asked if it's OK if he doesn't attend all of my daughter's competitions. I guess sitting for hours on hard bleachers and listening to an announcer with visions of being the next Ryan Seacrest and really loud music isn't his idea of fun.

This is my daughter's second venture into cheer. She tried it in third grade and "retired" after six months. Yes, retired, that's the word she used to explain why she dropped out. All she wanted to do was shake poms, but when they started doing dance routines, she'd had enough.

Three years later, knowing that her closest friends were on the team, she decided to give it another try, understanding that if she made the team, there was no backing out, no retiring, until the end of the season. We're almost midway through the season and there's no sign of her enthusiasm dwindling. She has been up at the crack of dawn for competition and made it to extra practices during Christmas vacation.

She's a child on a mission. She made it to the JV team, but she wants more. She wants to be on the varsity squad with her friends. And she may just get her wish. There's a

Her coaches have noticed. She's a different child than the one who was a mascot for the team three years ago. She's working hard and doing her best. I can only keep my fingers crossed that she makes the varsity team ...

vacancy on varsity, but she has to wait and see if the JV captain will take it. I think she has everything but her eyes crossed, hoping the lure of being JV captain is stronger than moving to varsity. If her teammate says no, the spot will be offered to her.

Her coaches have noticed. She's a different child than the one who was a mascot for the team three years ago. She's working hard and doing her best. I can only keep my fingers crossed that she makes the varsity team ... and that they have a uniform to fit my pint-sized powerhouse.

She's getting her wish about shaking her poms, but the funny part of it is, she and her teammates were grousing after Saturday's competition because they were the only team to use poms at the competition. The other teams were more focused on doing stunts; they did none. They want to shuck the poms and do some somersaults and back flips and hoist someone over their heads.

Even in his misery my son offered comment on the prospect of stunts: "Carolee, you know who they'll be lifting up, if they do stunts, don't you? You. You're the littlest one."

That brought a smile to her face, just like the one she displayed holding the first-place trophy. Yes, this team that did a straightforward routine got first place. No snazzy remix music, no stunts, no glittery costumes or heavy makeup.

Finally, she has a claim to being number one, a chance to be a star, which by the way is the name of her team — the Westland Stars. She knows how to hoist the trophy, she's watched her brother, Mr. Sports, do it more than once.

And thankfully, even in the midst of the pounding music and perfume, Mr. Teenager remembered to congratulate his sister ... and waited until we were in the car to exclaim how it was a horrible experience.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. If you have a comment, send it to her at smason@hometownlife.com.

WORKED AT THE LOCAL SOUP KITCHEN
MENTOR
PICKED UP GARBAGE OFF OF THE FREEWAY
DELIVERED MEALS ON WHEELS
TUTORED A 2ND GRADER IN MATH
WALKED THE NEIGHBOR'S 2 DOGS
WENT TO VISIT WITH THE RESIDENTS AT THE NURSING HOME
RANG THE SALAD BELL FOR A TOTAL OF 4 HOURS
RAKED LEAVES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE
I AM A MENTOR FOR A THIRD GRADER
SHOVELED SNOW FOR MRS. JONES
VOLUNTEERED AT A BOOK DRIVE TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S LITERACY
ORGANIZED A SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE
HAVE MOWED THE LAWN FOR MY HANDICAPPED NEIGHBOR FOR THE PAST 4 SUMMERS
BASKETBALL COACH FOR 5TH GRADE BOYS
READ TO TODDLERS AT THE LOCAL BOOKSTORE
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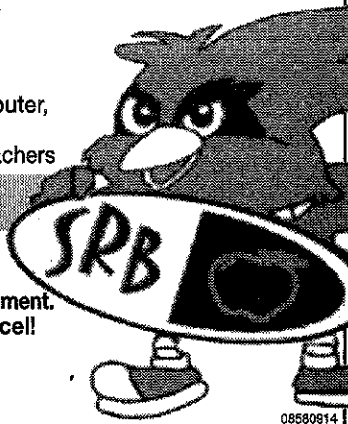
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Thursday, February 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Ladywood reaches another Catholic League final

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Baskets were hard to come by Saturday afternoon as Livonia Ladywood clawed its way to a 37-28 Catholic League Central Division girls basketball win over rival Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Blazers, who beat Mercy for the third straight time this year, improved to 15-2 overall with the semifinal playoff triumph at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

The victory also puts Ladywood, winner of 15 straight, in another Catholic

League championship game beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

Ladywood will be gunning for its third straight Catholic League title against Birmingham Marian, which advanced with a 49-37 semifinal victory against Dearborn Divine Child.

Six-foot-1 senior center Alex Serowoky, bound for Lafayette (Pa.) College, led the Blazers with 14 points. Senior forward Alison Szczypka added 10.

Ladywood had already posted 50-21 and 37-29 victories this season over the Marlins, who slipped to 10-7 overall. But this victory didn't come easily.

The Blazers shot a respectable 41.6 percent from the floor (15-of-36), but committed 21 turnovers and made just 4-of-9 foul shots.

Mercy, however, took only 23 shots from the field, making nine, but stayed in the game by connecting on five 3-pointers. The Marlins had a total of 29 turnovers and shot 4-of-10 from the free throw stripe.

"You don't get a lot of easy shots because we know each

other so well and that makes it hard to execute," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "I think 36 shots is a low for us. But the difference in the game is that we took more shots than they did."

"We never got into a flow offensively. Mercy did a great job of trapping. It made us timid. We did not take care of the ball and it kept us off-balance."

The two rivals were deadlocked at 9-9 after one quarter before Ladywood outscored the Marlins 14-7 in the second thanks to a triple by Alison Szczypka and Courtney

LaValley.

Mercy pulled to within three points, 25-22, on a basket by Tracy Whalen with 3:39 left in the quarter, but could get no closer.

In the fourth quarter, the Marlins shaved the deficit to 32-28 with 4:22 to go on a triple by Tori Posa, but Ladywood's Jenna Anastos answered with a big shot from the wing with 2:34 remaining to give the Blazers a six-point cushion.

"When it was 25-22 there were several possessions where

Please see **LADYWOOD, B2**

Saints knock off MU for first place in WHAC, 75-55

Too many 3-point field goals by Aquinas and cold shooting from the floor added up to a 20-point loss for the Madonna University men's basketball team Saturday in Grand Rapids, a 75-55 final in a battle for first place.

With the loss Madonna fell to 14-11 overall and 6-3 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, while 16th-ranked Aquinas improved to 19-6 overall and slid into first place alone at 7-2.

MEN'S BASKETBALL After taking a brief 3-2 lead on a triple by D.J. Bridges (Canton), MU never led again and saw Aquinas knock down eight first-half 3-pointers and take a 45-28 lead into the locker room.

The Saints shot 60 percent from the floor in the opening 20 minutes to just 36 percent for the Crusaders.

Jordan Torres paced the Saints with 18 points, while Jeff Wierzbicki and John Lierman each contributed 16. Lierman also grabbed nine rebounds for the Saints, who led by as many as 27 points in the second half.

Jon Battle (Cleveland, Ohio) led the MU side with 20 points, while Bridges and Cedric Sims (Canton) each added 10.

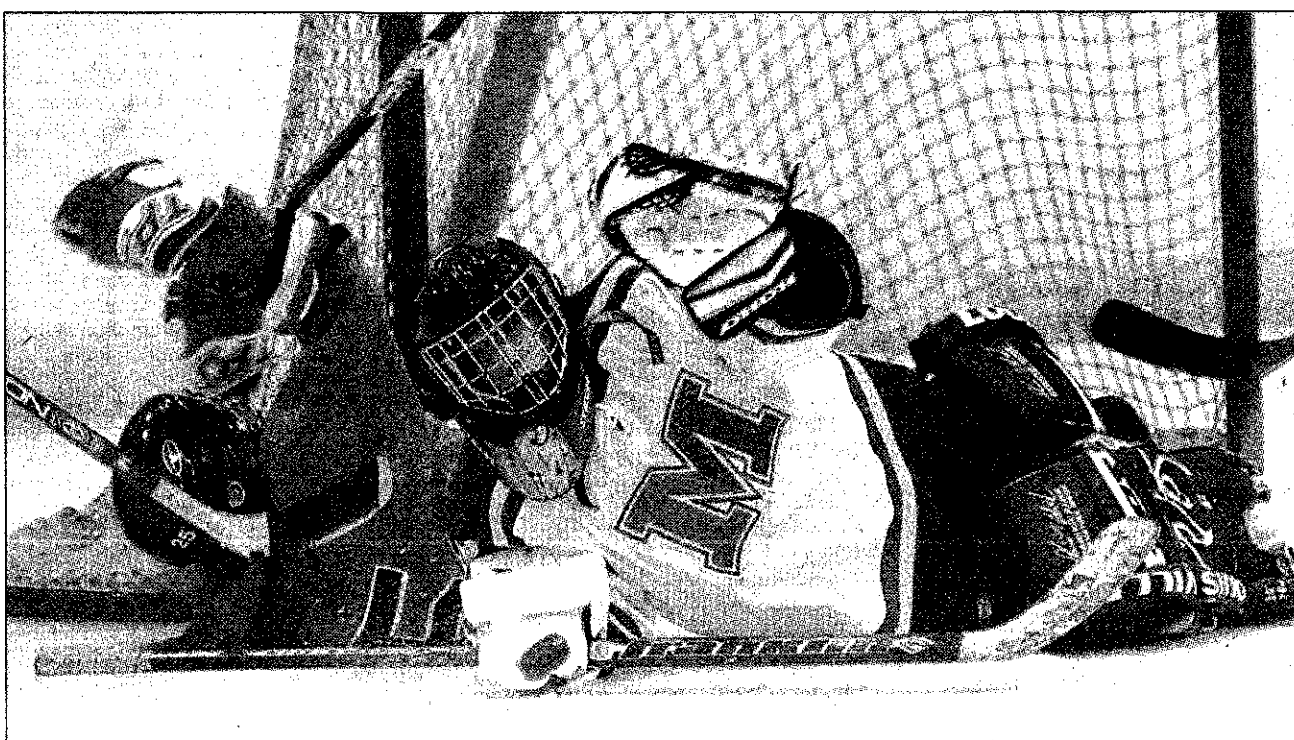
MACOMB CC 85, SCHOOLCRAFT 63: In an MCCA Eastern Conference game Saturday, host Schoolcraft College (2-18, 2-9) dropped its 12th straight game against Macomb Community College (10-10, 6-5).

