

Happy New Year

THURSDAY
January 1, 2009

Observer

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High winds leave thousands without power

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Much of western Wayne County escaped major damage from a storm Sunday that included wind gusts up to 60 mph Sunday.

However, many communities had to bring in crews on overtime to deal with downed power lines and fallen trees and branches.

"We had a number of locations with trees down, and we had some flooding problems," said Pat Hogan, director of public works for the city of Livonia. "Our priority was to move trees from the roads, of which most of them were on local subdivision streets. We had to call in additional help because it happened on

the weekend."

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok said, surprisingly, damage was kept to a minimum.

"We had a street light damaged and a couple of trees in the Evergreen and Maple (streets) area," Sincok said. "There were some power outages, including at Independence Village (senior living center in Plymouth Township). All in all, we had relatively minor damage."

According to DTE Energy spokesman Len Singer, Westland had about 6,000 customers without power as a result of the high winds and Livonia about 5,000. Canton Township had about 2,700 powerless customers, 550 in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, with Garden City and Redford Township about 400 each.

"The main problems were downed power lines from trees and tree branches that came into contact with," Singer said. "We brought in more than 300 workers from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to help."

In Livonia tree fell across the road on Merriman Court, knocking down a power line and blocking the road for about 15 households. The road represents the only access to Seven Mile for residents. Power had been restored to most residents on Merriman Court on Monday.

DTE had hoped to restore power for 90 percent of those 4,000 residents by Tuesday, and expected it all back by today (Thursday), according to Dave Varga, director of administrative services.

Kevin Buford, Westland's public service director, said downed trees were the

major problem in his community.

"The majority of the damage we incurred was from trees that were blown over," Buford said. "A lot of them were on private property. We had one that fell on a power line and the fire department responded to that one."

Garden City officials say it was much of the same.

"We had a few trees down, with most of them on private property," said Doug Morton, the deputy director of the Garden City Department of Public Services. "We went out and cleared the right-of-way, but besides that we had isolated areas of power and cable out."

"We had a little bit of residential flooding with the snow melting and the rain, but it wasn't too bad," he said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gian Riggi uses a chainsaw to take a few branches off a tree that fell across Merriman Court in Livonia at 5 a.m. on Sunday. The tree took down a power line and members of about 15 households were unable to drive down the road to get to Seven Mile Road.

Cell phone program helps troops call home

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you have one or two or maybe even three old cell phones tucked away in a junk drawer, RE/MAX Classic wants to take them off your hands.

The real estate agency has been participating in the Massachusetts-based Cell Phones for Soldiers program for five months and has collected nearly 1,350 phones.

"Isn't it amazing? Our initial goal was only 1,000 phones," said Lynn Dery, RE/MAX Classic director of career development. "This has brought us closer to the community and it has been a life changing experience for me."

Cell Phones for Soldiers, a non-profit organization started by two children several years ago, has a simple mission of helping "our troops call home." Each donated phone will be recycled and in return a 60-minute calling card will be distributed to a deployed soldier.

"Who doesn't want to support our soldiers?" Dery said. "You may not support the war, but you have to support our soldiers and calling cards are like gold. It is very expensive to call from Iraq and in these economic times, it is even harder to stay in contact."

The program, which has 3,000 collection sites throughout the country, including the six RE/MAX Classic locations, has handed out more than 500,000 calling cards to soldiers in all

branches of the U.S. Military.

"I am amazed at what we have collected," said Bart Patterson, RE/MAX Classic vice president and general manager. "It is an easy, tax-deductible donation and with the holidays here, it has even more importance."

After telling the story of a RE/MAX agent that has collected about 400 phones on his own, Patterson said the agency's donations have amounted to 200,000 calling card hours.

"We are helping to serve a need," he said. "And we want to continue with this as long as we can."

In promoting the program, Dery has partnered with several area organizations, including the Plymouth-Canton chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.

"This has really touched my heart because I have had veterans tell me straight out that when you (are fighting overseas) you don't know if you are going to make it to the next day so speaking with your family is the most important gift you could have."

No appointment is necessary for cell phone donations. For more information, visit www.detroitmetrorealestate.com or contact your local office at the numbers listed: Canton - (734) 459-1010; Livonia - (734) 432-1010; Farmington Hills - (248) 737-6800; Milford - (248) 684-6655; Novi - (248) 348-3000 and West Bloomfield - (248) 738-7100.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lynn Dery, director of career development at Re/Max Classic collects used cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. Each donated cell phone, when recycled, provides one hour of talk time for a soldier.

Leaving its mark

2008 was a year to remember

BY OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

As we say goodbye to an event-filled 2008, it is worth taking a moment to look back at how the year impacted our communities. From major political upsets and victories on the playing field, to major new development projects and terrible crimes, 2008 had a little of everything.

The Observer staff took some time to reflect on the memorable year, and compiled a list of the biggest news events of the year. We hope you enjoy it. And have a happy and safe new year.

CANTON

In the 12 months that were 2008, Canton faced several commercial highs and lows, had an energized political season and held on to its status as a safe community, despite a few strange crimes.

■ While some closed their doors in the township — Texas Corral, Farmer Jack, La Shish, CiCi's Pizza, Mariachi Restaurant, Honey, What's for Dinner? — other businesses have set up shop including SpeedDate Michigan, HomeGoods, Clearly You, buybuy Baby, Expressions from Canton and JCPenney.

■ Undefeated by the criticism it faced in 2007, Oakwood is still looking to build in Canton. And unlike the forceful masses that came against the healthcare provider's earlier plans to build at



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Sheldon Road underpass project in Plymouth, which had been in the works for a decade, finally opened for traffic last month.

Beck and Geddes, opposition to its newest proposal to put down roots on the west side of Beck Road, just north of Michigan Avenue has been mostly quiet.

■ In March, Catherine Johnson stepped down from the Canton Planning Commission after she was asked to resign after posing a question about public urination during a hearing for the Hindu Temple rebuild last December.

Please see 2008, A5

Glenn's first principal remembered as man who cared

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Francis A. Higgins III, the first principal of Westland John Glenn High School, will be remembered as a Wayne-Westland educator whose humor, dedication and leadership made him a favorite of his students and his colleagues.

"He wanted to give every child the opportunity to reach their educational potential," his wife, Elizabeth Higgins, said. "That's what he strived for."

Mr. Higgins, a former Westland resident, retired to Naples, Fla., after a 40-year

career in education. He died Dec. 19 at the Avow Hospice facility in Naples following a long illness. He was 76.

Mr. Higgins taught English at Wayne Memorial High School before he became Glenn High's principal in the 1960s, and he also worked as the district's assistant superintendent of curriculum. He became superintendent in 1979 of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, where an elementary school was named in his honor.

Wayne-Westland Supt. Greg Baracy expressed sympathy to the family of an educator who Baracy said was highly regarded.

"That's sad news," he said of Mr. Higgins' death. "I know he had a great reputation."

Baracy recalled that Mr. Higgins was instrumental in designing Glenn High, part of a row of Wayne-Westland facilities on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads.

Mrs. Higgins, a former Wayne-Westland elementary teacher, also said her husband served as president of the Wayne Rotary Club and once led a statewide organization of school superintendents.

"He truly made a difference through his love and devotion to children," she said.

"He had humor, grace and leadership ability, and he always wanted the children to have the very best."

As an English teacher at Wayne Memorial, "the youngsters just loved him," Mrs. Higgins said. "The band would come in and serenade him. The students knew that he was there for them."

She even recalled times when students came to the Higgins home to talk about their troubles and to seek advice.

Former Observer Editor Leonard Poger remembered Mr. Higgins as "a very popular principal with an outgoing personality." Mr. Higgins earned his bachelor of

science degree from Eastern Michigan University, his master's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from Wayne State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Higgins were married for 56 years. Other survivors include three sons, Francis A. Higgins IV of Cincinnati, Ohio, John Higgins of Tallahassee, Fla., and Mark (Vicki) Higgins of Whitmore Lake, Mich.; four grandchildren, Jonathan, Nicholas, Chelsea Elizabeth and Mark Todd; a sister, Joan (Chester) Kendzior of Naples; a brother, Todd (Deborah) Higgins of Waterford, Mich.; and nieces and nephews.

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Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

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USA WEEKLY

Coming Sunday:
Make 2009 your healthiest year ever

Hope and friendship

One childhood 'brother' helps another

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Douglas Kudwa felt sensations in his legs like he was being electrocuted on that day in April 2002.

The Livonia native was knocked by an I-beam at a construction site in Brighton and fell 23 feet down an elevator shaft onto concrete chunks and "rebar" or reinforcement bars.

Kudwa fell back first, and his lower back struck the concrete with such force that the impact went up his leg and shattered his left ankle, even though his leg was up in the air.

"I felt like I was being electrocuted," Kudwa said. "I knew something was wrong, but I didn't know what."

Kudwa was transported to the University of Michigan Hospital with an uncertainty of whether he would survive the fall, telling personnel to tell his wife Sandra he loved her.

It would begin a long arduous journey for Kudwa, that made him help appreciate his friendship that began in a Livonia neighborhood 40-plus years ago.

Kudwa suffered an incomplete spinal cord injury, meaning that his spine was not severed, but was seriously injured, with fragments near his spinal cord. "At that point, I was paralyzed from the waist down," Kudwa said.

Doctors performed surgery for 10 1/2 hours to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord. They fused the spinal cord together with a titanium rod.

Kudwa had no feeling for a week, but soon felt tingling in his lower legs and sensations in his toes. Good signs.

But the road back was rough and painful. Sandra Kudwa had to clothe and bathe Doug. Then the therapists arrived later, and that was Doug's regimen every day for his three years in intense rehabilitation.

Kudwa spent a year with a walker, dealing with the pain of recovery, using pain killers, then quitting them because he didn't want to be addicted to them. He suffered great pain at that point, but that subsided. He went through therapy and exercises

'I just wanted to get back to hunting, fishing and camping. I wanted to get back to some normalcy.'

DOUGLAS KUDWA

as part of his long road to recovery and to ultimately walk again. His wife purchased kneepads to help him walk around the house on his knees to strengthen his legs, which he sometimes did at all hours of the night.

But doctors told him that he probably would never work again. Kudwa wanted normalcy. That November, he went hunting and sat in his wheelchair, bagging a buck on his trip on a 150-yard shot. "I just wanted to get back to hunting, fishing and camping," Kudwa said. "I wanted to get back to some normalcy."

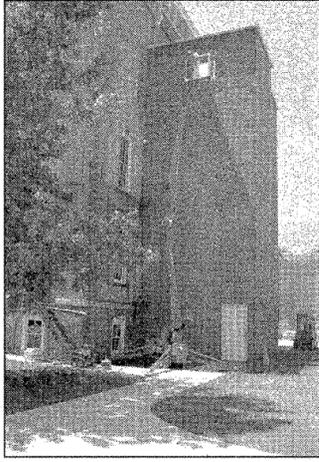
Kudwa wanted to work, but found that companies would not hire him. For two years, Kudwa sent out resumes seeking work as a project manager, or an office job since he could no longer work the physical part of onsite construction. "Anyone who knew me was leery about taking me back," Kudwa said. "They had questions: Was he able to work every day? Would he make it in that day? But they were worried about a possible future liability. They never said anything to me, but it was obvious."

