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AROUND TOWN

A place to say 'I do'

It's not at all unusual to see snazzy hats, decorative T-shirts, or even angel wings at Westland's annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a 24-hour walk dedicated to highlighting cancer awareness and celebrating survivorship. But when the City of Westland hosts the event on May 30-31 at Jaycee Park, there will be an additional, albeit unusual, accessory: wedding vows.

The American Cancer Society with the cooperation of AMVETS Post 171 and the City of Westland is sponsoring "A Relay Wedding" at the event. All that's needed is a loving couple.

The American Cancer Society is accepting applications now through Monday, March 9, from couples who wish to be married by Westland Mayor William Wild at the Westland's ninth consecutive Relay For Life. In order to be considered, at least one of the potential candidates must be a resident of Westland and either a cancer patient, survivor or caregiver.

In addition to receiving a "Bridal Bliss Basket," complete with sparkling apple cider, wine flutes and other goodies, the bride will receive a complimentary floral bouquet and may also choose to have her hair coiffed by a professional stylist, while the groom will receive a complimentary tux rental.

The Relay for Life will be held at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter, and the wedding will take place on the event's central stage at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 30. It will be followed by a "bubble lap" in which walkers are encouraged to "toast" the couple by blowing bubbles while walking a lap around the park's track. A "dollar dance" will follow and all money collected will benefit the American Cancer Society.

In keeping with the rules and regulations established by the American Cancer Society, this is an alcohol-free and smoke-free event.

The city is gearing up for the official kickoff on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the AMVETS Hall at 1217 Merriman Road, just south of Cherry Hill in Westland. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m., the program will start at 7 p.m. Dinner will follow. The one-hour party is designed to increase awareness about the American Cancer Society Relay for Life as well as the American Cancer Society in general and is a great way for the general public to find out ways to get involved and make a difference. Applications for couples who wish to be married at relay also will be accepted at the kickoff.

Couples interested in being considered can contact Holly Soranno, Westland's community representative, at (248) 663-3452 or by e-mail at Holly.Soranno@cancer.org. Finalists must be available for a sit-down interview at the American Cancer Society headquarters in Southfield.

Man found guilty of sexual assault

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has been convicted of sexually molesting his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old daughter, who told police she was shown pornographic movies and given alcohol.

Tadario Derwin Sims, 22, was convicted during a trial this month on charges he molested the child while his girlfriend was hospitalized early last year with pregnancy complications involving a boy Sims fathered. The baby survived.

Sims was found guilty of seven

counts of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury that returned its verdict after deliberating for part of two days. He is facing a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison, but Judge Vonda Evans could impose stiffer penalties when she announces her decision on Feb. 25.

Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews, who investigated the case, welcomed the jury's verdict.

"I definitely feel it was a just verdict," she said. "This man took advantage of an 8-year-old girl while

her mother was in the hospital due to complications from pregnancy with a child that was his. There were numerous acts over several weeks."

Sims is facing at least 25 years in prison because the child he molested was under 13 years old. The girl was among the witnesses who testified against Sims during his trial.

Sims decided to go to trial even though Mathews said he made two videotaped confessions admitting what he did.

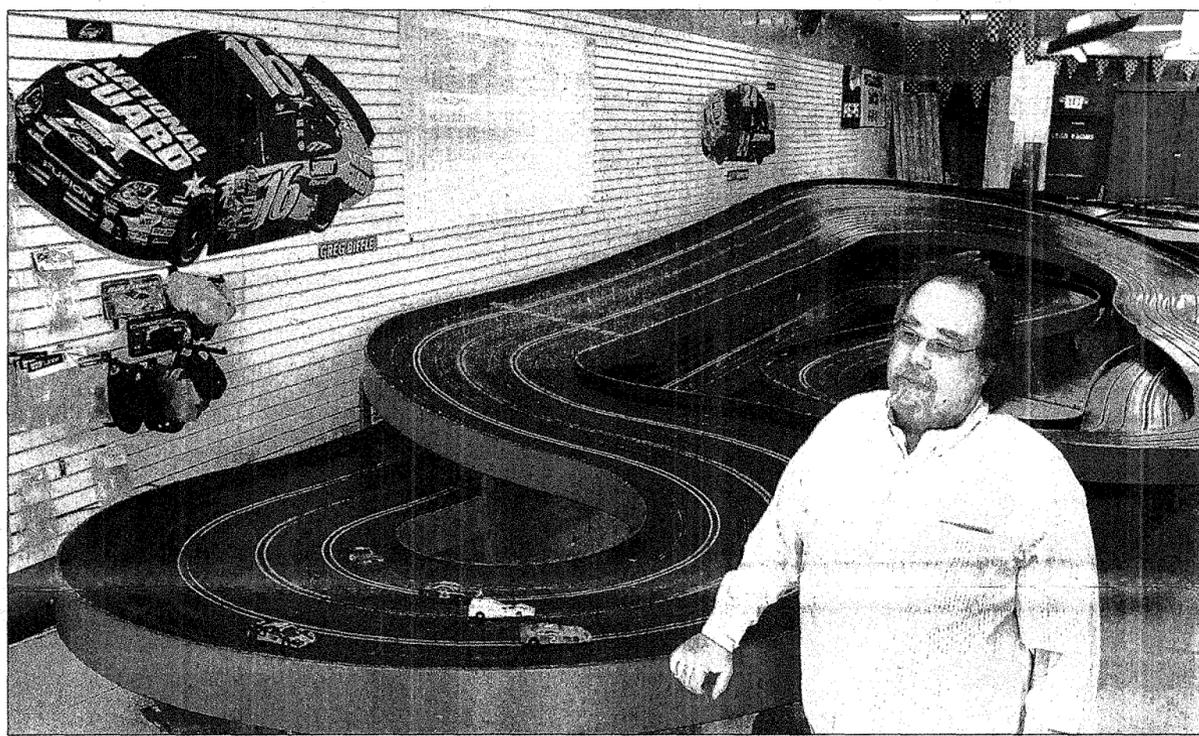
Sims' girlfriend reported the crimes to police last March after she left the hospital and her daugh-

ter told her what had happened, Mathews said. Police arrested Sims the same day at a Westland restaurant.

Sims was caring for the girl and her siblings in their Norway neighborhood residence while the mother was hospitalized. The girlfriend now has four sons and just the one daughter, but Sims is the father of only the last-born boy.

Prior to the incident, Sims had no known criminal history of criminal sexual conduct.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Cummins of Livonia shows off the eight-lane Ogilvie Hill Climb CrissCross track that dominates the floor space in the SlotCar Mania store in Westland that he owns with son Shawn Cummins of Westland.

Shop revives interest in slot car racing

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Shawn Cummins may not like the radio station his father Paul listens to, but the Oldies music fits in well with their revival of an activity that was the rage among kids more than 20 years ago.

There's no roar of the engines, but there's plenty of racing to be had at their Slot Car Mania store on Wayne Road in Westland. From an eight-lane Ogilvie Hill Climb CrissCross track to the 1/24 scale quarter mile drag strip, racers can test their reflexes against other "drivers" or the clock for fun and excitement.

"It's really neat, every day someone comes in and says 'I remember doing this as a kid,'" said Shawn Cummins. "We can get their car back on the track, we can get those memories back."

START YOUR ENGINES

What: Slot Car Mania
Where: 6527 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.
Hours: 2-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday
Information: (734) 469-7087 or online at www.slotcar-mania.com

Paul Cummins remembers going to different slot car race tracks with his sons when they were younger. But those places are all gone, so he and his son developed idea of Slot Car Mania in 2007 and opened their store last September in the shopping plaza at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Located in what had been a clothing store, the two men painted it in

bright colors, hung up checkered flags and moved in a variety of parts and kits from companies like Great Lakes Slot Car, Blind Designs, Koford, JK Products, Sonic and Slick 7. Work on the shop attracted attention from passers-by who stopped to see what was going in the vacant building.

"People would poke their heads in and say 'I remember that,'" said Paul Cummins. "It's word of mouth that has brought people in."

That and being the only slot car race track in western Wayne County has helped build the business grow. From first-time visitors and regular racers to Scout groups and birthday parties, people are rediscovering slot car racing that was the rage in the 1960s.

The store includes the Ogilvie track and drag strip as well as 1/24 scale 1/8-mile drag strip, and six-lane oval HO Buck Track. Race time, including all

tracks and a controller, is available in quarter, half and full hours and costs \$6, \$9 and \$13, respectively. Bring your own wheels and it's \$8 and hour or \$20 for a full day. For families of four, there's a \$30 deal — one hour of racing, all equipment and tracks.

There are specialty nights — \$2 bracket drag warm-ups on Wednesdays and 4-inch and 4 1/2-inch NASCAR night on Thursdays with the main drag nights on Friday. The Cumminses are looking to start a GTP and Formula 1 race night on Tuesdays.

"The tracks are always open, you don't have to belong to an organized race group," Shawn Cummins said.

"We have races through the week and have a lot of fans in on weekends," added Paul Cummins. "We've gotten some good customers and some good

Please see **SLOT CAR, A3**

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Humphrey named Westland's Police Officer of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Police Officer Brian Humphrey has earned a reputation as an alert officer who has a knack for stopping crimes in progress and for catching suspects on the run.

While driving a prisoner to Detroit with Officer David Zucchetto, Humphrey noticed a robbery happening in Dearborn and quickly stopped, caught the suspect and held him until Dearborn police arrived to arrest him.

Another time, Humphrey was off duty when he noticed a suspect's car and spearheaded



COURTESY OF WESTLAND POLICE AND WLDN

Westland Police Officer of the Year Brian Humphrey stands with Chief James Ridener after receiving his award.

the arrest of a 29-year-old man who posed as a fake photographer and lured a teenage girl to Hines Park, where he started to sexually assault her until she broke free and fled.

His efforts earned Humphrey

the title of Westland Police Officer of Year during a recent awards ceremony in which the city's men and women in blue honored Humphrey and others

Please see **AWARDS, A3**

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Resident blasts recall folks about remarks

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has lashed out against a small group of city government critics, accusing them of making "libelous and malicious" statements and suggesting they back down or move out of town.

Westland City Council watcher Bill Tremper, saying he is "no longer able to sit back quietly," criticized recall supporters who had sought to oust

five city leaders for supporting a developer's plans for a senior citizen village on Joy east of Newburgh.

Tremper also blasted other residents for continually questioning the way the Wayne-Ford Civic League is run and for implying wrongdoing by the city assessor's office.

Without naming people, Tremper suggested the government critics tone down their criticism. His statement, made during a recent council meet-

ing, was partly aimed at recall supporters who had sought to oust Mayor William Wild and council members James Godbout, Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Dewey Reeves.

"This kind of behavior has to end," Tremper said. "I suspect they're probably saying to each other right now that they have a right to stand up here and desecrate our city and ridicule our city leaders, and that they have a right to free speech. Well, I disagree. Standing up here and

sharing their opinions about various subjects in a civilized manner and offering some positive solutions is a privilege, not a right."

Council watchers such as Donna DeWitt, Judy McKinney, Elenor Swistak and James Davis have repeatedly addressed the council and defended their right to speak out on topics that concern them. Moreover, they have accused city leaders of trying to quash their rights — an allegation offi-

cials have denied.

Councilman Charles Pickering said city leaders might not always like the comments made by certain citizens, but he nonetheless defended their right to speak out during public meetings. Council President Pro Tem Cheryl Graunstadt also has said residents are entitled to air their concerns.

Some other council members have suggested that their critics could make their points without

engaging in personal attacks.

Tremper called on residents to write letters to local newspapers and to stand up at council meetings to defend the city and its leaders. Tremper also publicly thanked the mayor, his administration, City Attorney Angelo Plakas and City Clerk Eileen DeHart for their "hard work and dedication and for making Westland a community we're proud to live in."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Coffee Hour

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, is holding a coffee hour for constituents 10-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Biggy Coffee Shop, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Gebhardt represents the 12th District, which includes the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia. She serves on the commission's Committee of the Whole, the Committee on Government Operations, the Committee

on Public Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means reviews and approves the county's \$2.25 billion budget and provides oversight of compensation, bond issues, retirement, tax matters, and the assessment and equalization of property.

"Like everybody else, the county is facing a very difficult budget situation, and I am interested in hearing from citizens about what our spending priorities should be," Gebhardt said.

Citizens can contact Gebhardt's office directly with any questions or concerns by phone at (313) 224-0902 or by e-mail at District12@co.wayne.mi.us.

Cardiac dinner

Brush up on your gaming skills and bet on having a grand time at the 19th annual Health Enhancement Center Cardiology banquet, Straight to the Heart, Saturday, Feb. 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The Garden City Hospital Cardiology Department is hosting an evening of casino-style gaming, dinner, raffles and live music by the Gold Tones.

All proceeds benefit the

Health Enhancement Center in purchasing new exercise equipment and educational materials for cardiac rehabilitation patients and anyone who utilizes the Health Enhancement Center Gym and fitness classes. The event will run 5-11 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call Garden City Hospital at (734) 458-3242.

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is hosting an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Willow Creek is accepting enrollment into our Parent/

Tot, Young 3's, 3 year and 4 year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Benefit dinner/concert

The Acoustic Coffee House will present "The Cats and the Fiddler" benefit dinner and concert Saturday, Feb. 21, for the Wayne County Family Crisis Center in Westland. A mostacoli dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner cost \$4 per person or \$10 per family of four or more. A \$12 donation is asked for the concert, with children under age 15 free. The event

will be held at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760 to reserve a spot for dinner or for more information.

In the footlights

Inspire Theatre presents "It Ain't Broadway, But It's Close," a musical review of some of the biggest Broadway tunes, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21, at the Warren Road Light and Life Church. Show times are 7:30 p.m. nightly. Tickets are \$11. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (734) 751-7057. Warren Road Light and Life Church is at 33445 Warren Road, between Wayne Road and Venoy.

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 2/27/2009 at 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Darryl J Smith | 1018 | boxes, bags, chair |
| Yancy Davis | 1138 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Elleen Seaborn | 1386 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Robert Jones | 2018 | boxes |
| Robert Jones | 2152 | boxes |
| Rob Jones | 2170 | boxes |
| Shatunna Priester | 2188 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Robert Jones II | 2202 | boxes |
| Sade Walker | 2208 | sofa, love seat |
| Dwight Davis | 2286 | toys, boxes, bags |
| Nadia El-rawas | 2352 | tool box, bags, boxes |

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734) 479-5442 2/27/2009 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Hearthstone Assisted Living | 1009 | boxes, fans, tire |
| Paye Guerra | 1022 | boxes, bags, car parts |
| Steven Dale Trimble | 105 | boxes, dresser, tv |
| Toneka Pierce | 120 | bags, tv, toys |
| Randy Reinhold | 139 | bags, bike, totes |
| Pro Line Building | 143 | boxes, bags, saw |
| Jamison Tompkins | 212 | boxes, vacuum, tool box |
| Tracy Woods | 238 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Faith Collier | 336 | dryer, weights, bags |
| Karrie Boudrie | 346 | boxes, bags, clothes |
| Theresa Bosworth | 411 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Chaquita McCroy | 527 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Adam Fockler | 533 | bags, totes, bike |
| Scott Murray | 539 | boxes, bags, washer |
| Susan Dalimonte | 947 | boxes, bags, totes. |

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AWARDS

FROM PAGE A1

for fighting crime and making the city safer.

Officers David Hochstein and Kenneth Percin earned departmental citations for thwarting a domestic dispute that escalated when a man pulled a gun, struggled with Percin and fired a shot that grazed Percin's hand before Hochstein, fearing his partner had been shot, returned fire. The gunman later died.

Police Chief James Ridener praised the efforts of officers like Humphrey, Hochstein and Percin, whose wounds also brought him the Police Heart award.

"Their actions go above and beyond," Ridener said. "It's truly a testament to the type of officers that we have at our department."

"It could have been any of our officers. They were in the right place at the right time, and it was their time to step up," Ridener said. "It's a testament to their ability to function at a very high level."

Humphrey was hired in



Officers David Hochstein (left) and Kenneth Percin (second from right) accept their awards from Police Chief James Ridener (right). Watching is Mayor William Wild.

1997 and has served in the department's patrol division. He is a field training officer who has earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Hochstein and Percin also have received awards from the Michigan Police Officers Association and were issued Medals of Valor by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

During the local awards ceremony, the city's top brass also lauded the work

of officers from the Special Investigations Unit and the multi-agency Metro Street Enforcement Team for an investigation that put two prostitution ringleaders in prison for three to 20 years for arranging for a 16-year-old runaway girl to have sex for pay with older men.

For their efforts on the prostitution case, those receiving Certificates of Merit were Lt. Robert Swope, Sgt. Scott Murray,

Officers Randy Thivierge, Darin Keir, James Francisco and Burke Lange, and Wayne County Sheriff Deputy Kevin Reed.

In other honors, the Special Investigations Unit was lauded for setting new records in 2008 for executing 107 search warrants and seizing more than \$550,000 in cash and property from drug dealers. The unit also confiscated stolen guns, stolen prescription drugs, hundreds of pounds of marijuana, jewelry and other items.

Finally, dozens of sworn officers from Chief Ridener all the way down to patrol officers were commended for their response to a botched drug deal that erupted in a gunfight last August between five would-be robbers and undercover Romulus police outside the former Bob's of Canton-Westland store at Warren and Merriman. The incident ended without any injury to innocent bystanders, but one suspect was killed and four others have been sent to prison for lengthy terms.