Anthony Wafer tallied 18 of his 21 in the second half for the Ocelots, who trailed 47-21 at intermission.

Teammate Narmer Dudley scored 13 and hauled down 10 rebounds. Ryan Matthews and Eric Henry added nine and eight points, respectively.

Five scored in double figures for Macomb, led by Mark Walker's 17 points.

Others in double figures included Todd Phromm, 13; Deonte Mason, 11; and Cody Edwards and Alan Greason, 10 each.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy goalie Alessi Nehr blocks a shot as Ladywood's Abby Kienbaum crashes into her during Tuesday night's Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Dynamic duo keys Blazers' triumph

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Heather Sartorius and Abby Kienbaum proved to be a valuable one-two punch Tuesday.

Livonia Ladywood broke open a close game with four goals in the final period — including three within a 40-second span — to subdue Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League rival Farmington Hills Mercy, 6-2, at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Sartorius and Kienbaum each finished with a hat trick and two assists.

Ladywood, 10-7-1 overall and 10-5 in Division 1 of the Michigan Metro,

was clinging to a 2-1 advantage heading into the final period.

"I was proud of the way they (Sartorius and Kienbaum) came out in the third period and took the game over," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said.

Emann Freij and Maria Rotondo also drew assists for the Blazers, who outshot Mercy 30-19.

Maura Malone scored both goals for the Marlins, 9-6-1 in Division 2 of the Michigan Metro.

Ladywood goaltender Michelle Wyniemko made 21 saves, while Mercy counterpart Alessi Nehr had 24 stops.

G.P. SOUTH 6, LADYWOOD 1: On Saturday, Erin Shook and Alex Rentz each tallied a pair of goals as Grosse Pointe South (13-0-1 Division 1) took over sole possession of first place in the MMGHSHL with a triumph over Livonia Ladywood (9-7-1, 9-5) at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Shook, Kelsey Burgess and Emma Hull each scored a power-play goal, while Rentz had a shorthanded effort.

It was 2-0 after one period and 6-0 after two.

Heather Sartorius' power-play goal with only 13 seconds remaining in the final period spoiled the shutout bid of Blue Devils goaltender C.J. Jarboe, who made 15 saves.

Ladywood netminder Michelle Wyniemko made 20 saves.

Patriot power

Franklin sinks Vikings in WLAA playoff opener

Livonia Franklin overcame a sluggish start on Senior Night to record its ninth straight girls basketball win with a 49-43 triumph over visiting Walled Lake Central in the opening round of the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs.

Franklin (15-3) travels to face top seed Salem in the semifinals at 7 p.m. Friday.

The Patriots trailed 40-39 late in the fourth quarter before going on a 10-4 run to end the game. The Vikings kept it close by hitting 6-of-6 free throws in the final quarter.

"We did not panic, we kept our composure and protected the ball well," Franklin first-year coach Dave McCall said.

Junior twins Briana and Brittany Taylor scored 18 and 15 points, respectively, to lead the Patriots. Brittany also grabbed 14 rebounds, while Briana hauled down 11.

Senior center Ashley Price chipped in with 10 points for Franklin, which made only 15-of-29 foul shots.

Central (9-9) got a game-high 23 points from Brooke Gustafson, who nailed six of the Vikings' nine triples. Kelly Costello added

WLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL

10 points, including a pair of treys.

W.L. WESTERN 45, CHURCHILL 31: Walled Lake Western (16-2) used an efficient offense and stingy defense Tuesday to beat visiting Livonia Churchill in a first-round WLAA playoff game.

Chelsea Hunter paced a balanced scoring attack for the Western Division champions with 10 points.

Churchill senior Chelsea Manasian led all scorers with 14.

"They are so patient, they never force any bad shots," Churchill first-year coach Chad Jenkins said of the Warriors. "They move and move it (the ball). And defensively they're relentless. They keep pressuring and pressuring, which led to some easy baskets. They just wear you down."

JOHN GLENN 36, CANTON 28: On Tuesday, Chanel Payne and Brittany Holbrook each tallied 11 points as Westland John Glenn (7-11) downed the visiting Chiefs (4-14) in a WLAA crossover. Baylee Hollowell scored 10 for Canton, which couldn't overcome a 24-12 halftime deficit.

STEVENSON 41, WAYNE 35: Kaylee McGrath and Sarah Smith each scored 11 points Tuesday as host Livonia Stevenson (4-14) broke a 13-game losing streak with a win over Wayne Memorial (3-14) in a WLAA crossover.

Stevenson outscored Wayne 13-6 in

the decisive fourth quarter.

McGrath grabbed 11 rebounds, while Smith went 8-for-8 from the line.

The Zebras played without leading scorer Trenia Barbee. The Henderson (Ark.) State signee was out with a knee injury.

Nastassia Goines led Wayne with 14 points. Chelsea Davis chipped in with nine, while junior center Wendi Foster had six points and 11 rebounds.

Wayne was 6-of-19 from the foul line, while Stevenson hit 14-of-29.

SALEM 57, STEVENSON 38: Alaya Mitchell scored 19 and Chelsea Davis added 10 Monday to lead the WLAA Lakes Division champion Rocks (15-2, 10-0) past visiting Livonia Stevenson (3-14, 0-10).

Kaylee McGrath scored seven points for the Spartans, who trailed 36-15 at intermission.

FRANKLIN 49, NORTHVILLE 28: Livonia Franklin (14-3, 8-2) turned in a stellar defensive effort Saturday afternoon and wrapped up the No. 2 seed in the Western Division of the WLAA playoffs with a win over the host Mustangs (10-7, 6-4).

Junior Briana Taylor paced the Patriots, who led 26-11 at halftime, with 20 points, eight rebounds and six steals.

Twin sister Brittany Taylor added 10 points and six rebounds, while Allison Trosell finished with six points as Franklin captured its eighth straight.

Erin Hughes led Northville with six points.

Chargers stop Glenn to secure playoff bid

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Churchill girls basketball team made the cut Saturday, roaring into the upcoming Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs with a convincing 42-26 win at home over Westland John Glenn.

The Chargers, under first-year coach Chad Jenkins, improved to 6-11 overall and earned the fourth seed in the Lakes Division with a 4-6 record.

Darcy DeRoo and Chelsea Manasian each scored 12 points for Churchill, while junior point guard Lindsey Graciak chipped in with six points.

Glenn, eliminated from playoff contention, fell to 6-11 and 3-7.

The Rockets captured the first meeting Jan. 15 between the two teams by a 49-38 count, but Churchill controlled the rematch from start to finish. In that game, Glenn center Brittany Holbrook fueled a 26-13 fourth-quarter run with 13 of her 16 points.

But the Chargers put the clamps on the 6-foot-1 junior and roared out to a 29-16 halftime lead.

"The last time we got in trouble when we matched up with them man-to-man (defensively), they penetrated into the lane and were able to get the ball into the post," Jenkins said. "Our goal was to force them into jump shots and not allow Holbrook as many touches. I thought we also did a good job on the weak side boards and keeping her (Holbrook) from getting second shots."

Glenn did not have a player score in double figures as Nyah McReynolds finished with six and Brittany Brown added five.

"We knew offensively that we had to attack the middle of the floor, make hard cuts and get ball reversal," Jenkins said. "Our girls did a good job finding the lane and getting reversals. We had good ball movement and did a good job of spacing. Our girls played hard."

Sidelines

Mat Spartans 2nd

Seven wrestlers went undefeated on the day Saturday as Livonia Stevenson finished 4-1 in the Okemos Invitational.

In the opening round, Stevenson fell to DeWitt in a 30-30 tiebreaker before going on to beat Eaton Rapids (60-15), Birmingham Groves (75-3), Saginaw Arthur Hill (51-20) and Okemos (69-6).

Going unbeaten for the Spartans were Michael Fobar, 112 pounds; Tommy Myshock, 125; Anthony Mainella, 135; Raz Markosian, 145; Ziad Kharbush, 160; Emanuel Onwuemene, 189; and Matt Greenman, 215.

Austin Micallef (285) and Mitchell Gonzales (130) each finished 4-1 on the day as the Spartans improved to 18-9 overall.

