

Eat well ...
with endive

Food, B7

LOVE ON ICE

Romance and a appreciation for carved ice, page A8



THURSDAY
January 27, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

Tax assistance

It's tax time, and the Westland Friendship Center is now taking appointments for anyone in the community who wants to have their taxes prepared free of charge.

The Friendship Center site is an e-file site only. There is no age or income requirement, however, appointments are necessary.

Generally, the tax return service offered through AARP is for simple returns. Those individuals with lengthy returns, many rental properties or investments are encouraged to have a CPA or professional firm complete their returns. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete.

Taxes this year will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tax preparers will only be on site during the day. The center offers the service, so any tax question regarding a return must be taken by a staff member, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

The Friendship Center is at 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford Road. For more information or to make an appointment, call (734) 722-7628.

Breakfast time

If pancakes is your breakfast of choice, stop by the Wayne Masonic Lodge in Westland Sunday, Jan. 30.

The Wayne Assembly No. 72 of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls will be preparing a pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Breakfast includes any combination of pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age 12 and under. The breakfast helps raise money to send each girl to Grand Assembly. The Masonic Lodge is at 37137 Palmer just east of Newburgh, Westland.

See Me Now benefit

Joanie Givens will hold a fund-raiser from 4-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Wayne Community Center for the benefit of the See Me Now Resale Shop.

The benefit will be held at the Wayne Recreation Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne. The cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and includes, dinner, dancing, raffles, speakers and much more.

All profits will go toward opening the re-sale See Me Now resale store in Westland.

For tickets or more information on to make a donation or volunteer to help make this fund-raiser a success, call Joanie Givens at (734) 833-8291 or Kerry Partin at (734) 788-9319.

Norwayne hit with 5 water main breaks

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The relatively light snowfall so far this winter has been a mixed blessing in Westland.

"It's been a gift that we haven't had a lot of snow so that we haven't had to declare a snow emergency," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford. "But the snow acts like blanket insulation for the pipes. Without the blanket insulation and it being warmer or colder,

it's not protecting and the metal water mains pop."

That lack of insulating snow and changes in temperatures are being blamed for seven water main breaks that occurred beginning Saturday. Five of the breaks were located in Norwayne.

A boil water alert had been put into effect for 48 hours through Wednesday

A boil water alert had been put into effect for 48 hours through Wednesday for residents of Norwayne as repairs were completed on the water main breaks.

for residents of Norwayne as repairs were completed on the water main breaks.

Most Norwayne residents weren't directly affected by the water main breaks. To avoid confusion among Norwayne residents as to who should boil

water, Buford said the alert was issued for the whole area.

"There is a boil water order when

there is low or non-existent water pressure longer than we would like," said Buford. "Under the rules, you can go 24 hours (before a boil water alert) but I'd rather err on the side of caution. Only a small part of Norwayne was affected."

The breaks, which began Saturday, occurred in Norwayne on Alaska, Alanson, Caspian Court, Bentley Court and Grand Traverse near Dorsey, Oxbow in the area of Joy and Middlebelt and Barton off Wildwood.

Please see **WATER MAIN, A2**



Dawn Manakis is using her camera to document the changes taking place in the Norwayne Subdivision.

Photographer documents local subdivision's history

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Norwayne residents organize to make improvements to their community, Dawn Manakis has volunteered to document those changes and the history of the Westland subdivision through photography.

"I'm going back through history. There is a recognition that history is being lost. I hope we will grow from this," Manakis said. "Whether there is a new building for a location, that might create more jobs."

Manakis is putting together a digital slide show on Norwayne in conjunction with the Norwayne Citizens Council. She had volunteered to photograph the International AIDS Day program

Manakis is putting together a digital slide show on Norwayne in conjunction with the Norwayne Citizens Council.

and a visit by the sections of the AIDS Quilt at St. Simon and Jude Catholic.

Through that effort, Manakis worked with parishioner Henry Johnson, who has organized the Norwayne Citizens Council.

"This all started with me taking pictures of my kids. I made a slide show for each of my boys with photos and music," said Manakis, whose sons are ages 9 and 19. "It was basically a hobby."

After producing a slide show

commemorating International AIDS Day, Manakis said Johnson asked her to do a similar project on Norwayne.

Currently, Manakis is doing research on Eloise, opened at Michigan Avenue and Merriman in 1839 as the county poor house and expanding to accept the mentally ill in 1841. Before closing in 1981, Eloise underwent changes and expansions to also serve as a facility for the sick and elderly, as a tuberculosis hospital and, eventually, Wayne County General Hospital.

A Detroit native who later moved to Garden City, Manakis also has obtained some photographs taken by in 1957 on Alcona by Robert Scripsick,

Please see **PHOTOS, A2**

Teen gets two years prison for festival shooting

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A less than cooperative victim helped spur a plea bargain for a Belleville man charged with a shooting the 2010 Westland Summer Festival.

Justin Morgan, 18, was sentenced to two years in prison and five years probation by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Talon after entering a guilty plea to a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm and felony firearm. Originally, Morgan had been charged with five felonies stemming from the July 4 shooting and additional charges of assaulting and resisting a police officer and felony firearm connected with his subsequent arrest in Van Buren Township.

"He got two years total for all of the cases, including two felony firearm charges," said Westland police Sgt. Kevin Wojcik. "Obviously we had a problem victim. How do you proceed and tell a jury that the guy who got shot didn't show up. He wasn't afraid — just didn't want to show. There was a lack of victim cooperation."

The 18-year-old Canton man was struck in the leg by one of three shots fired in the carnival area around 11 p.m. July 4 just after the fireworks display had been ended. His femur was shattered, requiring a metal rod to be implanted in his leg.

The other victim in the case was a friend of the injured man, who was believed to be the intended target of the shooting.

"At least the shooter is off the streets — all he got out of it is two years in prison. It's better than 30 days," said Westland police Sgt. Dan Serrano.

Police were able to identify Morgan on video that had been recorded periodically during the festival by police. He was later identified as a former Westland John Glenn High School student.

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W-W students to rehab second blighted home

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local students will be partnering with Westland to rehabilitate a blighted home — the second construction partnership between Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the city.

City council recently approved the partnership agreement to allow the Wayne-Westland Schools Construction Technology Program to rehabilitate a home at 35428 Columbia, a blighted property to which the city has title.

"This will continue the partnership with Wayne-Westland Schools. Council had approved building a new home on Birchwood," Westland Community Development Director

Joanne Inglis said.

The project is being funded through the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Westland received just over \$2 million for acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of blighted, abandoned or foreclosed homes. The city would retain ownership of the home during the rehabilitation phase, then it would be sold.

Through NSP, the city has acquired a total of 69 properties, most single-family homes. Private developers have been hired to handle the rehabilitation and resale of 19 homes, with five homes handled by Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County and two homes handled by the Construction Technology Program.

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Two teens represent Wayne-Westland in Junior Miss program

The Wayne-Westland area will be well-represented in this weekend's Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

Westland Junior Miss Jaycie Giordano and Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Shelby Turner are among 15 young women participating in the 53rd annual scholarship program which will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Saline High School.

The 15 contestants from around the state of Michigan will compete for more than \$11,000 college scholarships and the chance to represent Michigan at local events throughout the state and at the National finals in Mobile, Alabama.

This year, the Junior Miss Program has changed their name to the Distinguished Young Women of Michigan to better reflect the ideals of Junior Miss, which are scholarship, leadership and talent.

In addition to Giordano and Turner, local contestants include Anna Maria Pokriefka, Farmington Hills Junior Miss; Anastacia Washington, Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss, and Elizabeth Johnson, Plymouth Junior Miss.

The contestants, who arrived in Ann Arbor on Sunday, Jan. 23, are spending the week performing community service at local elementary schools, touring The Henry Ford, visiting the Boys and Girls clubs,

touring Michigan International Speedway, and practicing routines for the program night.

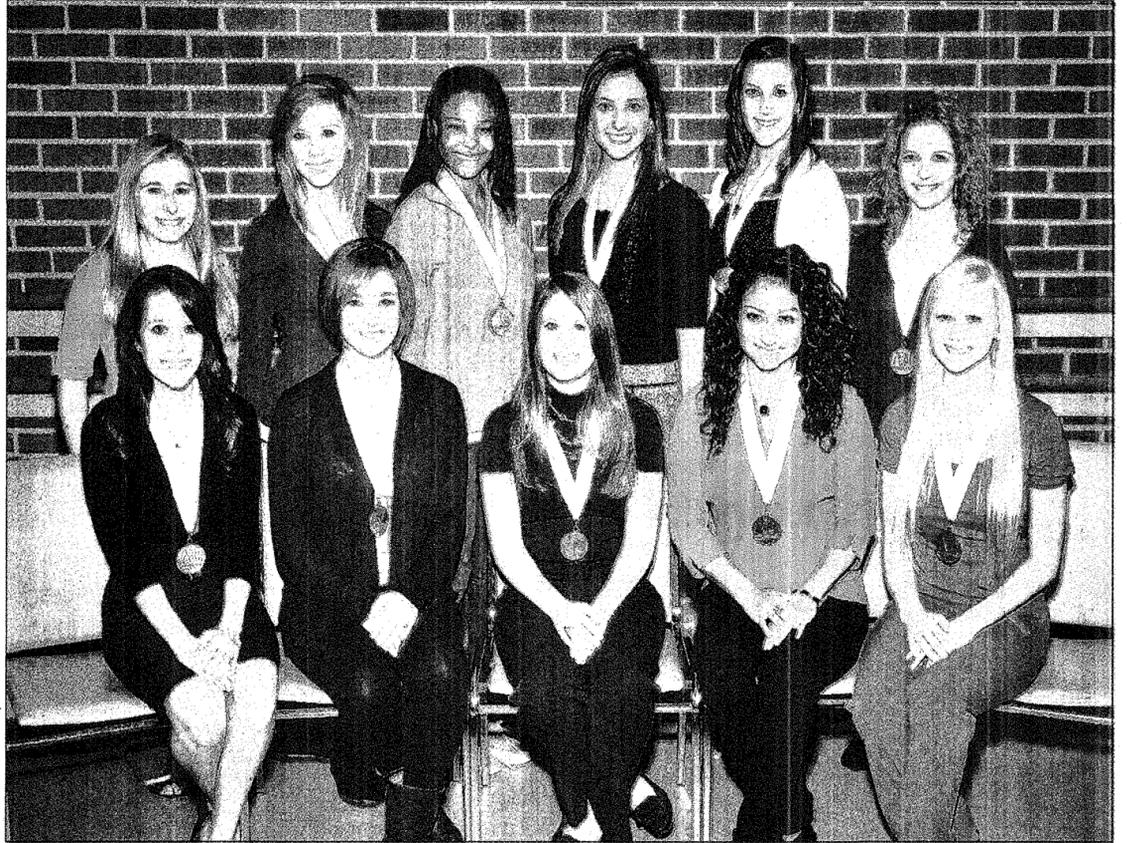
At the state program, contestants will perform on stage in an opening number and compete in a performing arts talent routine, a physical fitness routine and self expression. Contestants also are evaluated in based on scholastics and interview.

This year's program theme is music from *Glee*.

Tickets for Saturday night's program are \$15 and can be purchased at the door the day of the event or in advance by contacting State Committee member Lydia Soroosh at (734) 426-4744 or by e-mailing mjrmis@yahoo.com. All proceeds go toward scholarship awards.

Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program awards college scholarships to young women who have distinguished themselves at school and in their communities.

Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program is part of America's Junior Miss Program, now called Distinguished Young Women of America, which is the largest and oldest scholarship program for high school seniors in the country. Since it first began in 1958, more \$90 million dollars in college scholarships have been awarded. More information about the scholarship program is available online at www.ajm.org.



Participating in Saturday's 2011 Michigan Junior Miss program are Raleigh Poxson, Irish Hills (front row, from left); Shelby Turner, Wayne-Westland; Caitlin Blankenship, Alpena; Anna Marie Pokriefka, Farmington Hills; Rachel Rochowiak, Dearborn Heights; Mariah Austin, Tecumseh (back row, from left), Elizabeth Johnson, Plymouth; Anastacia Washington, Plymouth-Canton; Maegan Budd, Jackson; Ashley Poszywak, Stockbridge, and Jaycie Giordano, Westland. Not pictured are Caroline Asiala, Bay County; LeAnn Allan, Detroit; Haley Williams, Saline; and Michelle Good, Romulus.

WATER MAIN

FROM PAGE A1

Despite the fact that the city has completed a seven-phase program replacing water mains in Norwayne, that's where the majority of breaks happened.

The last main being repaired, behind the Dorsey Center at Grand Traverse, was located close to a utility pole and required a call to get a DTE crew on site. Residents in the area on Alaska and Alanson were without water from Saturday until late Monday.

DPS workers repaired the first break but a second break occurred about 150 feet away after the water was turned

back on, Buford said. After that repair was made, he said a 45-degree elbow 150 feet away failed and a third repair had to be made Monday.

"Old infrastructure does come into it play but brand new subdivisions can have water main breaks," said Buford.

The city budgets for a certain amount of water main breaks, Buford said. As the prime season for water main breaks gets under way, that line item is under budget.

"Within our department, which is smaller, my guys are showing some wear and fatigue but they are diligent and tough," he said. "They worked the entire weekend. I commend them for that."

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PHOTOS

FROM PAGE A1

whose son Mark donated the photos and documents relating to Norwayne housing.

"I'll be scanning those photos and then taking pictures of Alcona now," Manakis said.

Some are unhappy being in Norwayne and would like to get out, said Manakis, who hopes people will see the positives of the community.

"No matter where you go, there will be crime or an irritating neighbor. It can be good,

if we all pull together," she said. "I want to show that there is hope so that more people will want to come here."

It's not been determined when the slide show will be completed and shown publicly. Manakis expects to produce a condensed version that could be posted on Youtube.

The Norwayne Citizens Council will hold its next meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, at the Dorsey Community Center. Topics will include a community garden and a time-share program that doesn't involve vacations.

"Maybe there is a neighbor who can fix a fence in return for someone driving them to the doctor," Johnson said.

Other issues the council is looking at include housing, schools, community development and health and safety.

For more information, call Johnson at (734) 444-8344.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Scrapbooking

A scrapbooking workshop will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at Ss. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, in Westland.

The cost is \$35 per person for a full day and \$20 per person for a half day. Vendors are available. For more information, call Karen Kopcak at (734) 634-3934 or Sandy Kopcak at (734) 721-4867 or contact them by e-mail at khollenbeck@twmi.rr.com or skopcak@comcast.net.

Bible talks

Bible Talks will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland at 4 p.m. Sundays, now through Feb. 13. Presenting, in simplicity, the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, no collections or literature. Everyone is welcome. Hockey Night

Mayor William Wild and the Westland Wild Wings will take on the Detroit Red Wing Alumni in an exhibition hockey game at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. For sponsorship or ticket sale information, call (734) 722-7620 or send an e-mail to parks@cityofwestland.com.

All proceeds of the event will go to fund improvement to the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

Open House

St. Damian School is holding an Open House noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, for parents interested in enrolling their children in the school.

The school has been an integral part of the Westland-Garden City area and the Archdiocese of Detroit for 51 years. Both Catholic and non-Catholic families have embraced St. Damian School as the school of choice for their

children.

The school maintains high academic standards and offers a well rounded curriculum. Students are respectful, responsible, and take pride in doing their best as they live out their faith life each day. The school and parents work to maintain a collaborative partnership in support of the students.

Parents also can get more information on the school website at www.stdamian.com or call (734) 427-1680 to arrange a tour.

Romanowski VFW

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW 6896 is holding a Poor Man's New Year's Eve Party at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, sponsored by the Marine Corps and Veterans helping Veterans. The evening include a fried bologna and onions dinner, cash bar and raffles.

The events are open to the public. The post is at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland. For more information, call the post at (734) 525-9454.

Lions Club

The Westland Lions Club meets at 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:15 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Logan's Roadhouse on Ford in Canton. For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter, Michigan's 11th Congressional District, is holding office hours in several locations. This time is set aside so that the citizens served by the representative have the opportunity to speak with a staff member for assistance regarding any federal issue that they might have. This is not a political venue and no discus-

sions of a political nature will be expected.