Kudwa credits his wife for much of his recovery. "Our relationship grew through prayer. We laughed and cried together, and she's really my best friend."

Soon another friend stepped forward — Steve Vlahakis. They grew up together on Harrison in the Middlebelt and Five Mile neighborhood, attending Riley and graduating from Bentley.

They kept in touch throughout the years. Like he did every year, Vlahakis called Kudwa on Kudwa's birthday, his 48th, on Dec. 7, 2007. But this conversation was different.

Vlahakis asked Kudwa if he wanted to go into business with him. Vlahakis, vice president of Seaway Painting, an industrial painting con-



This lift owned by DS Access & Maintenance carries maintenance workers or painters to difficult-to-reach areas on buildings and bridges. The business was started by Steve Vlahakis and Doug Kudwa.

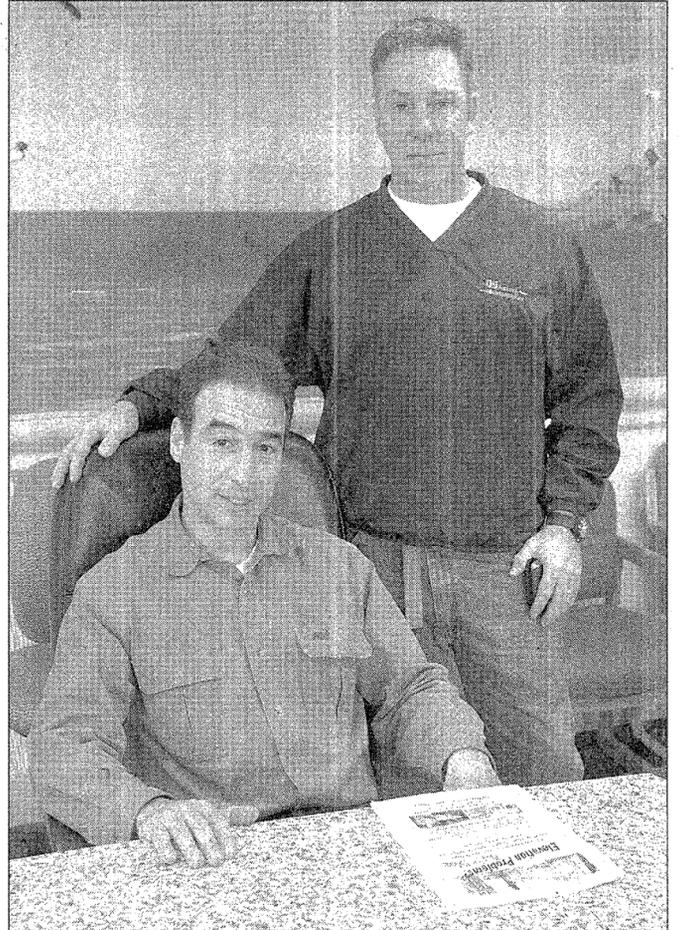
tractor in Livonia founded by Steve's father, George, and Kudwa would create DS Access & Maintenance, LLC, which would lease a specialized elevated lift for contractual work for painting and maintenance of buildings and bridges.

The specialized elevated lift resembles a spider. The 5,000-pound lift can maneuver through a 3-foot by 7-foot opening and is 16 feet long. It reaches heights of 60 feet to work on maintenance of heating, cooling, plumbing, fire suppression equipment, electrical or painting.

The machine is unique because the lift's operator can maneuver the bucket by folding the arm. The machine has special outriggers that act as feet extending to cover an area of 12 by 12-feet. That puts out a ground pressure of 5 pounds per square inch.

So far, business has been good, the partners say. DS Access & Maintenance's lift was recently used to paint structures and frames of CBS billboards, and at Hillsdale College and the M-14 bridge at Sheldon Road in Plymouth. They say they may purchase a second lift.

Kudwa is grateful for the oppor-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Vlahakis and Douglas Kudwa are partners in DS Access Maintenance.

tunity and the chance to spend time with his childhood friend. "It has given me hope for the future. I feel very fortunate. These people (Steve's parents, George and Connie) were always like second parents to me. It's like being invited into their family. It's meant a lot to me."

"Steve's always pulling people along with him. He's always helping his family and friends. He's just a great guy and he's always been very humble."

Vlahakis said he developed the business plan because Kudwa was a lifelong friend and also he saw an opportunity.

"We've had a lifelong friendship," Vlahakis said. "We did everything

together from baseball to football and anything like construction as a kid, chasing girls as a kid." Vlahakis then laughs.

"We had a great childhood together. Mr. (George) Kudwa was our baseball coach and he was a great guy. A friend is like family." (George Kudwa died in 1988. Doug's mother, Marge Kudwa, lives in Farmington Hills. Doug Kudwa lives in Holly and Steve Vlahakis lives in Northville.)

"He's just a lifelong friend, and it's a great opportunity," Vlahakis said. "We've always looked out for each other our whole lives."

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Teens experience realities of homelessness at Canton church

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cara Delaney was well-prepared to spend a night sleeping outside for Boxing Day.

"This will be my second year," said Delaney, a 16-year-old junior at Salem High School, of the senior high project at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. Delaney, daughter of Beth and Stu of Plymouth Township, noted the event raises awareness of homelessness.

"It's also the big kickoff for our clothing drive," she said. "We're trying to help others, do what Jesus did."

Good-quality clothing including new underwear and socks — as well as toiletries — is being collected through Jan. 2 at the church on Sheldon north of Ford in Canton. The Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor, said it's based on the British and Canadian custom of boxing up clothing no longer needed on Dec. 26 and giving it to the needy.

Geneva's done the project for about 12 years.

"One was to raise awareness

of the fact that homelessness is a big issue in the metro Detroit area," said Smith, a Canton resident.

His church has a food pantry, and works with Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit. The Detroit church has a ministry to help needy people with food, clothing and other basics.

Geneva also helps teens to think about being homeless "and think about it from a faith perspective, too," he said. The senior highs gathered around 8 p.m. Friday, with some time for prayer and reflection. Some older students who've already graduated come back for the event as well, which wrapped up early Saturday morning.

Smith noted young people "kind of experience what it's like not to have people to talk to. You experience solitude quite a bit."

The teens had brought big boxes, from appliances and such, to sleep in.

"We usually have a fire going, so that keeps us warm, too," Delaney said. She and the other Geneva youth wore warm



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Smith, Hannah Ruth Glodich, and Gretchen Dager Seibel spent part of the night in a cardboard box on Saturday at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. The event raised awareness of homelessness.

clothes, but realize homeless people don't always have that option.

"Geneva's a great church," said Benjamin Ogden, director of the Open Door program at Fort Street Presbyterian, with services including food, clothing and



Abrión Card, 14 years old, watches the flames from the warming barrels.

represent about 10 percent of the homeless population, Ogden said, but use a disproportionate share of resources.

"They cycle through a awful lot," he said. "Wet clothes are deadly, especially in this weather." Homeless people can't store clothing.

Ogden said the average age of volunteers is going up, now people in their 50s, "which means newer generations are not becoming engaged in this type of outreach." Some donors get frustrated seeing the same people homeless year after year.

"It's doing a lot of good because they're still alive,"

Ogden said. The homeless have issues beyond housing and jobs. "Just the fact that we're keeping them alive is proof positive of the good work being done."

Detroit's homeless population is some 12,500, people with no fixed address, with about 2,000 of those chronic. "We're finding it's just not an attractive charity anymore," Ogden said.

Homeless people are often veterans (one-third) or seniors and children (one-half). Many people are on a slippery slope toward homelessness.

"They look like your neighbors, they look like your friends," Ogden said.

Police searching for man wanted in Garden City armed robberies

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City police are investigating two armed robberies reported early Dec. 28-29. The same suspect is believed to be responsible for both robberies as well as a third robbery on Dec. 26, police said.

At 12:39 a.m. police were called to the BP gas station, 32889 Warren, where the clerk reported being robbed at gunpoint. He said the suspect entered the store and immediately pointed a gun at him demanding money. After putting \$200 in a bag and also giving the man two cartons of cigarettes, the clerk said the suspect told him to lie on the floor behind the counter.

The clerk said he sat down on the floor and then got up to see which way the suspect had fled but the man was gone. Two witnesses told police the suspect had headed west across Venoy into an apartment complex. A Westland police dog tracked the suspect to the apartment parking lot but he wasn't located, police said.

Based on the description of the suspect — a black male approximately 30 years old, 6-foot-4, medium build with a gray winter hat and black jacket with gray sleeves — and the surveillance video, the officer said the same person appeared to be responsible for robbing the Speedway gas station on Ford at Harrison on Dec. 26.

At 2:45 a.m. Dec. 27, an employee at CVS Pharmacy, 27435 Ford, told police that a man with a gray scarf over his face entered the store and immediately pointed a gun at him demanding money. The suspect left after receiving \$233 from two registers, police said. The employee was told to lie on the floor and was unable to see the direction in which the suspect had fled. A police dog also tracked the suspect but soon lost the scent which police attributed to the suspect getting into a nearby vehicle.

Anyone with information about the robberies is asked to call Garden City Police at (734) 793-1700.

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



Garden City police are looking for information about a man suspected of three recent armed robberies. The photograph was taken from surveillance video at CVS Pharmacy on Ford at Inkster Road which was robbed at 2:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29. Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call Garden City police at (734) 793-1700.

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OUR VIEWS

With 2008 behind us, there is much to hope for in 2009

As the year 2008 comes to a close, it's time to turn our attention to what we hope will be a much better 2009. With that in mind, the *Observer* offers some New Year's resolutions — or wishes really — for our state, our communities and the men and women who govern them.

■ Certainly we are hoping 2009 will be the year the Big 3 turn things around and are again the beacon of American capitalism. Hopefully the auto industry is able to use the recent lifeline from the federal government to survive long enough where it can retool itself to produce fuel-efficient vehicles that will help America break its addiction to foreign oil.

■ If the recent troubles of the Big 3 have taught us nothing else, it is that our state is too dependent on the auto industry. Michigan must continue to invest in other economic sectors, particularly in the development of alternative fuels and bio-technology. Western Wayne County could reap the benefits of such investment because of the companies and infrastructure already in place. This kind of investment could be the springboard for Michigan to regain its global stature as a hotbed of innovation.

■ Like last year, 2009 promises to be a challenging one for state lawmakers, who must find a way to avoid massive budget deficits. That being said, one area where the state cannot afford to make any more cuts is in the funding of public education. If Michigan wants to be a global innovator in alternative energy or any other industry, we must produce students who can meet the challenges of future workplaces. We must admit that our schools are falling behind. Funding is not keeping up with the costs associated with running quality schools. Fixing our public schools must be a priority.

■ The new year might just be the year that Detroit and its suburbs finally reach some consensus about the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and how the city supplies water to its 4.3 million customers. An agreement reached just a couple weeks ago is finally providing some hope that the city and suburbs can form a partnership built on trust rather than animosity. The historic agreement, which calls for the creation of a five-member directors' council made up of both city and suburban leaders, should allow the DWSD to eventually get out from under federal oversight.