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SLOT CAR

FROM PAGE A1

friends."

The store is attracting people from around the area as well as some racers from Flint and "a guy who drives two hours from Ohio on a Friday night to drag race," Shawn Cummins said.

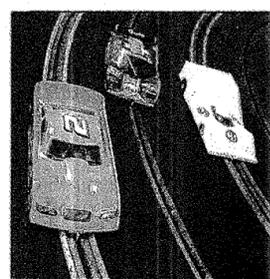
One of the racers who comes in is Eric Lagana. The former Garden City resident sees a lot of camaraderie and a lot of fun at the store.

"I like that," he said. "I've been coming here since a week after it opened. I have a really good time here."

Lagana is one of those people who had slot cars before. He started slot care racing in 1983 and did it at Jay 500 on Cherry Hill at Merriman until it closed. He moved over to Hot Slots on Ford in Garden City in the 1990s and raced there until it closed.

"This is filling the gap," he said. "People who raced before with groups come in and other people come in to learn from them," he said.

By the spring, the Cummins hope to add truck and tractor pulls to the offerings at the store.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bring your own slot car or use one provided by the store. The choices include NASCAR and Formula 1 models.

According to Paul Cummins, the pulls are just like full-sized competition. The scaled down versions can't be found anywhere in Michigan, he said.

"It would be just like you'd see on TV," he said.

Shawn Cummins sees the store as fulfilling a need in these tough economic times.

"People still need to do something at an affordable price," he said. "For a family of four, this is cheaper than going to a movie. And when you have a track with eight kids around it, you can't replace what they're experiencing with a video game."

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EDUCATION

Technology lets students discover black history

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In the past, youngsters found information for reports in books. These days they're using technology not only to research but create reports.

That's what's been happening in classrooms at Hamilton Elementary School in Westland where youngsters are using today's technology to look at 19th century slavery.

"We're doing a report on life as a slave, we found information on Google and in books from the library," said fifth-grader Breanna Korenc whose working with Caleb Denton and Miranda Crummey on a Powerpoint presentation for Black History Month.

"We have stuff about the slave trade, what slaves were worth and some of the things they did to escape, how they were captured and treated," added Caleb. "We're just about done."

"They're not afraid to use technology. They've created slide shows either about the life of a slave or a popular slave like Harriet Tubman," said teacher Dana Chapman.

The students have been working on their reports for about three days. When they're done, they'll present them to the class and then print them out to display for others to read.

Breanna and Caleb have produced a seven-page report that goes beyond black and white.



Hamilton Elementary fifth-graders Caleb Denton (from left), Miranda Crummey and Breanna Kolenc work on their PowerPoint on "The Life of a Slave" as part of their Black History Month lesson.

They've used their computer skills to provide a colored background for their written statements and merged old photographs they found on the Internet.

Some of the students have gone one step further, adding music and even recording their own voices, reading their reports.

"We had to memorize the whole thing because the record-

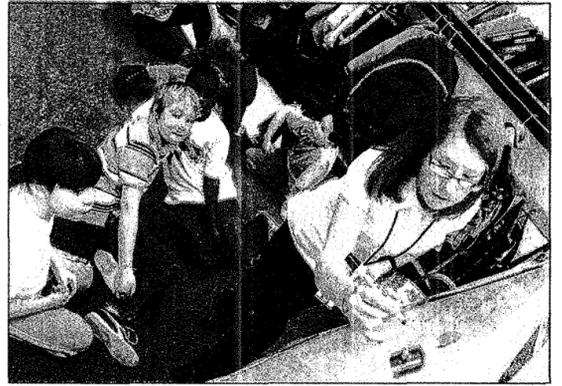
er covered the words," said Tony Sample. "I did the recording because I'm the loudest in the class."

His partners, Rachel Ditmore and Tyler Morris selected the backgrounds to suit the subject. So far they've selected rainbow, housing and even a sunset.

"So far we have six pages, maybe we'll do one more and try to put in some pictures," Tyler said.

Down the hall, Jennifer Chambers third-graders are taking a more traditional way of learning about black history. So far they created mobiles that play off of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream." Portions of the mobile contain their dreams for their community, country and world.

They also spent time listening to student teacher Angela Flis read *The Story of Ruby*



Hamilton Elementary student teacher Angela Flis works with third-graders on words they can use for their biography poem about Ruby Bridges, first African American to attend an all-white school in New Orleans.

Bridges, a children's book about the young girl who was the first black student to enter the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in November 1960.

After hearing the story, the youngsters brainstormed with Flis about words to describe Ruby, words that they used to create a biographical poem.

"They'll use adjectives to describe how it feels, what she needs and end up with a poem," Chambers said.

The poem looks for three adjectives to describe Ruby as well as three words to describe how she feels, what she needs, what she fears, what she can give and what she would like to see happen.

According to Rebecca Trail, Ruby was "a happy person and a brave person."

"She went into a school, she was brave to go into an all-white school and she wasn't afraid to go back," she said. "It would feel kind of weird to me, if I had to go to an all-black school and someone watched me. Usually, the only person who watches me in school is my teacher."

Nathan Lamanen agreed that the experience would be scary, adding that what Ruby needed "was some friends."

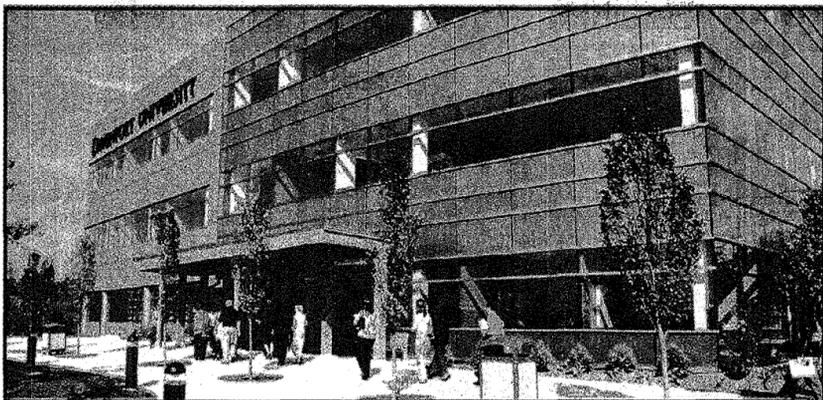
"She needed some happiness because there was no one there but her teacher," he said.

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Name: Holly Hinken, 17
Grade, School: Senior at John Glenn High School/William D. Ford Career Technical Center
Parents: Lorie and Randy Hinken
Nominated by: Chef Tony Paquette
Why is she being nominated: Holly is a dedicated student striving to be in the culinary field. She is persistent, always goes a step above to assist with the many catering events we do and

never misses class. Holly has been a good student in all of her classes and a 4.0 grade point average in culinary arts for two years.
What do you want to be when you grow up: "A chef, in the hot foods area."
What do you like about school?: "My Career-Tech Culinary Arts Class is both fun and a challenging."
What is your favorite subject: "History is very interesting."
Who are your role models? Why?: "My parents are my role models. They are always supportive and help build my confidence."

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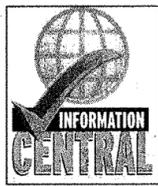
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How well do you sleep?

Does it really matter if you get enough sleep? Not only does the quantity of your sleep matter, but



the quality of your sleep is important as well. People whose sleep is interrupted a lot or is cut short might not get enough

of certain stages of sleep.

How well rested you are and how well you function the next day depend on your total sleep time and how much of the various stages of sleep you get each night.

At the Westland library, you can learn about the importance of quality sleep with "Sleep: a Groundbreaking Guide to the Mysteries, the Problems and the Solutions" by Carlos Schenck or "Sleep to Save Your Life: The Complete Guide to Living Longer and Healthier through Restorative Sleep" by Gerard T. Lombardo.

What about all the different sleep disorders that affect the lives of millions of people? For those who snore we have "Don't Snore Anymore: Your Complete Guide to a Quiet Night's Sleep" by Jeffrey N. Hausfield or for those who live with someone who snores there is "Snore No More!: How to Help Your Mate or Family Member Stop Snoring and Live Longer and Healthier!" by James L. Mosley.

Insomnia is another very common sleep disorder that interferes with your ability to fall asleep or stay asleep. If you're having trouble sleeping check out "Say Good Night to Insomnia" by Gregg D. Jacobs, "Insomniac" by Gayle Greene or "Sleep Demons: An Insomniac's Memoir" by Bill Hayes.

Whether you're interested in learning more about sleep or any other topic, the Westland library is here to help. You can give us a call at (734) 326-6123 or visit us online at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

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

Join us as we discuss "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. This atmospheric tale is based on actual circus stories and is documented with historical circus photographs. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

African American Film Series: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18

Teens and adults. Join poet, playwright, and actor Victor Walker in viewing "The Pact," a film about three young African American doctors who are devoted to inspiring African Americans to reach their

goals. An introduction and post-movie discussion will be lead by Walker.

20s/30s Book Club: 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at Biggy Coffee, 37644 Ford, west of Newburgh

Join us as we discuss "Black Swan Green" by David Mitchell. Set against the background of the Margaret Thatcher era in England when war is being waged in the Falklands, Jason Taylor relates, month by month, the events of his

13th year, when he enters that period of adolescent cruelty. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

Open Mic: 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 19, teens and adults. This is an after-hours library program.

Need a spot to let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style? Join other local artists at this after hours event as they read, rap, sing, act, dance and soliloquy for the betterment of your senses. Poets, writers, musicians and performers are

encouraged to show us what you've got! Singer-songwriter John Latini emcees. All audience members welcome.

Navigating Turbulent Economic Times: 7 p.m. Feb. 23

Join Andrew Gagne, associate financial advisor, as he discusses common sense methods for making it through tough markets in a fourth-quarter market review. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. All wel-

come. Call (734) 326-6123 for more information.

Computer Classes: 11 a.m. Feb. 16, Powerpoint for the Beginner, 2 p.m. Feb. 16, Introduction to E-mail, 7 p.m. Feb. 16 Introduction to Microsoft Word, 2 p.m. Feb. 18 File Management.

Stop by the library for a complete description and requirements for all classes. All computer classes are hands-on. Space is limited. Register in advance at the Reference Desk or

call (734) 326-6123

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening
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Information Central was compiled by reference librarian and Web master Kristy Cooper. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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Anderson concerned over proposed cuts to school funding

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Anderson

The devil is always in the details.

After giving a broad outline of her priorities in the State of the State address, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm Thursday presented state legislators with the grim details Thursday.

The governor is proposing cutting \$670 million from the state budget including cutting the K-12 per pupil funding

by \$599 to a \$7,255 minimum; cutting university funding by \$100 million and cutting before and after school programs by \$5 million. Her budget would also include a potential cut of 1,500 state jobs, mostly in corrections.

Other proposed cuts would come in grants to arts and cultural organizations, the

Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the state fairs in Detroit and Escanaba.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, whose district includes Redford, Westland, Garden City and Livonia, said these are tough times and the cuts were expected.

"I'm not too pleased with some of the areas being cut," he said Friday. "I expect we'll do what we can to shift cuts around."

Anderson is especially unhappy with the cuts to school

foundation grants. He said districts like Wayne-Westland and Livonia would be particularly hard hit.

"That may be something that some schools can absorb, but cuts in the categoricals will push some schools over the edge," he said. Categoricals are money specifically designated for particular programs.

Anderson is on the Senate Appropriations Committee. He said the governor's budget proposal is just a first step and that changes will be made. He said

that money appropriated for smaller schools, proposed by the governor last year, hadn't been expended and could be shifted toward school budgets.

He said it was important to continue working on government reform measures in an effort to deal with Michigan's historical structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures. He suggested reductions in the state legislative budget as one way of saving some money.

"We need to address our structural problems. We need

to right the ship and get things sorted out. There will be changes," he said.

Anderson commended the governor for not replying too much on the federal stimulus package currently working its way through the U.S. Congress.

"I am glad they did not attempt to use stimulus dollars to create new programs that cannot be sustained when the stimulus money runs out," he said.

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He's a pro at Pick the Pros



A Livonia resident proved he was a real pro when it comes to football and picked enough winners to take first place in the *Observer & Eccentric's* Pick the Pros contest.

Bruce Lambert, a self-employed television producer and director, scored 193 points to take first place out of 573 contestants. Season scores were the sum of the best 17 out of 21 weeks, with the worst four thrown out.

Lambert won a room and golf package for two at the Garland Resort in Lewiston.

Lambert came on strong during the NFL playoffs, picking all four wild card game winners, then three of four victors in the conference playoffs and both winners of the conference championships along with the eventual champion Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

Contestants earned one point for each accurate pick during the regular season, four for playoff games, eight for the conference championships and 16 for the Super Bowl.

Lambert has played Pick the Pros for four years.

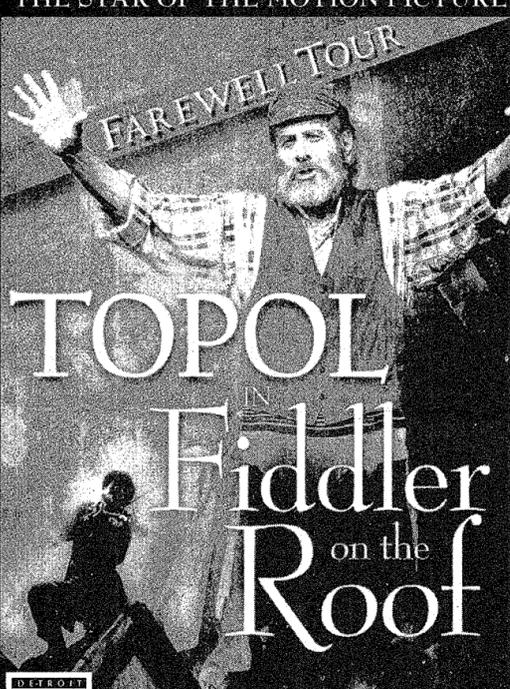
On picking winners, Lambert said: "It's just a gut feeling. I just started picking them right and left." (Translation: He guessed.)

Lambert said he was "pleasantly surprised" at the news of his win. "Some weeks I got all 16 points," he said. "It was fun."

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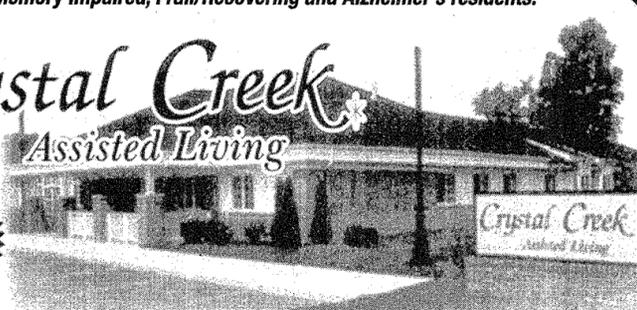
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Why Does My Back Hurt More When It's Cold?

Scientists ponder this very question!



Dr. Thomas J. Gerou
Canton Doctor of Chiropractic

Have you ever noticed your back hurts more when it's cold out? And, it's probably not just your back. Joints all over your body stiffen up and things seem to hurt "all over."

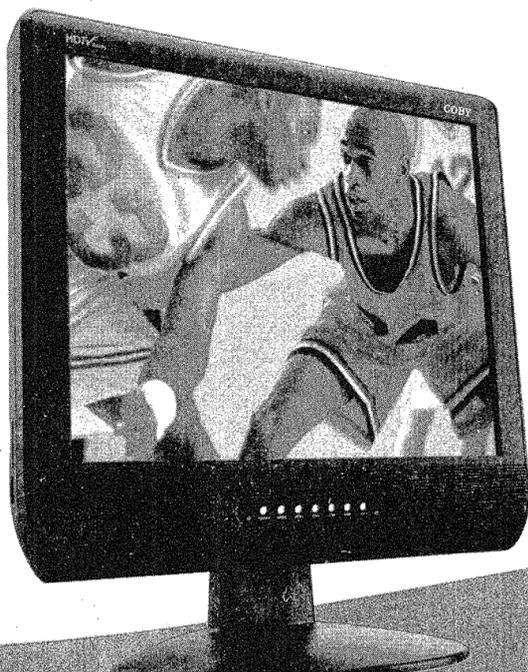
If that describes you, then you are not alone. Many people seem to suffer more from back and joint pain related conditions as soon as the temperature starts to dip.

Many people with back pain, joint pain, headaches and fibromyalgia attest to the correlation of cold weather and worsening of their symptoms.

So what can you do? Since you can't change the weather (although living in a warm, sunny place might help!) Chiropractic care may dramatically minimize its effects on your back pain.

So if you haven't tried Chiropractic for your back pain, give Canton chiropractor Dr. Thomas Gerou a call. Like all doctors' offices, care may vary from office to office. But if you are looking for a Chiropractor who offers short term, affordable back pain care, or if you have questions, call Dr. Gerou's friendly and caring office at 556-1717. You can be seen immediately...and here's the best part, no obligation to extensive treatment plans! 02884451

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Changes ahead for estate inheritance taxes

Dear Rick: If the stepped-up basis for inherited assets is canceled in 2010, do you anticipate its reinstatement in 2011?