Office hours for Thursday, Feb. 1, are 9-10 a.m. 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Northville Senior Center, noon-1 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 3-4 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center.

The Thursday, Feb. 3, office hours at 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Mystery dinner

The Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation will present a "Night of Fine Dining & Intrigue" Saturday, Feb. 12, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. The event, running from 5:30 p.m. to midnight, will feature a mystery-themed dinner theater and auction.

The performance will be by the Murder Mystery Players, a professional theater troupe. The theme for the evening, which includes a silent auction and live auction, is "Murder Most Romantic." There will be hot appetizers and a steak and shrimp dinner as well as dessert and cash bar. Appetizers will be served 6:15 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. The curtain opens at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$40. Tables of eight are \$300. Each ticket also includes two cocktails.

Proceeds will support Westland Youth Assistance and Rotary charities. Tickets are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce, C&M Printing and Juenemann Insurance. For information, call Mary Vellardita or Dick Isham at (734) 729-5401.

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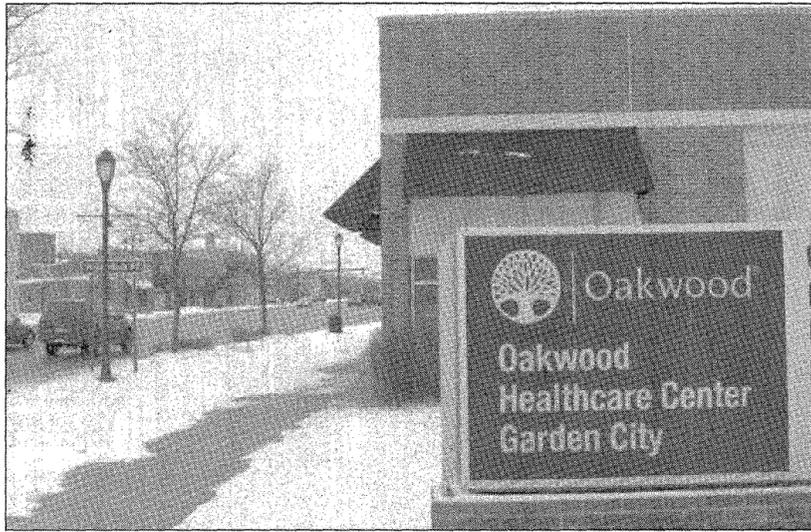
St. Michael Elementary School

Celebrates...

Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 30th - Feb. 5

This year's theme is **"Discover the Wonders of God"** which underscores the Christ-centered foundation and academic excellence of Catholic schools. Our week kicks off with a **Family Open House** Sunday, January 30 from 2-4 p.m.

Our National Junior Honor Society members will offer group tours and our staff will be on site to answer any questions you may have about St. Michael School. For more information please check our website at www.livoniastmichael.org or call the school office at (734) 421-7360.



The new urgent care center at the Oakwood Healthcare Center-Garden City is open from 5-10 p.m. Monday through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Oakwood adds urgent care to its Garden City location

Residents in the Garden City area now have another option for urgent care services.

Oakwood Healthcare is offering urgent care services at the Oakwood Healthcare Center-Garden City at 29150 Ford, just east of Middlebelt.

The clinic is ideally located within the 500-square mile area served by Oakwood Healthcare Systems in metro Detroit, said Dr. Mark Bustamante, president and chief medical officer for the Oakwood Physician Practices Division (OPPD). The closest Oakwood-affiliated urgent care centers are at Michigan Avenue and Schafer in Dearborn and at Canton Center and Warren roads in Canton Township.

"Because we had an established practice in Garden City, we knew it would be a stable place to have an urgent care," said Bustamante. "And it's halfway between the Canton emergency department and Dearborn and Annapolis ERs. For us, it's a very strategic location."

The Urgent Care center is open from 5-10 p.m. Monday through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends and holidays. It offers treatment of injuries and illnesses that not life-threatening, but severe enough to cause a patient to seek treatment without waiting for his or her primary care physician. Urgent care physicians treat anything from cuts and bruises to viral infections, dehydration symptoms, asthma attacks and more.

"You want to think of the urgent care center as an extension of your primary care doctor," said Dr. Alan Lamb, trauma medical direc-



Dr. Rakesh Soni is the lead urgent care physician at the Oakwood Healthcare Center-Garden City.

tor at Oakwood Southshore Medical Center in Trenton. "If you have a minor injury, a bump or a bruise or a small laceration or maybe a sprain, that's a good time to go to an urgent care center. If you have something you think is broken or a severe or large laceration or significant abdominal pain or chest pain, that's something that's better treated through a hospital emergency department because you might need to have surgery or be admitted to the hospital."

Patients should not go to an urgent care clinic for physicals, to refill prescriptions or to seek help in the management of chronic problems, Bustamante added.

"Urgent care is for new problems or destabilization of problems that shouldn't wait," he said. "Management of chronic problems is not what urgent care is for."

The affiliation with Oakwood Healthcare means that the urgent care clinic will be headed by board-certified

physicians who also are on staff at a hospital.

"Both of those credentials are testaments to that physician's experience and skill," said Bustamante. "An urgent care that is sponsored by a health system sets a higher standard."

Dr. Rakesh Soni is the lead urgent care physician at the Oakwood Healthcare Center-Garden City. He is affiliated with Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne and Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn.

Bustamante said that he and other doctors on staff at the Oakwood Urgent Care are committed to treating immediate problems, and then referring patients back to their primary care physician.

"In our urgent care, we focus on making sure we communicate back with their primary care physician. It's built into the protocol," said Bustamante. "Our mission is to help in the immediate setting and then get the patient back to their primary care physician. We're not redirecting patients. We maintain the link to the patient's personal physician. We're respectful of that relationship."

For more information, visit www.oakwood.org online or call (734) 762-3640.

Nominations sought for Westland ATHENA Award

Do you know a man or woman who has assisted women in realizing their full leadership potential?

Have they demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession and contributed time and talent to help improve the quality of life for others in the community?

Then that someone could be the next Westland ATHENA Award recipient.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the award, which will be presented at the Women of Westland's seventh annual Westland ATHENA Chocolate Fantasy Ball Saturday, March 5, at Joy Manor in Westland.

Both men and women who live and/or work in Westland can be nominated for the award which got its start in Lansing in 1982. Since then,

the ATHENA Award has been presented to more than 5,000 women and men all over the United States, as well as in Canada, China, Russia and the United Kingdom.

The ATHENA Award honors individuals who strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment, women and men who excel in their chosen field, have devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and who also open paths so that others follow.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, Feb. 7. They can be sent to the Mary Denning Cake Shoppe, President, Women of Westland, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan 48185-1110.

The winning recipient will receive the traditional ATHENA Award sculpture and will be recognized by state and local dignitaries at the

Chocolate Fantasy Ball. The event is being hosted by the office of Mayor William R. Wild, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and the Women of Westland.

The ball, which serves as a fund-raiser for WOW community service projects, including the Barbara Douglas Scholarship Program, will be 6-9:30 p.m. March 5 at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy east of Middlebelt. Tickets cost \$20 each and include free food and endless chocolate. They can be purchased in advance at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe or by contacting Meghan Giersdorf at mgiersdorf@mpgenterprises.com.

For the ATHENA Award nomination form, visit Women of Westland website at www.womenofwestland.org. For more information, call Denning at (734) 261-3680 or Giersdorf at (248) 255-8241.

Injured in blast, store owner still hospitalized

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Township man injured in a December explosion in the city of Wayne remains in the University of Michigan Hospital, where he was in good condition Friday, a spokeswoman said.

Paul W. Franks was airlifted to the U-M Hospital's burn center on Dec. 29, after a blast destroyed the William C. Franks Furniture store in downtown Wayne at about 9 a.m. Franks is the owner of the store; two store employees, James Zell and Leslie Machniak, were killed.

The explosion, thought to be caused by a natural gas leak, remains under investigation.

Passersby dug Franks out of the rubble just after the explosion, and firefighters from Wayne and other communi-

BOWLING FUND-RAISER

Wayne Bowl is hosting a bowling fund-raiser to help the families involved in the explosion at W.C. Franks Furniture in Wayne in late December. Employees James Zell and Leslie Machniak died in the explosion and owner Paul Franks was critically injured. The fund-raiser will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., between Wayne Road and Newburgh. Tickets are \$20 in advance and

\$25 at the door and include three games of bowling, shoe rental and pizza. There will be an optional 50/50 and raffles. The event is family friendly. Tickets can be purchased at Wayne Bowl or at the Wayne Chamber of Commerce, 34844 W. Michigan Ave., east of Wayne Road. For more information, call Wayne Bowl at (734) 721-7530 or the Wayne Chamber of Commerce at (734) 721-0100.

ties launched a massive rescue effort to free those feared trapped under debris. The bodies of Zell and Machniak were recovered that night.

Franks is described as a hardworking business owner who is deeply involved in the

community, and as a good Plymouth Township neighbor who keeps his house and yard in top shape.

Neighbor Daniel Davis said he's spoken to Franks' daughter, Stephanie, but knows little of his condition.

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Do homework before investing in municipal bonds

While researching markets and investments, I found that the municipal bond market was dominating the discussion.

The last few months have not been good months for municipal bonds and that has led to some issues. Standard & Poors warned that more downgrades in the ratings of municipal bonds are expected this year.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The dialogue regarding municipal bonds has affected investors. In November and December alone, investors withdrew more than \$20 billion from the municipal bond market.

I believe the fiscal problems that many states and municipalities are going through have led to speculation as to whether we will see more defaults in the municipal bond market.

This thought was echoed in a recent interview on 60 Minutes where a well-known investment strategist stated she expects 50 to 100 defaults this year.

Whenever an investment sector takes a hit and receives media and social network attention, you can almost guarantee that another element will creep into an investor's decision-making process, fear.

There is no doubt that the municipal bond market is having difficulties. However, don't forget that the municipal bond market has had its problems in the past as well. Go back to 2008 the midst of a financial crisis, municipal bonds fell about 10 percent over a short period of time.

There have been other periods where municipals were volatile and rebounded over a short period of time. In addition, investors should be reminded that municipal bond defaults are rare. Over the last 40 some years there have been over 18,000 municipal bond

offerings with only a handful more than 50 defaults.

There has also been lots of conversation about cities and states declaring bankruptcy and what that would do to municipal bond holders. Although, municipalities are allowed to declare bankruptcy, they have been very rare. It is important to recognize that under current bankruptcy law, states do not have the power to declare bankruptcy. Of course, laws could change in this partisan environment but I believe a major change allowing states to declare bankruptcy is unlikely.

It is important for investors to recognize that not all municipal bonds are the same. Not only are the issuers different, but the quality of the bonds differ.

Generally, municipal bonds can be broken down into two categories, general obligation bonds and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds, commonly issued by states, require states to use their taxing authority to prevent a default. In other words, a state would have to raise its taxes in order to prevent a default. These types of municipal bonds, although subject to market volatility, have very little risk, if any, of a default.

On the other hand, revenue municipal bonds are issued to pay for a specific project. The best example of this type of bond would be the bonds issued to build the Mackinac Bridge. Bond holders were repaid by the revenues generated from the bridge. If the bridge had not been successful, bond holders potentially could have suffered some losses. Just because there is a default, does not mean an investor will lose all of his/her money. In fact, in past defaults of municipal bonds, investors have found that losses have been minimal.

There is no doubt that cities and states are having difficulties. Just about every state has substantial budget deficits and there is there are some painful days ahead. However, that doesn't mean that pain will translate into massive defaults

in the municipal bond market.

I believe some of the recent volatility has been fueled by fear. And as I have said many times, investors need to do their best not to let fear dictate their investment decision.

For certain investors, municipal bonds do play an important part of a portfolio. Generally, I recommend municipal bond investors buy into a mutual fund in order to have diversification and greater flexibility in maintaining the investment, such as adding new money or taking an occasional withdrawal. That being said, there are a few standards I recommend regarding municipal bonds.

First, pay attention to the quality of the portfolio. In today's economic times, the bulk of one's municipal bond portfolio should be in high quality and general obligation bonds. Unfortunately, some municipal bond investors make the mistake of only paying attention to the return on the bond fund, not the underlying risk.

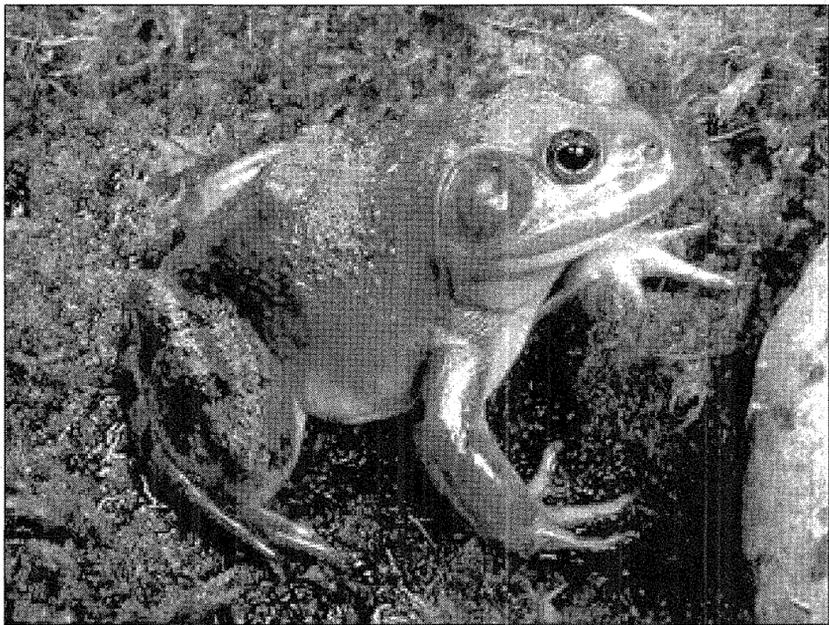
Cost and fees are extremely important. It is even more important in bond funds where you are getting very low rates of return. An extra percent or two in unnecessary fees can reduce returns by as much as 50 percent.

Low-cost municipal bond funds are where you want to be. Also pay very close attention to commissions. After all, if you're losing 6 percent in up-front commissions, realistically, that can be two years of returns. Therefore, avoid commissions when you purchase a bond fund.

If you own a municipal bond fund, now is a great time to review it. If it is a fund with high fees and/or low quality investments, now is the time to make a change.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



The American bullfrog is among eight species of toads and frogs identified as part of the annual Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey.

Friends of Rouge seek help with toad and frog survey

It may be hard to think about frogs under all this snow and cold, but it won't be long before local amphibians wake up and begin their annual chorus. If you would like to help observe this interesting phenomenon, contact Friends of the Rouge.

Volunteer training for the annual volunteer Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey begins in February. Interested volunteers attend a two-hour workshop where they learn the basics of recognizing frog or toad type by their call. Volunteers are assigned nearby wetlands they then survey on their own on damp warm evenings and submit results to Friends of the Rouge.

Last year's results are available at www.therouge.org. The survey has been con-

ducted since 1998 and provides information on the health of Rouge wetlands. The presence of several species of frog and toad is a good indication of healthy wetlands which are critical in restoring the water quality of the Rouge River because they absorb rain water, filter pollutants, reduce flooding as well as provide habitat for many species.

As many as 600 people participate in the survey each year, including families (children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult), seniors, students and scouts. Survey areas are limited to wetlands within the Rouge River Watershed which encompasses 466 square miles in the Detroit area. Participants must be willing to survey after dark several evenings a month March through July.

Of Michigan's 13 native species of frogs and toads, eight species have been confirmed in the Rouge River watershed - the wood frog, western chorus frog, northern spring peeper, American toad, northern leopard frog, gray treefrog, green frog and bullfrog.

Interested volunteers need to register for one of four workshops at www.therouge.org. For more information, call Sally at (313) 792-9621 or monitoring@therouge.org.

The first workshop will be held 10 a.m. to noon Saturday Feb. 12, at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth. The other workshops are:

- 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, in the Walnut room of Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

- 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills.

- 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12, at the Bloomfield Township Hall, 4200 Telegraph, Bloomfield Township.