Blazer skiers 3rd

The unified team of Livonia Ladywood and Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart finished third in Monday's Catholic League Downhill Ski Championships held at Alpine Valley.

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep took the team title with 26 points followed by Birmingham Marian, 90; Ladywood-Sacred Heart, 111; Flint Powers Catholic and Farmington Hills Mercy, 119 each.

In the slalom, Ladywood-Sacred Heart's Amanda Waske was fifth with a combined two-time trial run of 45.51 seconds. Teammate Shannon Corby took ninth in 46.81.

In the giant slalom, Corby took fifth in 38.81.

Baseball signup

The Wayne-Ford Civic League will begin baseball registration for youths ages 4-10 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Civic League hall, located at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Registration fees are \$65 for T-ball and Coach-Pitch leagues; \$80 for Mustang League.

Registration will continue each Saturday until teams are full.

For more information, call (734) 728-5010; or e-mail Vic Barra at vbarra@comcast.net.

LJAL hoop signup

Registration for Livonia Junior Athletic League Senior Varsity basketball for boys and girls in grades 9-11 will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Frost Middle School cafeteria.

Registration is open to residents of the City of Livonia or those who reside within the Livonia Public Schools District.

The cost is \$115 per player. Registration forms will be available on Feb. 9 and online at www.ljal.com.

For more information, e-mail basketball@ljal.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 7
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Wayne, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Northville, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 7 p.m.
Canton Agape at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
(Metro Conference Playoffs)
Luth. Westland at Clawson, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 8
Canton at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Light & Life, 7 p.m.
Ypsi Calvary at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday, Feb. 8
Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Northville, 7 p.m.
(Western Lakes Semifinals)
Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m.
W.L. Northern at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Feb. 7
(Michigan H.S. Showcase at Trenton)
Churchill vs. Farmington at Kennedy Arena (Main Rink), 6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 8
Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Southfield Ice Arena, 4 p.m.
Franklin vs. Plymouth at Computware Arena, 7 p.m.
(Michigan H.S. Showcase at Trenton)
Stevenson vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Kennedy Arena (Main Rink), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9
Ladywood vs. Ann Arbor at Plymouth's Arctic Pond, 6 p.m.
Franklin at Taylor Unified, 7:30 p.m.
(Michigan H.S. Showcase at Trenton)
Stevenson vs. Trenton (Main Rink), 4:40 p.m.
Churchill vs. Cranbrook (Teller Rink), 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Feb. 7
Clarenceville at Lutheran N'west, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9
WLAA Tourney at Churchill, 9 a.m.
Metro Conference Tournament at Lutheran Westland, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Feb. 7
Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Wayne, 7 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Feb. 9
Canton Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP BOWLING
Thursday, Feb. 7 (at Novi Lanes)
Wayne vs. Northville, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9 (at Sterling Lanes)
Utica Eisenhower Doubles Tourney, 8 a.m.
PREP SKIING
Thursday, Feb. 7
Divisional Championships at Alpine Valley, TBA.
COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Feb. 9
PR Cheer Tournament, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 9
Cornerstone at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Flint Mott CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Feb. 9
Madonna at Cornerstone, 1 p.m.
Flint Mott CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Feb. 8
Whalers at Ottawa Generals, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9
Whalers at Belleville Bulls, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 10
Whalers at Kingston Frontenacs, 2 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WAYNE MEMORIAL 100, JOHN GLENN 58
Feb. 5 at Wayne
200-yard medley relay: 1. Wayne (Steven Ogg, Adam Karson, Jordan Holland, Kevin Erdmann), 1:51.67; 2. John Glenn (Billy Lyons, Dennis Knight, Cody Roe, Paul Gutu), 2:05.99.
200 freestyle: 1. Jacob Barnes (WM), 2:03.38; 2. Jacob Schofield (WM), 2:17.97; 3. Josh Higgs (WM), 2:25.82.
200 individual medley: 1. Ogg (WM), 2:18.76; 2. John Burgess (WJG), 2:41.22; 3. Patrick Kemp (WJG), 3:31.18.
50 freestyle: 1. Holland (WM), 24.14; 2. Erdmann (WM), 25:24; 3. Karson (WM), 25.68.
1-meter diving: 1. Roe (WJG), 140.40 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Ogg (WM), 1:03.7; 2. Mike Gabriel (WM), 1:14.93.
100 freestyle: 1. Holland (WM), 54.51; 2. Erdmann (WM), 55.5; 3. Lyons (WJG), 59.92.
500 freestyle: 1. Barnes (WM), 5:46.23; 2. Higgs (WM), 6:31.0; 3. Aaron Sabal (WJG), 7:25.39.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Holland, Barnes, Karson, Ogg), 1:41.16; 2. John Glenn (Burgess, Gutu, Roe, Lyons), 1:50.55.
100 backstroke: 1. Schofield (WM), 1:14.05; 2. Gabriel (WM), 1:14.76; 3. Aaron Snyder (WJG), 1:31.62.
100 breaststroke: 1. Knight (WJG), 1:15.21; 2. Karson (WM), 1:17.55; 3. Kemp (WJG), 1:28.47.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Barnes, Erdmann, Gabriel, Schofield), 3:58.29; 2. John Glenn (Burgess, Sabal, Ryan Boes, JaCory Frowner), 4:57.89.
Dual meet records: Wayne, 1-6 overall; John Glenn, 1-7 overall.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

LIVONIA RED 135.05, HARTLAND 77.25
Feb. 4 at Livonia Churchill H.S.
Vault: 1. Sidnee Mattison (Red), Katina St. Pierre (Red) and Brittany Swazey (Red), 8.6 each; 4. Courtney Simpson (Red), 8.5.
Balance beam: 1. Salley Osenstoski (Red), 8.7; 2. Margarita Lazarska (Red), 8.45; 3. Taylor Jayne (H), 8.0; 4. Sidnee Mattison, 7.45.
Uneven bars: 1. Paula Guzik (Red), 9.45; 2. Sarah Parkin (Red), 7.95; 3. St. Pierre (Red), 7.55; 4. Meghan Lark (Red), 7.55.
Floor exercise: 1. Alicia DiMauro (Red), 9.1; 2. Lazarevska (Red), 8.7; 3. Brittany Swazey (Red), 8.4; 4. Osenstoski (Red), 8.0.
All-around: 1. Pierre (Red), 30.50; 2. Jayne (H), 30.20; 3. Jordan Krebiehl (H), 29.30.
Livonia Red's dual meet record: 5-4 overall.
LIVONIA BLUE 134.75, HARTLAND 77.25
Feb. 4 at Livonia Churchill H.S.
Vault: 1. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.0; 2. Cassie Morford (Blue), 8.55; 3. Jordan Krebiehl (H), 8.3; 4. (tie) Carley Lukas (Blue) and Kelly Tapella (Blue), 8.25 each.
Balance beam: 1. Meredith Albers (Blue), 8.65; 2. Oalia Shafie (Blue), 8.5; 3. Morford (Blue), 8.05; 4. Taylor Jayne (H), 8.0.
Uneven bars: 1. Shafie (Blue), 8.75; 2. K. Charniga (Blue), 8.4; 3. Morford (Blue), 8.15; 4. Allison Gitley (Blue), 7.8.
Floor exercise: 1. K. Charniga (Blue), 8.95; 2. Tapella (Blue), 8.8; 3. Meghan Powers (Blue), 8.6; 4. Morford (Blue), 8.3.
All-around: 1. Morford (Blue), 33.05; 2. Jayne (H), 30.20; 3. Jordan Krebiehl (H), 29.30.
Livonia Blue's dual meet record: 8-1 overall.

Anderson fuels Rockets' win; Zebras cage Wildcats, 83-62

Junior guard Austin Anderson scored a career-high 24 points and dished out eight assists Tuesday as Westland John Glenn cruised to a 70-56 boys basketball victory over visiting Walled Lake Western. Senior forward Earl Hardison contributed 18 points for the 15-1 Rockets, who bolted out to a 19-8 first-quarter lead. Senior point-guard Keshawn Martin added 14 points, while senior forward Stefan Marken grabbed a team-high nine rebounds on Senior Night. Edison Vushaj (16) and Quintin Cooper (14) paced the Warriors (8-8) in scoring. Glenn continued its hot foul shooting (20-of-26) while Western made only 11-of-22. **WAYNE 83, PLYMOUTH 62:** Senior guard Mike Lee's game-high 22 points led a balanced scoring attack Monday as host Wayne Memorial

WLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

(13-2, 10-0), the WLAA-Western Division champion, pulled away in the second half to best the Wildcats (4-11, 3-7). Also scoring in double figures for the Zebras were Robert Woodson (16), Martez Abney (11) and Matt Lewis (11). Senior forward Navraj Sandhu led Plymouth with 16 points. Brandon Roberts chipped in with 11. Wayne was 12-of-15 from the foul line, while Plymouth was 6-of-11. **SALEM 62, STEVENSON 49:** Grant Stone's 22 points carried the Rockets (8-7, 6-4) to the WLAA-Lakes Division triumph Monday over Livonia Stevenson (5-10, 3-7). Ross Davis added 19 for Salem, which wrapped up the third seed in the Lakes Division for the upcoming WLAA playoffs. Bobby Naubert scored a game-high 13 for the Spartans, who were eliminated from the playoffs.