Canton

■ We hope the new year will bring wisdom to all of Canton's newly elected officials. With a new supervisor, treasurer and three new trustees, as well as a new state representative and new district court judge, Canton is undergoing a big change in leadership. All of them should have a goal of maintaining Canton's high quality of life that residents have come to expect.

■ In this tough economy, we hope Canton Leisure Services (recently named the top recreation service provider in the nation) will be able to continue providing top-notch services and programs. Whether it's Liberty Fest, the senior programs or the B.L.O.C.K. teen center, Leisure Services does a fantastic job reaching all segments of Canton's citizenry.

Garden City

■ We hope Garden City Schools continue the good work on reducing the district's financial deficit. Instead of the projected \$1.8 million deficit, the shortage had dropped to an expected \$1.2 million.

■ Garden City should resolve to continue its several years of keeping spending down that have resulted in a \$2 million fund balance. That money will help as revenues are expected to be flat or declining in the next couple of years.

Livonia

■ We hope developers of the former Livonia Mall re-create and rejuvenate that old corner of Middlebelt and Seven Mile so that shoppers can experience variety and enjoy convenience there. The mall, renamed Livonia Marketplace, has looked run-down for years and needs an upgrade badly. Perhaps a revitalized mall will bring a rebirth for that end of town.

■ We hope Plymouth Road remains a viable business artery for the city and that entrepreneurs can develop plans for single businesses to create a new vitality along that strip. Yes, the economy is bad right now, but when we shop locally, we can help pump money into the community.

Plymouth

■ We hope the newly seated Plymouth Township Board of Trustees will foster more of an open, transparent atmosphere than they've been doing, particularly recently. Officials need to be more open about how much money the township is spending, particularly on labor lawyers, and quit relying on closed-session meetings to help enact policies and procedures without much discussion in open forums. While all perfectly legal, it doesn't do much for public morale.

■ We'd like to see Plymouth Township explore the possibility of a recreation department of its own. Currently the township has a number of athletic facilities — Lake Point Soccer Park, Plymouth Township Park and Hilltop Golf Course — that might make for natural programs of their own. It's an idea worth exploring.

Westland

■ Westland has a chance in 2009 to implement a long-awaited curbside recycling program with a rewards component for residents who participate. City officials hope to include RecycleBank in the new program, which would allow households to accumulate points for the amount of materials they recycle and redeem them for discounts to places like restaurants and movie theaters.

■ We hope Westland continues pushing for a state-approved cleanup plan for lead-contaminated Central City Park so that the city's one-time recreation jewel can be returned for safe public use as soon as possible.



LETTERS

Remember southern hostility

Among the disparate groups of retirees with whom I associate weekly, a rather common theme is appearing quite often: Why are those southern senators so intent on destroying this country's last major indigenous industry? I listen intently to the opinions and then offer my humble response. People like Sen. R. Shelby, et. al. have two goals in mind: 1) destroy the unions (even though it has been widely reported that our workers, in some cases make less than the ones in the "right-to-work" states); and 2) keep fighting the Civil War. (Come on, guys. You lost. Deal with it. Move on.)

The fact is, through no small effort on the part of the northern states (and our unions), our next president is an extremely intelligent black person, and is an encumbrance so onerous to the Neanderthal throwbacks south of the Ohio border that they have decided to decimate one out of seven jobs in this country.

Apparently, these wonderful folks have no idea (much less a concern) about how many families this will affect, about the tremendous loss of vital revenue to cities, etc., or about the millions of dollars it will cost to provide unemployment benefits, etc.

A member of one of my groups said, "Well yeah, you're right, but what can we do about it?" At my age, I have to continually fight the urge to say things like, "Well, for (goodness) sake, you could at least contact your congress person and the senators who are trying to dump on us!"

Plus, I also hate myself for coming up with sarcastic and malevolent answers to legitimate questions, but I couldn't help myself. I said, "Hey, I know you are going to Biloxi for the winter, and you're taking the cat and the collie with you. Start saving up all the kitty-poo and doggy-doo until you get to Alabama."

Frederick J. Libbing
Plymouth

Worn out her welcome

Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm would be of no value in an Obama administration post. Granholm can't help Michigan and, quite truthfully, never has helped Michigan. President-elect Obama can be better served by many more elected leaders with proven executive experience, such as Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

It's a bit much seeing Gov. Granholm appear all over the national broadcast media speaking on behalf of Michigan about the auto loan bailout. I'm a bit sick and tired of her ineffective, long-winded tenure. Doesn't Gov. Granholm realize that in the mind of many Michigan Democratic Party voters, she has worn out her welcome a long time ago? We're hurting big time and all Granholm does is talk-talk and pretend that she is an important player in getting the Big Three auto loan. It's not the time to gloat when the Big Three's chances of survival are at less than 50 percent.

The truth of the matter is that Gov. Granholm is globalization's best friend. As a one-time avid supporter, I remember an event at a Warren/Macomb Chamber of Commerce talk in May 2005. I wish everyone disaffected UAW auto worker would have been there and seen that drama. Granholm tightly held Tom Friedman's book *The World is Flat* with both hands over her

head and told the crowd that we had better get on board or be left behind. What she should have been doing is knocking down the doors of the Big Three and threatened to kick the (expletive) out of them out of them if they continued to focus on building SUVs which would one day make Michigan the laughing-stock of the entire developed world.

If I were advising Gov. Granholm, I'd suggest that she bow out before the Big Three delivers their report card to Washington next March 31, and give Lt. Gov. John Cherry a well deserved chance to use his skills as a public-policy maker and help Michigan wake from our economic nightmare.

Maybe Obama can name Granholm to a post in some enchanted faraway place such as Mongolia or Uruguay. She could develop her theatrical skills and promote the U.S. as well and I'd suspect have an audience, because right now, nobody is listening to her around these parts.

If Gov. Granholm sticks around, the remainder of her term will parallel that of President Bush's past two years in office, which was hindered by an absence of political capital. Nobody's been listening to him lately.

Hopefully, the Michigan Republican Party will select a more well-qualified candidate to run for governor in 2010. Dick DeVos just couldn't cut the cake and was a very poor choice in the 2006 election cycle. It's too bad and unfortunate that U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra didn't step up in 2006 and run. He may have been a godsend for Michigan. I'm ready to cast my vote for him right now.

Kenneth Hreha
Dryden

Goodfellows thanks

I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who was a part of Canton Goodfellows this year. It was a huge project, with 625 children to serve, but with all of the great Santa's Helpers in Canton, we were able to get the job done.

Our board members are surely the best. They put their own lives on hold for a week and work harder than ever at getting all of our families taken care of. And our donors make the whole project possible. Chamber members, residents, citizens old and young — you are the heart and soul of the Canton Goodfellows. Your generosity and support lift us all up when we need it so badly.

Goodfellows is a labor of love — one that should encompass every Canton resident. We must show our love and concern for all of our community's children.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, to each and every one who cared this year, many, many thanks! Merry Christmas.

Nancy Spencer
Canton

Lions Club thanks

The Plymouth Lions Club would like to thank community members for the overwhelming support shown during our Candy Cane sales event that was held Nov. 28-29.

With your help, we had a very successful fund-raiser. And in these hard times, we appreciate every dollar and dime.

Collected funds will be used to support the many projects Lions conduct throughout the year. Some of the community programs include First Step, Penrickton School for the Blind, Plymouth High School scholarships

and leader dogs for the blind.

Your donations will truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us help others!

Sincerely,

Debbie Baudino-Dowling
Plymouth Lions Club
Plymouth

Have a little faith

I am a middle school student doing a project on the economic crisis. Now I believe that loans took part of the economic crisis. So many people kept pulling out loans from the bank to pay for the mortgage, wanted items and other expenses. Also, since most people never paid back the loans, some banks had to shut down. Banks today are tightening loans to people that are too risky.

Not only did the loans take part of the economic crisis, but consumer fear played a role, too. People started to see that the stocks went down, so they started pulling and pulling them out. They fear that they will lose too much money, so they take the stocks out. As the stock points go down, so does faith in the stock market. So if we just believed in our stocks, we just might come up faster. So have a little faith.

Zahra Bawaneh
Canton

Not a friend

Gov. Granholm is not a friend of the automobile industry. She supports union closed shops, handicapping manufacturers. She prevents slant oil drilling under the Great Lakes that could alleviate expensive gas. She wants autos to run on clean electricity, but will not provide enough of that either. She won't permit abundant nuclear or coal energy, but dreams of wind and solar power. These developments will not occur in her lifetime.

Some citizens were happy when \$4 gasoline sent our wealth to Third World nations. Guilt-ridden that America uses more than "our share" of energy, we were forced to economize or starve. Profits of "greedy" oil companies amount to nine cents a gallon. Michigan taxes are 19 cents and Lansing politicians propose an increase. The state collects double the profit and seeks more while opposing our needs.

Federal financing will not solve Michigan's problems. Sending Granholm away might help.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

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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Livonia Observer
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level
Detroit, MI 48226

Fax:
(313) 223-4650

E-mail:
kabramcz@hometownlife.com

Observer

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

QUOTABLE

"Investment in infrastructure is a necessary and good thing. It's something that will last and not be temporary. I will be interested in the details and what gets put into the package."

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, discussing President-elect Barack Obama's intentions for an economic stimulus package centered around government investment in repairing the nation's infrastructure

2008

FROM PAGE A1

■ Canton's political season, complete with a Barack Obama Campaign for Change field office on Ford Road, was colorful with Melissa McLaughlin getting a victory over Joan Noricks to become township treasurer. Three new trustees, John Anthony, Syed Taj and Pat Williams, were also elected.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy signs the official papers provided by Clerk Terry Bennett minutes before he was sworn in on Dec. 19. LaJoy succeeded Tom Yack, who served as supervisor for 20 years.

And before he retired in December turning the supervisor's office over to Phil LaJoy, Tom Yack's support of McLaughlin's treasurer bid was called into question by a group calling themselves Watchdog Canton, and hundreds of his e-mails were obtained resulting in a complaint being filed with the state by the executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

■ While the township was ranked as the 24th safest community in the nation with populations over 75,000 and is able to claim the lowest crime rate among similar sized communities in the region, crime isn't immune to Canton.

Gary Allen Steele, a Detroit police officer, is awaiting trial for allegedly assaulting his ex-girlfriend and firing a gun near her head at her township home and former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher Stephanie Ann Stein was sentenced to a minimum of three years in prison for having a sexual relationship with a former student.

GARDEN CITY

■ The Garden City High School Cougars won the state softball championship defeating Alpena 2-1. It was the first state championship earned by any Garden City High School team.

■ Some familiar faces left Garden City during 2009 only to be replaced by some other familiar faces. Superintendent since 2002, Richard Witkowski wrapped up a 38-year career with Garden City Schools in February. After a superintendent

search, he was replaced by Michelle Cline, a consultant who was also a former assistant curriculum director for the district.

A former reference librarian, James Lenze returned to the Garden City Library as director replacing Joan Elmouchi, who left after 13 years to become director of the Chelsea District Library.