Friends of the Rouge is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed.

The Rouge Watershed Frog and Toad Survey has been coordinated by Friends of the Rouge since 1998 and is partially funded by a Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project grant. For more information, visit Friends of the Rouge's website at www.therouge.org.

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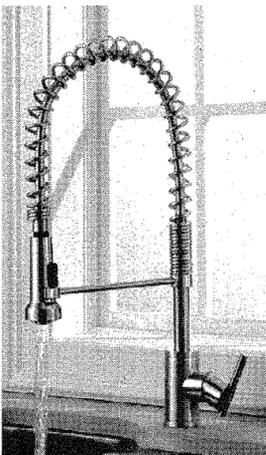
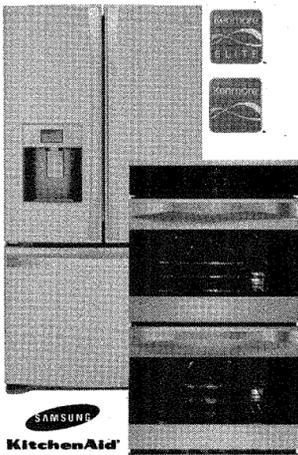
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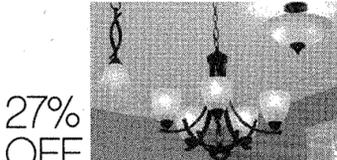


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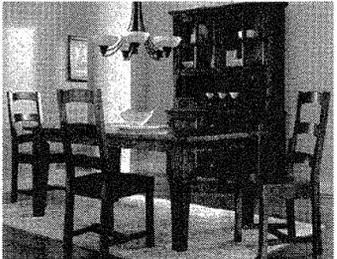
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, February 16, 2011 @ 1:30 p.m.
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#416 Kori Ansvage
#419 Michael Trolls
#517 Reggie Simmons
#622 Bonnie Johnson
#671 Michael Moore
#1030 Christopher Sommers
#1120 Jermarr Barber
#1212 Donald Tait
Units contain car, motorcycle, misc. household items-furniture.
Publish: January 27 and February 3, 2011

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 2 01/18/11

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Bryant, Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves
04: Appr.: minutes of regular meeting held 1/3/11.
- Appr. Motor City H.O.G. Toy Run on 9/25/11.
- Intro. Ord. 248-A-70 to amend Ord. 248, Art. XVI by adding Sec. 16:4.1 thru 16.4.4 to include Access Management Regulations.
-Intro. Ord. 257 to amend Ch. 102 of the City Code by adding Art. VII, Sec. 102-400 thru 102-406 re. installation & maintenance of grease traps at food establishments.
- Adopted Prep. Res. in support of partnership agrmnt. with WWCS Building Trade Program to allocate NSF funding for rehab of 35428 Columbia.
- Adopted Prep. Res. to Deed Lots 23, 24, 26, 27, 35 & part of 33 in Cherry Hill Industrial Sub. to Cherry Hill Associates.
- Adopted Prep. Res. approving Wayne County Annual Permit A-11073.
- Adopted Prep. Res. approving Wayne County Annual Permit A-11128.
- Adopted Prep. Res. approving State of Michigan Annual Permit for work within MDOT Right-of-Way.
06: Appr. bid for Off. City Newspaper to Observer; am't \$4.75 per col. in.
07: Set Public Hearing Date of 2/7/11 (6:30 p.m.) for Brownfield Plan for MJR Threatens.
08: Appr. Rev. Site Plan for Healthy Paws Vet Hospital, 38150 Ford Rd w/contingencies.
09: Appr. checklist: \$361,025.72 & Prepaid: \$1,440,829.65.
Mtg. adj. at 8:18 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

Publish: January 27, 2011

Winning ways

Wayne Memorial JROTC teams bring home the honors

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

How do you spell champion? Need help, just ask the cadets of Wayne Memorial High School's JROTC Zebra Battalion. Since October, the battalion's drill team has won five competitions, including the recent University of Toledo Peterson/Flynn Drill competition, with the Raider team adding to the count with a first-place finish at the 2010 Hobart, Ind., Raider Challenge.

If that isn't enough, the battalion is defending champions in the 7th Brigade Regulation Drill and Academic competition and is last year's 7th Brigade JROTC Leadership Bowl champion.

And senior Army instructor 1st Sgt. Steven LaHaine says a first-place at brigade competition in March "will be the frosting on the cake."

"That's the one that matters," said LaHaine. "It's held in Kentucky and has 209 schools from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee."

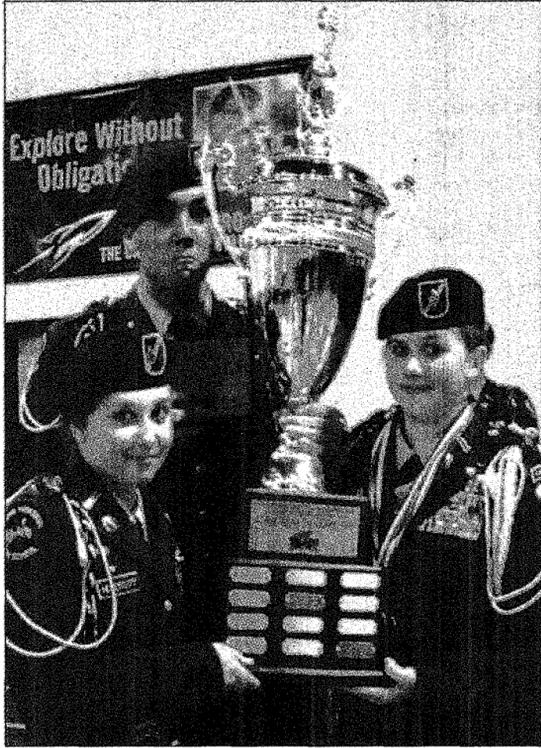
According to LaHaine, the cadets do well in competition because they place in the top three in every event at a competition. It's an impressive statistic, especially when three of this year's competitions that they won at — Anchor Bay, Grand Rapids and River Rouge — included every JROTC team in the state.

"It's the dedication of the instructors and the cadets," said Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Sheldon who is the Raiders Team commander. "Everyone knows Wayne Memorial, they know we're the one to beat."

"It's a lot of hard work and commitment," said Cadet Lt. Col. Kelsie Honeycutt, the battalion commander. "I quit swimming for ROTC because I love it and I wanted to go further in it. I quit swimming so I could put more into it."

"It takes a lot of practice and long hours," added Cadet Maj. Jackie Odien, the battalion executive officer. "We'll work on one command for hours and hours until we get it right. It's tedious, but we don't care because it pays off big time for us."

Wayne's team has proven to be the one to beat in the physical fitness-focused Raider competition. It's been state champion for three years and



Cadet Battalion Commander Kelsie Honeycutt, Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Sheldon and executive officer Cadet Maj. Jaqueline Odien show off the Zebra Battalion's most recent trophy, the University of Toledo ROTC Commander's Cup.

expects to add a fourth championship this year. The team also has placed in the top six, including runner-up, in national competition for four years. That competition, held in Georgia, attracts more than 1,650 Raider teams.

"Wayne Memorial is the best program and it's reflected in the cadets," said LaHaine.

ACADEMICS FIRST

While the organization is military, the emphasis is on academics. According to LaHaine, the program has a 100 percent graduation rate and 80-85 percent of the cadets go on to college or university.

"We teach leadership, geography, math, science; everything is designed to assist the cadet to be successful in high school and get a career," he said. "We stress going to a technical or trade school or college, the military is an option. That's why they put it in the high school so they will be better students and graduate."

Cadets who don't pass every class can't participate

in competition. They also lose their leadership positions and have to work their way back up. Suspensions equate into demerits that the cadets must come in and work off. One demerit equals 45 minutes.

"It's no mandate from the state, it's a Wayne Memorial standard," LaHaine said.

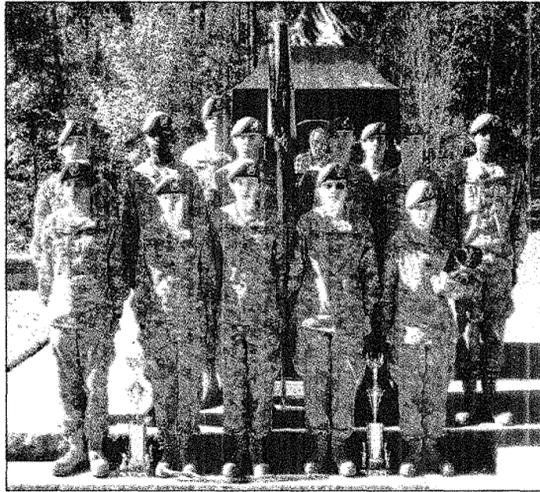
"When I see Wayne Memorial go on the floor, not one cadet is failing or has been suspended."

Likewise, rank isn't just given out, cadets have to go through promotion boards. They have to be recommended by their peers, they have to study.

"They have to do something to earn it," said Sheldon. "Staff sergeant is the hardest. It's the last enlisted rank, so we make it extra hard. We make sure they deserve it."

GREAT POTENTIAL

Only the second woman to command the battalion, Honeycutt was surprised she got the top spot. In JROTC, potential matters and she believes she has "great potential," although it wasn't apparent in night grade when she had a 1.1 grade point average.



The Zebra Battalion Raiders Team poses with their trophies won at national competition in Molena, Georgia.



Wayne Memorial Cadet Sgt. Maj. Cory Sheldon accepts a trophy from Col. John Vanderbleek, director of JROTC for the U.S. Army, at national competition in Georgia.



In Washington, D.C., the Wayne Memorial Leadership Team - Chelsie Draper, Jaqueline Odien, Sheila Tanner and Jenna Johnson - meets with Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell at the JROTC Leadership Bowl.

"I did horrible in school, but in 10th grade something clicked," she said. "If it weren't for the ROTC, I'd probably wouldn't be graduating in time. It was the encouragement of my fellow cadets that made it click that I need to graduate, I need to do better. I knew I had to do better."

What the cadets learn in JROTC shows up in their other classes. According to Odien, "some students act like fools in class, but JROTC kids are cool."

"We're calm and respectful of teachers," she said. "We

know when to be good and when to crack up."

Odien admits that wasn't always the case for her. She didn't do well in middle school and "kind of messed up" her freshman year. Now she as a 4.0 grade point average and plans to attend the University of Michigan.

It was friend who got Odien to join JROTC and the company sergeant who made her promise to come to the first drill team practice.

"They pressure you to do good in classes, on the drill team, it was the color guard

sergeant," she said. "I love drill, I know I'm going to miss it when I leave here. In middle school, I never did anything. I had low-self esteem, but not anymore."

Sheldon is among the few cadets who parlay their JROTC experience into military service. He has already enlisted in the Army and did his basic training last summer at Fort Benning, Ga. When he finishes high school, he will enter the military with a rank of private first class.

"I can tell I'm better than the rest," said Sheldon. "I'm doing everything every other student is doing, but I'm doing more with JROTC. I'm getting real world experiences."

Honeycutt plans to attend college and enlist in either the Reserves or National Guard. She'll do her basic training this summer. It's not looking good in getting an ROTC scholarship, but the Guard and the Reserves will pay for her education. And she also will be in ROTC.

"The best part of JROTC is the standards," added Honeycutt. "You're expected to be better and the truth is we are. We take the initiative, we have pride in our work. We know when to step up and we know what's right and what's wrong. The first day I got here, I knew I'd be in all four years."

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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, January 27, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Four Seasons gets achievement award

Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing Center has something to celebrate.

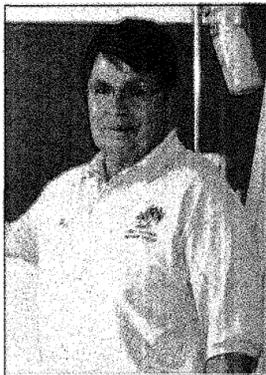
The center, located in Westland, has received a state of Michigan citation-free survey.

Four Season administrator Patricia Lyden is praising her staff for earning the Certificate of Achievement from the Health Care Association of Michigan. The framed accomplishment will soon be hanging in the lobby.

Surveyors from the Michigan Department of Community Health showed up unannounced before Thanksgiving for the annual survey. Every nursing home is surveyed annually for licensing and certification.

During the four days, six surveyors looked for infractions of federal and Michigan Public Health Code regulations used as guidelines for all aspects of resident care. Throughout the year Four Seasons' Quality Assurance Committee meets with the medical director to address concerns.

"It's not easy to get through the survey," said Lyden, who also is a registered nurse. "I'm very proud of the staff from



Four Season administrator Patricia Lyden "very proud of the staff" whose efforts helped the Westland facility earn a state of Michigan Certificate of Achievement.

admissions to maintenance, nursing to dietary. The surveyors get everybody involved in the survey process and are here 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., sometimes through the dinner hour, and meet with family and residents."

The survey results are required to be posted at the reception desk.

"Ask to see survey reports, find out who the physicians are, look at which buildings in the

area are available," said Lyden. "You make the choice. Don't let hospital staff make the decision. It's important for resident families to tour the nursing home and ask questions. Don't always rely on what you're reading on the Internet."

At the time the survey was conducted there were 153 residents at Four Seasons. Surveyors looked not only at the care received from physicians and staff, but if the facility was clean, comfortable and home-like.

"We're very proud of what we were able to accomplish with a team approach," said Lyden. "It takes more than one person to accomplish the feat."

Four Seasons offers in-house dialysis, cardiac rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, secured memory care unit and short- and long-term care. It is a Medicare and Medicaid provider and accepts private insurance.

People interested in knowing more about the center can drop in for a visit. Four Seasons is at 8365 Newburgh, Westland. For more information, call (734) 416-2000 or visit the website at www.fourseasonscenter.com.

MILESTONES

Classic Car Show

Date: Saturday, June 4

Location: Metropolitan Lincoln, 32000 Ford Road in Garden City

Details: Have a classic car or truck you would like to enter? Advance registrations are now being accepted at Metropolitan Lincoln for the third annual Classic Car and Truck Show. Register now and save \$5 off the regular registration price of \$20. Also, there are goody bags for the first 200 advance registrations to be handed out at check in on the day of the show. This event is free to attend with proceeds benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Contact: (734) 259-4870

Kids eat free

Time/Date: 4-9 p.m. everyday

Location: Toast Family Dining, 38340 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Two kids, age 14 and under, eat free with the purchase of a dinner entree or sandwich combo at Toast. Kids' meal choices include kids' burger, grilled cheese sandwich or hot dog, all three with fries and pop or Kids' spaghetti with pop. Milk and Juice not included.

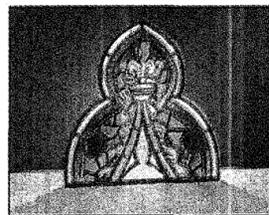
Contact: For more information, call (734) 425-2360.

Belgian Beer Fest

Date: Feb. 16-21

Location: Ashley's Beer and Grill 7525 Wayne Rd., Westland

Details: Be part of the Inaugural Ashley's Belgian Beer Festival. The five-day event will feature one of the broadest collection of Belgian beers in draft (up to 47 at any one time) and bottle ever done in this region. During the festival, Ashley's will be posting beers as they are tapped and listing the bottle beers that are currently available in tasting portions.



Priced at \$195 during Materials Unlimited's Winter Blow Out Sale is this early painted, fired, and stained Gothic style glass window with to stunning hand blown roundels, made in France around 1850.

The festival is free and open to the public but there is a Festival packet along with pre-order specials and a private dinner 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17. The evening features a multi-course meal prepared by Van Steenberge's own chef and accompanied by Van Steenberge's beers with host Jeff Versele, CEO of Van Steenberge. Contact: abbf.ashley.com

Go Red campaign

Location: Macy's at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, Westland

Details: Macy's - America's Department Store - has announced that, for the second consecutive year, it will show its love for the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women movement with exclusive merchandise designed specially in support of the cause. Available at select Macy's, and on macys.com, this year's Go Red merchandise will retail from \$29 to \$99, with up to 10 percent of the sale of each item to be donated to the American Heart Association. Additionally, in honor of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day, Feb. 4, Macy's customers wearing any item of red - anything from lipstick to the signature Red Dress pin to a piece of new Go Red merchandise - will receive a spe-

cial 20 percent discount on a wide assortment of merchandise (and a 10 percent discount on sale and clearance jewelry and watches) at all Macy's stores, as part of the Wear Red Sale Event taking place from Wednesday, Feb. 2, through Sunday, Feb. 6.