Matt Harris added eight. Salem made 20-of-24 foul shots, while Stevenson hit 6-of-10. **W.L. NORTHERN 76, FRANKLIN 72:** The sophomore trio of Leroy Jackson, Marshall Harris and Brian Johnston led Walled Lake Northern (2-14) in scoring with 17, 16 and 15 points, respectively, in a WLAA crossover win Monday over visiting Livonia Franklin (4-12). Senior captain Tim Ferenc made it four in double figures with 14 points, which included eight free throws down the stretch; he was 8-of-9 at the foul line. Ferenc also had nine steals and seven assists; Johnston had seven rebounds. Franklin's Jeff Poole scored a game-high 27 points; Ryan Matthey tossed in 14; and Israel Woolfork seven. The Patriots were 15-of-26 shooting free throws, and they also had 26 turnovers to Northern's 10. **JOHN GLENN 52, CHURCHILL 40:** Despite having its top scorer and rebound-

er Ryan Rosenick out of the lineup with the flu, Livonia Churchill (9-6, 6-4) put up another battle Saturday before succumbing to WLAA-Lakes Division boys basketball champion Westland John Glenn (14-1, 10-0) in a make-up from Friday's snow day. Senior forward Stefan Marken led state-ranked Glenn with a game-high 23 points. Senior forward Earl Hardison chipped in with 17 points, including 8-of-9 from the foul line, to go along with nine rebounds and six assists. Churchill trailed 30-18 at halftime and 35-23 after three quarters before pulling within three in the final period. Junior guard Ryan Woods led the Chargers, now 9-6 overall and 6-4 in the division, with 13 points. Andrew Vagnetti contributed 10. "The kids played hard, they played well and I'm proud of the effort - it was solid," said Churchill coach Jim Solak, who was also missing reserve guard Billy Gutowski. "Playing them

(Glenn) is tough enough, but playing them short-handed is even tougher. But we have no excuses. They (Glenn) are a good team. We just couldn't make a play down the stretch." Glenn made 11-of-13 free throws, while Churchill hit 4-of-6. **NORTHVILLE 67, FRANKLIN 48:** Greg Hasse scored 16 points and Kyle Asher added 12 Saturday as the host Mustangs (9-6, 7-3) knocked Livonia Franklin (4-11, 3-7) out of the WLAA playoff picture. Franklin and Plymouth tied for the fourth and final playoff berth in the Western Division, but the Wildcats won the tiebreaker based on a victory over No. 3 seed Walled Lake Western. "Northville has a great team, we had trouble scoring against their zone and had difficulty getting to the rim," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose Patriots fell behind 26-9 after one quarter. Jeff Poole scored 12 for the Patriots, who made 12-of-21 free throws.

Blazers win 16th in row, 62-33 over Monroe St. Mary

Two contrasting styles collided Tuesday with host Livonia Ladywood getting the best of Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, 62-33, in a girls basketball encounter. The Blazers, ranked No. 2 in the latest Class A statewide poll, won their 16th straight to improve to 16-2 overall. The loss drops St. Mary CC, which has won 48 straight in the Huron League, to 12-5. Ladywood started slowly against the high-paced Kestrels, who play a Loyola Marymount style of shooting countless triples. The Blazers led 12-6 after one quarter, but took control with a 21-7 second-period surge. "We talked about how we play and we're not used playing teams where they send all five players to the three-point line in transition," said Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski, who team made 25-of-52 field goal tries (48 percent). "We we able to adjust our defense after we got off to a slow start."

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Jenna Anastos' 14 points paced a balanced Ladywood scoring attack. Caitlin Szczypka added 10 points and nine rebounds. Alex Serowoky added seven points and nine rebounds. Kaitlyn Vitale also scored seven points. Nicole Boggs tallied 13 to lead the Kestrels, who shot only 16 percent from the floor (10-of-61, including 5-of-38 from three-point range). **HURON VALLEY 40, AGAPE 38:** Katie Kipfmiller's rebound lay-up with less than a minute remaining propelled host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (11-6, 7-1) to the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red Division win over Canton Agape Christian (4-9, 2-5). "We played the best first half of the year and the worst second half of the year," said Huron Valley Lutheran coach Eric Ruth, whose team led 25-15 at halftime before being outscored 21-6 in the third quarter. Nicole Schaffer led the victorious Hawks, who outscored Agape

8-4 in the final period, with 14 points. Kipfmiller added 11, while Lauren Adlof pulled down 14 rebounds, including eight on the offensive end. Eighth-grader Ayanna Martin pace Agape and all scorers with 21 points. **LUTHERAN N'WEST 44, LUTH. WESTLAND 33:** Lutheran High Westland (11-5) couldn't overcome a 19-9 first-quarter deficit Monday night in suffering a first-round Metro Conference playoff setback to visiting Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (8-8). Northwest avenged a 35-34 setback to the Warriors on Jan. 8. Cayla VanGorden and Sarah MacCourtney paced the victorious Crusaders with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Juniors Allyson Yankee and Becca Refenes each scored 10 for the Warriors. Refenes also pulled down 12 rebounds. The Warriors, who trailed 23-19 at halftime, made only 1-of-9 field goal tries in the third quarter while being outscored 7-3. For the game, Lutheran Westland was 13-of-44. "They (Northwest) played a triangle-and-two again," said Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose team made only 13-

of-44 shots from the floor and 4-of-11 free throws. "We had good looks at the free throw line and elbow, but we just couldn't convert." **KINGSWOOD 46, CLARENCEVILLE 32:** Christine Vlastic pumped in a game-high 18 points and Abby Cohen pitched in with 11 Monday as Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood (12-6) downed visiting Livonia Clarenceville (7-10) in a first-round Metro Conference playoff game. Amanda Moody led the Trojans with 17 points, while Ashley Hall added seven. Junior varsity coach Brady Gustafson took over the varsity coaching reins from Julie Patterson, who on Saturday delivered her first child, a girl Kaitlyn-Lindsay, which weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces. **HURON VALLEY 38, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 30:** Lauren Adlof scored 17 points and Katie Kipfmiller contributed 13 Saturday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (10-6, 6-1) rallied int he second half to beat Warren Macomb Christian (10-5, 4-1) in an MIAC-Red Division game. Kara Tucker scored a team-high 11 for the Crusaders, who led 19-14 at halftime before being outscored 24-11 over the final 16 minutes. Macomb Christian was 10-of-

25 from the foul line, while Huron Valley made 8-of-12. **LUTHERAN WESTLAND 52, INTER-CITY 24:** Lutheran High Westland (11-4) came on strong during the second half Saturday to win a non-conference game at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (7-7). Allyson Yankee, a junior guard, led the Warriors with 16 points and six assists. Junior center Becca Refenes chipped in with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Myrian Storck, Katey Ramthiun and Rachel Storck contributed six points apiece for the Warriors, who led 21-14 at intermission before blowing it open with a 31-10 second-half run. Amanda Ison scored eight for the Chargers, who shot only 4-of-31 from the floor. The Warriors were 19-of-44 from the field and 14-of-21 from the foul line. "After a slow first half we picked up our defensive intensity and were able to force them into long jump shots and turnovers," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "Offensively, our execution became more precise and we were able to take advantage of our size. Our ball movement was faster and it was just a much better played second half."

Kruger helps Lutheran Westland snap losing streak

Lutheran High Westland ended two months of frustration Tuesday with a 52-50 Metro Conference boys basketball victory at home over Harper Woods. Junior guard Josh Kruger continued his hot shooting for the Warriors with a game-high 27 points. Senior forward Rob Seltz chipped in with 16, while junior center Sam Ahlersmeyer added 14 for the Warriors, who earned their first victory since the

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

season opener Dec. 4 against Plymouth Christian. With the win, Lutheran Westland improved to 2-12 overall and 1-7 in the conference. "Defensively we came through, we played good defense throughout the game," Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekius said. Vincent Bright scored 23 points for the Pioneers, who

slipped to 9-7 overall and 3-5 in the Metro. Quentin Lewis added 14. **CLARENCEVILLE 53, LUTHERAN N'WEST 27:** Junior swingman Jamie Stewart poured in 23 points and Darryl Whitaker sparked the defense as Metro Conference leader Livonia Clarenceville (13-1, 7-0) bounced visiting Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (7-7, 4-4). Whitaker also scored nine points for the victorious Trojans, who led 29-16 at halftime. "He did a great job defensively igniting our presses," Clarenceville coach Corey

McKendry said. "We're playing pretty good defense right now." Steve Miscovich tallied eight for the Crusaders. **LUTHERAN NORTH 60, LUTH. WESTLAND 43:** In a Metro Conference make-up game Saturday, host Macomb Lutheran North (9-5, 6-1) broke a close game open in the second half to subdue stubborn Lutheran High Westland (1-2, 0-7). Drew Dennison and Brian Budchuk pace the victorious Mustangs. Sam Ahlersmeyer and Josh Kruger tallied 14 and 10, respectively, for the Warriors, who were tied at halftime 28-all.

HURON VALLEY 55, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 48: It was a happy homecoming Saturday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-10, 1-5) avenged a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red Division setback to Warren Macomb Christian (3-12, 1-6). Free throws proved to be the difference as the Hawks made 14-of-17, while Macomb Christian made just 9-of-17. Junior Kyle Tacia led Huron Valley with 14 points, while senior guard Ryan Jones added 11. Joel Battjes scored 11 for the Crusaders.