■ Over the spring and summer, the second phase of Maplewood — Inkster Road to Harrison and Henry Ruff to Merriman — was reconstructed. Combined with the earlier reconstruction project, that gives the heavily traveled street new pavement from Inkster Road to Merriman.

■ In July, a new weekly Garden City Farmers Market sponsored by the DDA and the Chamber of Commerce opened just south of Kroger. The market was a success and is expected to open earlier in 2009.

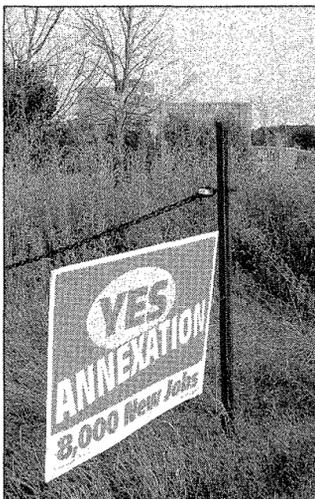
■ Garden City and Garden City Schools agreed in concept to swap ownership of the Maplewood Community Center, which the city leases from the school district, for the Community Pool, owned by the city but connected to and used by Garden City High School. A legal description and other details of the swap are still being worked out.

LIVONIA

■ In Livonia, plans for a new courthouse drew complaints last summer from some nearby residents who were concerned that the facility, placed between their homes and the Livonia Civic Center Library, would put too many residents and their children in close contact with criminals at the court. The 39,000-square-foot courthouse will hold two courtrooms, one magistrate's hearing room, holding cells, a sally port for prisoner transfer, a probation office with room for 12 officers and archive storage space. Cost of the building is estimated at \$11 million. The council approved the site on a 5-1 vote in July, after learning that other sites on the city campus would require differing levels of site preparation and cost anywhere between \$600,000 and \$1 million more.

■ Last summer's election season featured a fierce battle over the annexation of 414 acres of the site of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital in Livonia's primary election on Aug. 5. REIS, a partnership between developers Real Estate Interests Group and Schostak Brothers, sought the annexation with Livonia after the developers could not reach an agreement with Northville Township officials on a proposed mixed-use development that included single and multiple housing, office and commercial development. The plan proposed required exceptions to the township's zoning regulations and master plan. The developer filed suit against the township.

At the request of the township, the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite a campaign to get Livonia voters to support annexing the site of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital in Northville Township, voters shot down the measure in August.

developer put seven security guards on the property. The REIS employees registered to vote as residents of Northville Township. Once residency had been established, they petitioned for an election to be annexed to the adjacent city of Livonia.

On Aug. 5, voters rejected the proposal, 14,416-10,932.

■ In November's general election, John Walsh was elected as Livonia's new state representative, replacing term-limited John Pastor, and City Attorney Sean Kavanagh was elected 16th District Court judge.

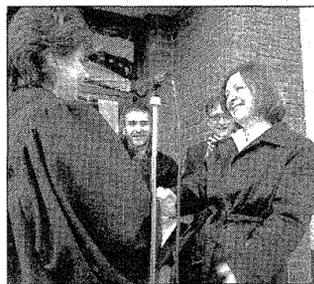
PLYMOUTH

■ Residents in the Plymouth community had to wait until the end of the year to get their biggest highlight of 2008: completion of the Sheldon Road underpass. The project closed Sheldon Road between Plymouth and Northville for nearly two years. When it opened last month, motorists lined up to be among the first on the newly constructed road, honking horns and waving in celebration. The idea was sparked by a \$5.5 million federal grant in 1999 and took a decade to complete, with the final \$15.5 million price tag about twice the original cost estimates.

■ A Plymouth Township teen and his friend from Westland were sentenced to prison for the stabbing death of a River Rouge man in a Canton Township garage. Jean Pierre "JP" Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township will spend his life in prison after being convicted by a jury of first-degree murder for the Nov. 2007 killing of Daniel Sorenson and then beheading him. Alex Letkemann, 18, of Westland pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and will spend up to 30 years in prison.

■ Salem High School Principal Jerry Ostoin, 64, retired after suffering a stroke. Ostoin began his career with Plymouth-Canton Schools in 1974, and was appointed principal at Salem in 1986. Meanwhile, Superintendent Jim Ryan retired in February. The school board's search brought in Dr. Craig Fiegel from Evergreen Park, Ill. Meanwhile, the district became the third largest in Michigan, behind Detroit and Utica.

■ Among those who made us proud, country singer Sarah Lenore of Plymouth, who was eliminated on American Idol the last night the final 10 acts were announced. And the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team was chosen to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Judge Karen Khalil congratulates new Redford Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz (right) after she was sworn in on the steps of township hall in November. She defeated incumbent Miles Handy in the August primary.

REDFORD

■ Redford voters wanted a change in the township's leadership and chose Tracey Schultz Kobylarz over incumbent R. Miles Handy II in the Democratic primary election Aug. 5. Kobylarz also won the general election on Nov. 4, defeating James Bailey.

■ House Speaker Andy Dillon won two elections in November: he defeated a ballot proposal asking voters to recall him from office and defeated Republican Sandra Eggers. Dillon was elected to a third term as state representative for the 17th District, consisting of Redford Township, Dearborn Heights and a portion of Livonia.

Township Clerk Garth Christie retained his seat by a narrow margin, defeating Kathleen Mooradian in the Democratic primary election. Christie was unopposed on the November ballot. Lily Cavanagh won election as the new township treasurer, defeating Paul Borland in the November general election. Cavanagh succeeds Bob Brang, who decided not to seek re-election and stepped down from the treasurer's office after serving there since 1984.

■ Redford Union teachers want a new contract from the school board, so they protested at school board meetings this summer and fall. The teachers are now

are in the middle of a fourth school year without a contract. South Redford teachers are negotiating with school administrators to obtain a new contract.

WESTLAND

■ Westland showed signs of progress in 2008 despite shrinking revenues, rising foreclosures and warnings from auditors that the city should brace for increasingly difficult times.

■ The city adopted a new five-year parks plan and brought in community volunteers to Tattan Park to build Play Planet, one of the country's largest contiguous play structures. Mayor William Wild's administration continued pushing forward with a remediation plan for contaminated Central City Park, amid hopes the state will approve a proposal that would include soccer fields and a veterans memorial.

■ The city also moved forward with Wild's Mission Green program, a plan to make the city more environmentally friendly and cost-efficient. The biggest component will be a curbside recycling effort, expected this spring, that will include financial incentives for residents who participate.

■ Wayne-Westland teachers had a brief strike in October to protest the lack of progress in still-ongoing contract talks with administrators. On a more positive note, one of the district's graduates, Ashlee Baracy, earned the title of Miss Michigan.

■ One of the most shocking crimes occurred in August, when suspected drug dealers engaged in a shootout with undercover Romulus police officers outside a shopping center near Merriman and Warren. One suspect was killed, one pleaded guilty to his role, and three others still are facing trial.

■ Westland snagged some new businesses but also saw the closing of others, including its last movie theater, Showcase Cinema. One of Westland's premier politicians, Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, stepped down after 30 years. Westland also learned it will be a stop along a proposed commuter rail line that is expected to run between Detroit and Ann Arbor — a move that could spur new development and jobs.

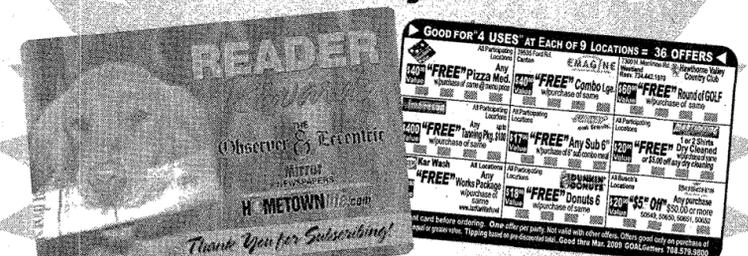


TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Yates of GameTime (left) and volunteer Bernie Brewer of the Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 help to build Westland's Play Planet.

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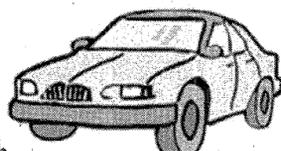
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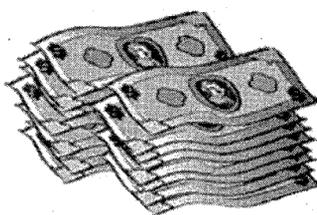
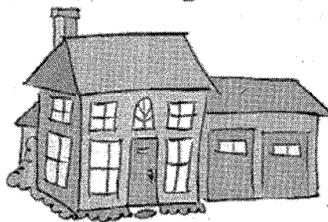


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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kittie Higgins displays a well-used color chart at International Minute Press. You pick the color, they can mix it for your print job.

Press shop specializes in printing (not laundry)

Observer: Tell about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

International Minute Press: We are one of over 970, all independently owned, "Minuteman Press" printing franchise locations world wide. We print things like business cards, letterhead, envelopes, brochures, flyers and everything else except money. Sorry, we don't print money. We also provide promotional products and business mailing services.

Observer: What makes your business unique? Do you serve a special niche?

International Minute Press: We offer Free Ink Combo Color Days, Free Pick Up & Delivery and Outstanding Personal Service.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

International Minute Press: My dogs. I was the editor of our dog club's newsletter, so when my employer closed our Michigan location, I decided to do "printing" full time.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Plymouth community?

International Minute Press: Plymouth is a great town. Not too big and not too small; like Goldilocks said, it's just right.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with readers about your experience as a small business owner?

International Minute Press: From time to time we will have someone walk in with their laundry. They mistakenly think that "Minute Press" means we do shirts.

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Business phone/Web site: (734) 414-6203. www.myprinter.intlminutepress.com

BUSINESS MILESTONES

New physicians on staff

Garden City Hospital has welcomed four new members to its medical staff, helping to expand and supplement the realm of services available to the public. Joining the staff are:

■ Dr. Henry K. Lee, neurology, with offices at 28595 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 200, Farmington Hills.

■ Dr. Margaret J. Hepke, physical medicine/rehab, with offices at 8750 W. Nine Mile, Oak Park.

■ Dr. Anupama A. Shah, anesthesia, with offices at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

■ Dr. Abdul M. Quazi, family practice, with offices at 3611 Carpenter St., Detroit.

For more information or to make an appointment with one of Garden City Hospital's new or existing physicians, call the Physician Referral service at 877-717-WELL or go online to www.gchosp.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Collecting coats

Taxfaster of Westland has partnered with One Warm Coat to hold a coat drive now through Jan. 31. People can drop off items at Taxfaster, 38950 Cherry Hill at John Hix in Westland. Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and any winter weather wear for adults and children are

needed. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be provided. The items will be distributed to anyone in need along with the Plymouth-Canton High School Clothing Bank and New Dimension Outreach of Westland. For more information about the coat drive, visit the Taxfaster Web site at www.taxfaster.com.

Gourmet desserts on sale

Beginning in January, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road in Westland, will be offering a selection of gourmet desserts for only \$1. Desserts for the price of a dollar will include cupcakes topped with French buttercream, cinnamon crumb cakes, cake slices, coffee, yesterday's fresh muffins, fun-sized bars, cookies (3 for \$1), and the sliced off top of a cake, oddly named, cake butts.