Yes. The stepped-up basis will be back in 2011, although the estate tax exemption will be much lower than it is today. The exemption in 2011 is scheduled to be \$1 million. Today it's \$2.5 million.

It is important to explain what is happening with estate tax laws. Presently, there is a \$2.5 million exemption for estate taxes.

That means upon your death, the first \$2.5 million — above and beyond money going to a charity and/or a spouse — in assets is estate tax free. Remember it is not the beneficiaries who are subject to the estate tax, rather, the estate

itself. Basically, upon death your assets are valued at fair market value. After deductions for charitable contributions and/or what a spouse inherits, the first \$2.5 million is estate tax free. Then and only then does the estate pay federal estate taxes.

Over the last several years, the exemption amount has grown dramatically. It wasn't too long ago that the exemption was only \$600,000. The problem arises because of quirks in the estate tax law. In 2010, there will be no estate taxes. Basically, if someone passes away in 2010 their estate is not subject to any estate tax. However, in 2011 the law reverts back to an older version of the estate tax law and the exemption drops to \$1 million. The other quirk in this law deals with stepped-up basis.

When someone inherits money from an estate, that money is not subject to estate taxes. In addition, the beneficiary receives what is known as a stepped-up basis in the assets that they are inheriting.

For example, if you inherited ABC Stock and at the time of inheritance the stock was selling for \$10 a share but the decedent had only paid two dollars a share, your cost basis would be \$10 a share. That means if you sell stock for \$11 a share, only one dollar is subject to income tax.

If you inherit money in 2010, you receive a transfer-cost basis as opposed to a stepped-up basis. In the example above, if you sold the stock for \$11 a share your transfer cost basis is only two dollars a share, thus you would pay taxes on \$9 per share. The quirk in the law only deals with 2010. In 2011, the stepped-up basis rules are reinstated.

What makes this issue a little more complex is there probably will be some estate tax reform this year that will have an impact on 2010 and beyond. We don't know what the changes will be and when they will take effect.

When it comes to estate planning, many believe it's necessary if you have a large estate. Although reducing and

eliminating estate tax is one goal of planning, it is only one factor. As far as I am concerned, every adult needs some sort of estate planning.

Estate planning also deals with how to handle family emergencies when you are alive. I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier life is. The Medical Durable Power of Attorney and Michigan Patient Advocate Form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney, is available at public libraries or download one at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

The main reason for estate planning is not to save on taxes or to avoid probate but because you love your family.

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



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Focus:HOPE celebrates 40th anniversary with ball

Focus: HOPE will conclude its 40th anniversary year with a Rubies of HOPE Ball on March 7 at which several key supporters will be recognized for their contributions to Focus: HOPE's civil rights mission.

"As we embark on our next decade, we want to truly celebrate all that Focus: HOPE has accomplished over the last 40 years," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO. "We are taking this opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and the impact our food and education programs have had on hundreds of thousands in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to address current and future challenges with renewed commitment, passion and energy."

The event is expected to raise \$250,000 for scholarships for students in Focus: HOPE's education and training programs. The theme for the evening recognizes Rubies, the gems appropriate for a 40th anniversary, and HOPE, for optimism for the future.

Co-founders Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997) and Eleanor M. Josaitis will be honored for starting an organization that addressed the social and economic problems that led to the 1967 Detroit riots. In 40 years, the organization has worked to bridge the racial divide and dedi-

cated itself to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice."

Rubies of HOPE awards also will be presented to:

■ The Honorable Damon J. Keith, chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals and a nationally-recognized jurist, for his outstanding leadership on civil rights issues.

■ United States Senator Carl Levin, an ardent supporter of Focus: HOPE throughout his career, for his leadership in government and for facilitating government partnerships with Focus: HOPE.

■ Lloyd E. Reuss, who upon retiring as president of General Motors came to Focus: HOPE as a volunteer to lead its innovative engineering program in the Center for Advanced Technologies. He also chairs the Focus: HOPE Advisory Board.

■ Neal Shine (1930-2007), a journalist and eventual publisher of the Detroit Free Press, for his leadership and commitment to the City of Detroit and the Focus: HOPE mission.

■ Noel M. Tichy, Ph.D., professor and author, at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, for his leadership in education and for engaging business leaders and business students in the work of Focus: HOPE. He has profiled Focus:

HOPE in several books.

■ William S. White, president and CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, for his longstanding support of Focus: HOPE's education and training programs.

The anniversary event is hosted by Jill and Steve Miller, chairman and CEO of Delphi. It will be held at the Detroit Marriott in the Renaissance Center and will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., then dancing to Mel Ball and Colours. The black-tie preferred event is the first formal celebration held by Focus: HOPE in its 40 years.

"I hope everyone who appreciates the impact Focus: HOPE has had on our community, will join us March 7 to pay tribute to its co-founders and supporters," said Jill Miller. "In particular, I hope people will join Steve and me in showing our appreciation to Eleanor Josaitis for her leadership and commitment to civil rights."

Honorary co-chairs of the 40th anniversary gala/celebration include Retired General Colin L. Powell, who attended the opening of Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies in 1993, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, former Detroit Mayor Dennis

Archer, Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally, Chrysler Chairman and CEO Robert Nardelli, and General Motors Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner.

Tickets are \$250 each, or \$2,500 for tables of 10. Tickets may be reserved by calling 313-494-4371 or via the web site at www.focushope.edu.

Dow Chemical is the presenting sponsor for the evening. Other sponsors Chrysler LLC and Chrysler Financial, Bank of America, Comerica, Delphi Corporation, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation.

Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE developed numerous programs in its efforts to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. It offers a food program, which assists 42,000 seniors, mothers and children each month; career training programs in machining, engineering and information technology; a child care center, a community arts program targeted to high school students, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus: HOPE, thousands of individuals — especially women and minorities — have become financially independent. www.focushope.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on **February 26, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.** at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit H03, Beck, Furn./boxes; Unit B31, Lapp, Furn./ boxes; Unit C115, Saifuddin, Furn./boxes; Unit G05, Foster, Misc. HHG; Unit I11, Farris, Furn. /boxes; Unit B15, May, Furn./boxes; Unit I35, Hancock, HHG; Unit E32, Withers, HHG; Unit B06, Howard, HHG; Unit J30, Grayes, HHG; Unit E24, Glazer, HHG.

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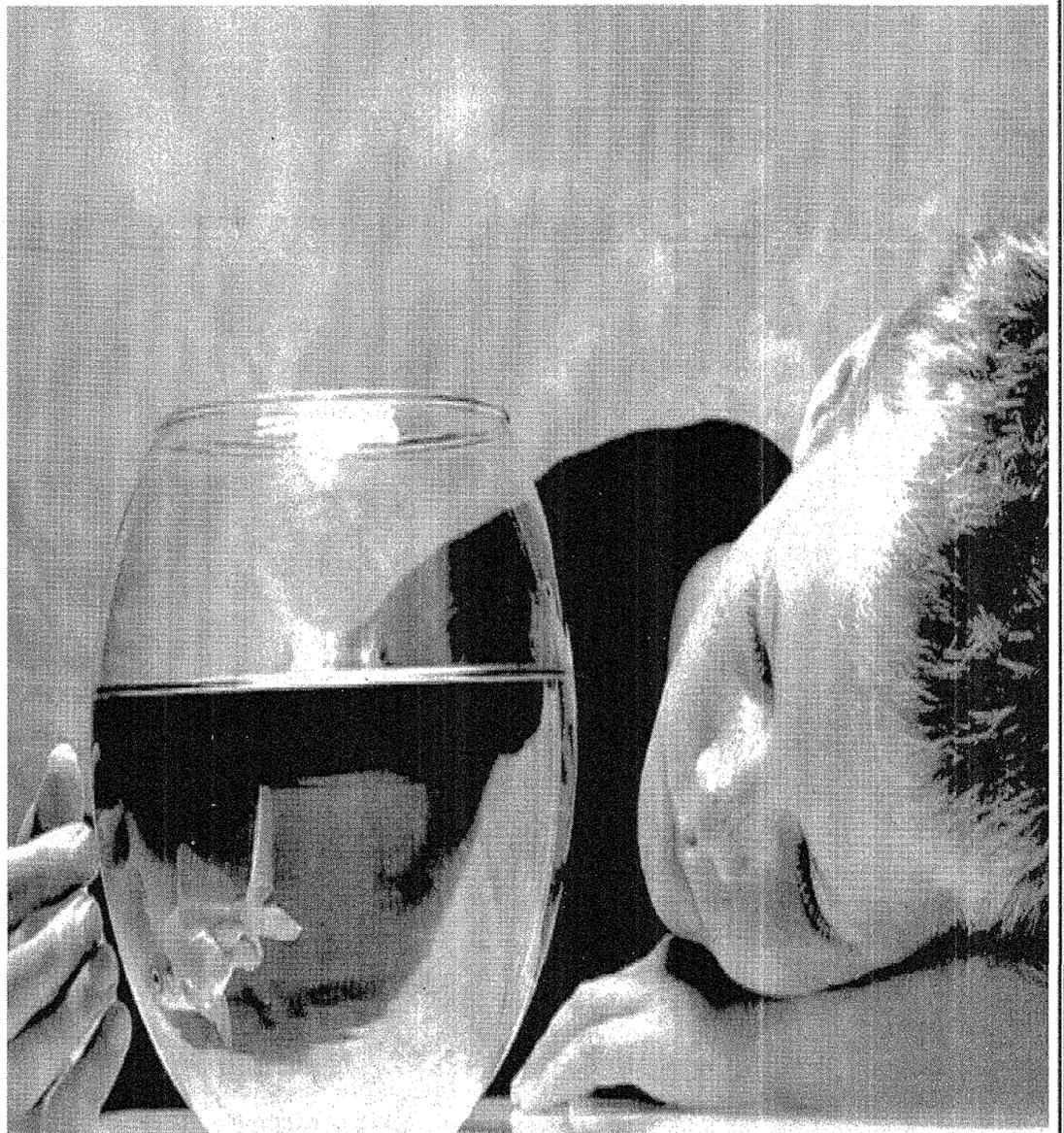


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Nominations sought for Above & Beyond Honor

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is accepting for nominations for its Above & Beyond Citizen Honors through Friday, Feb. 20.

Above & Beyond Citizen Honors recipients represent the values of courage, sacrifice and selfless service. Anyone can make a nomination. The nominee must be a U.S. civilian who has clearly demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice for others whether through a single act of extraordinary heroism at risk to one's life or through a prolonged series of selfless acts. The nominee's actions must epitomize the concept of "service above self" and must be performed "above and beyond" one's professional area of responsibility or conduct.

A panel of judges, consisting of Medal of Honor recipients, will consider all nominations and select a finalist from every state, plus the District of Columbia. Profiles for each of the 51 finalists will be available on the Above & Beyond Web site and each finalist will receive an embossed Citizen Honors certificate signed by the President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

From among the State finalists, three individuals will be selected to receive Citizen Honors and will be announced on Monday, March 9, and honored at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 25, in conjunction with National Medal of Honor Day near the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Ficano accentuates the positive in State of the County

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County may be at the center of the United States' economic woes, but on Thursday County Executive Robert Ficano chose to accentuate the positive in his seventh annual State of the County address, including touting several development projects for western Wayne County.

"I am determined to lead the county through tough times," Ficano told an overflow invited audience at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township. "Our assets far outweigh our challenges. We have a diverse county that looks like the rest of the world. We have a skilled workforce, first-class universities, an international border, a world-class airport and a resolve to succeed."

Ficano hit on some themes he has been promoting for years including the development of an "aerotropolis" around the two Wayne County airports, expanding business contacts with China and promoting a more diverse economic base. He also touted his administration's cost-cutting efforts that have included downsizing the size of the executive branch, which he said has 1,500 fewer employees than during the previous administration.

He was pointedly critical of Sheriff Warren Evans for suing the administration over budget cuts.

But the heart of the speech was the announcement of several economic initiatives:

■ **A Life Science Innovation Center** will be built in Plymouth Township on property formerly occupied by Pfizer. The Innovation Center is being developed by Dr. Roger Newton, a former Pfizer executive and co-founder of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Executive Bob Ficano.

the drug Lipitor. Ficano said the county is partnering with Washtenaw County, the state, Ann Arbor SPARK and others to develop the center.

■ **A Stem Cell Commercialization Center** will be created at Wayne State University's Tech Town. The center will build on the recently based state legislation that allows embryonic stem cell research. Ficano said the center will be the first of its kind in Michigan.

"We are creating a new biotechnology industry that will attract new companies, new jobs and alliances with researchers around the world," he said.

■ **The county is working with AT&T to build a fiber optic infrastructure to connect key business hubs throughout**

the region, including the airport development areas.

■ **County government will move into the Guardian building this year, which Ficano said would save the county millions of dollars in rent. The county purchased the historic skyscraper for \$14 million.**

Ficano took note of the county's hard economic situation, including a county government deficit that could reach \$100 billion.

"Unprecedented cuts in the auto industry and a struggling economy have ravaged this region," he said. "Many of you have lost jobs. Some of you have lost your homes. All of you, in some way, have been affected by the pain."

As an example, Ficano introduced Jacqueline Madden of Redford Township.



The audience applauds Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's speech.

Madden, a single mother with a teenage son, had lost her job at Ford Motor Co. and was facing foreclosure on her house. Ficano said county foreclosure counselors were able to work out a short-term reduced payment program to help give Madden time to renegotiate her mortgage and stay in her home.

Ficano touted the county's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program as a "national model" that has helped more than 600 county residents resolve their mortgage problems.

But it was Ficano's upbeat assessment that seemed to draw the best response, including loud applause when he said that groundwork be broken this year on the controversial expansion of Cobo

Hall.

"It's always good in these economic times to have something that's uplifting," said Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor. "It makes you proud when you think about what's going on in the county. We have to believe in ourselves and the future."

Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said she is looking forward to "building a good relationship" with the county.

"We're looking for some parks money, that we think was set aside last year," she said. "We're looking for about \$245,000 for that. Also, we're looking to partner on some stimulus projects, especially as it relates to the sewer project and that will be millions of dollars. ... It feels good."

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 2/27/2009 at 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Robert Jackson | B074 | bags, boxes, vacuum |
| Linda Carter | B129 | boxes, totes, treadmill |
| Ruth Jones | B189 | boxes, bag, totes |
| Stacie Van Tuyl | B233 | bike, bags, boxes |
| Petrice Johnson | B257 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Rodney Uersery | B261 | fish tank, boxes, sofa |
| Dale Marie Griffin | B267 | boxes, bags, record player |
| Derek Odell | B269 | boxes, bags, table |
| Samieyra Spicer | B387 | dresser, mattress, toys |
| Connie Volpe | C009 | restaurant equipment |
| Lola Yonko | C025 | table, boxes, lamp |
| Stephen Mitchell | C034 | bags, toys, crib |
| Carlette McKenzie | D025 | boxes, bags, suitcase |
| Richard Surma Jr. | D033 | lawn mower, sofa, saw |
| Linder Magwood | D042 | fish tank, boxes, ac unit |

Publish: February 8 and 15, 2009

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 3 - 2/2/09

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
19 - Appr. of 1/20/09 minutes
- Rescind the req. of a spec. audit for Peoples Comm. Hope for Homes
- Intro. of Budget Amend. 2009-09: Housing Rehab Fund \$2,061,722.00
- Intro. of Ord. 192-C-1, to reg. the disposal of abandoned pers. prop.
20 - Intro. of Ord. 167-A-5-1 to elim. breed spec. designations for vicious & dangerous dogs & to allow microchipping
22 - App. Of Water Contract w. City of Detroit
23 - Adopt. prep. res. authorizing 3 ballot questions on 11-3-09 ballot to allow a \$100 filing fee for candidates and to chg. filing deadline to 12 Tues. before Prim.
24 - App. 1 yr. site plan extension for comm. cntr.; parc. 0423-01-0020-000, s. side Ford, e. of Wayne
25 - Conf. re-app't. of M. Diehl to EDC/TIFA Bd. for 4 yr. term to exp. 11-15-12
26 - Conf. app't. of C. Rutz to EDC/TIFA Bd. for 4 yr term to exp. 2-2-13
27 - Appr. Checklist: \$871,685.53 & Prepaid: \$6,092,516.66.
Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 12, 2009

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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

www.gardencitymi.org

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: January 18, 2009

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| Sarah Phelan | 3073 | dresser, box, totes |
| Justin Proch | 4027 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Patrick Knight | 4043 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Edwin Oney | 5003 | snow blower, boxes, dresser |
| Patricia Kowalski | 5030 | boxes, bags, totes |
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| Julie Pyle | 5083 | mattress, tv, totes |
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| Michael Shepherd | 6049 | tires, boxes, totes |
| Nancy Emmons | 6091 | totes, bags, vacuum |
| Steven Williams | 6107 | boxes, bags, mattress |
| Kristie Hartman | 7003 | totes, boxes, dresser |
| Nicole Blanchard | 7054 | bags, sofa, table |
| Jeffrey Stonecipher | 7082 | totes, dresser, boxes |
| Jeremy Hammonds | 7084 | chair, table, dresser |
| Brian Murphy | 7118 | totes, tool box, boxes |
| United States Steel Corp. | 7131 | table, boxes, totes |
| Deborah Kennedy | 9022 | bags |
| Larry Maddox | 9078 | boxes, bags, totes |

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SECTION B
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SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE

Mercy plays spoiler role against rival Ladywood

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy was playing for pride Wednesday night, and coach Gary Morris was extremely proud of his basketball team when the game was done.