Chargers regroup for 7-2 victory

Seven different players scored Saturday as Livonia Churchill rolled to a 7-2 boys hockey victory over host Walled Lake Central at the Lakeland Ice Arena. Nate Milam, Mike Woynick and Tyler Cotter each had a goal and two assists for the victorious Chargers, who improved to 16-3 overall and 5-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Kody Strong, Kyle Burke and Travis Satkowiak also chipped in with a goal and assist, while Scott Sunberg scored the other Churchill goal. Other Churchill assists went to Keith Yackley and Dan Bostick. Central led 2-1 early in the second period on Corbin

BOYS HOCKEY

Titus' second goal of the game. Woynick's power-play goal from Yackley and Cotter tied the game at 10:18 of the second period and Milam notched his 35th of the season at 14:03 of the third from Cotter for the game-winner. Churchill outshot the Vikings, 54-9. "With two days off and our first game back from the disappointment of the (Livonia) Stevenson game (a 5-1 loss on Jan. 30), I was pleased with the way we finished," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "It took us awhile to get going." Churchill used two goals, Greg Wirick and Aaron Crouse.

Central's Brett Malbin made a total of 47 saves. **STEVENSON 4, SALEM 2:** Mike Voran had two goals and two assists to lead No. 1-ranked Livonia Stevenson (18-0-1, 5-0-1) to a WLAA-Lakes Division win Saturday over the visiting Rocks (6-12, 1-5) at Edgar Arena. Sean Lerg added a goal and assist for the Spartans, who led 1-0 after one period and 3-1 after two periods. Jake Harbowy had the other Stevenson goal, while R.J. Kierdorf chipped in with two assists. Ian Barnaby scored twice for the Rocks. Richie Dumphy went all the way in goal for the Spartans, stopping 15 of 17 shots, to earn his second victory. Stevenson outshot the Rocks, 36-17.

LADYWOOD

FROM PAGE B1

we did not score," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "That was a key time of the game. We were playing well enough defensively, but we didn't execute well enough offensively. "We tried to come up with a few different things this time. Some things worked and some didn't." Whalen and Danica Verderbar each scored eight for the Marlins, while Jordan Mueller chipped in with seven. "To beat a team like that,

we had to have more people playing well for us," Morris said. "But we competed hard for 32 minutes; which we hadn't done the previous two times." Ladywood, meanwhile, gets four days preparation for Sunday's championship final at Calihan. "It's never an easy thing, but we'll take it," Gorski said of the semifinal win. "We'll have to play better. Today we got the ball to our scorers in spots they're not used to getting it. We hope to be more mentally prepared on Sunday."

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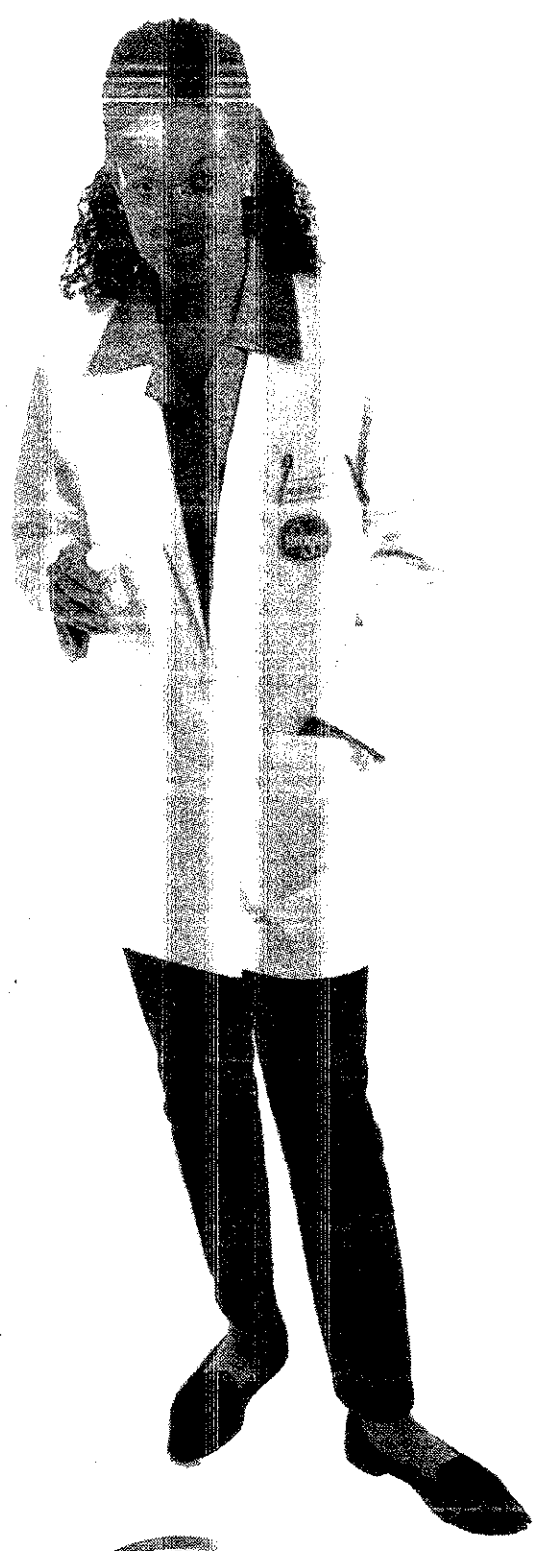
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A chocolate

Pastry chefs offer insight into the divine dessert **primer**



Tribute's pastry chef, Greg Stroker, presents 'Chocolate Blackberry.' The dessert is made with chocolate mousse, hazelnut cake, apricot puree, and blackberry sorbet.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Smooth, sweet, silky chocolate. What is its strange allure, its seductive power, and why do we go so crazy over it?

In 2005, the U.S. consumed \$1.4 billion of cocoa and cocoa products, according to the Chocolate Manufacturers Association.

Long considered an aphrodisiac, chocolate was a status symbol in Europe due to its richness, rarity and exotic origins, according to the *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture*.

"The very history of chocolate is lent to its mystique," said Joe Decker, certified master pastry chef and instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. "Cortez and Columbus discovered it from the Mayans. The upper aristocracy in Europe kept it for the upper class and it wasn't until the mid-1800s that it was available to the middle class."

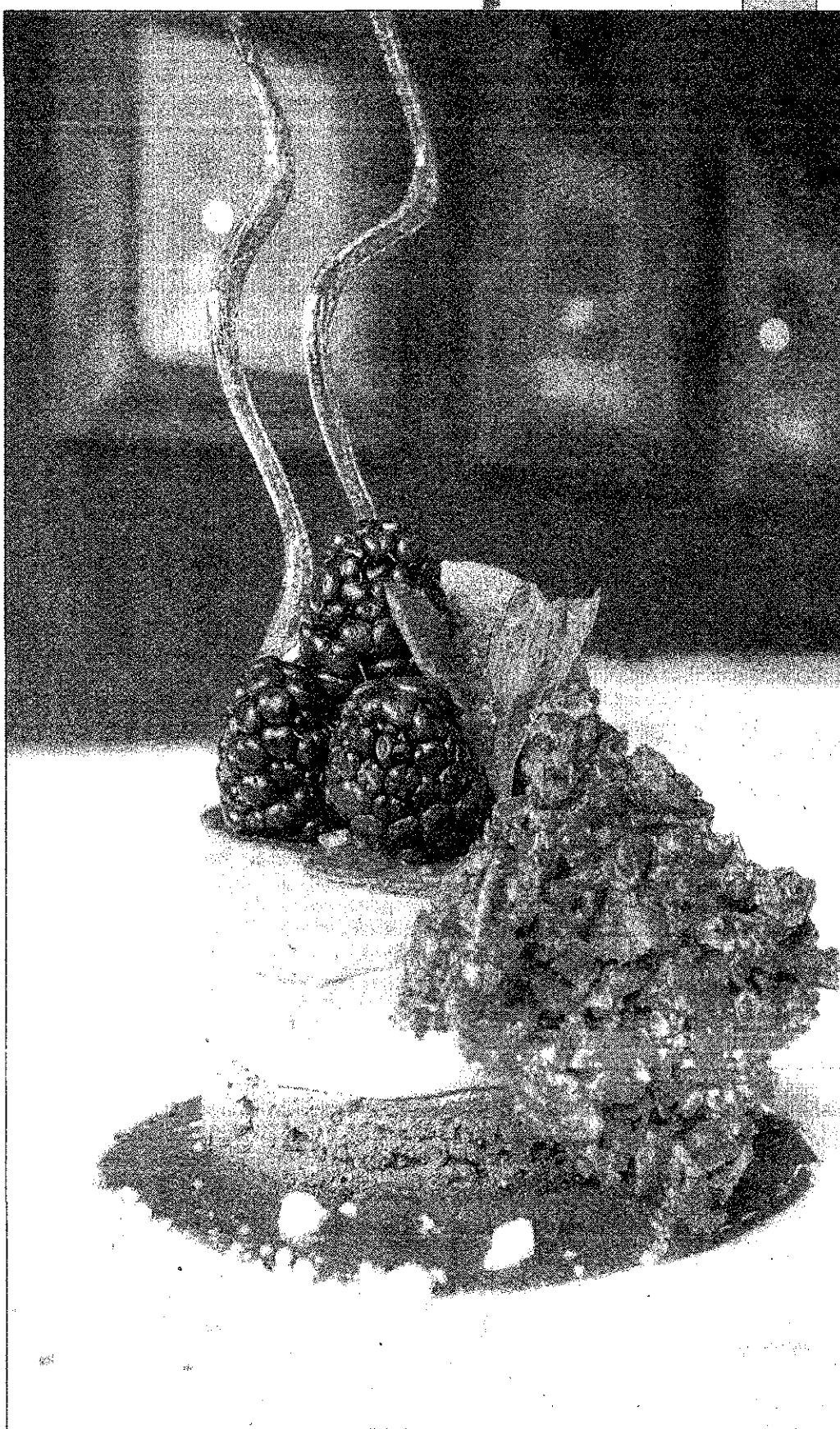
The history of chocolate starts about 2,000 years ago when the delicious secret of the cacao (kah KOW) tree was discovered in the tropical rainforests of the Americas by ancient Mayans. The tree's pods contain seeds that can be processed into chocolate.