"I think it's a great idea. I'm hoping that dollar desserts are just what customers need in these tough times" said owner Mary Denning.

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, which has been part of the Westland community for more than 16 years, has earned numerous bakery awards, including Detroit's Best Pasties and Sam Walton's Business of the Year. Most recently, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe was named one of the top five best bakeries in Metro-Detroit by Click on Detroit's 4 the Best Guide.

For more information visit www.marydenning.com or call (734) 261-3680.

ONGOING

The Fan Zone

After 12 years anchoring a corner of the West Court at Westland Shopping Center, The Fan Zone is closing its doors. Wing nuts, piston fans and even Lions boosters can get some great deals on apparel and autographed memorabilia. Everything is half off. The store will close for good on Jan. 10 or sooner, depending on sales. Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

KB Toys

While you're at the mall, stop by at KB Toys, also off the mall's West Court. The 86-year-old toy company announced it was shuttering all of its store due to lagging sales. The selection is limited, but there's bargains to be had.

La-Z-Boy

There's still deals to be had at the La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery in Canton. The store is one of seven being closed in the metro area because of the state's poor economy. There's still a wide selection of recliners, both fabric and leather covered, sofas and chairs. Accessories are going for half off. You'll find the store at 27754 Ford, just east of the I275 Freeway.



St. Mary Mercy gala

Jason and Robin Beeman (from left), Richard DeLoof, Cheryl and Tom Korpela enjoy St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 16th Annual Gala Nov. 21 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi. More than 300 guests attended the gala — a black-tie affair that raised more than \$125,000 in support of the hospital's Caring for the Future Campaign, benefitting the advancement of cancer care and cardiac services offered in the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and the Heart & Vascular Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Westland woman receives New Center caring award

Covenant House Michigan program director Cynthia Adams has been honored by New Center Community Mental Health Services with the "Caring Place in the Neighborhood Award" for her long-standing support of Michigan youths struggling with mental illness.

A Westland resident, Adams was honored during New Center's 10th annual award ceremony at the Rooster Tail in Detroit.

"We are happy to honor a person who passionately advocates for the mental well-being of kids who, otherwise, do not have access to the help they need," said Roberta Sanders, CEO of New Center. "Cynthia works hard to support those who have come into Covenant House not only looking for shelter but also looking for help with their special needs."

Over the years, Adams has seen a steady increase in mental health issues among those admitted to the CHM Crisis Center. This increase is accredited to a lack of housing options and services available at the hospital and community level. Due to reductions in state funding, several mental health facilities in the state have been forced to close their doors,



Adams

including the Aurora Mental Health Facility located directly across the street from CHM.

"The residents that we serve have nowhere else to go in Wayne County," said Adams. "They are stuck between childhood and adulthood so the adult facilities aren't equipped to take care of them. Many of them have been living on the streets and they feel and act as if they have been thrown away."

Through a partnership with New Center, CHM has been able to provide free mental health services to its residents — Michigan's homeless, run-away and at-risk youths. With the services Adams provides through CHM and New Center, 2008 has been a successful year for diagnosing and treating youths in need. During the first half of the fiscal year, 77 out of 150 new intakes to CHM's Crisis Center had a diagnosed mental illness, 142 had a suspected mental illness and 61 are taking psychotropic medications.

"Cynthia has worked

so hard to make our collaboration a success," said Sanders. "We are pleased to continue to work together to make sure that kids with special needs get help so they can get off the streets and live successful, independent lives."

Covenant House Michigan helps thousands of homeless and at-risk young people every year. In addition to food and shelter, Covenant House provides preparation for the GED exam, job development services and crisis intervention to its residents and other young people.

The agency operates an outreach van that drives through metro Detroit-area neighborhoods and offers on the spot assistance to homeless and other needy youth.

Through a recent partnership with the Detroit Public School, Covenant House Michigan opened three second chance high schools to offer dropouts and at-risk youth the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma rather than a GED. More than 900 youth are enrolled each year.

For more information on Covenant House Michigan, call (313) 463-2000 or go online to www.covenant-housemi.org.



Top paramedic

HVA paramedic Mike Warzocha of Howell (right) has been honored as the Plymouth Rotary Club's 2008 Paramedic of the Year. Each year, the Rotary Club selects one paramedic, one firefighter, and a police officer from both the City and Township police forces to honor them for their service to the community. "Mike Warzocha is an outstanding, hard-working, knowledgeable paramedic. He's someone you would want at your side in an emergency," said HVA Vice President Paul Hood (at left). Warzocha is a senior paramedic with HVA and he also staffs the Mobile Intensive Care Unit, which provides transportation between hospitals for seriously ill or injured patients who require specialized care. Married, his wife Alisha (center) is studying nursing.

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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. Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JANUARY

Bethany monthly dance

8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane K. for information (734) 261-5716.

Group support for widowed

Widowed Friends of the AOD offer a grief support program, Grief Recovery, beginning 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, 17116 Olympia, Redford. The six-week series offers information about grief, coping with loneliness, making it on your own and other issues related to the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee covers all materials, payable at the first meeting. To register, call Joan at (248) 478-1084.

Thursday forum

Sponsoring a program presented by Harry T. Cook (Episcopal minister, journalist, author, and frequent lecturer in metropolitan Detroit) 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, northwest corner of Woodward and Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission \$10, students free. Reservations not required. His lecture topic is "Religion in the Public Square: An American Conundrum: What's A Secular Democracy To Do?" (From Sarah Palin's promise to run for President in 2012 "if it is God's will" to the Church of Summun and It's Aphorisms).

Benefit dinner

Swiss steak dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, in Guthrie Hall at Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for mac n'cheese for children. Proceeds go to support homeless ministry. Call (734) 422-0149 for reservation or purchase tickets at the door.

Special needs Bible class

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend our new Open Arms Bible Class beginning Monday, Jan. 12, from 7-8 p.m., at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh

roads, Livonia. The class will be held on the 2nd Monday of every month and will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Registration is limited, so register soon if you plan to attend. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel for registration information at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail at elc-ed@around-detroit.biz.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia will host two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Course VI, called "Salvifici Doloris" addresses the Christian meaning of suffering. Based on the writing of Pope John Paul II, this is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, in the convent meeting room.

Based on Pope John Paul II's "Mulieris Dignitatem" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), the Course II group will meet 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning Jan. 22, in the Convent Meeting Room behind the rectory, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Women of all ages and faiths are welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, ext. 207 or online at www.endowonline.com.

He forgives you

The Gospel of Life Committee of St. Michael the Archangel Church invites the public to attend a special program, "He Forgives You", featuring Mary Lockwood, a former corporate executive and local woman who has had multiple abortions, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the cafeteria of St. Michael the Archangel School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org. As a practicing Catholic, Lockwood experienced the profound love and mercy of God and she and her husband have begun to publicly share their story of hope and forgiveness.

Monthly breakfast meeting

Bethany Suburban West meets at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy M. at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization

under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Bethany dance

Bethany North Oakland plans a dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. Daniel's, 7010 Valley Park Drive, Clarkston. Admission \$12, includes beer, wine and refreshments. For information, call Tim at (248) 891-8938.

Singles bowling

Sunday, Jan. 18, at No-Taps Bowling at Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt, south of Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt, south of Joy, Westland. Cost is \$15, includes three games of bowling, pizza and prizes. Spectators and cheerleaders will pay \$5 for pizza. Games will start at 2 p.m., registration by 1:30 p.m. For details contact either Kathy at (734) 513-9479 or Judy at (734) 261-5630.

Worship service

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association will sponsor a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. For more information call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Dare to be holy

Parish Mission with Bill Wegner, conducted by Good News International, a Catholic lay ministry, 7 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Jan. 18-21, at St. Mel Parish, 7506 N. Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights. Refreshments. Offering will be taken. Special session after 8:30 a.m. Mass Monday-Wednesday. For more information,

call (313) 274-0684. **Clothing bank** Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Jan. 24), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

UPCOMING

Bethany monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 7, in Redford. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane for information at (734) 261-5716.

Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479.

Worship service The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association will sponsor a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. For more information call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

Music at St. John's Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

ONGOING

Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Worship Sundays 8 a.m. worship; 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Sunday school Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

Parkinson Support Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.ooa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverage, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

New worship schedule Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and

10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org. **Wednesday activities** Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebrew Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Reformed Protestant services The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the 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, Canton.

For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsi-worship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczyński, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry Single Place Ministry continues to meet 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 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

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 Marthapa at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapa@sbcbglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome.

For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Thrift store Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule 9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service

with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccraane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Worship service 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

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

New worship schedule Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship 11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services 10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee hour, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Men's breakfast Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

MOPS groups Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.funmccnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

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SHIRLEY L. LIDDELL
Age 72, of Canton. Beloved wife of the late Jack Liddell. Dear mother of John Liddell, Jerry (Theresa) Liddell and Jaime (Mary) Liddell. Loving grandmother of five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Sister of Gail Phippen and Judy Stone. Arrangements were handled by the Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland. Internment Cadillac Memorial Gardens-West. Memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital. We invite you to leave a message of condolences for the family at www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

DOUGLAS W. METCALFE
Age 63, died December 24, 2008. Service will be held on January 3, 2009 at 3:00 p.m., at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 56985 Ten Mile Road, Lyon Township, MI. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

MARY WOOD TRACEY
Of Birmingham, died Dec. 25, 2008, after a short illness. Born in Missouri in 1922, she was reared in Detroit, where she graduated from Cass Technical High School. In 1954, she and her husband, Jack, along with their young daughter, Tina, moved to Birmingham. Three more children were born in the following years. Mary lived in one of Birmingham's oldest neighborhoods for 54 years where she enjoyed many special neighbors, and was a keen observer of the changes the town and its residents have undergone through the years. Until recent years, she walked "up town" to shop and easily remembered former Birmingham landmarks that were part of everyday life. She was returning from Hunter House with her lunch the day she fell in early November, which led to her final illness. Mary was an innate artist who enjoyed travel, read widely, played a good game of bridge, and, among myriad other skills, could rewire a lamp, wallpaper, design and sew an outfit, and reglaze a window. A hardware store was like a candy store to her. She worked into her mid-70s as an insurance manager in the orthodontic offices of Dr. Lewis Gach and Dr. Roy McAnnally. She was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church, Birmingham. Mary is preceded in death by her husband John M. "Jack" Tracey, and her parents Charles Henry Wood and Cathryn Lake Wood Roseliep. She is survived by a brother, Robert (Charlie) Roseliep, of Alamo, Texas; and four children: Bettina Tracey Downey, of Fort Worth, Texas; John (Mary Ann) Tracey, of Troy; Ellen (Kevin) McGeagh, of Bloomfield Hills; and Carol (Alex) Braitman, of Carmel, Indiana; and six beloved grandchildren: Patrick Downey, Allison McGeagh, Lauren and Holly Tracey, and Elizabeth and Hannah Braitman. Mary was a loving mother and grandmother, and a good friend whose sense of humor, perspective and presence will be missed. Memorial tributes may be sent to the Ruth Aiden Children's Clothing Drive, c/o Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit, PO Box 44444, Detroit, MI 48244-0444. A memorial service is planned for the spring. Services entrusted to Simple Funerals, Birmingham www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

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

Deadlines:
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Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

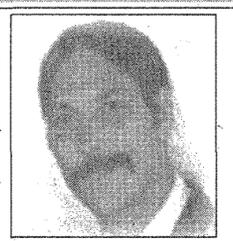
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586-826-7115
or Charolette Wilson
586-826-7082

or toll free
800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charolette



SCOTT W. ALLENDER
Formerly from Livonia. Passed away on June 5, 2008 at the age of 54. He was born on May 22, 1954 to Robert and Lucille Allender. He graduated from Franklin High School in Livonia and was employed by Quality Plus in Romulus. Scott was preceded death by his father, Robert Warren Allender, his mother, Lucille Margaret Allender (2004) of Livonia and his brother Robert Warren Allender (2006) of Idaho. He is survived by his sister Candy (Pete) Frusti of Livonia, his brother Tracy (Amy) Allender of Belleville and his sister Karen Hinderliter of Williamston along with 11 nieces and nephews, one great-nephew and one great-niece. Scott also leaves behind the many special and devoted friends from "The Club" who he considered as family and whose support through the years has been invaluable.