The Marlins, who failed to make the Catholic League

playoffs, won their final Central Division game by defeating host Livonia Ladywood in an overtime thriller, 53-50.

"We haven't had what we called a marquee win," Morris said. "We had nice wins over Salem and Divine Child. We thought, if we could beat our arch-rival, it would be the kind

GIRLS HOOPS

of win we were looking for.

"We challenged the kids to be mentally tough, to not back down. We focused on mental toughness. I was real proud of the way the kids stepped up tonight."

Mercy, which improved to

10-7 overall, finished 2-6 and Ladywood 3-5 in the division. The Blazers were 7-9 going into a Saturday semifinal playoff game with Dearborn Divine Child.

The Marlins were led by senior Danica Verderbar, who came off the bench to make six three-point field goals and scored a team-best 18 points.

Senior guard Jordan Mueller added 13 points, which included 7-of-8 free throw shooting in the second half and overtime, and played a solid floor game for the Marlins.

"(Verderbar) missed the first six games and has been working hard to get back," Morris

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

GAME WRAPS

KLAA boys hoop wrap

WAYNE 62, FRANKLIN 61 (2 OTS): KLAA South Division leader Wayne Memorial (10-4, 7-1) rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit Friday to beat visiting Livonia Franklin in double-overtime.

Jimmel Bennett orchestrated the comeback by scoring all 19 of his points in the second half, including the game-winner with eight seconds left.

It was 50-all at the end of regulation and 54-54 after 36 minutes. Daniel Hill and Robert Woodson tallied 15 and 10, respectively, for the Zebras.

"We had to battle to get back in it," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "They really outplayed us the first half."

Jeff Poole led the Patriots with 25 points. Connor Leidal added 15 and Mike Gadsby contributed 13.

Wayne made 12-of-17 free throws, while Franklin hit only 16-of-33.

"We controlled the game and we felt like it was our game, but free throws obviously were the tell-tale sign," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "Our guys played an outstanding game."

JOHN GLENN 55, CHURCHILL 53: Senior guard Austin Anderson, 8-of-9 from the foul line, scored a game-high 22 points and Brandyn Jenkins came up with a key block in the final seconds Friday to give host Westland John Glenn (7-6, 3-5) the KLAA South Division triumph over Livonia Churchill (6-8, 2-6).

Dorian Prather and Jeremy Langford chipped in with 13 and 11, respectively, for the Rockets.

Junior forward Adam Bedell led Churchill with 20 points, while Ryan Woods, who hit a three-pointer with only five seconds remaining to draw the Chargers to within two, added 10.

Churchill was 8-of-12 from the foul line, while Glenn was 12-of-18.

STEVENSON 61 S. LYON EAST 54: In a KLAA Central Division game Friday, visiting Livonia Stevenson (9-4, 5-3) held off stubborn South Lyon East (0-14, 0-8) thanks to Bobby Naubert's team-high 20 points.

Mark Grisa added 12 points for the Spartans, while Brian Rowe chipped in with eight.

Stevenson made only 16-of-37 free throws on the night.

"We'll be one-and-done in March if we play like we did tonight with a total lack of focus," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said.

Ben Kil led the Cougars, who made 18-of-26 free throws, with 20 points.

CHURCHILL 52, S. LYON EAST 35: On Thursday, Scott Senczyszyn poured in a game-high 21 points to propel Livonia Churchill (6-7) past host South Lyon East (0-13) in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

"Scott was really steady, it was his best game of the year and possibly his career," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "He hit some early threes."

Adam Bedell added nine points and 13 rebounds for the Chargers, who led 28-17 at halftime before putting it away with a 15-5 fourth-quarter run.

"Our bench made a huge difference, all 11 played in the first half and all contributed, especially Tony Frezzell and Raynar Allen," Solak said. "It was a good all-around team effort, especially on the road."

Juniors Ben Kil and Colin Wedesky tallied 10 and seven points, respectively, for the Cougars.

SOUTH LYON 78, FRANKLIN 59: Despite senior forward Jeff Poole's game-high 29 points Wednesday night, Livonia Franklin (5-8) ventured into South Lyon's jungle and fell to the host Lions (10-3) in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

Senior Chance Bennett led South Lyon with 18 points, while Mike Fenner and Eric Wedesky added 11 each. Ben Rhoad and A.J. Thweatt chipped in with 10 apiece.

Connor Leidal added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Patriots. Mike Gadsby contributed seven points.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Southfield High transfer Sydni Clark, who recently signed with Michigan State on a track scholarship, hopes to bring a strong presence to the track at Livonia Clarenceville.

New kid on block MSU-bound Clark transfers to C'ville

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan State University is calling Sydni Clark's name.

But first, the 17-year-old track and field stalwart is going to say hello to Clarenceville, having transferred from Southfield in January.

But when she's running with the Trojans, she'll be thinking about being a Spartan.

"I look forward to basically proving myself (at Clarenceville)," Clark said. "I want to (then) stay in shape over the summer so I can just be ready to step forth on the Michigan State track and be able to do something - and dominate."

All of the high school's records in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes could be in jeopardy from the moment the senior steps out onto the track. She also likely will be the anchor on the 4 x 400 relay.

"The times they set here at Clarenceville I ran those a long time ago," said Clark, with a quiet-but-confident tone in her voice.

Clarenceville was the setting Feb. 4 when Clark signed her national letter of intent to run track for MSU. Parents Kenneth and Monica and 6-year-old brother Melvin soaked in the moment; they recently moved from Southfield to a home in the Farmington Hills portion of Clarenceville.

"It was basically a blessing. I couldn't believe it," said Clark about signing for the track and field scholarship. "Sometimes you've been running for so long that you get sick of it."

"But just knowing that God gave me the talent to do something, espe-

cially to help pay for college, just do it. Michigan State was the school that showed me more than other schools did."

BUMPS ALONG THE WAY

It hasn't been a smooth ride for Clark, who qualified for the Division 1 state meet in ninth grade while at Southfield. At the 2006 state meet, she ran in the 100 and 200 dashes, posting times of 12.2 and 25 seconds.

During the winter months of her sophomore year, however, while competing with her Detroit Police Athletic League indoor team, she suffered shin splints in both legs. It pretty much cost her the 2007 prep season. "They were pretty bad."

In 2008 with the Bluejays, she only ran part-time while working with a new training coach to get her physical condition up to where it needed to be to take a crack at a college scholarship. Clark still qualified for the state meet, competing in the 200 dash but not advancing to the preliminaries.

"My junior year I was getting ready to just train and get back on my feet," said Clark, who holds a 3.3 grade-point average. "But then when I met coach (Fermon) Tate, my Swift coach, and he got me back running again."

The efforts of Detroit-based training coach Eric Thompson also helped Sydni get back on the beam.

GETTING NOTICED

During last summer and into the autumn, she left Detroit PAL (the organization she ran in since age 8) and put all her energies into competing with the Swift Amateur Athletic

Please see **CLARK, B2**

Lady Ocelots clinch, 101-29

Schoolcraft College gained at least a share of its third straight MCCA Eastern Conference women's basketball title Wednesday with a resounding 101-29 victory over visiting Wayne County Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II national poll, won their 32nd straight home game and 24th straight conference encounter to improve to 22-2 overall and 15-0.

Six players scored in double figures for the Lady Ocelots, who led 52-12 at halftime, led by Salem High grad Tayler Langham, who scored a game-high 20 points.

Other contributions came from Jasmine Brown (15 points), Shera Brown (14 points, 11 rebounds), Amber

COLLEGE HOOPS

Avery (12 points), Antania Shepherd (11 points, eight assists) and Brittany Collins (11 points, seven assists).

Schoolcraft shot 54.1 percent from the field (39-of-72).

Wayne County (3-20, 2-15) committed more turnovers (38) than it scored points.

Tornisha Jones scored 19 in a losing cause.

Crusaders upset Aquinas

Madonna University moved into fourth place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference standings Wednesday night with a 52-43 upset victory over host Aquinas College, ranked No. 23 in the latest NAIA Division II national poll. The Crusaders, now 12-

15 overall and 7-4 in the WHAC, got 15 points and 13 rebounds from Plymouth High's Kim Olech.

Salem's Alyssa Guerin added 12, while Tabatha Wydryck chipped in with 10 for the Crusaders, who led 21-13 at halftime.

MU made all 12 free throw attempts and shot 46.2 percent from the field (18-of-39).

Aquinas (16-8, 8-3) had a dismal shooting night going 13-of-63 from the floor (19.1 percent).

Carrie Abdo led the Saints and all scorers with 23 points, but shot only 8-of-23 from the floor. She also had 11 rebounds.

Aquinas' shooting woes were compounded by Joslyn Narber, who finished with just two free throws after going 0-of-13 from the floor.

White enters guilty plea

BY KEVIN GRASHA
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Former Livonia Stevenson High quarterback and Michigan State University walk-on football player Mitchell White pleaded guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery in connection with a fight last year that seriously injured an MSU hockey player.

White, 18, a walk-on wide receiver, entered the plea Wednesday in 54B District Court before Judge David Jordan, a court official said. White's sentencing is scheduled for March 16. He faces up to 93 days in jail.

A.J. Sturges, a hockey player, suffered a head injury in the incident and was briefly hospitalized.

Another football player, Glenn Winston, is charged in connection with the Oct.

19 fight off campus that also involved MSU hockey players. Winston will stand trial in district court on three counts of misdemeanor aggravated assault charges.

Jury selection in Winston's trial is scheduled for March 10. If convicted, Winston faces up to one year in jail. Winston played in one game after Oct. 19.

According to a report in the *Detroit Free Press*, Michigan State officials declined to comment on the players' status with the team. White, who as a senior helped Stevenson to the Division I state championship game in 2007, wasn't listed on roster toward the end of last season.

White continues to be a member of MSU's track and field squad as a high jumper with a team best indoor leap of 6 feet, 9 inches. He competed Feb. 8 at the Meyo Invitational held in East Lansing.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Huron, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Baptist Park at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Feb. 16
 (Metro Conference Playoffs)
 Clarenceville at Lutheran North, 7 p.m.
 Harper Woods at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Huron, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Huron Valley at Det. Urban, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Ladywood vs. Grosse Pointe North
 at Plymouth's Arctic Edge, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 18

Stevenson at Novi (Ice Rink), 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Clarkston,
 Franklin vs. Taylor Unified
 at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 KLAAs crossovers, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Catholic League Girls Finals
 at O.L. St. Mary's, 2:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 (Division 1 Team Districts)
 Garden City, Franklin, Churchill
 at Dearborn Fordson, TBA.
 Stevenson, Farmington, Redford Union
 at Southfield High, TBA.
 Dearborn, Edsel Ford, John Glenn
 at Wayne Memorial, TBA.

(Division 3 Team District)
 Clarenceville, Clawson, M.H. Madison
 at Madison Hts. Lamphere, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 (Division 4 Team Districts)
 Harper Woods, Cesar Chavez, Bishop Foley
 at Lutheran High Westland, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Division 1 at Stevenson, TBA.
 Division 1 at Temperance Bedford, TBA.
 Division 3 at Richmond, TBA.
 Division 4 at Lutheran N'west, TBA.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Livonia Red vs. Canton
 at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Livonia Blue vs. Northville

at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Sunday, Feb. 15
 Utica Eisenhower Doubles
 at Sterling Lanes, 8 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 16
 Ladywood vs. Marian
 at Woodland Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Clarenceville vs. Taylor Truman
 at Country Lanes, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Catholic League Championships
 at Westland's Oak Lanes, 9 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Division 2 at Airport, 10 a.m.

Division 3 at Columbia Central, 10 a.m.
 Division 1 at Wayne, 11 a.m.
 Division 4 at Bishop Foley, 4 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Davenport at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
 Oakland CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 Madonna at UM-Dearborn, 3 p.m.
 Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Oakland CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
 Madonna at Davenport, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21
 UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 1 p.m.
 Henry Ford CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1
 said. "It was great to see her have that kind of game, and I thought it was the best game Jordan has played in a while, too."
 Consecutive threes by junior Mary Fitzgerald and freshman Cara Miller gave Ladywood an early, 8-3 lead, but Verderbar got Mercy rolling when she entered the game.
 She hit threes to end the first quarter and start the second, creating an 11-all tie, and

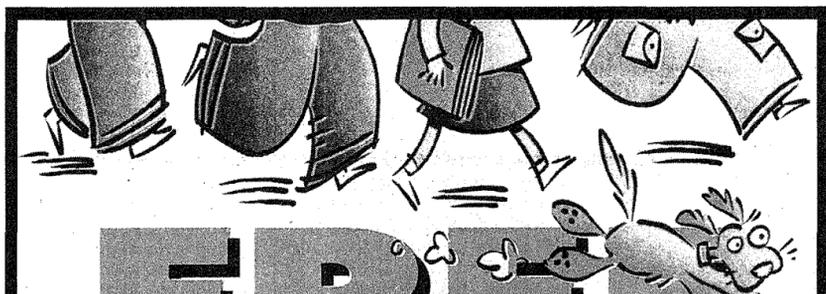
her third of the first half gave Mercy a 19-14 lead.
 "We didn't key on her at all, because she scored two points on us the last time we played," Ladywood coach Patrick Cannon said. "Once we started face-guarding her, she didn't hit another field goal, but the six she hit were huge."
 "When she's hitting field goals like that, you have to take her out of the game. But we didn't do that till later on, and they did a nice job getting her open."
 Verderbar made back-to-back threes to start the fourth quarter and put Mercy on

top, 39-33. Mueller sank four straight free throws later for a 44-40 lead with half a minute left, but the Blazers refused to fold.
 Junior Molly Gacioch scored on a putback with 11.6 seconds remaining to make it 44-43. She rebounded a missed Mercy foul shot, was fouled and sank the second of two free throws with 3.0 on the clock to knot the score at 44.
 The Blazers forced a turnover at midcourt, but Fitzgerald launched a three attempt just after time expired.
 Mueller hit a three to start

the overtime, and Mercy never trailed after that. However, the extra four minutes also went down to the final seconds.
 The Marlins had a 51-47 lead in the last minute, but Ladywood senior Courtney LaValley made a three with 13 seconds left to keep the suspense going.
 Mercy senior Tori Posa sank two free throws for the final points, and another three attempt by LaValley went off the glass as time ran out.
 "We seemed to be in good shape," Morris said. "We probably weren't working hard enough to get rebounds. Then LaValley hits a three, and it's nail-biting time again. Fortunately, we made both free throws and put them in a position to have to hit a three

to tie it.
 "We haven't been in too many of these games. It's the first time since (the first Divine Child) game we've had a lead down the stretch and were trying to close out the game. In the second time through the league, we've been in every game or been right there."
 "Once we got eliminated mathematically from Catholic League playoffs, we focused on Ladywood, and now we'll focus on the district tournament."
 Mercy's nine threes was a single-game season high and was one more than the eight it made against Salem. Senior Bridget Hickey and Posa added seven and six points, respectively. The Marlins made 16 of 24 free throws.

Fitzgerald matched Verderbar's total with 18 points for the Blazers, who were 14-of-26 at the foul line. Senior Caitlin Szczypka added six points and Miller, junior Jennifer Kelley and Gacioch five apiece.
 "I was really happy with our effort and intensity," Cannon said. "We came out and played with fire. I was proud of the girls tonight; they battled hard."
 "Mary Fitzgerald had a fabulous game. We put her on their toughest player (Mueller), and she held her to two field goals.
 "It hurt us when Szczypka fouled out in regulation. She's a key part of our offense. LaValley - she's a senior, too, and a very strong role player for us; she did her job tonight."



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NEW PATIENTS

CLARK

FROM PAGE B1
 Union team. There, Tate helped MSU sprints coach Randy Gillon duly note the hard-working girl with plenty of potential.
 "Michigan State saw me through coach Tate," Clark said. "He basically made it so a lot of schools could see me during the summer. ... I started working out and running 600s constantly, constantly."

Gillon immediately liked the talent and effort he saw from Clark.
 "He started coming to my practices and he told my coach (Tate), 'I'll sign her right now,'" said Clark, with a laugh.
 First, the joke will be on other Metro Conference teams who have to deal with Clarenceville's newest athlete.
 From there, Clark will bring it to the Big Ten. She expects to do well at Michigan State, not only with the track and field team but in academics (she would like to major in

communications).
 Being able to overcome so much already just to get a college scholarship is something Clark knows will help her down the road in whatever she decides to do.
 "Track is mostly a mental thing, especially the 400," Clark said. "You've got to be strong-minded to step on a track. There are so many things going on in your head saying to 'Stop, quit.' But you've got to keep going."

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Stoney Creek, Rocks topple Churchill icers

Rochester Stoney Creek held off Livonia Churchill in Thursday's opening day of the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League's Showcase, 2-1, at Trenton.

Stoney Creek is 13-5-2 overall, while Churchill falls to 6-9-4.

Churchill's Robert Louwers opened the scoring on a power-play goal 2:16 into the first period off assists from Mike Woynick and Adam Wiegand.