Most texts base its origin in Amazon or Orinoco river basins of northern South America, but it also took on a role as an important economic exchange for peoples of that continent.

Today, chocolate is enjoyed everywhere with a variety of tastes and flavors — bitter chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, couverture, and white chocolate. Baby boomers particularly enjoy the finer aspects of chocolate, says Decker.

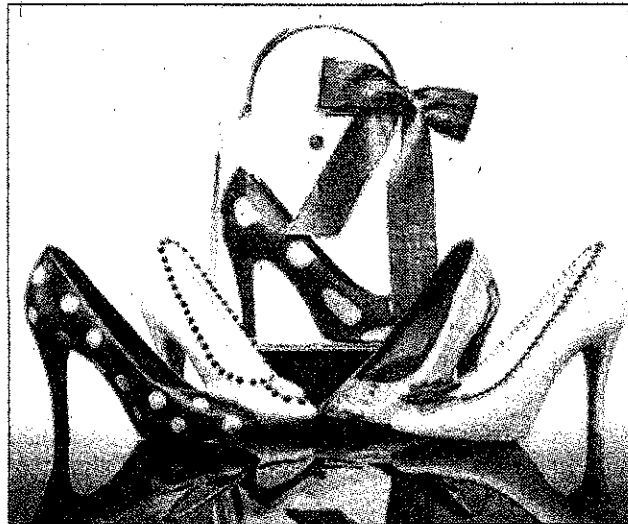
"Today you see events like chocolate tastings, where people come in and taste chocolates, and they'll get an explanation about each chocolate. It's like going to wine tastings," Decker said.

Please see **CHOCOLATE, D2**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tribute's 'Chocolate Blackberry' is chocolate mousse, hazelnut cake, apricot puree, and blackberry sorbet.



Chocolate shoes from Gayle's Chocolates, \$40.

Readers quash spam their way

My recent column on junk e-mail (a.k.a. spam) generated lots of reader response. Seems like everyone has a different approach for keeping spam at bay.

Susan Rugenstein of Beverly Hills echoed my appreciation of Gmail as a spam filter but didn't like the Web-based inbox. Thus, she went back to Cloudmark (cloudmark.com), an anti-spam service that integrates with Outlook and Outlook Express.

"I have used Cloudmark with Outlook for several years," Rugenstein wrote, "and it's the best \$39.95 I spend." (The service requires an annual subscription.)

David Emerling of West Bloomfield swears by SpamBayes (spambayes.sourceforge.net), an open-source (read: free) spam filter that can integrate with Microsoft Outlook or intercept and filter mail via a Web-based interface.

Just one problem: It's rather complicated to set up, so only advanced users

need apply.

Mike Roberts of Rochester Hills, an AT&T DSL customer, relies on Yahoo for spam filtering. "My e-mail goes directly to Yahoo Mail, and then my Yahoo inbox is forwarded to Outlook," he said. "All of the spam stays in Yahoo's Spam folder."

That's just the way I do it, but with Gmail instead of Yahoo. In fact, I think I've figured out a near-perfect spam-filtering solution that doesn't cost a cent.

(Gmail, in case you're unfamiliar with it, is Google's free Web-based e-mail service. It offers some of the best spam filtering I've seen anywhere.)

Instead of trying to integrate my personal domain (Broida.com) with my existing Gmail account, which mixed all the mail together in one jumbled, incomprehensible mess, I created a new Gmail account that I now use expressly for spam filtering.

Here's how it works in a nutshell: After setting up the Gmail account, I configured it to fetch mail from my domain. (This would also work with ISPs like Comcast; you just need to get the POP3 settings and supply your account username and password.)

The immediate result is that when Gmail retrieves my mail, it automatically routes all spam into an eponymous folder. The rest lands in my online inbox.

Next, I set up Outlook to download mail from that Gmail account. Because it pulls only the contents of the inbox, I rarely see any spam on my PC. All the junk stays at the Gmail end, which is just how I like it.

In fact, this helps with virus protection as well, because Gmail virus-checks all e-mail attachments. Infected files never get the chance to attack my PC.

Meanwhile, outbound mail still looks to the receiver like it came from my domain, not from Gmail. That's really important to me.

And let's not forget the added benefit of Gmail's anywhere access: I can now read and compose e-mail in any Web browser on any PC (or Mac). My account is also easily accessible on my cell phone.

Did I mention this arrangement doesn't cost a cent? The only way you can do likewise with Yahoo, as described earlier, is by signing up for Yahoo Mail Plus, which costs \$20 per year.

That's a reasonable price, and Yahoo Mail on the whole is quite impressive, but I'd rather keep my \$20.

Finally, several readers proposed an

Please see **TECH SAVVY, D2**

Valentine's Day presents myriad wine options

Aphrodisiacs have been known to spark romance. Romans used oysters to rouse passion, and it's said that the Greeks believed figs inspired desire. We suggest, however, that you evaluate all your wine options for Valentine's Day this year!



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

of its lightly robust personality. Elegance is exemplified by its pale pink color and fragrant fresh

fruity character. From J winery in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley comes Brut Rosé \$35. Dazzle your sweetheart with the aromas and flavors of strawberries, juicy red apples and nectarines in this bubbly. Both are lovely alone, with shellfish or paired with a red fruit dessert.

PINK IS THE NEW RED

Rosé still wines are not just summer sippers. In winter months, they match well to Mediterranean specialties, so take your sweetheart's taste buds to Provence with the following: Clos du Bois 2006 Sonoma County Rosé \$14 (76 percent Syrah) brims with the aromas of fresh strawberries kissed with bright cherries. Raspberry flavors are highlighted in the mouth and

through a long finish. Vinavera 2006 Napa Valley Dry Rosé \$15 is also Syrah based. Strawberry and cranberry aromas lead to bright red berry flavors and an enjoyable fruit-laden finish. Grilled salmon makes a good match.

PERFECTLY NAMED WINE

Your next option is one of three perfectly named cabernet sauvignons from Terra Valentine winery in the Spring Mountain District of Napa Valley.

Terra Valentine 2004 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$38 was picked from 14 different vineyard blocks. A dark fruit profile is highlighted by brown spices and notes of dark chocolate in a well-structured wine.

Wild berries and anise aromas complement black cherry flavors ending with hints of chocolate in 2004 Terra Valentine Wurtele Vineyard Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$58. Terra Valentine 2004 Yverdon Vineyard Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$70 showcases dark fruits and toasty aromas highlighted by a melange of fruit and spices with hints of dark coffee beans. This is the big brother of the three.

(For merlots, see related box.)

LOVE POTION

We say lovers. You say Italians. Consider these love potions: 2006 Ajello Majus Bianco (native varieties catarratto and grillo from Sicily) \$10, 2005 Ajello Majus Rosso (nero d'Avola

from Sicily) \$10, 2004 Fattoria La Valentina Montepulciano d'Abruzzo \$13, 2005 Aia Vecchia Lagone (Bordeaux-style blend from Bolgheri) \$15 and 2006 Li Veli Salento Rosso "Passamante" (negroamaro from Puglia) \$16.

And then there's Primo Amore (first love) Romeo (red) and Juliet (white), at \$7.

Both are aromatic, slightly sweet, low in alcohol and lightly effervescent — about as serious as first love and as much fun! Serve both well chilled.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

LUSH AND LOVELY

Merlot's lush character, lively aromas and flavors put it in contention for your attention. Seek these out:

Picks of the pack: 2004 Stags' Leap Winery Napa Valley Merlot \$31; 2005 Shafer Merlot \$46; and 2005 Duckhorn Napa Valley Merlot \$52.

Moderately priced: 2004 Clos du Bois Reserve Merlot Alexander Valley \$22; 2005 Kenwood Vineyards Jack London Vineyard Merlot \$25; and 2005 Sebastiani Alexander Valley Merlot \$24.

Wallet friendly: 2006 McManis Family Merlot \$10 and 2005 Gallo Family Reserve Merlot \$15.

TECH SAVVY

FROM PAGE D1

ingenious solution to the spam problem: disposable e-mail addresses.

It works like this: Sign up for a free e-mail account from Gmail, Yahoo, or another service, then use that address for things like newsletter subscriptions, Web-site registrations, and so on.

Meanwhile, you keep your personal e-mail address largely private, sharing it only with friends and family. That should keep spam to a minimum.