Coffee Connection

Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8

Location: American House II, 39201 Joy Road, west of Newburgh, Westland

Details: Coffee Connection is a free casual networking event that allows Westland Chamber of Commerce members to stop in when they can and leave when they need to. Stop in met a few new people and head to work. Stop in for coffee and get some networking done before you have to go to work. No need to RSVP, just stop in when you can

Contact: Call the Chamber at (734) 326-7222 for more information.

Winter Clearance

Time/Date: Now through Tuesday, Feb. 1

Location: Materials Unlimited, 2 W. Michigan Ave. in historic downtown Ypsilanti

Details: Materials Unlimited is putting an end to the winter blahs with a Winter Clearance Blow Out Sale on selected antique items. Brighten your spirits with a restored antique light fixture or warm your home with a hand-carved antique fireplace mantel. With hundreds of clearance items 20-60 percent off, there is sure to be a remedy for everyone. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Contact: Call toll free at (800) 299-9462 or go online to www.materialsunlimited.com

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Help for Allcare patients

A Westland dentist is taking action to help patients affected by the closing of AllcareDental earlier this month.

Dr. Bruce Smoler of Community Dental Implant Group at 820 N. Wayne Road, Westland, was spurred to take action after Allcare Dental suddenly and unexpectedly closed its doors at its 52 locations (10 of which were in Michigan) on Jan. 1, leaving patients without access to records, follow-up care and treatment, or much-needed teeth like dentures and partials, even for those who pre-paid thousands of dollars for their services.

Allcare Dental patients are urged to visit his website at www.dentalimplantsforyou.net for further information and assistance.

Smoler is willing to offer former Allcare patients up to \$10,000 worth of dental implant services, if needed.

"I would be honored to help any abandoned patients smile again," said Smoler. "There is hope. There is help. And we will be able to do it. Here, right now, is the time to have action."



Dr. Bruce Smoler

Smoler also is garnering the support of dentists, oral surgeons, hospitals and other medical providers nationwide to help him in his cause.

"For me, the tipping point came when the chain of offices closed down, stranding thousands of patients across the country with no place to continue their care and treatment," said Smoler. "That is so completely wrong. I find it professionally reprehensible and personally disgusting."

Compelled by the love of dentistry and a genuine con-

cern for people's health and well-being rather than, in his terms, "corporate greed," Smoler has organized a coalition of independent like-minded professionals to "take action and fight the injustices for these abandoned dental cast-offs."

Thanks to the Internet, Smoler has been able to effectively leverage this resource and effectively get his message out. Through his website, blog and social networking sites like Facebook, Smoler can help restore the notion that there are medical professionals out there who care. "I want to use the power of the Internet to make people not only aware of the difference of dentists who are dedicated to their profession, their learning and their training, but beyond that, of their patients' health and well-being."

For more information about Smoler's undertaking, or to find out more details about the Allcare shutdown, visit www.AllCareDentalHELP.org, or www.DentalImplantsForYou.net. For the most up-to-date developments, you may also read Smoler's blog at www.DeathByDentures.com.

Fear can be a factor in what we do

Here's an important question for us to contemplate today. We all have dreams and goals that we don't want to give up on, so how come we frequently do?

Often the factor is fear.

Fear sometimes helps - prompting us to drive more cautiously or hold the stairway handrail - but most of the time fear just gets in the way of living up to our potential.

Author Timothy Ferriss points out, "What we fear doing most is usually what we most need to do. That phone call, that conversation, whatever the action might be - it is fear of unknown outcomes that prevents us from doing what we need to do."

The most nagging "unknown outcome" we're afraid of is failure, by whatever standards we

SUNNY NOTE

define for ourselves. Most of us are geniuses at conjuring up "what if" scenarios leading to our definition of failure. "What if I get rejected," "what if it doesn't work out," etc.

Ferriss says, "Define the worst case, accept it, and then do [what you need to do]." Usually the worst case scenario isn't that bad, furthermore it's not the most likely outcome.

A word of warning - beware of discouraging words from people who think they have your best interests at heart. Loved ones who don't want to see us hurt sometimes try to temper our dreams with (their version of) "reality." Instead, show them that you're not afraid of failure because you're tough enough to try again.

The topic of fear also came up recently when I had the pleasure of hearing Bob Ferriss, CEO of Biggy Coffee

(yummy), speak about his fast growing coffee business. Ferriss said, "People limit their own personal or professional growth because they let fear get in the way." And he reminded us about the importance of courage, which he defined as "doing something you're afraid of, anyway."

While it's safe to say, if we don't try we won't fail, we surely won't succeed either.

I wish you courage - and a sunny day!

Clarity Patton Newhouse

P.S. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall." - Confucius

Clarity Patton Newhouse is Quality and Business Development Manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, January 27, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Chief: No plans to change police station lobby

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When members of the public walk into the Westland Police Department lobby, they find an officer sitting eye level at the front desk and that's not going to change in the aftermath of an incident that left four Detroit police officers wounded.

"It's the same question that Detroit is facing about serving the citizens. Can we best do that by putting ourselves behind glass?" said Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden. "We're not planning any changes."

Four Detroit police officers were injured when a gunman walked into the 6th Precinct on Detroit's northwest side Sunday afternoon and opened fire. The gunman was then

fatally shot when officers returned the gunfire.

Some smaller neighboring police departments like Garden City and Wayne have lobby front desks secured by glass and metal gates but Ramsden said that's because they tend not to have an officer assigned to there. Garden City has a telephone in the lobby to call dispatch when the front desk isn't staffed.

"You need to be more secured, if no one is at the desk. We have an officer assigned to the front desk all day long and they are armed," said Ramsden. "Our approach (to the station) is very visible, our officers are around."

Westland police can serve the public better by offering a more friendly environment, he said, rather than isolating themselves behind glass.

"I hope that circumstances will not require changing that. It (the Detroit shootings) absolutely makes you think about this and each officer will be much more aware," said Ramsden. "We deal with people with emotional problems. We work as well with citizens as we can. We've had people walk up with hand grenades (to be disposed). You have to be aware and ready."

It's a sad situation with the shooting in Detroit, said Ramsden, although the officers are expected to recover from their injuries.

"I'm so glad it's not another funeral," said Ramsden referring to funeral Friday for slain Livonia police officer Larry Nehasil.

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

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Suspicious person

A 15-year-old girl, a sophomore at Westland John Glenn High School, told police Jan. 18 that she was walking home from school about 2:30 p.m. when a driver tried to pick her up.

She said she was walking north bound on Marquette near Abbey Drive when a white Ford Taurus pulled alongside her and the driver yelled out, "You're sexy."

The teen said she continued walking as the car followed. As she neared the park parking lot on Carlson, she said the vehicle pulled into the parking lot and the driver told her to get into the car. She said she ran across the park to the Westland Police Department.

Break-in

A flat screen television, a computer monitor and a manual coin counter, valued at \$1,010, were reported stolen Jan. 22 from Victory Coin Laundry, 7460 Nankin Blvd. The owner said he arrived to find someone had smashed the glass in the west door with a rock.

The owner said that it was the second burglary at his business in approximately a month.

Larceny from a vehicle

At about 5:30 a.m. Jan. 21, police were called to a home in the 400 block of Landsdowne after resident spotted a man checking to see if vehicles were unlocked and getting inside at least one vehicle.

Based on the description provided, officers located a suspect in the 500 block of Bedford. When the suspect saw police, the officer said he dropped a black case he had been carrying and ran westbound through yards.

The officers pursued the man and eventually found him in the hallway of 550 Hickory where he

was arrested. Officers retrieved a GPS unit and three gift cards from the man later identified as a Garden City resident. The man told police he had run to avoid getting into trouble and had entered approximately four or five vehicles which had been unlocked.

Back on Bedford, the officers retrieved the black bag which contained a laptop computer, which was traced back to a home in the 600 block of Landsdowne. The owner reported that his GPS unit and a watch were also missing. He identified the items recovered from the suspect as his property.

The original caller flagged down the officers and pointed out a vehicle the suspect had entered in the 36000 block of Dover. The owner of that vehicle told police a Lowe's gift card had been stolen from his vehicle. The card, with his name on it, had been recovered from the suspect.

A resident in the 300 block of Landsdowne also flagged down police and reported that she had seen someone enter her vehicle. Another gift card was reported missing and recovered from the suspect.

Fraud

A Westland woman didn't fall for a scam in which a caller tried to get her to send emergency money to her grandson, who was supposedly in trouble in Canada. The woman told police she received a call Jan. 18 — a crying young male voice who identified himself as her grandson. He said he had been arrested in Canada while fishing and need bail.

An older male voice identified himself as a park ranger in British Columbia and said that more than \$1,800 was needed for bail and fines. The woman said she was instructed to go to

Kroger and wire the money to a law office in Spain.

When she asked for a phone number so she could contact Westland police to verify all the information before making the wire transfer, she said the caller hung up.

The woman called her grandson, who was actually at Westland Shopping Center.

Assault

On Jan. 24, police were called to Kroger, 200 S. Merriman, when store employees reported detaining a suspected shoplifter who was armed with a knife and fighting with them. An employee, who said she recognized the Inkster man from previous shoplifting incidents, told police that she saw him take two packages of frozen shrimp valued at \$23 and conceal the packages under his clothing.

The man was pushing a cart containing two packages of sausage, the employee said, which he eventually abandoned as he walked from the store. When confronted, the employee said the man removed the shrimp from his clothing and set it on the counter.

When the suspect began to walk away, a second employee said he grabbed the man from behind in a bear hug to detain him for police. Another employee yelled that the suspect had a knife, which had been pulled from his coat pocket. That employee took the knife from the suspect and they held him for police.

Officers arrested the man for retail fraud, assault and battery, possession of a dangerous weapon and possession of a crack pipe, which was recovered from his shirt pocket.

-By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Disorderly person

A 32-year-old Ann Arbor man was ticketed for disorderly conduct and resisting a police officer about 2 a.m. Jan. 23 at Sports Venue, located on Middlebelt at Maplewood.

The incident started when the man argued with two other customers after being told that he couldn't smoke inside of the bar because of Michigan law.

When the police arrived to investigate, he repeatedly disregarded their orders to sit down. As a result, the police took him down to the ground. A table leg was broken inside the bar before police arrived.

Attempt break-in

An unknown man tried to break into the Smokers Shop, located at 27555 Warren Road, while it was closed Jan. 23.

A video captured the image of a known man about 6-foot, medium build and wearing a hooded sweat shirt.

It showed him pull up in a dark-colored SUV and take out a trash can.

The glass on the front door was broken and someone tried to cut the interior security gate. Entry wasn't made.

The police confiscated the trash can as evidence after it was left behind.

Theft

A car owner who lives in the 30000 block of Rosslyn reported that wrenches and sockets were stolen from his GMC some time before 9:30 a.m. Jan. 24.

Embezzlement

Management at the Payless Shoe store located at 29821 Ford reported that one of their employees embezzled about \$750, during the week ending Jan. 10.

Refunds were made using another employee's name. No valid paperwork was used. The store management said it will prosecute unless the employee returns the money.

Stolen car

A Wayne man reported about 12:30 a.m. Jan. 21 that the 2002 Dodge Durango he parked in the Garden City Hospital parking lot on Inkster Road, north of Ford was stolen.

He had gone to the hospital with his son.

The police found no evidence of glass breakage in the lot where the vehicle was parked.

Stolen car

Someone stole a car that was left for repairs at Dewey's Transmission and Auto, 28059 Ford, some time before 9 p.m. Jan. 23. The 2002 Super Duty Ford pickup, was owned by an Ann Arbor woman. She told police that the vehicle was paid off.

Breaking and entering

The owner of a 1999 Ford 350 reported that someone punched the driver's side and the passenger side door locks sometime between 4 and 8 p.m. Jan. 23 while it was parked in the 30000 block of Rosslyn.

Someone dragged away a general speed rooter, valued at \$1,600 from the truck. The police observed marks on the ground.

Larceny

Someone punched the door lock of a GMC Savannah that was parked in the driveway before 1:30 a.m. Jan. 23 in the 30900 block of Brown. The owner said that the security hasp wasn't locked.

About \$3,600 in tools, a laptop and a camera were stolen.

Stolen vehicle

A man reported that someone stole his company truck sometime before 1 a.m. Jan. 18 while it was parked in his driveway in the 31700 block of Kathryn.

The truck had a snow plow on the front of it.

He told police that another one of his company trucks was stolen earlier that evening in Redford Township. Because the trucks have a business name on them, the owner surmised that the thief was able to make the connection to his location in Garden City.

Under the influence

The police arrested a 33-year-old Westland man at 2 p.m. Jan. 19 for being under the influence of narcotics and for driving with a suspended license in the area of Warren Road and Merriman.

A female motorist told police that the man had backed into her car in the nearby Handy Mart parking lot.

The man admitted that he took some prescribed Vicodin prior to driving.

The officer noted in his report that when the man was placed in the back of the police car, his words were slurred, he seemed to be falling asleep and at one point the man appeared to be snoring.

Fraud

A woman who lives in the 482 block of Henry Ruff reported about noon Jan. 17 to police that someone fraudulently used her MasterCard debit card to make a \$700 Sony purchase.

The product was shipped to a Georgia address.

-By Sue Buck



SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2011

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2011 PLYMOUTH ICE FESTIVAL

Love on ice

Festival perfect spot for wedding proposal

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ty Sasena of Plymouth had been searching for a memorable way to propose to his girlfriend, Amber Nogiec of Riverview. They've been together more than four years, and Sasena wanted to make the moment special.

Luckily for Sasena, the 2011 Plymouth Ice Festival provided just the backdrop. That thought occurred to Sasena Wednesday night, just a few days before the festival was to open. The problem, as he saw it, was the timing.

"I'd been ring shopping for the past

few weeks and trying to think of the best way," Sasena said. "I had the idea to do it (Saturday) but I thought it might be too late to have anyone make (the sculpture)."

He needn't have worried. The following day, Sasena visited local ice-sculpting world champion Tajana Raukar's Ice Dreams and ordered the sculpture. The sculpture was delivered to the Sasena Ann Arbor Trail home, just six doors down from downtown Plymouth, on Saturday, hidden where Nogiec couldn't see it.

While Sasena took Nogiec down the street to visit the festival, his family set scene, moving the sculpture to the front yard. On their way home, Sasena texted

his mother that they were on their way. As the couple approached the house, his mother, Lori Sasena, flipped the switch on a spotlight, bathing the sculpture in light.

Sasena dropped to a knee and popped the question.

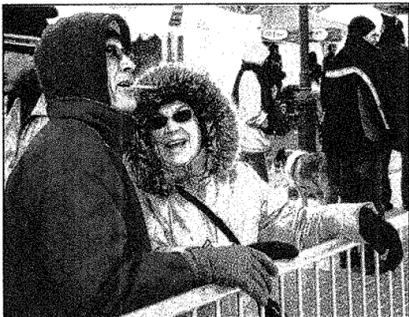
"My parents set it all up, and switched the light on when we got there," Sasena said. "She just screamed, she was shocked."

"He proposed on one knee, and she just screamed," Lori Sasena said. "It was so sweet!"

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Ty Sasena of Plymouth used the Plymouth Ice Festival as the romantic backdrop for his wedding proposal to longtime girlfriend Amber Nogiec of Riverview.



Cindy Folden and William Johnson traveled from their Melvindale home to see Plymouth Ice Festival sculptures in Kellogg Park.



Oakland Community College ice carver Adam Curry, who lives in Clarkston, battles the ice and the elements during the Plymouth Ice Festival.