Stoney Creek's Ryan Zuke answered with a power-play goal from Matt Grubba and Harris Richardson at 9:24 of the same period.

Nick Pollom scored what proved to be the game-winner at 6:41 of the second period from Richardson and Kelly Markaity.

Stoney Creek netminder Dane Gill stopped 20-of-21 shots, while Churchill's Adrian Motta had 23 saves.

"We played pretty solid - I was happy with the effort," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We had some chances, but we unable to find the back of the net. Stoney Creek is an aggressive and fast team. It was a good game up-and-down."

SALEM 4, CHURCHILL 0: They made start calling him Super Mario, too, after the Rocks' Mario Macari notched a hat trick Wednesday night as Salem (11-7-3, 4-1-2) took a giant step in clinching the KLAAs South Division crown with win over Livonia Churchill (6-8-4, 5-2-1).

The Rocks can earn the KLAAs South title outright with a victory Friday at Edgar Arena against winless Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7).

After a scoreless opening period, Macari scored at 1:27 of the second period from Kurt Driscoll and Josh Jarvela. Shawn Lyons made it 2-0 just 67 seconds later off assists from Patrick Patin and Kyle Powell.

Macari's second of the night from Jarvela increased the Salem lead to 3-0 at 11:20 of the same period.

Macari closed out at the scoring at the 46-second mark of the third with an assist from Driscoll.

Salem netminder Adam Powers stopped all 24 shots to post the shutout. Aaron Crouse had 12 saves for the Chargers.

"We had our chances, but our power play was ineffective," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Powers played well and Salem capitalized on its chances. They deserved the 'W'."

CANTON 8, FRANKLIN 0: Nick Tomilenko scored twice Wednesday as the host Chiefs (15-5-1, 3-3-1) invoked the eight-

goal mercy rule in the final period to beat Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7) in a KLAAs South Division game at Arctic Edge.

Mark Barath, Trent Taylor, Andrew Juback, Anthony Bonnett, Donnie Barlow and Ryan Lash also scored for Canton, which led 4-0 after one period and 6-0 after 13 minutes.

Jimmy Lafontaine contributed three assists.

Franklin, coming off losses to Walled Lake Northern (8-0) and Livonia Churchill (9-1), used two goaltenders starting Brandon Hawkins, who played the opening period. He was relieved by Travis Ferrier.

LADYWOOD 7, PLY-CANTON-SALEM 1: Shelby Kucharski scored five goals, raising her season total to 41, propelling Livonia Ladywood (9-7-1, 7-7-1) to a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win Tuesday over host Plymouth-Canton-Salem (3-15, 2-14) at the Arctic Edge.

Jennifer Fedon scored the game's first goal off an assist from Emily Bullock before Kucharski responded with four straight as the Blazers led 6-1 after two periods.

Lane Kolpacke and Rana Freij each added a goal and assist for Ladywood, while Emann Freij and Kaitlin Gaule collected three and two assists, respectively.

Other assists for the Blazers came from goaltender Jessica Pavela (13 saves), Brittany Galvin, Julie Bushart, Katie Folk, Katie Yelick and Kelsey Campbell.

Michelle Shaffer was in net for PCS.

Stevenson skates to 2-2 tie with No. 1 Northville

Top-ranked Northville got what it needed Wednesday night at Edgar Arena, skating to a 2-2 draw with host Livonia Stevenson to win the KLAAs Central Division boys hockey title outright.

The Mustangs, ranked No. 1 in Division 1, improved to 15-1-3 overall and finishes the KLAAs Central with 13 points at 5-0-3.

Stevenson, ranked No. 7 in the latest statewide coaches poll in Division 1, fell to 10-5-4 overall and 4-1-2 in the division (10 points) with one KLAAs Central game remaining.

The Mustangs led 1-0 after one period on the first of Matt Dembicki's two power-play goals, this one coming at 6:52.

Stevenson's R.J. Kierdorf scored his sixth of the year from Nolan Wilson at 3:36 of the second period before Dembicki answered with his second of the night at 10:26.

BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson's Cole Rochowick tallied the game-tying goal at 10:51 of the final period, a power-play from Trevor Baruzzini and John Vella.

"There was a good pace to the game - both ways," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It was a good up-and-down hockey game

and it was a good effort for us. It was nice to score that goal to tie (in the third period)."

Stevenson netminder Richie Dunphy made 19 saves, while Northville's Ted Keranen had 17 stops.

G.P. NORTH 5, STEVENSON 2: Justin Kovacs had two goals and two assists to lead Grosse Pointe North (11-6-1) to a victory Friday over Livonia Stevenson (10-6-4) in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase Friday at

Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

Justin Shureb notched his 16th of the season in the second period for the Spartans, who trailed only 2-1 after 30 minutes.

North, ranked No. 6 in Division 1, outscored Stevenson 3-1 in the decisive third period as John Strauch added his sixth of the year for the Spartans.

Stevenson, No. 7 in Division 1, was outshot by the Norsemen, 28-26.

Spartan goalie Danny Sager made 23 saves.

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Patriot girls tame South Lyon in battle of divisional leaders

Sophomore forward Chelsea Williams led the way with 17 points and four steals Wednesday night as Livonia Franklin downed visiting South Lyon, 56-43, in a battle of KLAAs Kensington Conference girls basketball co-leaders.

Franklin, tied with Canton in the KLAAs South at 6-1, improved to 13-2 overall with the victory.

Senior twins Briana and Brittany Taylor, despite both being in foul trouble, chipped in with 14 and 11 points, respectively, for the Patriots, who led 21-14 at halftime and 39-25 after three quarters.

South Lyon (13-2), tied in the KLAAs Central Division race at 6-1 with Novi and Salem, got a game-high 19 points from Kristin Short, who nailed four 3-pointers. Danielle Gotham, a 6-foot-4 senior center, added 12.

"The key to our success was running our offense, making good cuts and moving with and without the ball," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "And we were able to get some steals out of our 2-3 zone (defense)."

KLAAs GIRLS HOOPS

Franklin was 10-of-14 from the foul line, while South Lyon made only 7-of-17.

The win, however, was costly for the Patriots as junior guard Nicole Emery was transported to the hospital via ambulance after taking a hard foul with five minutes left in the game. McCall said Emery took a knee to the head and hurt her ribs and may have suffered a concussion.

CHURCHILL 47, JOHN GLENN 40: Senior point-guard Lindsey Graciak scored 17 points Friday as host Livonia Churchill (9-7, 4-4) downed Westland John Glenn (7-9, 3-5) for the second time this season.

Katie Stodulski and Alysa Boldiszar added 10 points apiece for the Chargers, who overcame a 20-19 halftime deficit.

Nyah McReynolds and Brittany Holbrook tallied 16 and 12, respectively, for the Rockets.

Churchill made 10-of-21 free throws, while Glenn was 5-of-7.

STEVENSON 52, S. LYON EAST 38: Senior center Kaylee McGrath had 14 points and 15 rebounds Friday to lead host Livonia Stevenson (6-10, 2-6) to a KLAAs Central Division win over

South Lyon East (1-15, 0-8).

Nine players scored for the Spartans as Nina Bonanno and Amanda Jenaway each added six. Sophomore Kristen Balhorn grabbed eight rebounds.

The Spartans also made 17-of-22 foul shots, while East was 14-of-29.

Kayla Evans and Taylor Jones each scored seven for the Cougars, who fell behind 28-16 at halftime.

"We got everybody involved and it helped our energy," Stevenson first-year coach Paul Tripp said. "We also did a good job rebounding the ball."

FRANKLIN 58, WAYNE 21: On Friday, Chelsea Williams scored 14 points, while senior twins Briana and Brittany Taylor added nine and eight, respectively, leading KLAAs South Division co-leader Livonia Franklin (14-2, 7-1) past Wayne Memorial (2-14, 0-8).

Holland Boertje tallied six for the Zebras, who fell behind 20-2 after one quarter.

CHURCHILL 50, S. LYON EAST 16: In a KLAAs Kensington Conference cross-over Thursday, Darcy DeRoo had 11 points and Alysa Boldiszar added 10 as host Livonia Churchill (8-7) rolled to a victory over South Lyon East (1-14).

The Chargers were 11-of-14 from the foul line, while East did not attempt a free throw.

Despite loss, C'ville coach optimistic

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Keeping things in perspective is key for any struggling team, and Livonia Clarenceville girls basketball coach Julie Patterson is taking the high road even after her team's 45-32 loss last Tuesday at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood.

"I thought we played well," Patterson said. "They (Cranes) are a top team in the conference and I thought we had a

pretty good game. We worked hard inside for some good looks."

Clarenceville, now 3-13 and 1-6 in the Metro Conference following the loss, trailed 26-12 at halftime but enjoyed a 10-6 edge in the third frame to slice the Cranes lead to 10 points.

Senior Marlene Azar tallied 12 points for the Trojans, with sophomore Jenna Burgess chipping in with six points and four rebounds. Junior Paige Davis, sophomore Brittany

Tallman and senior Megan Tallman each registered four points.

Abby Cohen scored 14 points to pace Cranbrook (10-7, 7-0).

Clarenceville will be the seventh seed as it opens the Metro Conference playoffs 7 p.m. Monday at No. 2 seed Macomb Lutheran North, which earlier this season handed the short-handed Trojans, which dressed only seven players, a 59-29 setback.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Hawks rout MIAC Red leader, 70-47

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran played spoiler Friday night at home, upending Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division leader Novi Franklin Road Christian, 70-47.

The Hawks were led by Tyler Wagaman and Aaron Howell, each scoring 17 points. Bryan Gruenewald added 16 and Kyle Tacia contributed 14 as Huron Valley improves to 9-5 overall and 6-2 in the MIAC.

"We worked on the last few days of practice on rebounding and we attacked the

BOYS HOOPS

basket," said HVL coach Jim Ott, whose team avenged a 69-45 setback to the Warriors on Jan. 23. "It was also our defense and we made free throws (26-of-33) to shut them down."

Nick Ward and David Mansfield tallied 20 and 16, respectively, for Franklin Road, which fell behind 27-15 at halftime and 45-26 after three periods.

The Warriors also played the

final three quarters without head coach Bryan Molnar, who was ejected by officials after receiving two technical fouls.

CLARENCEVILLE 68, LUTH. NORTH 49: Jamie Stewart scored 34 points and pulled down 11 rebounds Friday night to pace Livonia Clarenceville (9-6, 7-0) to this Metro Conference victory over Macomb Lutheran North (3-12, 2-4).

Other contributions came from Nathan Clark (14 points, seven assists), Darryl Whitaker (eight points, six steals) and Corey Reynolds (13 rebounds).

Kevin Geisler scored 17 for the Mustangs.

Schoolcraft clips Wayne CCC, 59-56

Greg Leavell continued his sterling play with 16 points and eight rebounds to pace a balanced attack Wednesday as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team surprised visiting Wayne County Community College, 56-56.

Schoolcraft is now 7-19 overall and 4-11 in the MCCAAs Eastern Conference.

Leavell, a 6-foot-4 sophomore from Farmington Hills Harrison, had plenty of help as other contributions came from Bruce Watson (14

COLLEGE HOOPS

points), Wayne Memorial's Martez Abney (12 points) and Ryan Matthews (10 points, 10 rebounds).

The loss drops Wayne County to 15-8 overall and 8-7 in the conference.

AQUINAS 63, MADONNA 40: Pedja Lazic and John Lierman each tallied 13 points Wednesday night, lifting Aquinas College (18-9, 9-2) to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over Madonna University (10-17, 4-7) in Grand Rapids.

Aquinas, ranked No. 25 in the latest NAIA Division II poll, maintained its one-game lead in the WHAC standings over Indiana Tech, Cornerstone and Davenport, all at 8-3.

Lazic also grabbed 10 rebounds, while Jordan Torres contributed 11 points for the Saints, who led 27-19 at intermission.

Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) and Bryant Slaughter (Westland) paced the Crusaders with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

MU shot just 29.1 percent from the floor (16-of-55), while the Saints (hit 23-of-52 (44.2 percent).

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 125 CANTON 58
Feb. 12 at Stevenson
200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Kellen Schoff, Joey Wingett, Michael Cruce, Chris Behler), 1:42.1; 2. Stevenson, 1:46.38; 3. Canton, 1:47.46.
200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Schoff (LS), 1:54.81; 2. Jay Jin (C), 1:54.95; 3. Jack Hiltz (LS), 2:02.36.
200 individual medley: 1. Jake McNamara (LS), 2:17.8; 2. Eric Schuman (LS), 2:18.12; 3. Brendan Stanisz (LS), 2:22.4.
50 freestyle: 1. Cruce (LS), 23.26; 2.

Richard Zhang (C), 23.39; 3. Ryan Scott (LS), 23.48.
1-meter diving: 1. Jeff Kinsvater (LS), 236.82 points; 2. Ryan Kilgore (C), 157.28; 3. Nick Austin (C), 153.67.
100 butterfly: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 55.49; 2. Adam Dabowski (LS), 59.65; 3. Mark Johnston (LS), 1:04.53.
100 freestyle: 1. R. Zhang (C), 51.45; 2. Scott (LS), 52.26; 3. Mohamed Ghotemi (LS), 53.11.
500 freestyle: 1. Jin (C), 5:11.48; 2. Adam Laporte (LS), 5:13.87; 3. McNamara (LS), 5:27.93.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Scott, Dabkowski, Cruce, Behler), 1:32.66; 2. Stevenson, 1:33.53; 3. Canton, 1:37.61.
100 backstroke: 1. Charles Turlo (LS), 1:01.17; 2. Mikel Schaub (LS), 1:04.42; 3. Christopher Krebs (C), 1:05.93.
100 breaststroke: 1. Wingett (LS), 1:01.32; 2. K. Schoff (LS), 1:07.0; 3. David Bladecki (LS), 1:10.14.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Turlo, Dabkowski, Jerome Pesta, Behler), 3:30.21; 2. Stevenson, 3:32.48; 3. Canton, 3:50.93.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 8-2 overall.

PREP BOWLING

BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 23 NOVI 7
Feb. 11 at Novi Bowl
Clarenceville leading scorers: Chris Diaz, 228-191-419; Cody Kissandi, 224; Phillip Heidler, 214; Jason Bertera, 201. **Team totals:** 921-980-1791 (17 points).
Novi leading scorers: Erik Laird, 216; Evan Giamper, 204-196-400. **Team totals:** 926-869-1795 (17 points).
Baker games: Clarenceville, 183-186-369 (10 points); Novi, 159-172-331 (0 points).
WAYNE MEMORIAL 29 SOUTH LYON EAST 1
Feb. 10 at Novi Bowl
Wayne individual scorers: T.J. Lave, 300-202-502; Josh Vojtkofsky, 214-249-463; Elliott Arnold, 232-217-449; Kellen Collison, 184-178-362; Mark Shiemke, 162-190-352. **Team totals:** Wayne, 1,092-1,036-2,128 (19 points); East, 824-850-1,674 (1 point).
Baker games: Wayne, 238-191-429 (10 points); East, 146-189-335 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 12-3-1 overall, 8-1 KLAAs Kensington Conference

(Central Division); East, 1-8 KLAAs Central.
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 27 NORTH FARMINGTON 7
Feb. 9 at Country Lanes
Clarenceville leading scorers: Chris Diaz, 300-221-521 (first perfect game in school history); Jason Bertera, 215-205-420. **Team totals:** 1,117-947-2,064 (17 points).
North leading scorers: Justin Lapides, 248-214-462; Ryan Turner, 213-205-418. **Team totals:** 976-927-1,903 (3 points).
Baker games: Clarenceville, 230-175-405 (10 points); North, 181-156-337 (0 points).
WAYNE MEMORIAL 24 NOVI 6
Feb. 4 at Novi Bowl
Wayne individual scorers: Ryan Gabriel, 194-219-413; Kellen Collison, 183-205-388; Elliott Arnold, 208-175-383; T.J. Lave, 190-192-382; Mark Shiemke-Jesse English, 194-174-368. **Team totals:** Wayne, 969-965-1,934 (14 points); Novi, 857-1,000-1,857 (6 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 234-264-498 (10 points); Novi, 188-188-376 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 12-3-1 overall, 7-1 KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division); Novi, 3-5 KLAAs Central.

GIRLS DUAL MATCH RESULTS FARMINGTON HILLS 25 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 3
Feb. 12 at Drake's Lanes
Clarenceville's leading scorers: Taylor Krueger, 198.
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 25 NOVI 5
Feb. 11 at Novi Bowl
Clarenceville leading scorers: Amy Weible, 225; Amber Cummins, 211. **Team totals:** 848-867-1,715 (19 points).
Novi leading scorers: Leslie Brown, 268. **Team totals:** 800-616-1,416 (0 points).
Baker games: Clarenceville, 166-157-323 (6 points); Novi, 121-163-284 (4 points).
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 27 NORTH FARMINGTON 3
Feb. 9 at Country Lanes
Clarenceville leading scorers: Amanda Dailey, 246-193-439; Amber Cummins, 208; Bridget Moricz, 190. **Team totals:** Clarenceville, 885-906-1,791 (17 points); North, 768-740-1,508 (3 points).
Baker games: Clarenceville, 244-201-445 (10 points); North, 120-177-297 (0 points).

SPORTS SHORTS

Livonia netter Cole 1st

Livonia resident Patrick Cole, a junior at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, captured the 16-and-under division title Fairlane Winter Fest Tennis Tournament held Jan. 31-Feb. 1, at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn.