Your disposable address may collect some junk, but who cares? You can always ditch that account and sign up for a new one.

Way to go, readers! You've proven once again that you're smarter than the average bear — or columnist.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device*, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

CHOCOLATE

FROM PAGE D1

Greg Stroker, pastry chef at Tribute in Farmington Hills, said it's all personal preference when it comes to creating your own desserts. "It's not always necessary to use (more expensive chocolate)," Stroker said. "There's so much out there, you could sit there for days, tasting the stuff."

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

There's more than one grape in fine wines. There's also more than one bean used in making chocolate, Decker said.

Today, chocolate is enjoyed everywhere with a variety of tastes and flavors — bitter chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, couverture, and white chocolate. Chocolate is made from cacao beans, roasted and ground, which results in chocolate liquor, approximately 1/2 nonfat solids (cocoa) and 1/2 cocoa butter.

What chocolate should you use? That depends, Decker said.

Dark chocolate contains chocolate liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, vanilla and lecithin. Sugar, added in varying degrees, affects the flavor intensity or flavor profile of the chocolates.

"The higher the cocoa mass, the more intense the flavor," Decker said.

Couverture chocolate, a good quality dark chocolate used by bakers and confectioners, contains at least 30 percent cocoa butter.

Milk chocolate contains dry milk solids, and must contain 10 percent chocolate liquor, 3.39 percent butterfat and 12 percent milk solids. It has less chocolate taste (but is sweeter) than dark chocolate. White chocolate contains cocoa butter, and generally milk and sugar, but not chocolate liquor. It is flavored by vanilla and other ingredients, and does not have a chocolate flavor.

OK ... so which do you use? "For mousses and creams, you want chocolate with a higher (cocoa) mass content," Decker said, at least 60 percent. If you're dipping strawberries, milk chocolate or sweeter dark chocolate is fine.

Today's technology has launched chocolate into a

whole new flavor realm.

"It has a luxurious sense about it," Decker said. "Modern technology and artistic craftsmanship have elevated it to an ingredient of elite status, similar to unique fine wines, giving it its own personality."

"You say 'chocolate,' and it's like saying 'wine,' it's like saying 'gold,' it has its own personality."

GAYLE'S GOODS

Michael A. Smith, marketing director for Gayle's Chocolates in Royal Oak, has a simple explanation for chocolate's appeal.

It's delicious. "And those who don't like chocolate know someone who does," Smith said. "It's the universal gift."

While it isn't known as a health food, chocolate does have flavonoids and antioxidants, Smith said. "But really it's that they just love the way it tastes. That's the reality."

Chocolate can be creative, too.

The most popular item sold at Gayle's is the \$36 high-heeled chocolate shoe, consisting of 14 ounces of dark chocolate, milk chocolate, pink chocolate (white chocolate with strawberry flavoring) or the Mule version with dusting on the shoes. That item was linked to a Web site (aboutshoes.com) and Gayle's now gets orders from all over the country, Smith said.

PERSONAL PREFERENCE

Stroker prefers Cacao Barry, which isn't readily available to the public, but he has used more common chocolates (Nestle's) in his previous pastry gigs before he arrived at Tribute.

"I'm a firm believer that you should stick with what you know. Go with the middle of the road," Stroker said.

"I'm not going to use the most expensive," Stroker said. "With mousse, you're adding the liquor, eggs and cream, and it's hard to tell the difference."

What's Stroker's favorite? "I really enjoy chocolate and raspberries," Stroker said as a dessert pairing. "You can also use chocolate and strawberries of course, and you can do mango, blueberries, apples and pears."

Don't be afraid of appliance repair

There are many consumers who have never attempted to do their own repair of a major home appliance and just as many who wouldn't think about calling a technician.

For this reason we can always be assured that repair companies will continue to

prosper, and so will the concept of do-it-yourself repair outlets.



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

With the accessibility of everything at the touch of computer keys today you can learn so much about the world of major home appliances.

There are websites where you can get breakdowns on products, wiring schematics, order tools and even call to talk in person with a technician.

The challenge of repairs comes to you in different ways, sometimes you're simply not going to wait several days for a technician to arrive, or you just can't afford to spend the money. Many times it's just a puzzle you feel like conquering to develop your own sense of pride.

There are some basic principles that I would like to point out for some of you potential do-it-yourselfers. Let's start with electricity. You would be surprised at how many homeowners have to fork over the cost of a service call to have someone either plug in the appliance or reset the circuit breaker.

You can call that an expensive oversight and I guarantee you will find it an embarrassing moment. Many people will replace the timer on the product because it doesn't advance to the next cycle not knowing that in many cases other components must be working properly before the timer will move.

Keep in mind that when you purchase an electrical replacement part there are few places, if any, that will give you a refund on anything that is electric.

The reason for this policy is simple. Let's say you hooked up a new timer incorrectly and you burnt out one of the electrical contacts inside the timer, which cannot be seen. That timer would then be defective.

How could a parts company sell that timer to another cus-

The challenge of repairs comes to you in different ways, sometimes you're simply not going to wait several days for a technician to arrive, or you just can't afford to spend the money. Many times it's just a puzzle you feel like conquering to develop your own sense of pride.

tomers with any confidence of it being a good operational component? Besides it is against the Michigan Consumers Protection Act to sell a part processed to be new when it is not.

Thinking of timers, my friend Tom Ross (of MSU Hockey Hall of Fame) called me to say that his daughter is living in his condo in Florida and she has to pull the plug on the kitchen range every time she uses it.

It makes a buzzing sound, which never stops, and Tom is going to fly down to Florida for a visit and repairs. He was going to purchase a timer before he left this area and I told him not to. I suggested that because the range was 20 years old and the timer would no doubt be expensive it might not be worth the expense of repairing it. I told him to take the back off the stove, which covers the mechanism off the timer.

He will see a little cloth-covered coil the size of half a finger and about the same thickness. Cut one of the two electrical wires going into that coil and the buzzing sound is all finished.

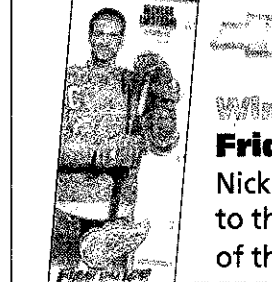
So is the timer, but at least you can use the stove and purchase a \$5 household timer at the local hardware store. Oh Tommy, don't forget to pull the plug before you cut the wire on the timer. The Red Wing Alumni team still needs you to play several more games this year.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to wvonn@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

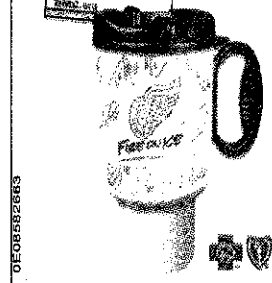
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Wings vs Ducks
Sunday, Feb. 10, 3:30pm
Pavel Datsyuk Player T-shirt to the first 5,000 kids courtesy of Chevrolet.



Wings vs Blue Jackets
Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30pm
Nick Lidstrom Growth Poster to the first 5,000 kids courtesy of the DMC.
DMC.org

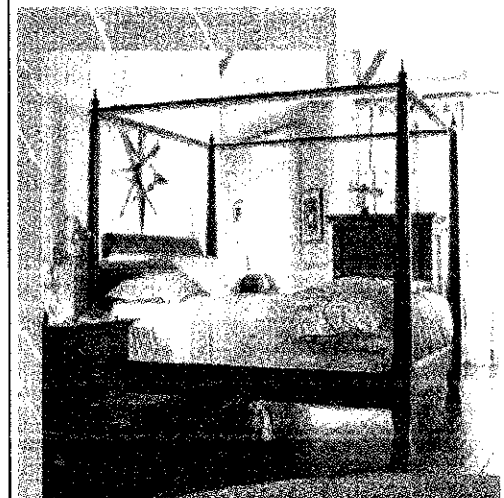


Wings vs Sharks
Friday, Feb. 29, 7:30pm
Travel Coffee Mug to all fans courtesy of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Dates and times subject to change.

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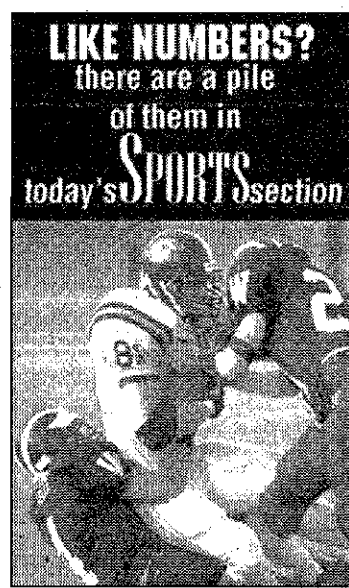
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pink

Detroit Derby Girls lace up for latest bout

By day, Donna Malchie works at a day care center in West Bloomfield. By night, the Farmington Hills native is Vicious Vixen, a rough, tough roller derby skate punk.



Wensdy Von Buskirk

Malchie, 26, is among the Detroit Derby Girls who will take to the rink this Saturday at the Masonic Temple, when the Devil's Night Dames face the D-Funk Allstars. The Detroit Derby Girls

rolled onto the scene in 2005, but I didn't make it to a bout until the last one on Jan. 12, when the Detroit Pistoffs took on the Pistolwhippers.

I not only want to see Detroit Derby Girls again, I want to be one of them. These women are cool.