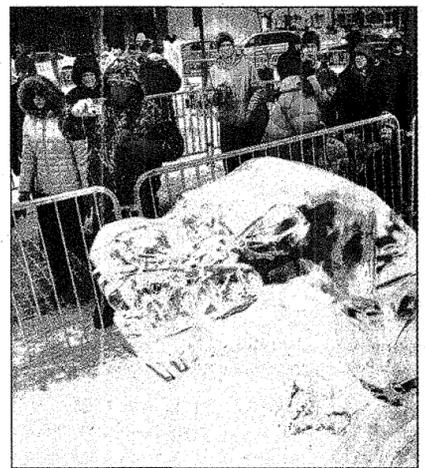
Local carving legend Ted Wakar of Canton works on a Forest Avenue sculpture.



Steve Pavlochak and 7-year-old Gracie Donahee are a couple of chilly penguins, posing for a photo taken by Gracie's mom, Karin Donahee.



Chris Canas, Doug Wolgat, Harry Rodman and Phil Ryski (not pictured) are the Bluescasters, and their smokin' blues warmed up a chilly Penniman Avenue.



A Tyrannosaurus keeps an eye on the ice festival crowd.



Chris Kurtz carves an angel fish sculpture. He's a member of Oakland Community College Ice Carving Team.



Oakland Community College sculptor Aaron Whitten works on his dinosaur sculpture. He's from South Lyon.

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NAMI Metro

Time/Date/Location: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills and Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 at Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor.

Details: NAMI's Families In Action (FIA) educational program is specifically for people with a loved one diagnosed with a mental illness. The workshop meets every week for 10 consecutive weeks, ending April 27 and 28 respectively. Facilitators who conduct the meetings are family members who have been trained by the Educational Committee of NAMI-Michigan. The goal is to help families better understand mental illness, how it affects the family and what they can do to help. A nominal fee of \$20 per person or \$30 per couple will be charged at the time of registration. Families In Action is sponsored by NAMI Metro and funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation - Heritage Hospital.

Contact: For additional information or to register for this program please call (248) 348-7197 or (734) 427-1435. Space is limited, so you must pre-register for this program.

Fibromyalgia Group

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford, Garden City

Details: Lori Grigg will demonstrate how service dogs can help those with chronic pain at the Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group meeting. The group meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the church. There are no dues, but donations are accepted.

Contact: (734) 981-2519; www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Railroadiana

Time/Date: noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6

Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland

Details: The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show at the church hall. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. the day of the show.

Contact: To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

St. Damian Open House

Time/Date: noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30

Location: St. Damian School, 29825 Joy, east of Merriman, Westland

Details: St. Damian School is holding an Open House for parents interested in enrolling their children in the school. The school has been an integral part of the Westland-Garden City area and the Archdiocese of Detroit for 51 years. Both Catholic and non-Catholic families have embraced St. Damian

School as the school of choice for their children. The school maintains high academic standards and offers a well rounded curriculum. Students are respectful, responsible, and take pride in doing their best as they live out their faith life each day. The **Contact:** Parents also can get more information on the school website at www.stdamian.com or call (734) 427-1680 to arrange a tour.

St. Michael Open House

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30

Location: St. Michael School, 11311 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: National Junior Honor Society members will offer group tours, and staff will be on site to answer questions about St. Michael School. The open house for prospective families is part of the school's annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, which runs Jan. 30-Feb. 5. Accredited by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools and named a School of Distinction, St. Michael promotes deep faith values, a solid academic foundation and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and athletics. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call the school or visit the school's Web site.

Contact: (734) 421-7360; www.livoniastmichael.org

St. Robert Bellarmine

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6

Location: St. Robert Bellarmine School, 27101 W. Chicago, Redford

Details: St. Robert Bellarmine School is accepting enrollment for our preschool for 3-4-year-old children. It also has openings in grades K-8 for the 2011-2012 school year. The school offers a strong academic curriculum as well as art, music, library, computer, physical education and Spanish. It emphasizes strength in academics, respect for others and belief in Christian values in a quality faith-based educational environment. Latchkey is available before and after school.

Contact: Call (313) 937-1655 or visit the website at www.strobertbellarmine.com and click on the school link.

Juried Craft Show

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9

Location: Eton Senior Center, 4900 Pardee, Dearborn Heights.

Details: Vendors can visit the Eton Senior Citizen Center to pick up an application for the crafts show between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Application deadline is March 4. The show will feature jewelry, edibles, art wear, wood, personalized items, paper and glass. Food will be available for purchase and there will be a raffle. The show benefits the Dearborn Heights Senior Citizen Program.

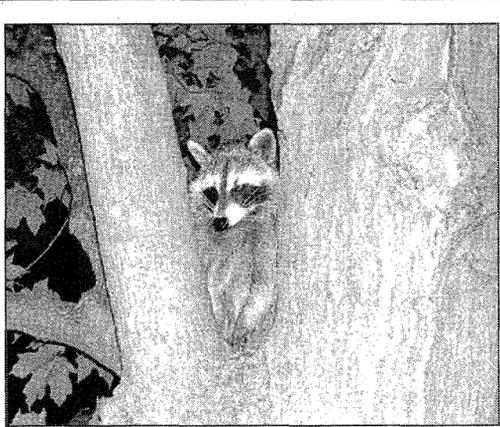
Contact: For more information, call (313) 277-7765.

Sewing Retreat

Time/Date: noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6

Location: Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main Street, Royal Oak.

Details: Haberman Fabrics will hold its 14th annual Super Bowl Sunday "Football Widows Sewing Retreat." New and experienced sew-ers of all ages are invited to join the party, laugh with friends, and learn how to make three sewing projects. Football fans will be home in time for parties and the game. Not a fan?



Take a picture

A photo of a raccoon in a tree, shot by John MacDonald of Westland, was a winner in the Wayne County Parks' photo contest. And the park department is looking for more photographs of natural landscapes and unique events for its fourth annual contest. The winner will be eligible for a cash prize and will have their photo featured prominently in the upcoming Wayne County Parks 2011 brochure, as well as featured on the Wayne County Parks website. Submission deadline is Feb. 12. For complete contest rules and regulations, visit www.waycountyparks.org or call (734) 261-1990.

You'll be set for a creative evening with your new projects. Also benefit for the Shades of Pink Foundation which provides temporary monetary assistance to breast cancer patients during their time of need, participants will get to meet Dr. Pamela Benitez, Beaumont Hospital surgeon and specialist in breast cancer treatment and prevention, and medical director of the organization. Advance registration is preferred and 100 percent of admission donations support the Shades of Pink Foundation. Admission is \$25 in advance or \$35 on Sunday, Feb. 6.

Contact: For more information and secure registration, visit www.habermanfabrics.com or register by phone at (248)541-0010, on in person at Haberman Fabrics.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Contact: For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/ performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.

Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

Westland Rotary

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Salvation Army, 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome.

Contact: Mary at (734) 729-5401

Writing Group

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month

Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.

Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to shepry@yahoo.com

Toastmasters

Location: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

Details: Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

Contact: For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

TOPS 869

Time/Date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

Legion Post 251

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer,

Westland.

Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.

Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

TOPS M128

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland

Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

Garden City Dems

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)

Location: Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

Citizens for Peace

Time/Date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month

Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.

Contact: Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

In Harmony

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting

Contact: call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

Veteran's Haven

Location: Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne.

Details: Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

Contact: (734) 728-0527

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For more information: 734-427-1680

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

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Consider serving

Work is hard, rewards great on school board

Two deadlines are coming up that should be of interest to residents in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The first is 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31. That's when people interested in be appointed to the school board must submit letters of interest, resumes and/or any other information the deem important in regard to being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Martha Pitsenbarger earlier this month. Of course, there's a related date — Monday, Feb. 7. That's when the board will interview candidates and then vote to fill the vacancy.

The second date comes a week later — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8. That's when residents need to either turn in nominating petitions or pay \$100 to be a candidate in the Tuesday, May 3, school election. Two four-year terms will be filled. One is held by incumbent Skip Monit, the other is uncontested.

On the list of elected officials, school board trustee is at the bottom. The hours are long, the responsibility huge and the pay minimal — if anything.

But the rewards are great.

School board members make up the largest body of elected officials in the United States. We entrust them to set the policies of our most treasured institutions: our public elementary, middle and high schools. As a school board member, you set policies and goals, make financial decisions and help plan for the education of the children in your community, one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen.

The satisfaction comes on graduation day with knowing you have helped prepare another class of students for the future.

The requirements to be a trustee are straightforward: Be a registered voter in the district, be at least 18 years old and a citizen of the United States, Michigan and the school district. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have an interest in the public education.

We encourage residents to consider running. Documents related to the appointed position must be turned at the superintendent's office at the district's Administration Building, 36745 Marquette, Westland. The appointment is to complete the remaining 143 days of Pitsenbarger's term, which expires June 30.

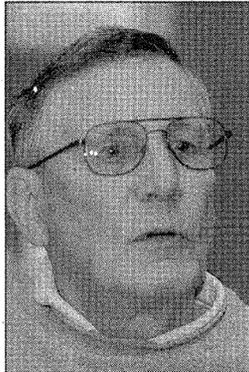
Filing for the annual election can be done through the Westland City Clerk office in Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford, or the Wayne City Clerk office in the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road. The terms filled in the annual election expire June 30, 2015.

If running for school board appeals to you, throw your hat into the ring. Try it, we're sure you'll like it.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What did you think of the governor's State of the State speech?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



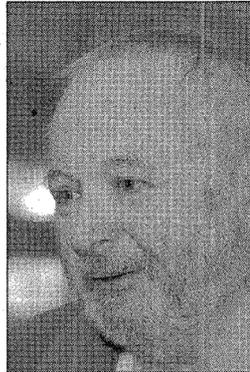
"I liked it, but I think it was a little bit incomplete. There were a lot of answers, but he didn't address the problems."

Henry Mundie
Livonia



"I thought it was OK, but it was only words. I'm ready to see the action."

Heather Benkert
Westland



"I didn't watch it. The last several governors haven't been that good, and it's really bad when they tell you to vote for the best of the worst."

Virgil Ketz
Wayne



"I didn't even watch it."

Jessica Camilleri
Livonia

LETTERS

Appreciates support

The Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation will present a "Night of Fine Dining & Intrigue" Saturday, Feb. 12, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. The event, running from 5:30 p.m. to midnight, will feature a mystery-themed dinner theater and auction.

The performance will be by the Murder Mystery Players, a professional theater troupe. The theme, for the evening, which includes a silent auction and live auction, is "Murder Most Romantic." There will be hot appetizers and a steak and shrimp dinner as well as dessert and cash bar. Appetizers will be served 6:15 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. The curtain opens at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$40. Tables of eight are \$300. Each ticket also includes two cocktails.

The Sherlock Holmes Sponsor is Michigan Chiropractic Specialists, Dr. Amanda Apfelblat.

The Inspector Clouseau Sponsor is Juenemann Insurance Agency.

Agatha Christie Sponsors are Ameriprise Financial, Antoinette Martin, Don Nicholson Enterprises, Joseph Tseng, D.D.S., Westland Mayor William R. Wild and North Brothers Ford/Lincoln-Mercury.

Columbo Sponsors are Bank of America Home Loans, C&M Printing and Imaging, Community Dental Associates; EQ Excalibur Truck and Trailer, Harlow Tire, City Council President James Godbout, Joy Manor, Judge Mark McConnell, Judge Sandra Cicirelli; Crazy Kopz Rentals, Toarina's Pizza, Westland Floor Covering, Westland Lock & Key and Westland Youth Assistance.

Proceeds will support Westland Youth Assistance and Rotary charities. For information on the event or sponsorships, call Mary Vellardita or Dick Isham at (734) 729-5401.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Tickets for the Feb. 12 event are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce office on Ford Road between Wayne Road and Newburgh, as well as C&M Printing and Juenemann Insurance.

Donations are welcome and should be payable to Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation.

We invite all to come out on Feb. 12 and join us for a great evening of fun benefiting worthy causes. In these challenging economic times, Westland Rotary appreciates the support of all our sponsors who do so much to improve the quality of life for many in our community. Hope you can join us on Feb. 12 at Joy Manor!

Mary Vellardita,
Westland Rotary

Support Right To Repair bill
Members of the 112th Congress have an

opportunity to take bipartisan action that would have a positive outcome for every American who owns and operates a car, truck, motorcycle or other motor vehicle. Passage of the Motor Vehicle Owners Right To Repair Act would ensure that vehicle owners have a choice of where they bring their vehicle for repairs, ensuring that vehicle repair is affordable and convenient for all Americans.

A wide variety of constituencies have come out in support of the Right To Repair Act, including those representing the military and their families, senior citizens, motorcycle riders, recyclers and organizations representing consumers and rural communities. Consumers benefit from competition and groups like AAA, the American Military Society and National Grange know that their members are at a disadvantage when neighborhood auto repair shops are denied ready access to nonproprietary service information and tools needed to properly maintain today's highly sophisticated motor vehicles.

Enthusiastic grassroots support of Right to Repair continues to gain momentum, sending a strong message to Congress that motoring consumers want this issue heard and passed. Tens of thousands have sent e-mails and letters of support to their elected officials and thousands have joined the rapidly growing social media community to participate in the conversation and follow the legislative developments.

Please join us and take action by visiting www.righttorepair.org to send a letter to your members of Congress urging them to support the Right To Repair Act.

Kathleen Schmatz
president and CEO
Automotive Aftermarket Industry
Association

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: Water and sewer rates

I found highly interesting the comments by 2 city council members, looking to cover the \$2.2 M shortage from the bonds sold for Taylor Towers and NOT passing along a rate increase. There's no money in government that doesn't come from the tax-payer. Money to pay back the bond = taxpayer. Money to re-fund the Water/Sewer acct = money from taxpayer. Govt has NO MONEY other than that which is paid by the taxpayer or user, unless it is donated or some advantage is sold. Period. The charade of avoiding rate or tax increases by somehow getting money from another source is just that - a charade. To continue to try and fool the taxpayer/citizen with ideas that govt can "find" money thru another source just continues the lie that citizens can get govt service for nothing.

600mainstreet

The issue: Arrests in police shooting

Something is really wrong with this, these are all felons that are out of prison ... and they kill a cop. Why are they out of prison? I am sure a cop would still be alive, if these people were still in prison. Why were they out? Was the community warned that nuts were out on the street? I hope whatever parole board was in on the decision to release these losers is fired for doing a terrible job. Rehabilitation, does anyone know what that means. Apparently not, must be just a word to whoever released these losers and it's unfortunate. I know our system is a good as it gets, and you hear about all kinds of people that served time who were innocent, they deserve to be out, not these murderers. Lock them up and throw away the key this time. It is time our penal system works the right way

Budder

Trash deal turns Canadian trucks around

We all remember the headlines when Toronto closed its landfill in 2003 and started shipping all their trash to Michigan. It was outrageous that Michigan had become Canada's dumping ground. This trash poses health, safety, and security threats to Michigan families and our communities, which is why we have made it our priority to stop the trash.



Sen. Debbie Stabenow



Sen. Carl Levin

The root of the Canadian trash problem is simple economics. Michigan's trash dumping charge is the lowest in the region, which turned our Great Lakes State into a magnet for garbage from Toronto and other Ontario cities. Instead of using their own landfills, Ontario cities started filling up ours. Although these

dumping charges are set by the state, we took the fight to stop the trash to Congress. Legislative efforts in the U.S. House and Senate got the attention of the Canadians.

In the fall of 2005, our efforts brought Ontario officials to the negotiating table and together we hammered out an agreement that Ontario would stop sending their city trash to Michigan by the end of 2010. We are pleased to report that the agreement worked. As of Dec. 31, 2010, Toronto and three other municipalities stopped sending their city trash to Michigan.

This Stabenow-Levin agreement literally slams the brakes on 1.5 million tons of Ontario's city waste that otherwise would be dumped in our backyard every year.

Of all the proposed solutions to deal with Canadian trash, this is the only one that has shown a real, measurable reduction in waste coming into our state. In fact, more than 40,000 truckloads of trash would be entering Michigan each year had we not reached this agreement.

Many legal experts feel that if proposed federal legislation to simply ban Canadian trash passes, it will be subjected to lengthy court challenges under international laws for many years. One of the reasons our agreement has been successful is because it could not be challenged in court.