FAYE (ZELBA) FARRIS
Age 82, of Garden City was called home to the Lord's house Sunday, December 28, 2008 from Oakwood Hospital. Beloved wife of Adrian. Dear mother of Adrian C. (Vivien), Donna (Mark) Sullivan and Susan (John) Livak. Sister of Charles and James Roman. Grandmother of Simona Keith, Brandon, Rebecca and Eric Lane, and Karri, Holly and Ryan Ontko. Great-grandmother of Calum Keith. Visitation Wednesday 2-7pm and Thursday 1-7pm. Funeral Service Friday 10am at the John N. Santeui and Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family).

To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbc-women.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313)534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and car-

Series resumes on explaining the Catholic faith

Well-known Catholic apologist, speaker and author, Gary Michuta, resumes his series "Sharing Made Simple" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, in the St. Michael School Cafeteria, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

This month's topic will focus on "Why Catholic Bibles are Bigger," the untold story of the lost books of the Protestant Bible as exhaustively researched first-hand by Michuta. The workshop answers such questions as: Where did we get the Bible? Why do Catholic Bibles have seven more books in the Old Testament than Protestant Bibles? Did the Church add books or did someone remove them?

The series on Catholic apologetics helps Catholics explain their faith to other Christians. And it offers insight into the biblical, historical and rational foundations for what Catholics believe.

Michuta, a long-time Livonia resident and St. Michael's parishioner, is the author of Why Catholic Bibles are Bigger: The Untold Story of the Lost Books of the Protestant Bible and The Gospel According to James McCarthy: A

Catholic Response to McCarthy's Gospel According to Rome.

Michuta enjoys a reputation as a nationally-acclaimed speaker, radio personality, and debater who has frequently addressed gatherings at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; the Michigan Catholic Home Schooling Conference; Indiana Home Schooling Conference; Archdiocese of Detroit's PRISM Conferences (for Adult Singles), and Detroit's Blue Army. He has appeared on many local Catholic radio and television programs as well as many national venues, including Catholic Answers Live, Search the Word, and Marcus Grodi's The Journey Home on EWTN. Michuta has also developed curriculum and taught apologetics at the Eastern Church Re-Evangelization Center for Chaldean Catholics since 2003.

For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

The series continues on the second Tuesday of each month through June and is open to all. The Feb. 12, topic focuses on the Pope and how to answer objections against the papacy from the Bible and Church history.

ing programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer.

For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425

Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children.

For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. A Christian women's group.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive

behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.ward-church.org/celebrate.

Sunday service

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

Worship service

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

Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening.

For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Scripture studies

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

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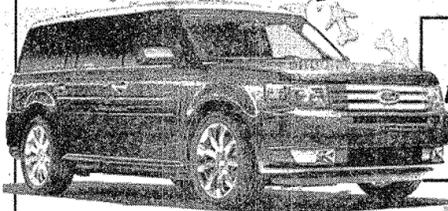
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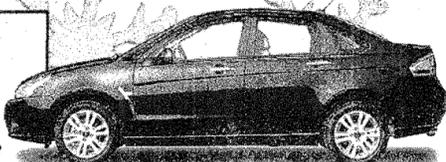
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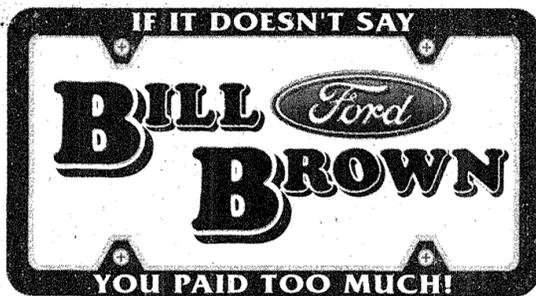
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SPORTS

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Thursday, January 1, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 ewright@hometownlife.com

Pats stop Rochester in tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After playing four close games in a row and losing three straight, the Livonia Franklin boys basketball team finally got a breather on Saturday.

The Patriots took a 28-14 halftime lead and rolled to a 44-26 win over Rochester in the consolation game of the Franklin Holiday Tournament.

Dearborn Fordson, getting 24 points from Daraoun Mashrah and 14 from Jamal Williams, captured the tournament title and improved to 7-0 with a 58-51 win over Howell.

Franklin, now 2-3 on the season, missed making the final after squandering a 43-37 third-quarter advantage en route to a 55-51 setback to Howell in Friday's opener.

The Highlanders outscored Franklin 18-8 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"Last night (Friday) we were out-worked, out-thusted and did not close it out," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "I like the way we're playing, but we did not handle the pressure and we did not finish. It was the most turnovers we've had so far."

"Tonight (Saturday) we made a big (personnel) adjustment. We played extremely hard and executed."

Senior forward Connor Leidal, who had a game-high 25 points in the loss to Howell, also led Franklin against Rochester with 13 points.

Jeff Poole and Andy McCaffery each added eight, while Garrett Gumm contributed seven.

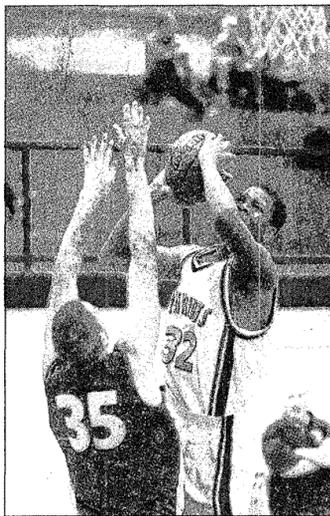
Nick Shafkalis and Nick O'Neil each scored six for the Falcons (2-4).

Fordson, getting 27 points from Baquer Sayed and 14 from Williams, edged Rochester in the other tourney semifinal, 54-53.

Shafkalis had 15 for the Falcons, while Keith Newberry added 14.

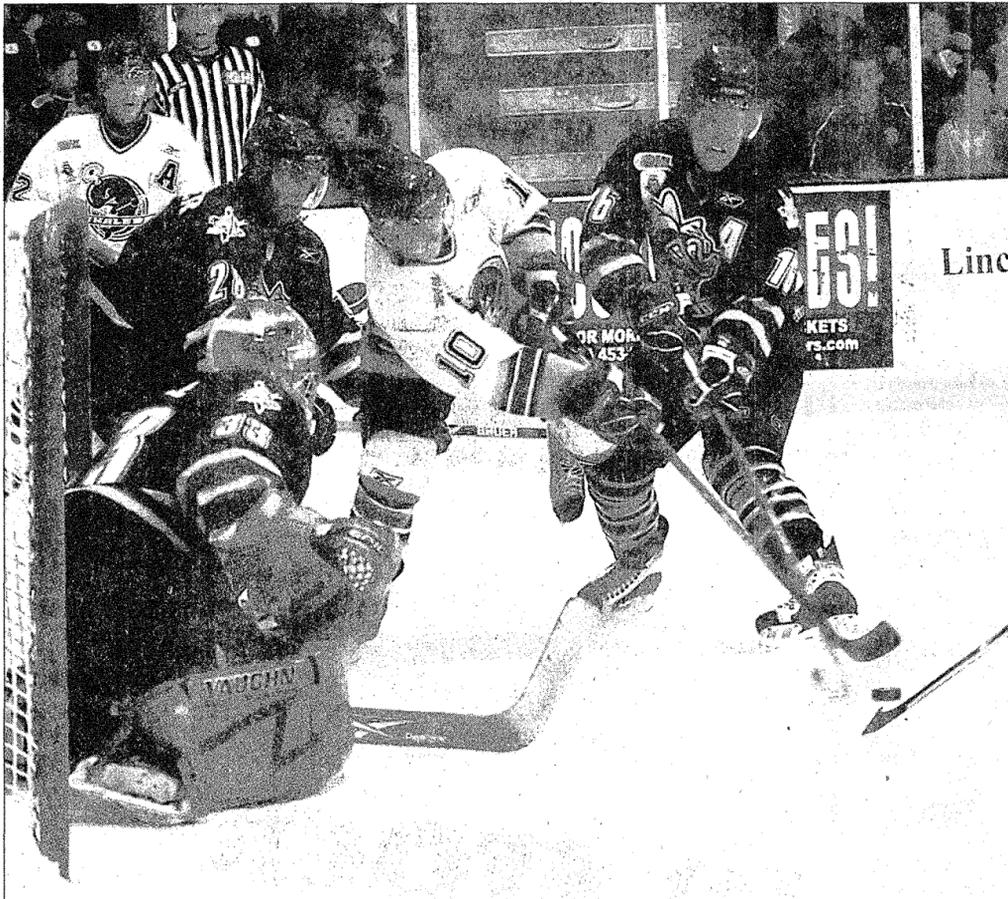
Howell (3-2) got 18 points from Tyler

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Franklin's Jeff Poole rises above Howell's Tyler Hughes during first-round action in the Franklin Holiday Tournament.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Ryan Hayes (10) battles Sarnia's Steve Ferry for control of the puck during first-period action Monday afternoon. Hayes scored the Whalers' first goal, but the Sting prevailed, 5-2.

Cold Play

Icy start dooms Whalers in 5-2 setback to Sarnia

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like the rock-hard fruitcake you received for Christmas one year from your great aunt, and the ceramic frog you got in the holiday office gift exchange, the Plymouth Whalers would like to take back Monday afternoon's matinee against visiting Sarnia.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Hockey League has a no-return policy.

In a battle of Ontario Hockey League Western Conference West Division rivals, the Sting tallied a pair of early first-period goals before skating to a 5-2 triumph before a "Kids Day" crowd of 2,041 at Compuware Arena.

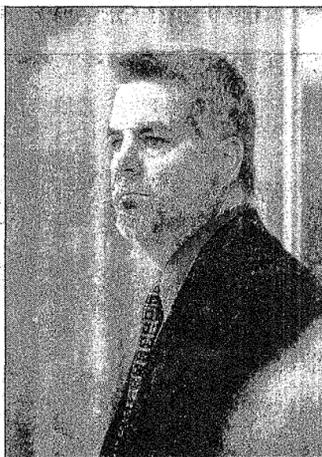
The loss dropped the recently red-hot Whalers to 16-16-4-0 (36 points) while the Sting improved to 18-15-2-2.