Perfect games on lanes

■ On Feb. 10, Wayne Memorial's T.J. Lave bowled a perfect 300 in a 29-1 KLAAs Central Division win over South Lyon East at Novi Bowl.
■ On Feb. 9, Livonia

Clarenceville's Chris Diaz rolled a 300 boys in a 27-3 win over North Farmington at Country Lanes. That occurred on the heels of teammate Jason Bertera's 297 last week against Northville at Novi Bowl.

Waza Flo falls in OT

Detroit Waza Flo Pro rallied from a 4-0 deficit, but lost in overtime to the Stockton (Calif.) Cougars, 7-6, in a Professional Arena Soccer League match Sunday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena. Bernie Lilavois completed

his hat trick, one-timing a pass from Nelson Santana past Waza goalkeeper Brian Alenky for the game-winner 1:42 into OT.

Stockton, leading the PASL's Western Division, is 8-4, while Waza Flo drops to 4-9 in the Eastern Division.

Waza Flo goal scorers included player-coach Dominica Scicluna (7-10), Adam Nesbitt, Daniel Trosper, Blake Ordell and Rogerio Oliveria.

Waza Flo returns to action 4:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 at Compuware against Eastern leader 1790 Cincinnati (10-2).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

C'ville basketball camp

The Trojan Fundamental Basketball Camp for boys and girls in grades 3-8 will be from noon to 3 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 16-17, at Livonia Clarenceville High School.

The cost is \$20 per person. (Checks should be made payable to Clarenceville Basketball.)

For more information, e-mail Clarenceville varsity boys basketball coach Corey McKendry at cmae721@yahoo.com.

AAU girls hoop tryouts

■ Tryouts for the Livonia Hurricanes, 16-and-under AAU girls basketball team will be held in March.

For more information, call Jim Milican (734) 709-2412 or (734) 522-7461.

■ Tryouts for the 13-and-under Lady Sundevils AAU girls basketball teams will be from 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at Livonia Ladywood High School.

The tryout cost is \$15. Any girl age 13 after July 31, 2008 is eligible to tryout. (The 14- and 15-and-under tryouts will be held at a later date.)

For more information, e-mail John Kenger at ladysundevils@hotmail.com.

CYO football signup

Registration for Livonia St. Michael 2009 Catholic Youth Organization football for fall grades 4-8 will be

from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 at the school gym, located at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road between Merriman and Farmington roads.

Registration is open to members of the following parishes or schools: St. Michael, St. Maurice, St. Genevieve, St. Aidan, St. Damian, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Sabina, St. Mel, Divine Savior, St. Theodore, St. Bernardine and St. John Bosco.

For more information, call John Widmer at (248) 471-6767, Ext. 11; or e-mail jwidmer@frohmmwidmer.com.

AAU volleyball tryouts

Tryouts for the spring TVO girls AAU girls volleyball program (ages 10-17) will be Saturday Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1.

The program is based out of Livonia and is open to experienced and new players. Limited space is available.

To register for the tryouts, call Gary Smart at (734) 432-5959; or e-mail smart5959@sbcglobal.net.

WYAA baseball-softball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball will continue from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, through April 4, at the Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of

Ford Road).

Baseball registrations will be offered for T-ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18). The WYAA is chartered through Pony Baseball.

Registration for girls includes slow-pitch (ages 9-18) and fast-pitch (10- through 16-and-under).

The WYAA includes a fundraiser to offset the cost of the program. Participants will also be given one raffle ticket for every \$5 of paid registration fees. Extra tickets can be used to enter the WYAA draw, or sold to recover the cost of registration.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

Wayne-Westland soccer

The final registration deadline for the Wayne-Westland Soccer League's 2009 spring season will be Feb. 15 (for a \$15 late fee).

To register online, visit www.wywsoccer.com. For more information, call (734) 467-5260.

Girls fast-pitch softball

The Livonia Storm is seeking to add 10-and-under teams girls fast-pitch softball teams - must be ages 8-10 as of Dec. 31, 2008.

For more information regarding a special tryout and learn from experienced coaches, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109.

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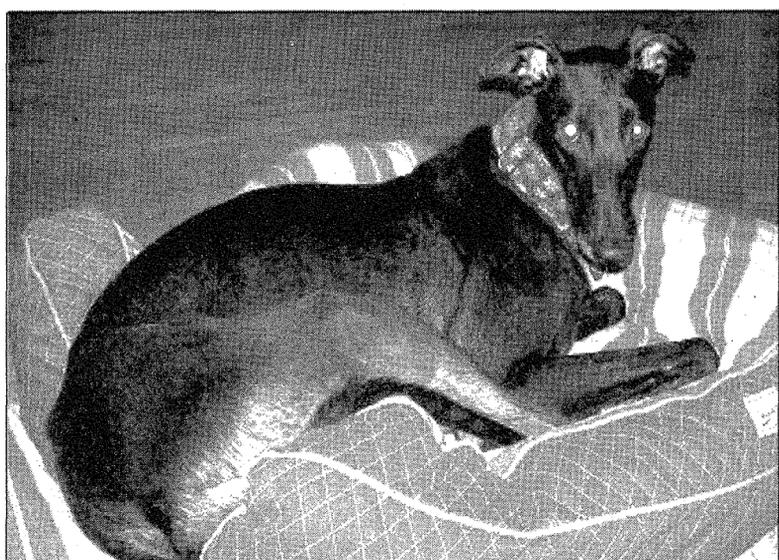
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Bailey is a 2-year-old handsome black greyhound in need of a permanent home. He has very good manners, loves to be with people and play with his stuffed toys. He has been neutered and is up to date on vaccinations. If you would like to meet Bailey, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

Is your dog a star?

The Humane Society of Huron Valley wants to know if your dog has what it takes to star in the 30th annual Walk & Wag fund-raiser Saturday, May 16. The winner of the Celebrity Spokesdog contest will lead the way as

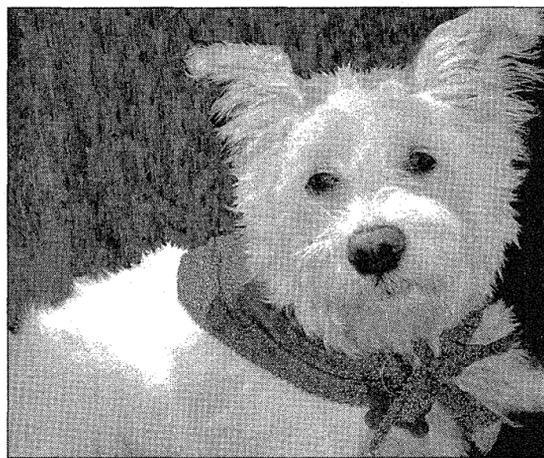


Linda Chomin Clancy, our big blond Irish Wolfhound,

doesn't have the good looks of a celebrity dog but we love him anyway. Five minutes after you brush his wiry coat he's back to scruffy. My sister, Gwen, and I call him ruggedly handsome but beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder when it comes to this dog.

It's a good thing beauty isn't one of the criteria to be a celebrity spokesdog because Clancy is cute in other ways. Yesterday afternoon, he was trying to look as innocent as he could while gently reaching for the broccoli on the kitchen counter. Those big brown eyes could melt a snowman. Clancy adds many touching moments to our lives. I can have the worst day in the world and when I come home that wagging tail cheers me up. The joy he brings my sister and me doesn't stop there. I suppose we're like any other dog-loving family and these stories are the ones the Humane Society of Huron Valley would like to hear. The winning dog not only leads the walk but appears in posters, brochures and the HSHV Web page publicizing the event.

Entries must be received by March 1, and include a picture of your dog along with a \$15 donation and essay (250 words or less) telling why your special pooch should be the 2009 Walk & Wag Celebrity Spokesdog. For more information, visit www.hshv.org or call (734) 662-5585.



Libby, a shelter dog, was the 2008 Celebrity Spokesdog for Walk & Wag, the Humane Society of Huron Valley fund-raiser.

"Last year, a terrier mix won after a 9-year-old girl wrote about how much their dog had changed their family and Libby was a shelter dog — but the dog does not have to be an alum of the Humane Society to enter. They just have to be spayed or neutered and able to be friendly with other dogs," said Deb Kern, HSHV marketing director. "We want every dog to enter, if they think their dog could be a celebrity spokesdog. It's about the best story and the one that touches the judges' hearts. We had about 80 entries last year. It was very difficult. We just read and read."

"I'll bet there are plenty of heart-warming stories out there. Last year, HSHV reunited 790 lost animals and their owners and helped 3,343 dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, bunnies, and birds find homes. The nonprofit shelter services Washtenaw County, Canton and Plymouth. I learned something this week that could mean the difference in finding Clancy if he is ever lost. When dogs are picked up in Plymouth and Canton, they are taken to HSHV not the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. HSHV is not affiliated with MHS and its funding comes only from donations,

adoption fees, the clinic, and Walk & Wag fund-raiser. That's why the event is so important, plus it's fun.

"Everybody brings their dog and walks," said Kern. "Friends and family donate pledges for the walk. There's doggie entertainment and doggie games, a contest for the best dog trick, a bone and biscuit hunt, bobbing for weenies, a pet psychic, sponsors with tables and lots of giveaways."

A raffle offers prizes including \$1,000 and four tickets to see the University of Michigan football team play rival Ohio State.

"Last year, we raised \$130,000. We're trying to raise \$140,000 this year," said Kern. "The money goes to our general operating fund. We did 2,029 low cost spay and neuters last year and are building a new facility. It will increase dog space by almost half, cats almost triple. We're an open admissions shelter. It doesn't matter what kind of animal it is. We have a 72 percent save rate. We aspire to do the best for every animal."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com and (313) 222-2241.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School Class of 1989

Planning a July 25 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brighton-classof1989.

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. Visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynilitu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit schools

We are planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Past Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or Marlene Kutnick Yamron (e-mail) hahatdc@yahoo.com. The reunion is planned for Feb. 27, 2009.

Henry Ford II Class of 1982

Looking for classmates. We are having a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek MetroPark and we're also planning a reunion in 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doemer) Bamback at 248-740-9759, ford21982@aol.com or visit our FREE class webpage on www.classreport.org.

Detroit St. Casimir High School Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009 Class Reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at PJcruisin@wowway.com.

Garden City High School East Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 High School Tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11

a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum Tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C. 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park Large Pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth (734) 522-1845.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

20th reunion 6 p.m.-midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gch-s1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

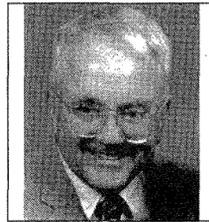
Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Passages 2/15/09
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
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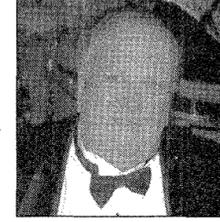
BARBARA E. BLACKFORD

Age 73, of Romulus. Joined her husband and son in heaven on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Dear mother of Denise Staley, Darlene Staley, Darryl Staley, James Staley, and Frank Blackford. Grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of five. Sister of Richard Pulley, Phyllis (Donald) Kilgore, Rose (Roy) Cook, Mary (Chuck) Parish, and Janet (Ray) Fisher. As many other family and friends who will miss her dearly. She was preceded in passing by her parents Ezra F. and Edna Maxine (Feeney) Pulley, son Daniel Staley, husband James Staley, and brother Donald Pulley. Friends may call at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 Tuesday, Feb. 17 after 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service to be held at 12:00-Noon. Memorials may be directed to the family.



LOWELL D. SCHLANBUSCH

There was no separating church life from everyday life as Lowell Dale Schlanbusch saw things...to him every person he came in contact with was a life to be celebrated. Through his generous spirit and sense of humor, he brought joy and comfort to hundreds of Detroiters with whom he worked at General Motors and thru spiritual leadership in the Episcopal Church. Born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, raised in Columbus, Ohio, Lowell settled in the northern metropolitan Detroit area in the early 1950's. He was hired at General Motors as a mail boy and worked his way up the corporate ladder in the financial staff with a career that spanned 30 years at the auto giant. Lowell is an alumni of Ohio State University, University of Detroit and Detroit College of Law. While working at GM, Lowell attended night classes at the Whitaker School of Theology in Detroit and was ordained to the Priesthood in the early 1970's at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield. He was Vicar of St. Alfred's Episcopal Church in Lake Orion and later Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Madison Heights. However, his largest parish he jokingly referred to as "St. General Motors" as he dedicated his life to serving people when ever and where ever he could. Upon retirement from General Motors, he obtained his Master in Divinity from St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. Wearing many hats, especially from January thru April, he completed hundreds of individual income taxes, being recognized by the Detroit Free Press in an article entitled, "Holy 1040." Lowell was enormously involved with the Detroit Cursillo Movement serving as Spiritual Director for 32 Cursillo weekends and was a founding member of "The Disciples", a group of Christian men and women dedicated to fellowship and service. He served as Diocesan Chaplain for the Order of The Daughters of the King and was involved in the Prison and Liturgical Clown ministries. Lowell had a passion for working with youth. As a boy he was active in the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His love of scouting continued, establishing two Boy Scout Troops in the Birmingham area and serving as Scoutmaster for many years. He developed youth programs based upon the Cursillo method for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan which influenced and inspired hundreds of teens from Detroit to Alpena. Lowell passed away on February 8, 2009 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart of 58 years, Sue (Zahn) Schlanbusch, four children: Joan Walsh (Richard), Lewis (Dr. Mary Puls), Sara Mattocks (Norman) and Amy Schlanbusch as well as six grandchildren: Laura and Jeffrey Walsh, Luke and Emily Kujawa, Gus Schlanbusch and Noah Mattocks. There will be a Requiem Eucharist and Celebration of Lowell's life at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Arrangements handled by Gendernalik Funeral Home 586-725-0177. Memorial Contributions can be made in Lowell D. Schlanbusch's name to St. Mark's Episcopal Church 527 N William Street, Marine City, MI 48039 or the Boy Scouts of America, Detroit Area Council, BSA Dauch Scout Center, Attn: Wanda Bohannon, 1776 W. Warren Ave, Detroit MI 48208, or online @ www.bsadetroit.org following the link to "Support Scouting & Scout Tribute". Memorial messages can be posted on sympathytree.com/lowellschlanbusch



ROBERT R. MEYERAND "BOB"

Of Canton, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Friday, January 30th, 2009. Age 61 after a 3 and 1/2 courageous battle with Prostate Cancer. Beloved husband of Bonnie (nee: Seemann). Loving father of Lori (Tom) Moesta, Kimberly (Joe) Colteran, Shawn (Dawn) Ipvvec, Robert J. (Jen) Meyerand, Lisa Meyerand and Lisa Lemley. Devoted grandfather of Christopher, Rikki, Nicolas, Richard, Samantha, Myles, Alexis, Ainsley, Hillarie, Brendan and Kevin. Proud brother of James Meyerand and Karol (Rick) Aune. He was born on September 24, 1947 in Detroit, graduated in 1965 from Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores. He attended Wayne State University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Finance. He was elected to the Wayne State Beta Gamma Sigma and the National Honor Society for Business Management. Bob was the Controller for Center Steel Sales in Allen Park. Bob loved family gatherings, parties with friends, Corvettes, travel, the Red Wings and the Canton Soccer Club. Bob has been involved for over 20 years with the Canton Soccer Club, coaching his son and grandson and in 2001 received the Canton Soccer Club Coach of the Year Award. Bob has also been involved with for over 20 years. In addition to coaching, Bob served the Canton Soccer Club administratively as President, Treasurer, Representative to GLSL, In House Coordinator, Premier/Select Coordinator, Tournament Treasurer and Tournament Age Group Coordinator. He continued to be actively involved in soccer administration until shortly before his passing. Bob is being inducted into the MSYSA 2009 Hall of Fame on February 28th, 2009. Memorial contributions may be made in Bob's name to the Prostate Cancer Foundation; 1250 Fourth Street; Santa Monica, CA. 90401.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

ELDEAN "DEAN" GOLTZ

Age 62. February 10, 2009. Beloved husband of Lynn. Dear father of Michelle (Chris) Anderson and Eric Goltz. Grandfather of Rachel and Nicholas Anderson. Brother of Carol (Michael) Jensen and Brian (Lisa) Goltz. Uncle of Mirinda Goltz and Christopher Jensen. Funeral Services were held Saturday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Contributions suggested to the American Heart Association or Michigan Humane Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

ELIZABETH M. WHITBECK

Age 85. Formerly of Redford, MI. Feb. 7, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

GERALD ZMIKLY

February 12, 2009. Age 62, of Canton. Beloved husband of Diane. Loving father of Brian (Penny), Nichole Cullin and Shelly (Tim) Harden. Grandfather of Marcus, Mitchell, Paige, Emma, and Ty. Also survived by his mother Josephine and siblings Bob, Ken, Carol, and Linda. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm, McCabe Funeral home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. In state Monday 10am until time of Mass 10:30am, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent DePaul. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

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When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.
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Call 1-800-579-7355

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

At English Gardens

The store celebrates its 7th Annual Orchid Festival with free seminars, visits from growers and displays of more than 50 varieties of orchids shipped weekly from Florida, California and Hawaii.