Canada has always been a great neighbor and we want to thank the Ontario officials and citizens who worked with us over the last four years to honor their agreement with our state. While this is an important victory, the fight is not over. In the coming months we will turn our attention to stopping the nonmunicipally managed waste coming into our state from private companies that was not covered by this agreement. We won't give up until all trash trucks coming into our great state from Canada are stopped.

Democrats Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate. Comments and questions can be sent to Stabenow on her website at stabenow.senate.gov and to Levin on his website at levin.senate.gov.



Jackie Grace, 8, of Westland, with her Model T pickup truck kit.

Roll models

Club gets kids glued to 'old school' hobby

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Bob Blevins was a kid, there weren't computers, Xbox 360s, Playstations, the Wii, iPods or even cell phones to text his friends.

Entertaining television was a rarity.

"Cartoons were only on Saturday mornings," said Blevins, of Westland.

Building model cars, airplanes and more, was the thing to do, he said.

And, now he's making sure kids today have the same chance to experience the hobby that's become somewhat rare among kids nowadays.

Blevins leads a Kids Model Building Club every Saturday at Nankin Hobby in Farmington. He started the club three years ago and has introduced this classic hobby to 180 kids since its first season.

"I grew up model building," said Blevins, who is a member of the International Plastic Modelers Society, Livonia Chapter.

He, along with his son Travis, 14, and other volunteers from the IPMS-Livonia, run the free club every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in a large room at Nankin Hobby, on Nine Mile, just east of Farmington Road.

Blevins has a passion for model building and for exposing as many kids as possible to the lost art of sitting and building something cool, from scratch.

"It's just something that we never let go," he said. "A lot of kids don't even know this hobby exists. We love the hobby so much and we don't want to let it die out."

It's free to join the Kids Model Building Club, which runs from September through the end of March. The first model car, a snap together kit, is free. Nankin Hobby offers a discount to club members on kits and supplies.

The young modelers have built everything from battle ships and World War II airplanes to Indy cars, tanks and even a T-Rex dinosaur. Supplies are donated by Nankin Hobby and by fellow modelers, like Steve Grigg of Garden City, who stopped by



April Grace, 6, of Westland, is working on a snap together model at the Kids Model Building Club.

last Saturday to donate a dozen kits.

"I'm just thinning out my collection a bit," he said. "I figured I'd let the kids have some fun with them."

Grigg is happy to help promote modeling among the younger generation.

"The hobby has gotten away from kids over the years," he said.

BUILDING INTEREST

Donations and the generosity of Nankin Hobby makes the club possible, said Blevins. The shop was devastated by fire and reopened last August, with a bigger and better work area for the club to use.

Chris Wrigley, the store's general manager, said the club builds an interest in model building and it's good for business.

"It's good for both parties," he said. "Parents, kids, everybody comes in — everybody's welcome."

Blevins and the IPMS-Livonia also hosts a make-and-take event every year at the Westland Library. That's where Dorothy Grace of Westland and her three girls, April, 6, Jackie, 8, and Emma, 11, discovered they liked the hobby.

"You get to be creative," said Jackie Grace, who is building a Model T pickup at the Kids Model Building Club.

QUALITY ACTIVITY

Scott White of Redford who is also in the IPMS Livonia chapter, brings his daughter Eden, 12, and his son, Lear, 8, to the club on Saturdays.

He enjoys the quality time with his kids.

"It's a nice solid chunk of time that I get to be with them," he said.

White became interested in modeling when he was in high school and is glad to pass the interest to his kids.

"I think it gives them a sense of accomplishment; it helps with hand-eye coordination and problem solving," he said. "They stop and ask questions and sometimes we figure it out together. There's a lot of patience involved. It's just a different set of skills."

His son, Lear, started building an Indy car last year, but lost some parts and moved on to a different model. He actually finished that car on Saturday, and was happy to show it everyone.

"I'm really proud of him," said Scott White.

His daughter, Eden, is working on something inspired by a trip to Greenfield Village.

She's building a reissued Robert E. Lee Revell brand Mississippi Steamboat, a kit that was first sold in 1957.

"I started working on a car, but this was more interesting to me," she said. "I saw (the boat) at Greenfield Village and thought it was really cool."

Tommy Strech, 14, of Livonia, is almost finished building a Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero Fighter, an airplane that was part of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Tommy likes the history of World War II, so it gives him the chance to learn more about it," said Tom Strech, his dad, who also grew up building models.

Tommy said it's nice to do something different.

"I like taking the time and breaking away from all of the electronics," he said. "And, I like seeing what others are building. To me, there's no good model and there's no bad model. You can't really mess up on a model."

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2369

Hope 4 Healing Hearts hosts special program

The correctional ministries director for the Eastern Michigan Division and social services caseworker for the Salvation Army will be the guest speaker at a program hosted by Hope 4 Healing Hearts Inc.

Envoy Johnson will speak about "Missing Loved Ones and Surviving Holidays" Monday, Feb. 14. The presentation will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 366660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

The program is open to the public and is designed for anyone who has lost a loved one to the prison system.

Johnson earned his associate's degree in theology

from the Assemblies of God Bible College in England. He currently is a member of the American Correctional Association, American Protestant Chaplains Association and Chaplains Advisory Council for the State of Michigan. He also is the director of Camp Discovery, a camp for children ages 8-12 who have at least one parent who is incarcerated.

Johnson has been with the Correctional Ministries of the Salvation Army and for 10 years with 10 state prisons, two federal prisons and two transitional houses in Cheboygan. He recently developed and is now teaching Life Skills, a program designed to prepare inmates

who are within six-12 months of release so they can transition back into society.

Hope 4 Healing Hearts provides a safe environment for group support through education, financial information, emotional guidance and spiritual assistance and allow families who are victim to shame, embarrassment and pain because of a loved one in prison, an opportunity to heal.

The group meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month at Kirk of Our Savior Church. For more information, call Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com.

AROUND WESTLAND

Metro Fibro Group

Lori Grigg will demonstrate how service dogs can help those with chronic pain when the Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, south of Ford, in Garden City.

The group also is hosting a seminar/workshop 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Dr. Howard Schubiner from Providence Hospital, and author of Unlearn Your Pain, and Dr. James Dowd, rheumatologist, and author of The Vitamin D Cure, will be the speakers.

The seminar/workshop costs \$40 per person.

The group has no dues but donations are accepted and appreciated. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com or call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519.

Kroger sponsors 'Make History' contest

Michigan students can win more than \$59,000 in scholarships, laptop computers and family field trips during Kroger's fifth annual "I Can Make History" contest.

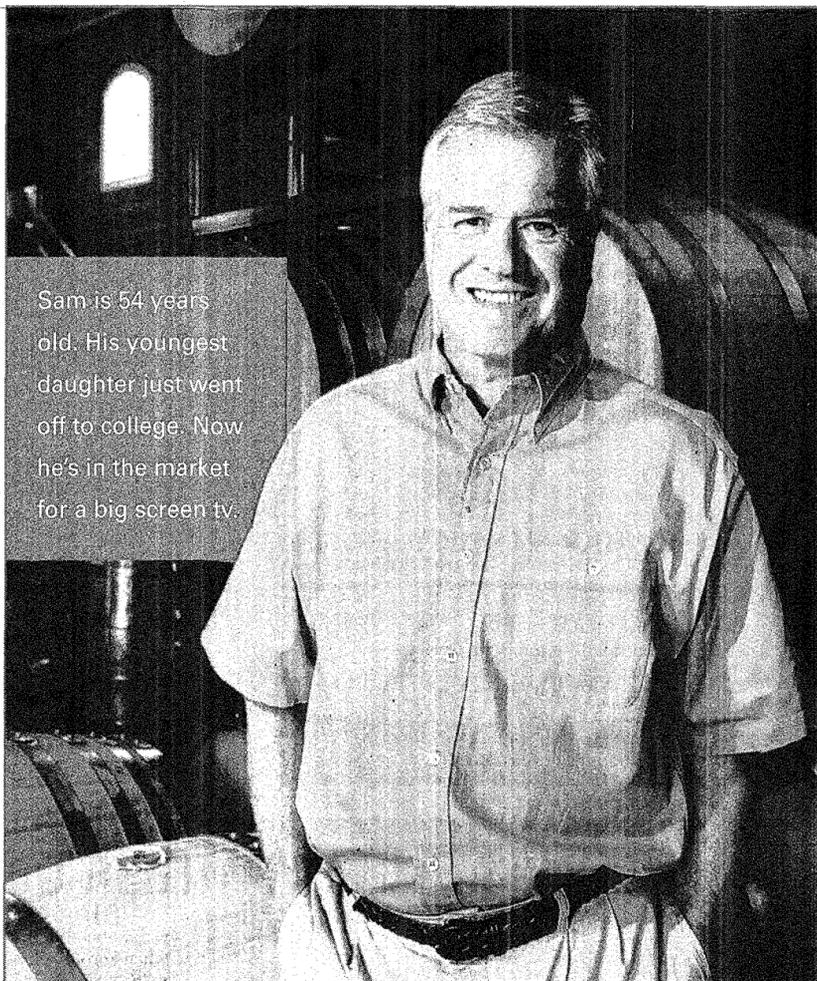
The Kroger Co. of Michigan will award prizes to students in the fourth through 12th grades who are enrolled in a Michigan school. Entries are due by Monday, Feb. 28. Contest details can be viewed at www.icanmakehistory.com or www.kroger.com.

Students may enter any of four categories: art, essay, music or poetry. Entries must represent a student's original work, with one entry accepted per student, per category. All entries will be judged by an independent organization and winners notified by March 16. Winners will be recognized during an

awards luncheon held Saturday, March 26, at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

"Kroger conducts the competition during Black History Month because so many African Americans made lasting contributions that significantly impacted our nation," said Rick Going, president, The Kroger Co. of Michigan. "The I Can Make History" competition is open to students of all races and challenges them to consider what they can do to change the course of American history."

All entries must address one of the themes - How are you and/or your community making history or What does Black History Month mean to me - with entries judged on their originality, creativity and effectiveness in highlighting one of the themes.



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

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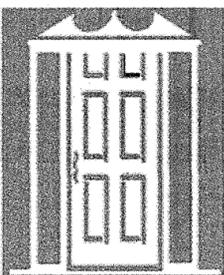
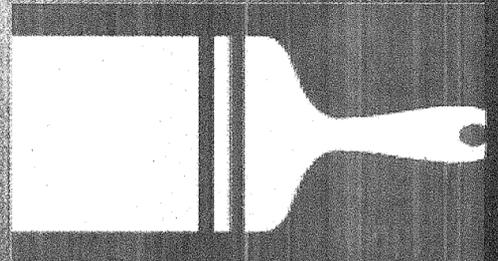
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20th Observerland grapples without 3 key teams

SIDELINES

Ocelots hang on

Freshman Shawnicka Thomas scored a game-high 18 points, including 12 straight late in the second half, to propel the eighth-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team to a 68-57 victory Saturday at St. Clair County Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, who improved to 17-3 overall and 7-0 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference, also got 16 points from Diamond Tolliver and 16 rebounds from Kimberly Bee. Cameo Kendrick also chipped in with nine points and nine rebounds.

Niki Helm had 15 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Skippers, who led 50-48 with just over seven minutes remaining before Thomas took control.

Kelsey Jensen added 10 points for St. Clair (13-7, 5-2), which trailed 30-27 at half-time after going up 9-0 to start the game.

Schoolcraft shot only 36.5 percent from the floor (23-of-63), including 38 percent from 3-point range (8-of-21). The Lady Ocelots were 14-of-21 from the foul line (66.7 percent).

Crusader saluted

Madonna University sophomore Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week in women's basketball for the second time this season.

The 6-foot center averaged 18 points and 6.5 rebounds in two games last week, including a 24-point performance last Saturday in a 74-47 win over visiting Indiana Tech.

McGrath ranks 30th in the NAIA nationally in field-goal percentage (49.8).

LJAL Val's dance

The Livonia Junior Athletic League will stage its annual Valentine's Day benefit dinner dance from 6 p.m. until midnight at the St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

Tickets are \$95 per couple (includes open bar, dinner, dance music from Men in Black and raffle prizes).

For tickets or to obtain a sponsorship, visit www.ljal.com or e-mail info@ljal.com.

MU softball signees

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White announced the signing of two players for the 2011 season, including Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) and Angela Pavilanis (Flat Rock).

Creighton is entering her fourth varsity season after hitting .401 her junior year with four homers. She is a two-time all-Oakland Activities Association, all-district and all-region selection.

"Karleigh is a player who can create havoc at the top of the lineup for us," White said. "She will add even more speed to our outfield next season. We lose a great outfielder this spring in Tara (LaMilza), but know that Karleigh could come in right away and play. She has learned from a great coach in Dave Brubaker and we are looking forward to getting her here."

Pavilanis, a pitcher, is also entering her fourth varsity season. The two-time all-Huron League and all-district selection holds Flat Rock season records for strikeouts (259), wins (18) and earned-run average (0.76) for coach Steve Pryzbo.

Pavilanis is also a two-time all-Huron League pick in basketball and member of the National Honor Society.

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Although three of last year's top four team finishers have opted out this year, the 20th annual Observerland Invitational Wrestling Tournament refuses to be pinned to the mat.

Fifteen teams will vie for the title, including defending champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, last year's Division 1 state champion.

Tournament action begins at 9 a.m. at Livonia Churchill High School, with the finals set for approximately 5 p.m. All-

day admission is \$6.

Last year's Observerland runner-up Canton, currently ranked No. 8 in Division 1, along with third-place finisher Livonia Franklin and fourth-place finisher Westland John Glenn, will not be in the tournament for the first time.

Canton is coming off a runner-up finish in last weekend's Wayne County tourney hosted by Romulus.

Canton coach Cory Mancuso cited redundancy in scheduling for not attending the longtime tourney.

"We do not want to see the same teams over and over

again," he said. "Also, you need rest. Wrestling is a mentally and physically tough sport. Rest does the body good."

Meanwhile, Franklin is coming off a third-place finish at Wayne County and coach Dave Chiola raised similar issues.

"The KLAAs and districts have virtually the same nucleus of teams," Chiola said. "Many of us travel very far to avoid seeing the same competition. The Wayne County tournament gave us a chance to go somewhere and see different competition. I don't think there was

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

MAT EXTRAVAGANZA

What: 20th annual Observerland Wrestling Invitational.

When: Saturday, Jan. 29 (first-round action starts at 9 a.m., with the finals starting at approximately 5 p.m.)

Where: Livonia Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail).

Admission (all day): \$6 (family discounts available).

Participating schools: Livonia Churchill, Belleville, Farmington,

Farmington Hills Harrison, Garden City, Livonia Stevenson, Lutheran High Westland, North Farmington, Northville, Novi, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, Plymouth, Redford Union, Salem, Wayne Memorial.

Past winners: Catholic Central (1993, '96, '99, 2000, '02, '03, '09, '10); Livonia Franklin (2005, '06, '07); Stevenson (1994, '95, '97); Canton (2001, '08); Churchill and Westland John Glenn (2004); Salem (1998); Farmington (1992).

McGrath sparkles as MU women roll

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

During a timeout midway through the second half Saturday and the host Madonna University women's comfortably ahead, the musical interlude played "Rocky III's" theme song "Eye of the Tiger."

By then the host Crusaders

had already delivered knockout punch on its way to recording an easy 74-47 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph over Indiana Tech.

Revenge definitely was on the mind of the Crusaders, who lost an earlier meeting this season (Dec. 1) at Tech, 78-63.

Livonia Stevenson grad Kaylee McGrath, a 6-foot-1 sophomore center, tied a career-high high with 24 points to go along with seven rebounds as MU improved to 8-9 overall and 4-5 in the WHAC.

"It was just a great team effort," McGrath said. "We were all working so well together. We were passing the ball nicely. We came off of a tough loss at Aquinas (54-47 on Wednesday) and we knew it was time to get it in gear."

"We lost to Indiana Tech the first time and we knew it was time to get back at them and showed that we deserved to win."

McGrath, who went both inside and outside, was one of the major reasons why the Crusaders enjoyed a 38-24 half-time advantage as she tallied 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting.

"McGrath is a pretty special player," MU coach Carl Graves said. "We've never expected this

amount of growth in a year and a half here, but she's unbelievable right now. She does some wonderful things. She listens well. She's starting to do some things in practice to help her game get better because people are now keying on her and she hasn't slowed down a bit, so it's really cool to see her come out with a performance like that."