Windsor leads the division with 61 points, 17 more than second-place Saginaw.

Moments before Monday's opening face-off, Plymouth coach Mike Vellucci emphasized to his team the importance of a fast start, but it was Sarnia that seemed to heed the message as it bolted to a 2-0 lead within the contest's first 15 minutes.

"I was disappointed in our effort, especially in the first 10 minutes," said Vellucci. "This was Sarnia's first game back from the holidays and it was our second, so there was no excuse."

"Before the game, I talked to the team about taking it to them in the first 10 minutes, but the opposite hap-



Mike Vellucci has turned the season around for the Whalers since grabbing the head-coaching reins Nov. 10.

pened — they took it to us."

The Whalers entered the contest with nine wins in their previous 13 games, but they've struggled the past week, Vellucci said.

"We hadn't been playing well leading up to this game," the franchise's coach, general manager and president said. "We won the other night, but our goalie stood on his head."

"We're getting a little too cocky, thinking we're better than we are. I saw this coming."

The Whalers played Monday's game without three of their most productive

players: leading scorer Chris Terry, who suffered an injury in Saturday's 4-3 victory over Saginaw; defenseman Michal Jordan, who is competing for Czechoslovakia in the World Junior Hockey Championships; and Tyler Seguin, who is toiling for Canada in the U17 World Championships.

Terry's injury will be evaluated by a doctor on Wednesday. Jordan and Seguin will return the first week of January.

Sarnia's Justin DiBenedetto one-timed in a Michael Neal pass from the door-step 3:14 into the game to give the Sting a 1-0 advantage.

The visitors doubled their lead just over three minutes later when Jamie Arnie made the Whalers pay for back-to-back penalties with a two-man advantage goal from the top of the left circle at the 13:38 mark. Mark Katic assisted.

Ryan Hayes lit the lamp for the Whalers with 5:12 left in the first period when he hammered the puck over Dan Spence's left shoulder from a point directly in front of the net, 20 feet out. Tyler J. Brown and Bo Schmitz earned assists.

Hayes nearly knocked home an equalizing power-play goal with 2:15 to go in the opening stanza, but his wrist rolled wide by mere inches.

With 23.5 seconds left in first, Sarnia's Marcus Pepe dinged the post with a laser.

Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 15-13, over

Please see **WHALERS, B4**

Sidelines

UM's Martin hailed

The Sporting News and Rivals.com both unveiled its 2008 All-Freshman teams with University of Michigan true freshman defensive tackle Mike Martin (Redford/Novi-Detroit Catholic Central H.S.) receiving recognition on each the publication's second-team squad.

The Big Ten Conference had four league players represented on the first team and five selected to the second team.

Martin led all U-M freshman defenders with 20 tackles on the season, including 4.5 tackles for loss and two sacks. He played in all 12 contests at defensive tackle, posting stops in 10 of those 12 games.

Martin, a first-team All-Big Ten Freshman Team selection, tallied a season- and career-best three stops against Michigan State, Northwestern and Ohio State. He recorded his first career sack vs. Miami (Ohio) and added another during the conference season against the Spartans.

Martin is one of five returning defensive players on Michigan's two deep from this past season.

MU's Allen saluted

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference office announced recently that Madonna University junior forward Leroy Allen (Detroit) was selected as the league's Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the period ending Dec. 21.

This is Allen's first selection of his career and he is the first Crusader men's player to be honored this season.

Connecting on 9-of-14 shots, Allen had 18 points (one off his career-high), grabbed six rebounds and had a block to help the Crusaders to a 63-60 win Dec. 19 at Notre Dame (Ohio) College.

The transfer from Kirkland CC is MU's second leading scorer, putting in 12.6 points per game while leading the Royal Blue and Gold with seven rebounds a night.

Rockets' gold glare

John Glenn outlasts Rocks in Elks invite

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Westland John Glenn wrestling team are getting pretty good at perfecting a new hold: the trophy hold.

The Rockets captured first-place hardware for the second time this season Saturday after they won the Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational in the Rocks' gymnasium.

Despite competing without four starters who were ill, John Glenn amassed 159 points to outlast the host Rocks (145) and Melvindale (142).

"We have a lot of flexibility in our lineup, which we needed today," said John Glenn coach Bill Polk. "Our depth really came through today."

Polk praised the effort of senior 152-pounder Jeff Adkins, who earned the tournament's upper-weight class Most Valuable Wrestler award after registering falls in two of his three matches. Adkins pinned Monroe's Nick Lujan in the 152-pound final.

"I'm happy for Jeff because he's a senior and this is the first tournament he's won," said Polk. "He had a great day."

The Rockets also earned first-place points from 112-pounder Anthony Pavlich and 140-pounder Jimmy Mann.

Salem coach Greg Wochuk was pleased with his team's performance, which was spear-headed by Austin Root's title-grabbing effort at 189.

"We probably finished as high as we

could," said Wochuk. "We were down a kid early in the day, so to only be 14 points out of first is pretty good."

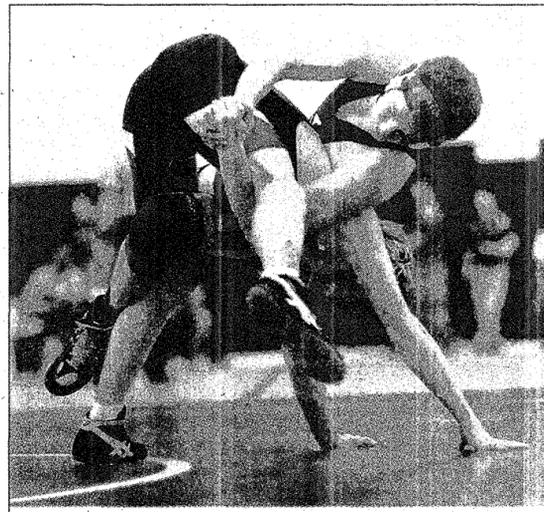
"I thought Austin Root, Sam Lepper and Blake Abbey wrestled very well. Blake is undersized for a heavyweight, but he's really holding his own."

Root took gold by upending Belleville's Kaare Cigan, 5-2, in the 189-pound title match.

Plymouth's top performers were Vince Rizzo, who placed third at 171, and Alex Winn, who was third at 189.

Melvindale's Gamal Yahia won the lower-weights MVW award by sweeping through his 103-pound matches.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Kyle Middleditch (right) looks for leverage against John Glenn's Mark Thompson during a second-round 125-pound match during Saturday's Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational. Thompson won with a pin:2:52 into the match.

HOOPS

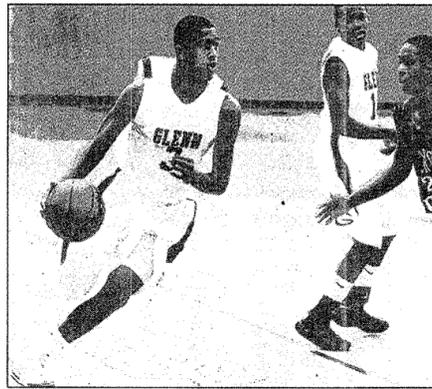
FROM PAGE B1

Hughes and 17 from Danny Fondriest in the tournament final loss to Fordson. Kyle Garra added 10. Garra had a team-high 12 in the win over Franklin, while Hughes and Fondriest each added nine. Franklin was 19-of-28 from the foul line against Howell. The Patriots will be off 19 days and won't return to action until Jan. 16 at

South Lyon. "It makes me feel good (the win vs. Rochester) going into the break," Rheault said. "We'll take a whole week off."

JOHN GLENN 50, UNIVERSITY PREP 38: On Monday, senior guard Austin Anderson scored 17 points and Dorian Prather added 13 to lead host Westland John Glenn (1-1) to a victory over Detroit University Prep in the John Glenn Basketball Classic. Glenn led 28-14 at halftime and stretched its lead to 41-21 after three quarters. Austin Omagbayi added 10 points for the Rockets. Deonta Watt led University Prep with 17.

NORTHWESTERN 82, CLARENCEVILLE 68: On Saturday, Asaad Robinson poured in 22 points and dished out 10 assists to lead Detroit Northwestern (2-1) to a victory over Livonia Clarenceville (1-3) in the Romulus Holiday Tournament. Senior forward Jamie Stewart scored a game-high 28 points in a losing cause for the Trojans. Nathan Clark added 20, while Jeremy Gainer had 12. Sophomore center Jalen Reynolds grabbed 18 rebounds. Rasheed Wright added 15 points and Dion'e Fowlkes added 14 points and 15 rebounds for the victorious Colts, the defending Detroit PSL champions.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
John Glenn's Austin Anderson looks for the open man.

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Super soph leads Chiefs to victory

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Leave it to Lever. That's exactly what Canton's basketball team did during a pivotal third-quarter stretch in Monday afternoon's match-up with Ferndale in the Westland John Glenn Shoot-Out Tournament. Sophomore point guard Deitrich Lever buried three consecutive clutch three-point shots to spark the Chiefs' 73-66 victory in the Rockets' gym. The triumph improved Canton's record to 2-0 while the Eagles slipped to 1-3. "Ferndale switched to a zone against us, Deitrich found some openings and hit the shots," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "Ferndale shot 49 percent for the game, so they made a lot of shots. We're going to need to improve on our defense."

Ferndale led 34-32 at the half before the Chiefs posted 20- and 21-point quarters in the second half. Lever led the way with 25 points. Marlan Glenn (16), Kevin Weisz (10) and George Muresan (eight) also played well for the winners. Cecil Clarke paced the Eagles with 17 points. Muresan and Weisz both yanked down six boards for Canton. Along with Lever's threes, Colligan also pointed to a fourth-quarter, turn-around jump hook in the lane by Daniel Stoney as a key basket in the victory. "That shot gave us a little cushion and we never trailed again," the second-year coach said. Canton drained 17-of-27 free throws while the Eagles managed to find the mark on just 4-of-17 from the charity stripe.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
Canton at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Jan. 3
Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
Salem at Farmington United at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 3
Romulus Royal Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

PREP GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Jan. 3
Salem Invitational at Plymouth gym, 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
Madonna vs. Marygrove College at U-D Jesuit H.S., 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

WAYNE MEMORIAL 19 WATERFORD KETTERING 11
Dec. 16 at Novi Bowl

Wayne individual scorers: Kellen Collison, 204-193-397; Elliot Arnold, 189-202-391; Ryan Gabriel, 160-228-388; Josh Vojtkofsky, 168-206-374; T.J. Lave, 159-161-320. **Totals:** 880-990-1,870 (9 points).

Kettering individual scorers: Jake Fincannon, 200-214-414; Alex Dengate, 200-192-392; Adam Lessel, 212-177-389; Mike Popchak, 219-161-386; Stephen Miller, 159-167-326. **Totals:** 980-971-1,907 (11 points).

Baker games: Wayne, 223-191-414 (10 points); Kettering, 214-126-340 (0 points).
Wayne's overall record: 4-0.
Top Wayne individual game averages: Arnold, 222; Gabriel, 203; Vojtkofsky, 200.