■ How to start seeds indoors, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at all stores. Learn how to grow your own plants. English Gardens experts will share their knowledge of growing flowers and vegetables from seed. Learn which varieties work best, and what's required to get the best results.

■ Perennial gardening, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at all stores. Garden experts will discuss the basics of design, care and planting perennials in the garden, and will provide information on selection, as well as combining colors and varieties.

Visit English Gardens stores at 44850 Garfield at Hall in Clinton Township, (586) 286-6100; 6370 Orchard Lake Road at Maple, West Bloomfield, (248)

851-7506; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Driver in Dearborn, (313) 278-4433; and 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Michigan Orchid Society

Jim Heilig will talk about "Multiflora Phalaenopsis" at the organization's next meeting, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information go to www.miorchids.com or call (586) 416-1496.

At Meadow Brook

Don Lafond will talk about rock gardening in south eastern Michigan at Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club's next meeting, at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 27, in the ballroom at the hall, located on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Guests are welcome. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 non-member donation. For more information call (248) 887-1983, or (248) 276-0136, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Mark your calendars

The Michigan State African Violet Society will hold its annual spring display and plant sale, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

Saturday, April 4 and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, April 5 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, Ann Arbor. African Violets will be on display and available for purchase. Gesneriads will be available, along with supplies. For more information call (248) 698-3628 or e-mail to INGRIDBOWMAN07@comcast.net.

Water solutions

Beth Rowley, owner of Landscape Beauty by Design, will offer practical, water-saving advice on mowing, fertilizing and watering your lawn at 7 p.m., April 21, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. She'll also talk about creative landscaping to save water. The program is free, although registration is required. (734) 397-0999.

Yard Scraps to Garden Treasure

Advanced Master Gardeners and composters Nancy Perry and Luann Davis of the Canton Garden Club, will talk about using inexpensive vermicomposting methods to enrich soil and reduce waste, at 7 p.m., April 22, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. Register for the free program by calling (734) 397-0999.

NEIGHBORS

Marching for life

Local youth join together to stop abortion

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Curtis Schuelke is only 15 but he's already fired up about abortion. As a young person he's not alone. High school and college students made up at least half of the hundreds of thousands of pro-life marchers in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

Schuelke was one of the teens from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church who took part in the event. Youth groups from St. Michael in Livonia and St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington joined together to travel to the 36th annual March for Life that marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which in 1973 gave women the right to choose. They recently spoke about the trip that left St. Gerald with every bus seat filled.

"Abortion isn't really talked about," said Schuelke, a 10th-grade student at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. "We need to start publicizing what abortion is. The march is one of the ways to do it."

Patrick Cummings not only demonstrates annually in Washington, but is out on the streets every Saturday morning counseling women on their way in to abortion clinics. The Westland man is one of the Guadalupe Partners, a nonprofit organization that will present a Life Fair on March 1 along with St. Michael's Gospel of Life Committee, which sponsored their youth group at the march. The March 1 event is an opportunity to learn about right-to-life activism in the community. In

LIFE FAIR

What: An afternoon to learn about opportunities for right-to-life activism in the community
When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 1
Where: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard at Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org or www.guadalupepartners.org.

addition to sidewalk counseling, Guadalupe Partners supports mothers emotionally and materially by delivering food and furniture and helping them get assistance, a GED or job training.

"Guadalupe Partners tries to support them to have their children," said Cummings. "The first time a mom decides not to go in you know you've saved a life. It changes you forever. More people would be against abortion if they knew the truth about how far the baby was along."

TEEN ACTIVISTS

The sea of young people attending the march gave Cummings hope for the future. It was his 16-year-old daughter, Alex Cummings, who enlightened Mike Shesterkin, her best friend's father, about abortion and the belief that life begins at conception. The Livonia man even voted against Barack Obama after he learned about his pro-choice stand.

"It was important to be counted among the many who were there," said Shesterkin,



PHOTO BY PATRICK CUMMINGS

Megan Doulette, Mike Shesterkin, Alex Cummings, and Hillary Shesterkin took part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. They are all members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia.

whose daughter, Hillary, goes to Ladywood High School with Alex. "My daughter was touched and inspired. It was an inspiring experience for me as well. I was inspired to see a number of legislators there who continue to fight for life. They're not giving up."

Launa Wakenhut is just happy to see the focus being put on the unborn babies.

"In years past, it was on the woman's life and the thinking was her life should come first," said Wakenhut. "Over the years, a set of language has developed that talks about the life being taken."

BEYOND CATHOLICISM

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan says it's not only Catholics who

feel strongly about abortion.

"It's an ecumenical movement," said Sister Madigan, assistant youth minister at St. Michael, where she teaches seventh-grade catechism. "Last year, we were out there about seven hours but we were there for a good cause."

This was the second year Amanda Posh, 17, and her mother, Annemarie, made the trip. Not even the memory of freezing cold and rain last year could keep them away. Amanda could have gone with classmates at Divine Child High School but wanted to share the experience with her mother and students in the St. Michael youth group.

"Life is probably the most precious gift God has given us and I wanted to be there to protest," Amanda said. "I talked to my friend about it and she came with us. After I told other friends about the march and they want to go next year. There are a lot of people at school against abortion."

Annemarie Posh sees abortion as a "cop out."

"I feel adoption is so courageous to give life to people who want a baby so bad," she said.

The big sign in front of St. Gerald lets women know help is available. The church's pro-life



PHOTO BY PATTY BREEN

Members of St. Gerald Catholic Church's Youth Group on their way to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Pictured are Candace Majewski (left standing), Caitlin McInnis, (clockwise), Mary Taffe, and Carly Burke (left front).

Gabriel Project is holding a baby shower March 7-8 to collect donations of strollers, cribs, diapers, and formulas. For information, call (248) 477-7470.

Patty Breen can't imagine a woman having an abortion. The 23-year old Livonia resident is coordinator of youth ministry at St. Gerald.

"It was good for them to see hundreds of thousands of people

who value the gift of life from God," said Breen. "I remember my mom telling me what abortion was, I thought why would someone want to do that. Years later I think it's weird to think about who might be missing — your neighbor, your sibling, your cousin — if there had been an abortion."

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A Note from Florine

President's Day celebrates the leadership of America's two most respected presidents. This year, be your own Lincoln or Washington and take charge of your health. I can't say enough how important it is to work exercise into your life. Whether its 10 minutes a day of walking outdoors, or "window shopping" around the mall for 30 minutes, remaining active and raising your metabolism will make you feel better and burn calories.

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Mar. 1*, 6, 7, 8*

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MILESTONES

Sutton-Devlin

John and Wendy Sutton of Garden City wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sandra Jane, to Anthony Joseph of Livonia, on Oct. 4, 2008.

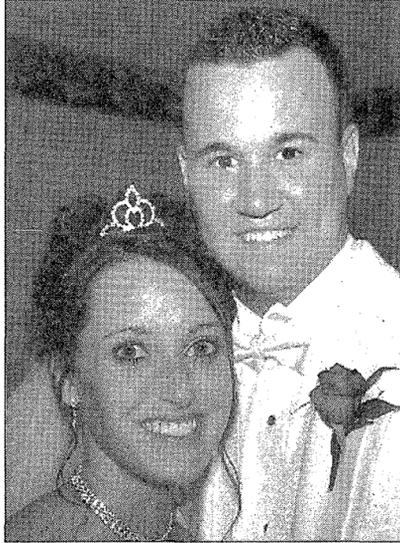
The bride graduated in 2005 from Garden City High School. She obtained her medical certification certificate from Schoolcraft College and is currently working in an urgent care clinic in Tucson, Ariz., and attending school to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

The groom, son of Linda and Joseph Devlin of Livonia, graduated from Livonia Churchill High School in 2004. He attended Schoolcraft College before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, where he is a C-130 crew chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

The Rev. Kevin Brown of Metro South Church of Trenton officiated the ceremony.

The bride was attended by maid of honor Rachel Telfer, and bridesmaids Amy Brehmer, Becky Pakos, Amber Devlin, Katie Ferrell and Kala Jackson. The groom was attended by best man Dan Rais, and groomsmen Jason Sutton, Tyler Tagami, Marc Couillais, Nick Davio and Brandon Genette.

Their two 'flower dudes,' who carried top hats with rose petals, were Benjerman Ferrell, 8, and Joseph Ferrell, 6. The ring bearer was Logan



Ferrell, 3. The reception was held at Joy Manor. The couple plans to reside in Arizona until Tony's tour of duty ends.

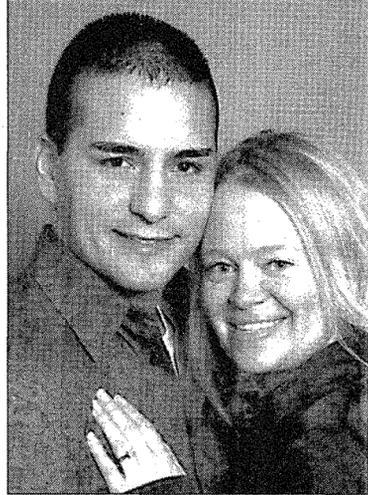
Walthers-Albrecht

Mr. and Mrs. John Albrecht of Westland announce the engagement of their son Jeffrey Bryant Albrecht to Elizabeth Ann Walthers of Essixville.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Dominique and Tammy Walthers. She is a graduate of Northwood University and currently employed at Delphi.

Jeffrey is a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland and has a teaching degree from Olivet College.

Jeffrey is a math teacher at



Riverside Academy. A July wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Essixville.



Reid baby

Francine Moore, who works for the Farmington Hills Police Department, and Don Reid, of Redford Township, announce the birth of their son, Spencer Ronald Reid. The 6-pound, 8-ounce Spencer measured 19- 1/2 inches at his birth, at 7:56 a.m. on Aug. 4, 2008 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is the grandson of Delores Moore and half-brother of Donnie Reid and Danielle McNamara.

Kain-LaMontagne

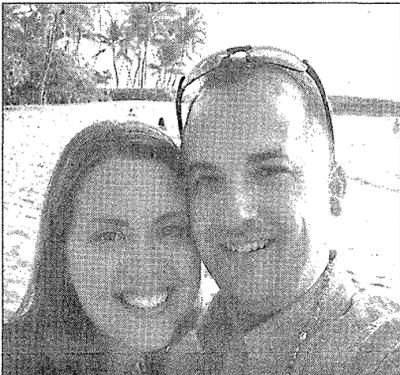
Ellen and Robert Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory A. Kain to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland, son of Lynne and John LaMontagne of Livonia

The couple were wed Nov. 8, 2008 at Christ Church in Redford by Pastor Mark Einem. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom's attendants were Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich. Following the ceremony, the couple received guests at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills and enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. They plan to reside in Westland.



Brown-Kramer

Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Rose Brown, to Joel Douglas Kramer, son of Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2003 graduate of Madonna University in Livonia. She works in corporate communications at Valassis. The groom graduated in 1994 from Bishop Foley High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in 2003 from Lawrence Technological University. He works as a structural engineer at SSOE, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. The couple plans to wed in October at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills.



Wysocki-Kenyon

Randolph and Cathy Wysocki of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Melissa, to Robert Shawn Kenyon, son of Doris Kenyon of Wayne and Robert Lee Kenyon of Plymouth. The bride-to-be graduated from Garden City High School and now owns Hair FX Studio in Canton where she is a hair stylist. The groom graduated from John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. He is a police officer for the city of Westland. Their wedding is planned for March.



Derouin baby

Melissa Lanier and Nik Derouin of Plymouth announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey Leeza Derouin. She was born Dec. 16, 2008 at University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandparents are John and Anne Lanier of Canton and Bill and Mary Derouin of Fowlerville and Canton. Her great-grandparents are Larue Lanier of Waxahachie, Texas; and the late Clyde Lanier, Jean Dutton, David and Liza David, and Don and Ann Humphrey.

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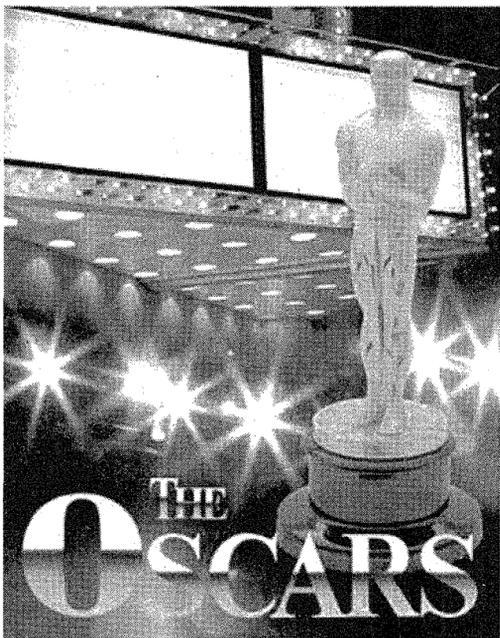
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- Actor in a Leading Role
- Actress in a Leading Role
- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role

In the event of a tie a tie breaker will be used.)

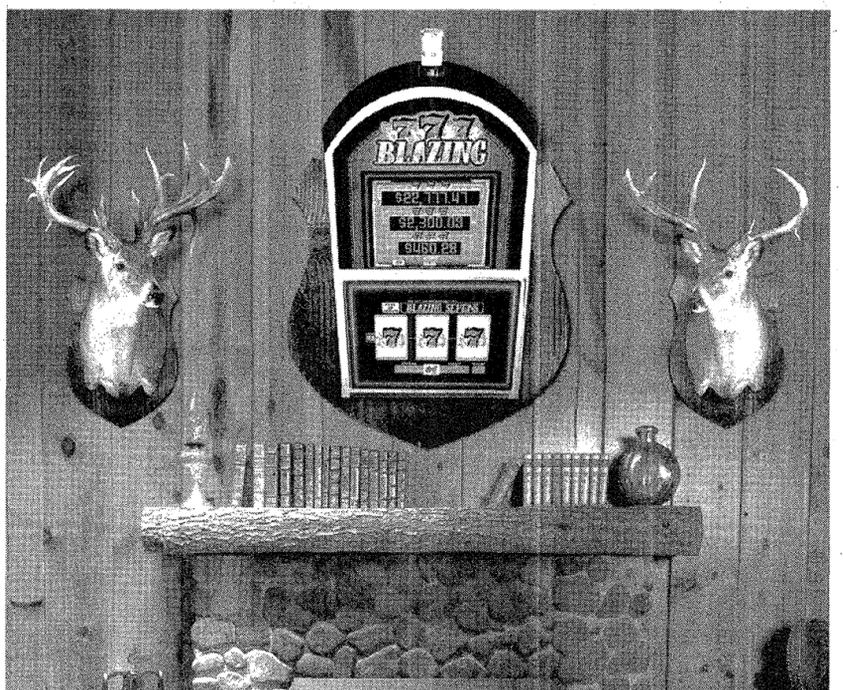
Tie Breaker(s):

- Directing
- Music (Score)
- Cinematography
- Documentary Feature

(In the event that there is a tie, a name will be randomly selected)

All entries must be received by Friday, February 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered.

Sponsored by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Mirror Newspaper, Hometown Newspapers and Emagine Theater (www.emagine-entertainment.com)



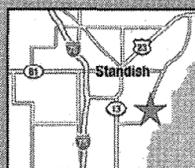
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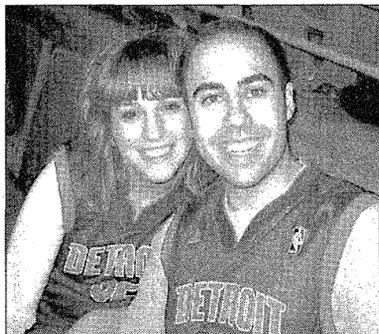
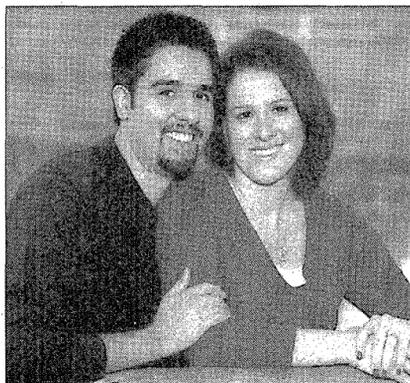
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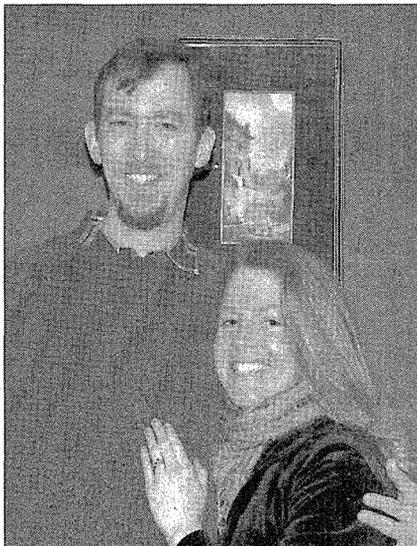
Baringhaus-Edwin

James and Charlene Baringhaus of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Baringhaus to David Edwin, son of Samuel and Kim Edwin of Troy. The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia in 2002, and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Wayne State University in 2008. She works as a pharmacy resident at the University of Michigan. The groom graduated from Troy Athens High School in 2002, and earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University. He works as a quality engineer at Terumo Medical Corporation. The couple plan to wed in May at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia.