Tabatha Wydryck, a senior forward, added her third double-double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Erin Bentley also came off the bench to score 11 points, while starter Heather contributed 10.

The Crusaders shot 41.8 percent from the floor, but ironically did better from the three-point line going 11-of-21 (52.4 percent).

"That's scary, isn't it?" Graves said of his team's three-point prowess. "They shoot well like that in practice all the time."

We've been waiting for an explosion like that from the three-point line. I've got some really good shooters on the perimeter. Most teams are starting to stand in the paint guard us, so it's always nice to have that type of performance."

Indiana Tech (10-13, 4-5) shot only 29.6 from the floor to go along 24 turnovers.

The Warriors' leading scorer Yasmine Coleman finished with a team-high 17 points.

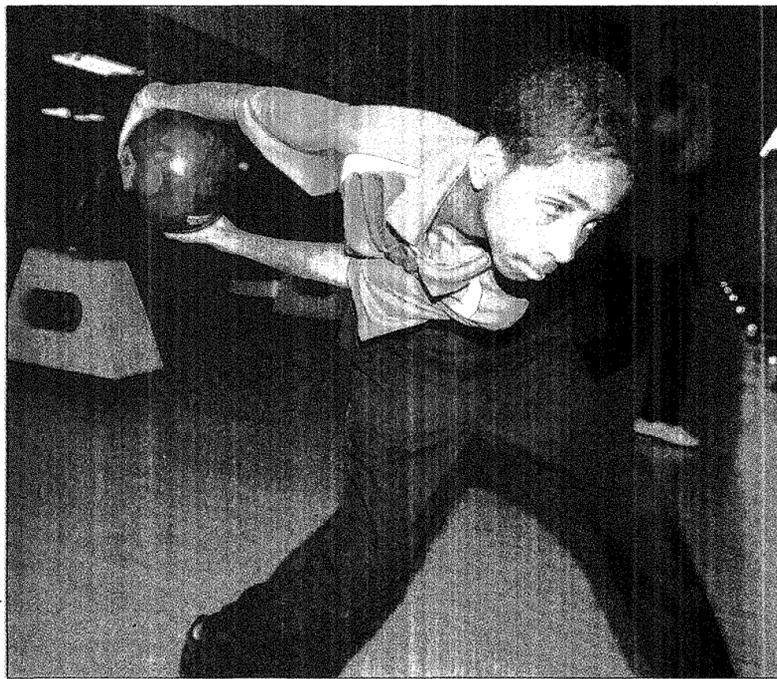
Meanwhile, McGrath showed why she had the "Eye of the Tiger" as she hit two-for-two from the three-point line and added four assists. She is averaging 16 points and seven boards per game to lead MU.

"I've always been a three-point shooter," the Stevenson grad said. "I was a guard until high school and then I kind of grew into a post player."

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Kaylee McGrath



Jordan Hornes rolled games of 267-237 to pace John Glenn to a 19-11 KLAAs Central Division win Monday over rival Wayne at Novi Bowl.

OBSERVER STAFF PHOTOS

Pin pals meet

Glenn boys stay unbeaten, stop rival Wayne

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The much anticipated matchup between boys bowling rivals Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial did not disappoint Monday afternoon at Novi Bowl.

Glenn emerged the victor with a 19-11 triumph to improve to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the KLAAs Central Division.

"The score doesn't represent the outcome of the match," Glenn coach Ron Brusseau said. "It was a close, hard-fought match that could have gone either way."

Glenn edged the Zebras in the first Baker game (alternating shots), 202-200, while Wayne ran away with the second, 226-167 to post six out of a possible 10 points.

The match game would decide everything and each team was up to the challenge.

Glenn captured the first game by only 12 pins, 1,040-1,028, and it went down to the wire in the second with the Rockets outscoring Wayne, 1,065-1,042, to take 15 of a possible 20 points.

Jordan Hornes paced the Rockets with a two-game set of 267-237-504. Teammate John Cleavenger finished with a 216-212-438, while Daniel Ammons rolled a 235 single game.

Wayne's Jeremy Brown was also up the challenge with a two-game set of 236-227-463. Elliot Arnold added a 232-215-447 and T.J. Lave had a single game of 231.

The loss drops Wayne to 8-1 overall and 5-1 in the KLAAs Central.

On the girls side, Glenn won both Baker games and moved into a three-way tie for first place in the KLAAs Central with a 16-14 win over the Zebras.

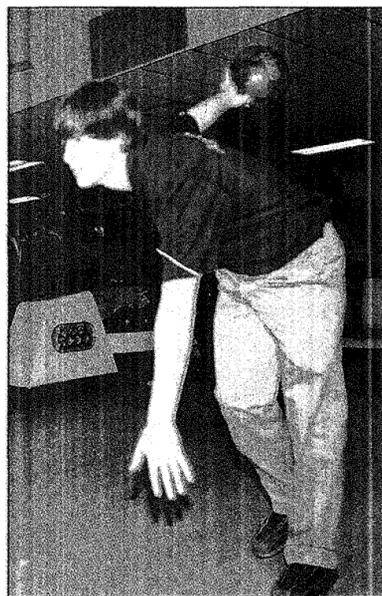
Tiffany Markham rolled a single game best of 230 for Wayne, while Khiry Sparks paced Glenn with a 211.

Glenn is now 5-4 overall, while Wayne falls to 6-3. Both teams are 4-2 in the KLAAs Central (tied with Salem).

Wayne County boys

Flat Rock defeated Salem, 185-152, 191-170, in the finals in Saturday's sixth annual Wayne County Tournament held at Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights.

Defending champion John Glenn and district rival Wayne finished one-two in the qualifying block with totals of 3,663 and 3,612, respectively.



Wayne Memorial's Elliot Arnold posted games of 233-215 in Monday's 19-11 loss to rival Westland John Glenn.

Glenn posted match games of 946-915-991 and a two-game Baker set of 438-373. Wayne finished with a 905-876-940 in match games and posted a two-game Baker set of 453-438.

Glenn was eliminated in the semifinals by Flat Rock, 174-162 and 177-171 in a best two-of-three Baker format.

In the quarterfinals, Glenn ousted Plymouth, 187-225, 206-126 and 215-194, while Salem knocked off Wayne, 215-192, 208-193.

Taylor Truman's Preston Wiley posted both the high game (235) and high series (656) for the tourney.

Other high series were posted by Wayne's Jeremy Brown (652) and Glenn's Jordan Hornes (615).

Glenn's Steven White was second for high game with a 235 while Brown took third with a 228.

Other top scorers for Glenn included Thomas Brusseau, 225; Steven Brusseau, 219; and Daniel Ammons, 214.

Please see **BOWLING, B3**

Crusader bid falls short

Redshirt junior Tyler Coker's career-high 16 points wasn't enough Saturday as the Madonna University men's basketball team fell to host Indiana Tech, 62-56, at the Schaefer Center.

Fellow redshirt junior Mitch Cieslak added 10 points, while senior Geoff Gaylor added 10 points, nine rebounds and two blocks.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Freshman point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) tallied nine points as the Crusaders fell to 5-16 overall and 3-6 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Indiana Tech (16-6, 7-2) got 14 points from Rodney Bartholomew, while Clyde McKinney and Ashton Foster added 13 apiece. Manny Hendrix chipped in with 11.

The Warriors led by 33-23 at half-time and by as many as 14 points in the second half before MU pulled even at 51-all on a basket by Gaylor with 3:36 left.

But Bartholomew's two free throws put Tech back up for good and the Warriors made all six of its free throws down the stretch to claim the WHAC victory.

Indiana Tech went 23-of-32 from the foul line, while MU hit 14-of-17.

ST. CLAIR CC 91, SCHOOLCRAFT 68: On Saturday, Chatavious Turner scored 21 points and Jesse Scheinke added 17 as host St. Clair County Community College (16-5, 6-1) downed Schoolcraft College (8-12, 2-5) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game.

The Ocelots, who dug themselves a 55-30 halftime hole, got 22 points and nine rebounds from Wayne Memorial's Daniel Hill.

Lydell Mason added 14 points and 17 rebounds, while Karl Moore contributed 10 points.

Schoolcraft lost two players to injury including Ron Pummill (Garden City) in the first 30 seconds of the game and Mohamed Elhaj in the second half. Neither player returned.

Schoolcraft shot only 12-of-24 from the foul line, while St. Clair County was 6-of-9.

Clarenceville ends 7-game slide; Spartans keep Churchill winless

Junior guard Damien Quarles netted a game-high 19 points as Livonia Clarenceville snapped a seven-game losing streak Tuesday night with a 55-41 boys basketball win over visiting Harper Woods.

BOYS HOOPS

Both teams are 3-7 overall on the season. Sam Brown contributed 10 points for the victorious Trojans, who pulled away from a 24-22 halftime lead with a 19-4 third quarter run.

"We always play hard, but we were better with our free throws (11-of-16) and we hit our 'bunnies' inside," said Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson, whose team hadn't won since Dec. 10, 2010. "We're starting to pull things together."

Michael Chiles led the Pioneers with 10 points. STEVENSON 63, CHURCHILL 38: Xavier University signee Jalen Reynolds, a 6-foot-9 senior center, led a balanced attack with 17 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks Tuesday as Livonia Stevenson (10-1) downed host Livonia Churchill (0-11) for the second time this season.

Senior guard C.J. Mwila chipped in with 16 points, while junior guard Jonathan Campbell added nine.

The Spartans also got a lift off the bench from junior guard Boulos Saba, who scored seven. Stephen Foster paced the Chargers, who couldn't overcome a 31-15 halftime deficit, with 10

points. Melvin Hill added six. Stevenson was 11-of-16 from the foul line, while Churchill was 8-of-13.

JOHN GLENN 44, SOUTH LYON 37: Nick Daniels and Marcus Mecks combined for 30 points as Westland John Glenn (7-4) snapped a three-game losing skid with a Kensington Conference crossover win Tuesday over the visiting Lions (4-7).

Daniels, a sophomore point guard, finished with 16 points while Mecks, a senior guard, added 14.

Junior Christian Covile added nine as the Rockets outscored South Lyon 24-19 in the second half after leading 20-18 at the break.

Glenn was 7-of-13 from the foul stripe, while the Lions hit 4-of-5.

FRANKLIN 43, S.L. EAST 32: Senior forward Blake Lukas tallied 13 points Tuesday to lift Livonia Franklin (3-8) to a Kensington Conference crossover victory over visiting South Lyon East (0-11).

Colin Wedesky led the Cougars with nine points. Franklin made only 6-of-17 free throws, while East connected on 6-of-10.

"We muddled through," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "Free throws are still an issue. We have to improve."

NORTHVILLE 55, WAYNE 52: On Tuesday, Andrew Baldwin's 18 points propelled the Mustangs (6-5) to the Kensington Conference crossover triumph at Wayne Memorial (2-8).

Bryce Groshek added 13 points for Northville, which led 40-38 after three quarters.

Dezmond Burleigh and Thomas White each tallied 11 for the

Zebras. Homer Ellis contributed nine.

"We played hard, it was a good performance and I thought we rebounded well, but I wish we would shoot better," said Wayne coach Mike Schuette.

Northville won it at the foul line going 14-of-17 compared with Wayne's 7-of-13.

S'FIELD CHRISTIAN 59, HURON VALLEY 33: Lindsay Hunter III scored a game-high 22 points to lead Southfield Christian (4-4, 4-2) to the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division triumph Tuesday over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-8, 1-5).

The Hawks, who got a team-best 19 points from senior Shawn Schaffer, trailed 10-8 after one period before the Eagles opened things up with an 18-9 second period run.

Colin Cline chipped in with 14 points for Southfield Christian.

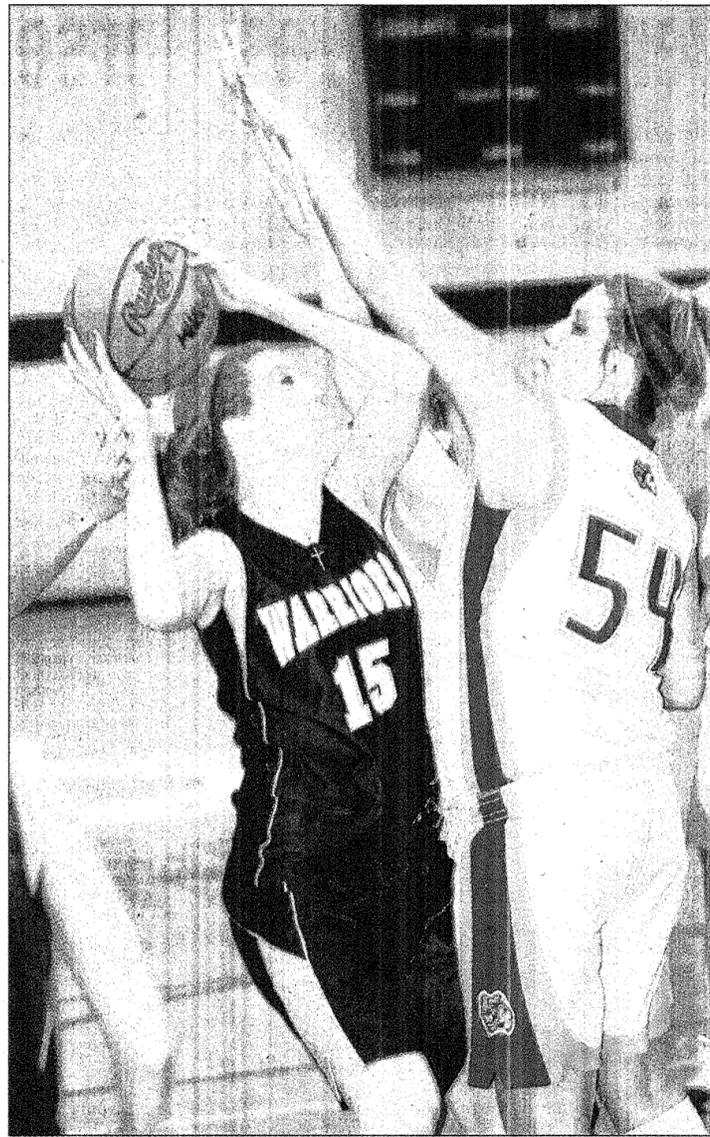
STEVENSON 59, FORDSON 44: A 21-2 first-quarter spurt enabled Livonia Stevenson (9-1) to roll past Dearborn Fordson (3-8) in a game played Saturday at Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

Senior center Jalen Reynolds paced the Spartans with 22 points, 13 rebounds, seven blocks and four steals.

Junior guard Jonathan Campbell, who helped spark the first-quarter run with three 3-pointers, finished with 12 points - all beyond the arc.

Vince Tomasi also chipped in with a pair of three-pointers. "Vince played his best game at Stevenson," coach Mike Allie said of the junior guard. "He was patient and took good shots."

Fordson got 18 points from Thomas Schwarzlander.



Lutheran High Westland's Amanda Terranella (15) is smothered by Garden City defender Deanna Hudson (54) in Tuesday's non-conference game.

OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Warriors subdued

Minus head coach Garden City romps, 48-22

BY MIKE ROSENBAUM
CORRESPONDENT

Garden City girls basketball coach Barry Patterson was a bit under the weather Tuesday and missed the Cougars' game against visiting Lutheran High Westland.

If he plans on making a quick recovery, Patterson might not want to view the video of Tuesday's first quarter - at least the offensive segments - which might make him feel worse. The rest of the contest, however, should brighten his spirits, as Garden City dropped the Warriors, 48-22.

A basket by Deanna Hudson and a free throw from Hillarie Werda marked the Cougars' entire offensive production in Tuesday's first quarter. But that was still three points better than the Warriors, who were blanked for the entire eight minutes.

Junior varsity coach Michele Tyree subbed for Patterson - who's expected to return for GG's next contest - and felt the team took some time "getting used to a different coach stepping up and having to take over." She and the players, she added, were "just not sure of each other, I think, and just trying to get in the flow of the

game." But the Cougars found their stride in the second quarter, as Samantha Fischer frequently penetrated the Warriors' defense, often dishing to Aleiah Smith for easy buckets in the paint.