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Ladywood too much for Inkster, 40-31

Livonia Ladywood came on strong during the second half and earned a spot in Tuesday's Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Tournament final with a 40-31 girls basketball win Monday over Inkster.

The Blazers, who improved to 4-2 overall, were led by senior Caitlin Szczyka, who finished with a team-high 13 points. Freshman guard Cara Miller added eight.

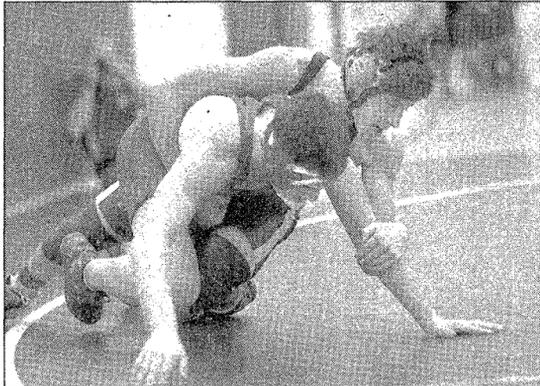
Ladywood, playing without injured junior point-guard Mary Fitzgerald, rallied from a 19-18 halftime deficit by outscoring the Vikings 22-12 in the second half to win its fourth straight.

The Blazers made 6-of-7 free throws in the final period and await the winner of Monday's other first-round matchup between host Loy Norrix and McBain.

"I thought Caitlin (Szczyka) stepped up and provided us senior leadership," Ladywood first-year coach Pat Cannon said. "She was a calming influence. Inkster put a lot of pressure on us and caused turnovers, but we stayed calm at the end and made free throws to put us over the top."

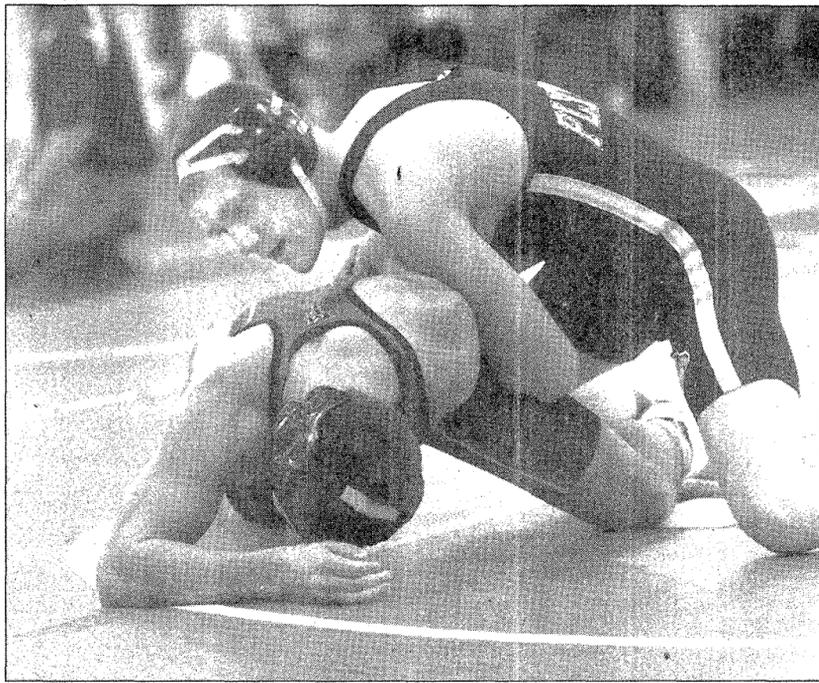
The Blazers made 14-of-19 from the charity stripe on the night, while Inkster connected on just 9-of-19.

Ayrionna Taylor paced the Vikings (4-2) and all scorers with 18 points.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Austin Root (top) captured the 189-pound title at Saturday's Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational.



Plymouth's Derek Davey battles Melvindale's David McGrath during a 152-pound match at Saturday's Salem Invitational.

WRESTLING STATS

PLYMOUTH ELKS SALEM WRESTLING INVITATIONAL Saturday at Salem High School
FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Westland John Glenn, 159 points; 2. Salem, 145; 3. Melvindale, 142; 4. Monroe, 134; 5. Belleville, 124.5; 6. Lincoln Park, 123.5; 7. Adrian, 117; 8. Dexter, 108.5; 9. Plymouth, 97; 10. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 81; 11. Lakeland, 70.5; 12. (tie) Livonia Stevenson, Garden City, Fraser, Wayne Memorial, Ypsilanti, 0.

103 pounds: 1st place: Gamal Yahia (Mel) pinned Zak Garcia (A) in 3:54; **3rd:** Steve Wakeford (JG) decisioned Joey Golani (DHC), 8-1; **5th:** Nick Kim (S) dec. Said Youseff (P), 7-3.

112: 1st: Anthony Pavlich (JG) won by major decision over Bryan Boulware (Mel), 10-2; **3rd:** Dan Flowers (D) pinned Mo Rahal (DHC) in 2:28; **5th:** J.J. Orozco (A) dec. Ian Phillips (S), 7-1.

119: 1st: Anthony Barbour (LP) dec. Gabe Altomare (D), 13-6; **3rd:** C.J.

Lutzke (L) dec. Ben Dewitt (S), 7-4; **5th:** Brendan Papin (B) won by tech. fall over Nick Rizzo (P), 16-0.

125: 1st: Jeremy Sherman (L) won by major decision over Dylan Fanslaw (MON), 11-2; **3rd:** Mark Thompson (JG) won by tech. fall over Joey Polocoser (DHC), 17-1; **5th:** Bobbie Sadowski (LP) dec. Alex Sloan (D), 6-5 (2 OT).

130: 1st: Derrick Mandell (DHC) dec. Drew Barnes (D), 16-13; **3rd:** Kyle Horr (MON) dec. John Bills (S), 9-2; **5th:** Tyler Schneider (B) won by major dec. over Justin Robinson (JG), 16-3.

135: 1st: Sean Turner (MON) dec. Jason VanWasshenova (LP), 4-2; **3rd:** Tommy Kozak (B) dec. Abdul Yahia (MEL), 10-3; **5th:** Mikkel Tipton (JG) dec. James Middleeditch (S), 11-8.

140: 1st: Jimmy Mann (JG) pinned Mat Galvan (A) in 1:18; **3rd:** Denver McLaughlin (MON) pinned Randy Jolly (MEL) in 4:43; **5th:** Carter Sherman (B) won by tech. fall over C.J. Ward (LP), 18-3.

145: 1st: Andrew Collins (D) dec. Mitch Crawford (D), 6-2; **3rd:** A.J. Arnett (MON) pinned Jose Quezada (MEL) in 3:45; **5th:** Robbie Schultz (S) dec. Andrew Majewski (B), 7-0.

152: 1st: Jeff Adkins (JG) pinned Nick Lujan (MON) in 2:36; **3rd:** David McGrath (MEL) dec. Logan Verner (A), 10-5; **5th:** Derrick Davey (P) won by major dec. over Rob Kanatos (LP), 10-1.

160: 1st: Rafael Rodriguez (A) won by injury default over Zain Amman

(JG); **3rd:** Colin Gross (S) pinned Chase Stevens (D) in 4:56; **5th:** Rob Barackman (P) pinned Caleb Wilson (LP) in 54 seconds.

171: 1st: James Walton (LP) dec. Max Hill (L), 10-9; **3rd:** Vince Rizzo (P) won by major dec. over Alex Jochartz (B), 14-1; **5th:** Matt Pitcher (MON) dec. Zach Redden (JG), 8-2.

189: 1st: Austin Root (S) dec. Kaare Cigan (B), 5-2; **3rd:** Alex Winn (P) pinned Edgar Gonzalez (MEL) in 2:39; **5th:**

Jacob MacMullen (MON) dec. Sequoyah Burke-Combs (D), 6-5.

215: 1st: Buster Wilson (LP) dec. Sam Lepper (S), 7-4 (2 OT); **3rd:** Forrest Sampson (B) dec. Derek Hoffman (A), 6-2; **5th:** David Pope (MON) pinned Yousseff El Sayed (DHC) in 1:35.

285: 1st: Matt Gable (MEL) pinned Blake Abbey (S) in 5:15; **3rd:** Dustin Slaton (B) pinned Hassan El-Sayed (DHC) in 2:11; **5th:** Tom Coleman (A) pinned Wally Eppler (P) in 2:52.

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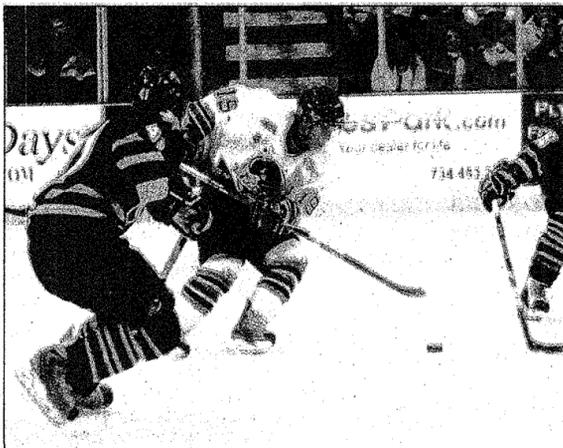
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Plymouth's Vern Cooper steers the puck toward open ice during Monday's 5-2 loss to Sarnia.



WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

the first 15 minutes. Hackett stoned Matt Martin twice within a matter of 40 seconds early in the second. However, Daniel Lombardi squeezed a puck through Hackett's five-hole at the 14:51 mark to make it 3-1. Arniel and Jordan Hill registered helpers. Miroslav Preisinger struck just 30 seconds later when he slid a rebound shot past the goal line to up the Sting's lead to 4-1. He was assisted by

Lombardi and Katie. Seconds later, Jeremy Smith replaced Matt Hackett between the pipes for the Whalers. Smith sparkled following his insertion, repelling a number of Sting stingers mid-way through the second period to keep the Whalers within striking distance. Sarnia inflated its lead to 5-1 14:50 into the second period when DiBenedetto capped a textbook give-and-go play with Michael Neal when he beat Smith, who would have needed four arms and four legs to ward off the two-on-zero assault. The Whalers solved Spence

6:01 into the third when Myles McCauley ripped home his second goal of the season to make it 5-2. He was assisted by Jamie Devane and Leo Jenner. Devane hit the post with a rocket at the 10:15 mark. Hayes nearly made things very interesting with 4:38 to play, but his attempted trap-in from just outside the crease was re-directed by a sprawling Spence. Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 43-37.

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LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

Mason WGRP Radio	Jon Bond WVMV Radio	Gator Anderson 97.1 Radio	Jeff Lesson CBS Radio	Keith Lang Tennyson Chevrolet	Bob Faust Jack Demmer Ford	Ronnie Williams Perfect Floors	Tom Flory Shelton Pontiac Buick GMC	Ron Fruciano Friendly Chrysler Jeep
11-5 143-81	11-5 136-88	13-3 141-83	12-4 141-83	9-7 146-78	13-3 147-77	13-3 149-75	11-5 144-80	11-5 139-85
Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

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