Ranging in age from 20- to 40-something, many of them moms and most covered in tattoos, these are not your typical athletes. They're the alterna-girls you'd expect to find at art openings and rock shows instead of on competitive sports teams.

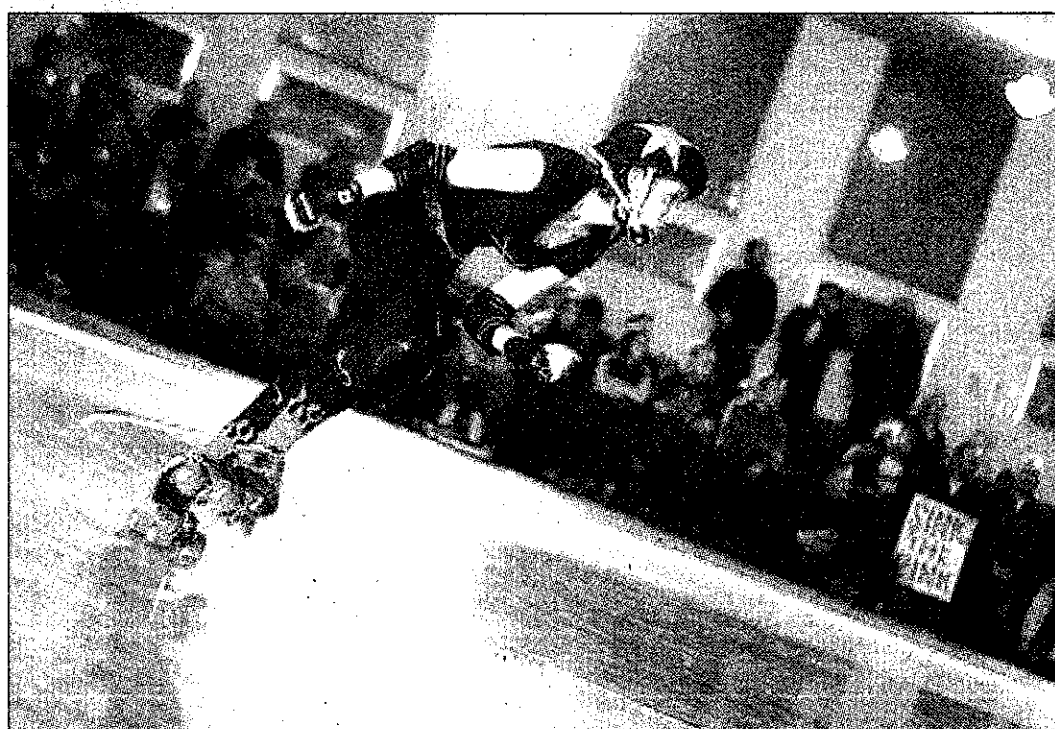
But in the kitschy world of Roller Derby, complete with sexy uniforms, risqué nicknames and old-school skates, these women have found their inner athletes.

And God help anyone who gets in their way.

As they skate around the track, striking the perfect balance between mocking the sport and taking it dead seriously, an ever-growing legion of fans is following along.

The evening we arrived at the Masonic Temple, where all the local bouts take place, we were surprised to discover the game was sold out and patrons crowded the lobby hoping to score admission. We were among the lucky few who managed to get tickets at the last minute.

Inside, the arena buzzed with excitement. A merch table was stocked with posters, T-shirts, patches and buttons for sale (I couldn't resist buying a cap sleeve tee with the Detroit



'Vicious Vixen' Donna Malchie of Farmington Hills skates with the Devil's Night Dames, as well as on the Detroit Derby Girls traveling team.

D-FUNK ALLSTARS VS. DEVIL'S NIGHT DAMES

When: Saturday, Feb. 9, doors at 6 p.m., game at 7 p.m.

Where: Masonic Temple Drill Hall, Detroit

Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door; under 12 free with adult; available from Derby Girls, Danny's Irish Pub in Ferndale or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Future bouts: March 8, Pistolwhippers vs. D-Funk Allstars; April 12, Detroit Pistoffs vs. Devil's Night Dames; May 10: Championship Double Header.

Information: Visit www.detroitderbygirls.com.

Derby Girls logo — the silhouette of a woman wearing roller skates perched in a martini glass).

Yellow cones defined the oval track where the women skate according to the rules of Women's Flat Track Roller Derby. Outside the ring, fans of all ages — from toddlers to grandparents with plenty of hipsters in between — gathered to watch.

The gist of Roller Derby is two teams of five girls each compete in the rink.



Malchie

When referees blow the first whistle, eight blockers skate off in a pack. At the second whistle, two jammers take off from behind. The jammers must catch the pack, then lap it twice, racking up points along the way.

Meanwhile the tangle of blockers use elbows, knees and all manner of hell on wheels to keep the opposing jammer at bay, while helping their own jammer get ahead.

Don't let those little school-girl outfits fool you ... these girls are tough. They're feisty, aggressive and they play to win.

They use sneers, trash talk and theatrics to intimidate their opponents. And when it comes down to it, they aren't afraid of a little rink rash.

On her web site profile, Vicious Vixen — who joined Detroit Derby Girls in 2005 and also skates on the travel team — boasts of suffering a fractured ulna, hematomas and swollen knees for the sport. Photos of stitches in her busted chin are posted with pride.

Yet despite names like Devil Kitty, Elle McFearsome and Wanda Throwdown, these girls are in it to have a good time, and their antics are infectious.

At the bout we saw, the audience erupted in the last period when Cookie Rumble, team captain and that night's MVP, tore through the blockers to bring the Pistoffs to victory.

But it's not just the skaters themselves who energize the crowd. A whole cast of characters, from referees in drag to punk rock pom-pom girls, all with campy pseudonyms, gather for each game. During intermissions, local bands play and kids from the audience are invited to dance and hula hoop on the rink.

The very fact that roller derby makes light of itself is what makes it so much fun, especially for people like me who aren't able to take most spectator sports too seriously.

Now I know what it means to sit on the sidelines and dream of getting in the game.

The Detroit Derby Girls practice twice a week at Riverside Arena in Livonia. For more information on the teams, tryouts and upcoming bouts, visit www.detroitderbygirls.com.

pink picks

Wear It!

The Florine Ministrelli heart cap

Don't Wear It!

Lingerie as daywear

Kick It!

Red patent leather pumps



Florine Ministrelli of West Bloomfield wears the heart cap she designed to benefit The Ministrelli Women's Heart Center in Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak.

DVD It!

Dexter

See It!
Caramel



Tote It!
Hello Kitty Loungefly Canvas Duffel Bag in Pearly Puff

Hear It!

The Pipettes
We Are The Pipettes

Gift It!

Livonia artist Joey Merchant's plush monsters at etsy.com

Shop It!

Michigan's first Love Culture store at The Mall at Partridge Creek

Face It!

LipTox lip plumper at Touch in Birmingham

Tivo It!

The Grammys on Feb. 10



Read It!

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Indulge It!

Hot Chocolate Cake at Morton's The Steakhouse

Drink It!

Red Bull with Raspberry Vodka

Malls and Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wvnb@hometownlife.com.

Plymouth Goes Red for Women

Plymouth's Downtown District supports the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign on Friday, Feb. 8. Wear red and visit participating businesses for discounts, or drop in the Heart Health Open House, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DDA Office, 831 Penniman Ave., for heart healthy seminars, snacks and donation opportunities. Guest speaker Lisa McDowell, St. Joseph Hospital's Chief Clinical Nutritionist, will discuss nutrition and meal ideas at 12:30 p.m. Call (734) 455-1453.

Macy's Bridal Event

Macy's Somerset will host its annual Ever After Bridal Event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. Participate in registry seminars, meet bridal experts, hear product presentations from vendors such as Wedgwood, and meet with reps from local companies offering everything from flowers and invitations to DJs and videographers. Jennifer Wilkins, Macy's Trend Expert, will lead fashion presentations at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. outside the Bridal Salon. Bill Hoopes, Director of Macy's Wedding & Gift Registry/Macy's by Appointment, will offer bridal registry tips and trends at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Valentine's at Ren Cen Shops

The Ren Cen Shops at the GM Renaissance Center, Detroit, will host a sweet deal to celebrate Valentine's Day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 11-14. During



Find Valentine's Day gifts with heart at Pure Detroit at The Ren Cen Shops, like a Detroit Love T-Shirt (\$20), an 'I Heart Detroit' mug (\$7.99), and a Cadillac seatbelt (\$22).

"Wrap It All Up with Love," purchases will be wrapped free in the GM Wintergarden. Present a single Ren Cen Shop receipt of at least \$25 to get Godiva Chocolates, and enter to win his and her watches. Ren Cen Shops include: Cheryl Lynn's Gold Crown Hallmark, Pangborn Design Collection, Bon Bons Candy and Godiva Chocolatier, Pure Detroit, Ashley's Flowers, Jos A. Bank, The Fashion Council, Scentsations Fragrance & Crystal Boutique and more.

Parisian Community Day

Local nonprofits can register now to participate in Parisian's next Community Day on Saturday, March 1. The event is a turn-key opportunity for organizations to raise funds by selling Parisian discount savings booklets, and keeping 100 percent of the \$5 booklet price. In 2007, The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. was able to raise over \$10 million for nonprofits through Community Day. Log onto www.communitydayevent.com, and submit a registration form.

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