Miller-Haglund

Steve and Sandi Miller of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Miller to Lars Valdor Haglund, son of Valdor and Iora Haglund of Farmington Hills. The couple plan to wed in September 2010 in Michigan.



Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
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INFORMATION AND THE INTERNET

The Internet is a valuable source of information on arthritis. The following sites allow you to quickly find the arthritis topic of your interest and the information they provide is clear:

- www.healthfinder.gov
- www.mediclineplus.gov
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/arthritis
- mayoclinic.com

For information on Southeast Michigan programs in arthritis education, on activities for people with arthritis and a physician directory or area rheumatologists, go to the Michigan Arthritis Foundation home page:
www.arthritis.org/chapters/michigan

If you want more information, go to Google and use key phrases to find what you seek. For more technical and medical information, I would not go to PubMed, the traditional site, but to Google Scholar-advanced search.

I cannot provide a source that accurately rates physicians. Going to your health insurance site, will only give you the physicians in that health insurance company's network of providers. The methods the insurance companies use to rate their doctors is difficult to determine, but are not the ways that physicians assess their colleagues.

If you need a physician referral, the old ways are still the best ways: ask a doctor whom you know, or inquire from friends and relatives for a physician they would recommend.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

Sieg-Oelkers

David and Molly Sieg of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Annette Sieg, of Philadelphia, to Peter Oelkers, son of Irmgard and the late Kenneth Oelkers of Montvale, Pa. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Redford Union High School and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She is currently a graduate student at Drexel University. The groom is a 1987 graduate of Pascack Hills High School and a 1991 graduate of the College of William and Mary. He is a biology professor at Arcadia University. The couple have a July wedding planned in Lancaster, Pa.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.

FIRST STEP BENEFITS

Several long-time supporters are holding fund-raising events for First Step in the coming months.

The 19th annual Charity Dance presented by Brian Duggan takes place 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Visit www.firststepcharitydance.com for ticket and sponsorship information.

Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi's Stepping Out in Style Event happens 6:30-9 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Parisian, Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Enjoy an evening of shopping, food, fashion, and fun while supporting First Step. Visit www.zontafarmingtonnovi.org for ticket and sponsorship information. Tickets \$20.

For more information, visit www.firststep-mi.org.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

On Saturday Feb 21, at 1:30 p.m. the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present programs on "Using Legacy Family Tree and Family Tree Maker 2006 and 2009" at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. Brenda Halseth demonstrate Legacy Family Tree, an easy-to-use genealogy software program that will help track, organize, print, and share family history. Bill and Margaret O'Neill provide an in-depth look at Family Tree Maker - Version 2009 and discuss Version 2006, including a demonstration on how to use some of the tools within the programs. The program is open to the public and there is no charge. For information, call Liam Neary at (734) 464-4645.

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday Feb. 23, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The main speaker following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting will be Carmen Collins on "Adoption Research" and her quest on her adoption. At 6:30

p.m. Brenda Halseth will present "705 New Books on CD coming to the Livonia Library." She will show how to use this upcoming wealth of information. Meetings open to the public. Guests welcome. For information, visit www.roots-web.com/~miwgcgs/.

FROG SURVEYORS NEEDED

In as little as one month, the skies will fill with the calls of amorous amphibians. If you are interested in learning more about why and where frogs call, sign up for Friends of the Rouge's annual frog and toad survey.

"You need no prior experience, just some interest in the local environment. We provide all the information and materials needed to do the survey at our training workshops," said Sally Petrella, Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager for Friends of the Rouge and manager of the annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey.

Volunteers attend one of four Frog & Toad Survey Training Workshops in February or March to learn about seven frogs and one toad found in the Rouge River Watershed, the 466-square-mile area drained by the Rouge River. Attendees go home with an assignment to learn eight calls from a CD they are provided.

Once spring comes, they will be expected to venture out to a nearby wetland after dark and determine what type of frogs and toads are calling. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in teams, and children over 5 are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Register for one of the following workshops by calling (313) 792-9621 or e-mailing monitoring@therouge.org.

■ 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.

RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Art Is In Market is having a Grand Re-Opening to celebrate its move into a larger space

at Laurel Park Place mall, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia with a wine and cheese reception 3-9 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The gallery offers hand crafted art objects, jewelry, clothing, baskets, glass, floral items, photography, and paintings by Southeast Michigan artists. Paul Adams will reveal his latest print for sale, "Old Main," of Wayne State University and will offer some of his original works for sale.

Many of the other artists will be on hand for the meet and greet and will demonstrate aspects of their art. While there, check out the gallery's schedule of events and sign up for a class or demonstration to be offered later in the year. The store also has a Blog, <http://artismarkt.blogspot.com>, with links to individual artist's websites.

DONATIONS HELP FEED HUNGRY

During the holiday season, which had many people worrying about the struggling economy and paying their bills, customers at Westborn Market helped the less fortunate by donating to Forgotten Harvest, www.forgottenharvest.org, a mobile food rescue organization in metro Detroit.

For the past several years the independent gourmet grocer has requested donations from customers to support Forgotten Harvest's mission to feed the hungry.

In less than three weeks in December customers of Westborn's three stores, including Livonia, contributed nearly \$5,000. The money will enable Forgotten Harvest to rescue and deliver more than 28,000 meals.

THANK YOU

The community of Harding Elementary School in Detroit would like to say "THANK YOU" to Livonia Franklin High School students and staff who work so hard to make life just a little brighter despite a time of economic difficulty.

The men, women, children, and young adults of the school work hard to provide clothes, toys, art projects and snacks which are often distributed throughout Harding Elementary, a school located in Northwest Detroit's Brightmoor area every month.

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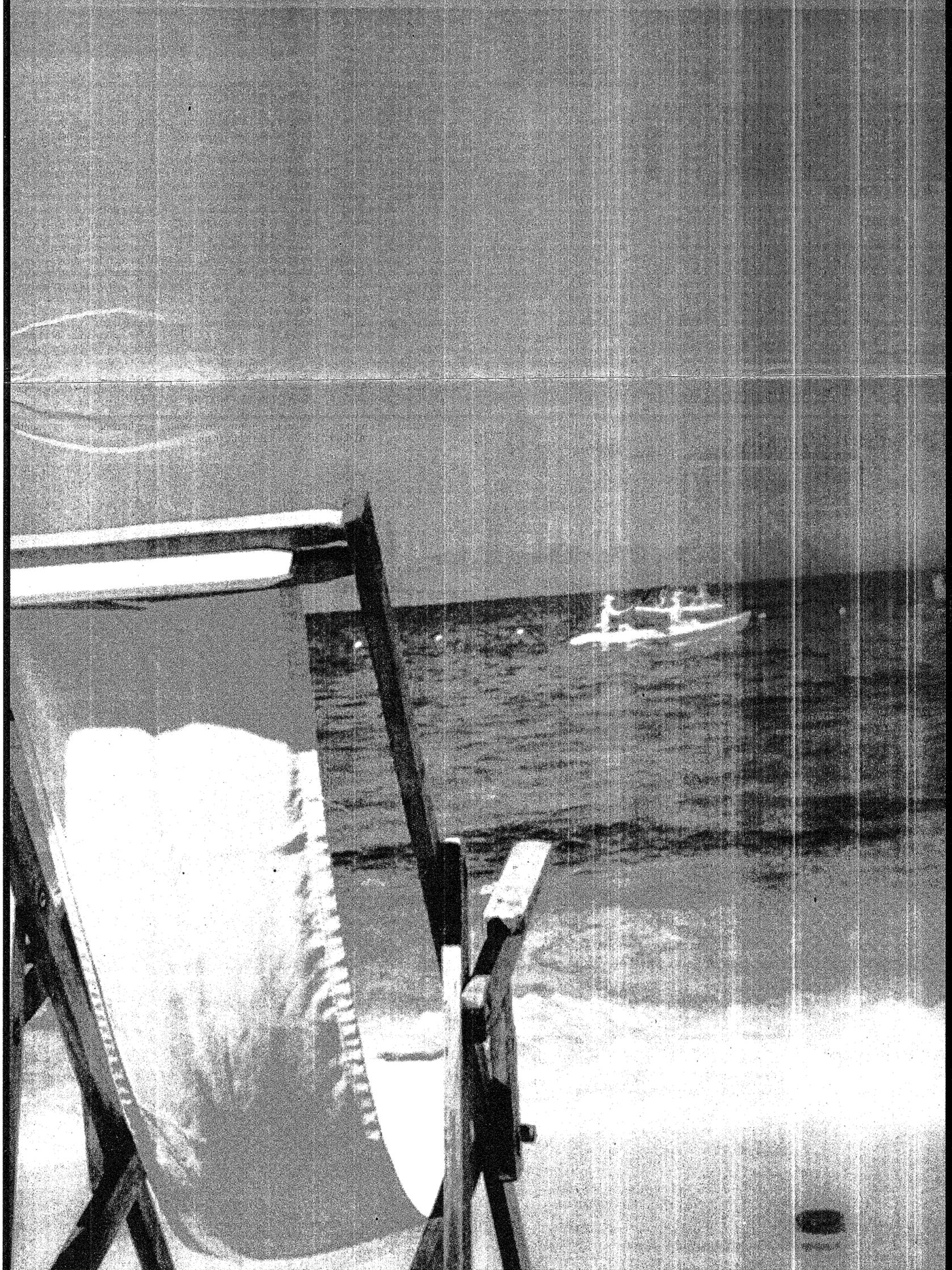
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HEALTH & FITNESS



Heidi Scheer holds son Gannon who stopped speaking and faded into his own world at age 15 months. Scheer is one of the speakers at the first international conference presented by the American Medical Autism Board Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Conference covers alternative therapies

The American Medical Autism Board (AMAB) presents speakers on the controversial biomedical treatment options for disorders ranging from autism to AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and OCD Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Register online at www.asdboards.com. Credits available for physicians toward AMAB certification.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FEBRUARY

Healthy relationships conference
Wayne County Head Start hosts its Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationships Conference Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Dearborn Inn, 23031 Oakwood Blvd. The conference is free for all current or former Wayne County Head Start parents. It begins at 12:30 p.m. and features workshops on marriage, raising a family, and relationships. For details, call 866-534-KIDS (5437).

Climbing for a cause



Rick Braun of Rochester at Climb Detroit last year.

CLIMB DETROIT

What: A stair climb to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan
When: Sunday, March 8. Registration at 9 a.m., first step at 10 a.m.
Where: Detroit Marriott tower of the Renaissance Center, 629 East Jefferson
Register: Online at www.ClimbDetroit.org. For information, call Jessica Jimenez, (248) 784-2018.

Steps lead to research, education, advocacy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Laura Bertalan's 58-year-old mother died from lung cancer in 2007, she felt she had to do something. She packed up and came home to Troy leaving her job as part of the producing team for The Ellen DeGeneris Show in Los Angeles.

Along with being closer to her family Bertalan wanted to work to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. At 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, she'll be one of hundreds climbing 70 floors of steps at the Detroit Marriot tower of the Renaissance Center to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan (ALAM) where she became marketing director in April. She's taking on the challenging 1,035 steps in honor of her mother Georgena Bertalan.

"I just felt I had to take action," said Bertalan, 32. "She was coughing and asthmatic and would have to go to the ER. They did a scan and found lesions. They tried radiation then chemotherapy, but it was stage 4. It was very aggressive. She died in three months."

Georgena was not a smoker but inhaled second-hand smoke that's why it's important for Bertalan to support ALAM's work in research, education and advocacy. ALAM is part of a campaign for smoke-free air. The national ALA grades each state on the quality of air in its State of Tobacco Control Report. Michigan received an F in 2008.

"All of the money stays in Michigan for research on lung cancer, COPD, asthma education in schools and for adults, and the campaign in Lansing," said Bertalan. "Mom was a bowler. You can't go to a bowling alley without breathing in second hand smoke."

Many of the climbers have family members who died from lung disease. Rick Braun lost his grandmother to COPD weeks before the first climb three years ago. He trains by running up almost 200 stairs in Bloomer Park near his Rochester home.

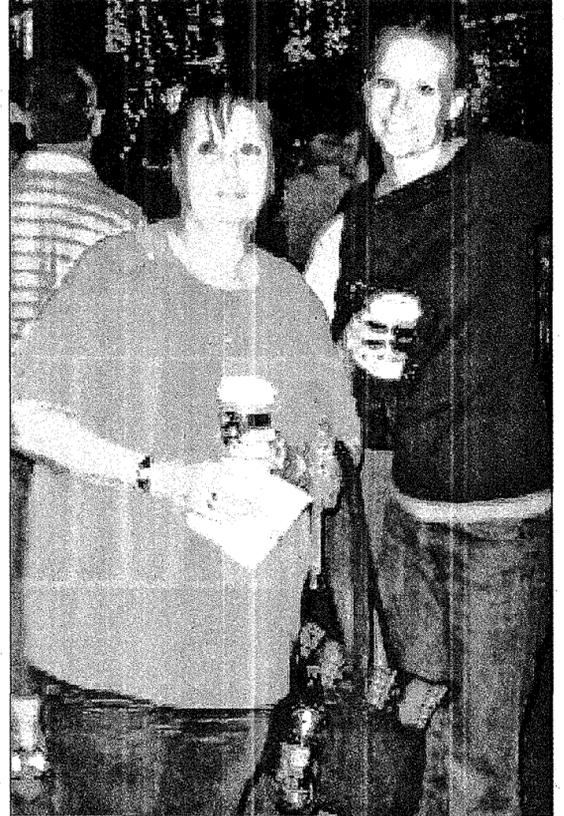
"We'd be out and she had to sit down and catch her breath," said Braun. "One of the hardest parts is watching. You are so powerless. I'd hate for anybody to have to go through

that and to watch people go through that if I can help. Even though I'm not a scientist I can do something just to get the word out. I'm a runner. It's perfect for others who like to run and compete. I'm trying to talk to as many people as possible, work my network of runners and those who are active."

Patty Brehler won't be running up the stairs this year. She'll have to walk because of her asthma. The manner in which she reaches the top doesn't matter though. For years Brehler was able to compete in long distance bicycle races, stair climbs and running marathons until being diagnosed with asthma. Maybe someday research will make it possible for medication to completely control the respiratory disease.

"People are put off by maybe how hard it can be but if you approach it as for a good cause and a fun day," said Brehler, 52. "If you train I think anybody can do it if you pace yourself and take a little break. I'm trying to get permission to walk up with the Leader Dog puppy I'm raising."

Brehler is still looking for climbers to join her team,



Laura Bertalan shared many happy times with her mother before Georgena died of lung cancer in 2007.

Patty's Pack. Like Braun, she trains on the stairs in Bloomer Park.

Participants without a plan can visit climbdetroit.org for a program designed by a personal trainer who's completed the climb. Jessica Jimenez thinks it's a great way to keep a new year's resolution to get in shape. Last year 521 people participated in the climb that attracts ages 12 to 80. About 400 have signed up so far. The cost to register is \$50 until March 4 plus \$100 to participate. Registration closes March 6.

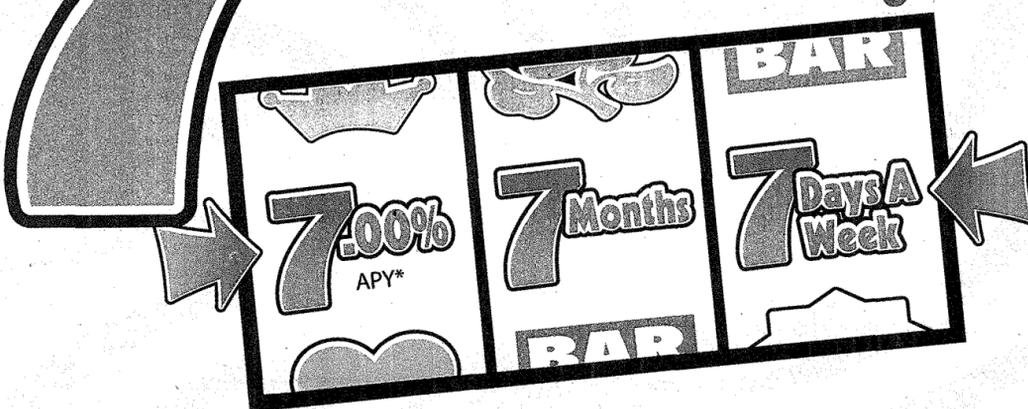
"A lot of people do walks. This is a little bit more of a challenge," said Jimenez, ALAM development manager. "It's for people who do very

little exercising to those who do marathons. It depends on how intense you make it. You can do all 70 floors or 40. Propelling your body up 70 sets of stairs is a much more intense workout than cycling or running. It's a timed event and takes 12 to 24 minutes to finish. There's a post climb celebration in the GM Wintergarden where visitors can come for \$5 for food and beverages to congratulate participants."

For details, visit www.climbdetroit.org. For information about the American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org.

lchomin@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2241

7 Is Your Lucky Number



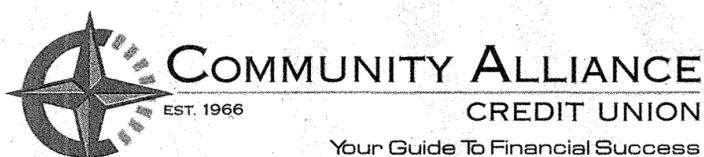
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