"We were looking to be aggressive, attack the basket," explained Tyree, "and if we can't get in, get it to one of our post players. And just keep looking to better control the boards."

Defensively, Garden City pressured Lutheran Westland throughout the contest, forcing numerous turnovers.

The Warriors finally got on the board on an Aldreana Fikes basket, 1:40 into the second quarter, trimming the lead to 7-2. But the Cougars gradually stretched their advantage, finishing the quarter with a 7-0 run for a 23-11 margin at halftime.

The Cougars stepped up their defensive pressure with a full-court zone press in the third quarter and pitched another shutout, outscoring the Warriors, 12-0.

"We put some pressure on them," Tyree said. "I don't know if we executed it exactly the way we wanted to, but we were able to put some pressure, get them to make some turnovers."

We got some steals, got to the basket a few times in transition."

Fischer hit back-to-back triples early in the third to extend the Cougars' lead to 31-11.

It was 35-11 after three quarters, and the lead never dropped below 22 in the final eight minutes.

Fischer led all scorers with 13 points and dished off three assists. Smith added eight points and 10 rebounds, while Hudson tallied seven points and eight boards.

Junior Amanda Terranella led the Warriors with 12 points. Garden City improved to 6-5 overall, while the loss dropped Lutheran Westland to 1-10.

"I think we're coming together," Tyree said. "We've got some seniors who've been playing on varsity for awhile, got some young players coming along. I think we're starting to jell. And hopefully we'll make a big run in the second half of the league."

The Cougars return to action Friday at home against Redford Union, while Lutheran Westland also plays Friday at home against Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division leader and state-ranked Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

Banged up Pats take 3rd at Wayne County

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite fighting the injury bug, the Livonia Franklin wrestling team earned a third-place finish in Saturday's Wayne County Championships hosted by Romulus.

Southgate Anderson came away with the team title in the 33-team field with 192 points. Rounding out the top five was state-ranked Canton (166), Franklin (151), Highland Park (117) and Dearborn Heights Crestwood (115.5). See complete results.

"I thought we wrestled pretty well," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "We were beaten badly on Wednesday by Canton and we looked much better today. It's always a credit to the guys when they rebound after adversity. This has been the hardest hit team by injuries in my 11 years here. There were years we had great depth and never got an injury."

Franklin boasted two individual champions led by Steve Tuyo (130 pounds) and Matt Roos (171).

Runner-up finishers for the Patriots included Gabe Martinez (119) and Jordan Atienza (125).

Other placers included Danny Martinez (112), third; Avery Opperman (152), fourth; and Josh Hatfield (145), sixth.

"This year we have very little depth and we're losing quality kids," Chiola said. "Jordan

McGuire (140) and Omar Haymour (285) have been out for almost a month. Allen Steele (160) was up 11-3 on Saturday when he separated his shoulder. We're not even wrestling a 215 pounder and we had four of them. They're all hurt."

Despite being bruised and battered, the Patriots gave a good account of themselves.

"I think it's great that we went into a tough tournament short-handed and wrestled well enough to take third against a lot of quality schools," Chiola said. "This was a great tournament. I hope more teams sign up next year. We'll definitely be back. Right now we just want to get as many people healthy as we can so we can prepare for the post-season."

Other area teams participating included Westland John Glenn, eighth (87.5 points); Wayne Memorial, 11th (62); Lutheran High Westland, 26th (21); and Livonia Clarenceville, 30th (15).

Glenn got an individual title from 103-pounder Kyle Gillies, while Kameron Jones place third at 171.

Wayne had a pair of third-place finishers in Kevin Newborn (152) and Dimitrus Renfro (215).

Lutheran Westland's Zachary Francis added a third at 103.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Jan. 27

Huron Valley at Wash. Christian, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28

Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.

Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 7 p.m.

Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 8 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Jan. 27

Huron Valley at Wash. Christian, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28

Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 4:30 p.m.

Univ.-Liggett at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.

Ladywood at Birm. Marian, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Jan. 28

Churchill at Mona Shores, 5:30 p.m.

Franklin vs. Crestwood at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29

Churchill at Portage Central, 1 p.m.

Ladywood vs. Regina at Fraser, 4:30 p.m.

Stevenson vs. Farm. Unified at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday, Jan. 28

Observerland Inv. at Churchill, 9 a.m.

Annapolis Tournament, 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Thursday, Jan. 27

Wayne at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.

Franklin at Canton, 6:30 p.m.

Plymouth at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.

Stevenson, Salem at A.A. Pioneer, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Saturday, Jan. 29

Troy Athens Invitational, 10:30 a.m.

PREP BOWLING

Thursday, Jan. 27

Clarenceville vs. Wayne, John Glenn vs. Novi at Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28

Ladywood vs. Divine Child at Sterling Lanes, 3:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Jan. 29

UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 3 p.m.

Schoolcraft at Kirtland CC, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Jan. 29

UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Schoolcraft at Kirtland CC, 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Thursday, Jan. 27

Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28

Whalers vs. Niagara Ice Dogs at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29

Whalers vs. Oshawa Generals at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

over Joey Pacurai (Rom.), 17-4. 119: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) dec. Gabe Martinez (Franklin), 9-2; 3rd: Raven Schmitt (S'gate) dec. Ian Storton (N'ville), 8-6; 5th: Jake Jones (LP) dec. Tito Sanchez (N.B. Huron), 4-2; 7th: Montez Grant (Rom.) dec. Dylan Ouder (Mel.), 7-4.

125: Evan Guffey (Wayn.) dec. Jordan Atienza (Franklin), 9-2; 3rd: Anthony Barbour (LP) dec. Alex Molloy (S'gate), 3-2; 5th: Said Yousef (Ply.) dec. Sam Miller (Divine Child), 3-0; 7th: Sam Polocoser (DHC) pinned Steve Knox (RU), 2:59.

130: Steve Tuyo (Franklin) dec. Joe Lombard (Wayn.), 6-5; 3rd: Eric Zapata (Flat Rock) won by major dec. over Alex Breckenridge (Ply.), 9-1; 5th: Mike Wallace (Rom.) dec. Devin Foster (Woodhaven), 8-7; 7th: Quienlin Santiago (Wayn.) won by injury default over Alex Eimers (Canton).

135: Josh Hall (RU) dec. Jake Collins (Mel.), 9-2; 3rd: Derrick Hillman (Woodhaven) dec. Josh Lockwood (S'gate), 5-2; 5th: Brad Furgerson (AP) dec. Travis Compo (N'ville), 10-8; 7th: Kawon Lawrence (DHR) p. Nolan Goodall (S. South), 0:56.

140: Adrian Berisha (DHA) won by major dec. over Tim Scott (RU), 12-2; 3rd: Danny Statham (Rom.) p. Danny Muzycia (DHC), 1:28; 5th: James Chapman (LP) dec. Tobias Barnes (Summit), 2-1; 7th: C.J. Ward (LP) p. Ali Saad (Dbn.), 3:15.

152: Shakeam Higgins (Rom.) p. Brandon McLaughlin (S'gate), 1:10; 3rd: Kevin Newborn (Wayne) dec. Avery Opperman (LF), 8-4; 5th: Anthony Long (Glenn) p. Shehab Natour (Fordson), 3:59; 7th: Sana Gardner (Ham.) dec. Jake Sanders (Carlson), 5-3.

160: Caleb Wilson (S'gate) p. Raed Mourad (DHC), 2:09; 3rd: Collin Rankin (RU) dec. Shawn Miller (G.P. North), 8-6; 5th: Danny Croft (Glenn) p. Dave Meyer (DHA), 0:29; 7th: Carnell Cannon (HP) dec. John Montgomery (N'ville), 4-3.

171: Matt Roos (Franklin) dec. Nick Lamentola (Woodhaven), 8-2; 3rd: Kameron Jones (Glenn) dec. Braden Price (Canton), 6-5; 5th: Trevor Maresh (N'ville) dec. Marcel Pop (Flat Rock), 3-2; 7th: Zack Kephart (Carlson) dec. Josh Childs (Divine Child), 3-2.

189: Anthony Abro (Canton) dec. Tomas Gomez (S'gate), 2-1; 3rd: Mohamad Soukar (Fordson) dec. Nadar Bazzi (DHC), 13-7; 5th: Joe Brewer (Wayn.) won by major dec. over Don Giese, Jr. (Garden City), 10-0; 7th: Nick Maher (Woodhaven) dec. Devin Korzetzki (Wayne), 3-1.

215: Devon Bronson (S'gate) dec. Lucas Luchonok (Edsel Ford), 4-1; 3rd: Dimitrus Renfro (Wayne) dec. Carlos Harbin (HP), 4-2; 5th: Yousef Elsayed (DHC) dec. Logan McCann (Divine Child), 6-4; 7th: Rob Lincoln (Canton) dec. Chris Gutman (Woodhaven), 15-8.

285: Queen Smith (HP) dec. Justin Dozier (Woodhaven), 2-1; 3rd: Ben Poirier (Canton) dec. Reggie Lewis (G.P. South), 3-1; 5th: Martez Crutchfield (HP) p. Alex Davis (Divine Child), 5:26; 7th: Derrick Campbell (Glenn) p. Ben Dominguez (S'gate), 2:31.

The Westland John Glenn girls basketball team struggled throughout the first half before getting untracked Tuesday night to beat host South Lyon, 55-46, in a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover.

The Rockets, who improved to 10-1 overall, trailed 29-24 at intermission.

"South Lyon played an aggressive 1-3-1 (zone) defense and we had trouble attacking and they made it uncomfortable with the pressure they were applying," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "We were able to get back into the game with our full-court pressure."

Glenn outscored the Lions 17-7 in the third period to gain control.

Junior Erica Covile and freshman Kaira Barnes paced the Rockets with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Joselyn Massey and Abby Wright chipped in with nine and eight.

Kristin Short and Emily

GIRLS HOOPS

Slavik paced South Lyon (5-6) with 14 and 13, respectively.

Glenn made 4-of-7 free throws, while the Lions hit 9-of-12.

FRANKLIN 48, S.L. EAST 32: Senior guard Chelsea Williams scored a game-high 24 points Tuesday as Livonia Franklin (5-6) rolled past host South Lyon East (1-10) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

The Patriots got out to a 17-4 first quarter lead and cruised from there as senior forward Amanda Borico chipped in with 10 points.

Taylor Jones led the Cougars with nine.

Franklin made 15-of-23 foul shots, while East connected on 11-of-18.

STEVENSON 62, CHURCHILL 39: Monika Rudeis tallied 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds Tuesday as host Livonia Stevenson (8-3) snapped a two-game losing skid by beating rival Livonia Churchill (3-8) for the second time this season.

Junior guard Molly Knoph added 10 points for the Spartans, who led 30-22 at halftime before going on a

22-5 third-period run. Junior center Erin Menard scored 10 for the Chargers, who made 9-of-17 free throws.

Stevenson made 10-of-17 on the night.

NORTHVILLE 55, WAYNE 36: In a Kensington Conference crossover Tuesday, the host Mustangs (7-4) got 11 points from Alex Moynes to beat Wayne Memorial (3-8).

Wayne led 12-11 after one quarter before Northville took control with an 11-2 run in the second followed by a 19-9 surge in the third period.

Holland Boertje and Ashley Brand tallied 10 points apiece for the Zebras, who made 10-of-12 free throws.

HARPER WOODS 67, CLARENCEVILLE 48: On Tuesday, Micah Miner notched 13 points and Milana Stromile added 12 as the Pioneers (8-2) rolled past visiting Livonia Clarenceville (4-8) in a non-conference game.

Senior guard Jenna Burgess scored a game-high 21 points for the Trojans, who couldn't overcome a 27-19 halftime deficit.

Mikayla Kieling chipped in with 11 points in a losing cause.

Clarenceville made 9-of-16 foul shots, while Harper Woods hit 10-of-21.

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Mark White Band will perform at Faith and Family Night, Friday, Jan. 28 after the Plymouth Whalers hockey game.

Hockey team brings fans together for faith night Jan. 28

BY SHARON DARGAY
 OGE STAFF WRITER

Pastor Jack Janigian will deliver his message from the perfect pulpit Friday, Jan. 28. "I'm going to speak while standing on the ice," said the youth minister from Oak Pointe Church in Novi. "I'm going to talk about what kind of surface we're trying to walk around on and what we do when we fall down."

Janigian will give the inspirational talk from center ice at Computware Arena as a part of the Plymouth Whaler's Faith and Family Night after the hockey team's game against the Niagara IceDogs.

"Speaking on center ice is pretty unusual, but it will be a lot of fun," Janigian said. "I do a lot of speaking in metro Detroit at schools and camps and churches. They called me and I am happy to do it. There will be a big crew from our church there. It will be a fun event for students and families as well."

The game will start at 7:05 p.m., followed by Janigian's comments and a performance by Christian rockers, The Mark White Band. Tickets are \$11 and are available by calling (734) 453-8400 or visiting the arena box office, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday at 14900 Beck, in Plymouth.

The Whalers regularly stage theme events, such as frozen turkey bowling at Thanksgiving and an annual "Pink Out" campaign to raise money for breast cancer research. Faith and Family night is a new event,

but Denise Ronayne, Whalers marketing director, said it is a perfect fit for the team and its fans.

"We have an anthem program and have had a lot of churches participate in it," she said. "We've had men's prayer groups here and church choirs. We've been reaching out for a few years now and see these groups — youth groups, moms groups, men's prayer groups — in line with what we do."

Players also make appearances off the ice at community events, schools and fund-raisers. Ronayne said it helps teach them to "give back" and maintains a connection with the community.

The Plymouth Whalers are a part of the Ontario Hockey League. Ronayne describes the games as "professional, but grass roots, too."

"It's the highest level kids can play. In terms of excitement, there are NHL scouts here. We might have 10 kids go on to the NHL."

She said some players, such as Whalers center Robbie Czarnik, willingly talk about their faith.

"He's the first person to say he didn't get here by himself. He's going to tell you it was his Christian beliefs that got him here."

Ronayne said Faith and Family night could evolve into a weekend event after it debuts.

"We need to present it and see how it goes. We're going to have a blast. Everyone is excited about it."



CHARLES RAYMOND ALLMEN

Passed away at the age of 72. Born Sept. 5, 1938, in Ferndale as the second son of the late Ernest and Ida (Kittila) Allmen, he died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011. Chuck graduated from Lawrence Institute of Technology in 1960 (bachelor's in mechanical engineering) and Wayne State University in 1966 (masters). He worked at Chrysler Corp. for 32 years. Chuck met Patricia Opeka in 1967, and he married her on Aug. 24, 1968, moving to Farmington Hills in 1971. He is survived by his wife Pat and four children: Sharon (Matt) Videtich, Michael (Becky) Allmen, Philip (Karen) Allmen and Alan (Rachel) Allmen and five grandchildren, soon to be six. Visitation at McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills Thursday, Jan. 27, 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. In State at St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills Friday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. with funeral mass at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

GARY V. GRAVES
 January 23, 2011

Loving husband of Donna. Dearest father of Dawn Hazamy and Jody (Wassim) El-Siss. Grandfather of Jessica, Mona, Hanna and Mohamed. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com. The family has entrusted care and services to the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 8809 Wayne Road, Livonia, MI 734-522-6200. Memorial Service will be held February 5th, 2011 at his home at 4:30pm.



AARON THOMAS

Age 39, of Owosso, passed away Thursday, January 20, 2011, at his residence. Aaron worked as a project manager for Carl Zeiss, Inc. Aaron was born on December 21, 1971, in Wayne, Michigan, the son of Charles Thomas and Gale (Neal) Nequist. He graduated from Stevens High School in Livonia, and went on to attend college at Schoolcraft in Livonia. On August 27, 1994, he married Heather Hallett in Owosso. He enjoyed rebuilding and refinishing cars and electronics, especially his computer, and tinkering in his pole barn. He loved spending time with his family and going fishing, camping and boating. Survivors include his wife, Heather; son, Logan; daughter, Rylee; parents, Gale (Axel) Nequist and Charles (Jan) Thomas; in-laws, Ed (Connie) Abent; brothers, Kevin Thomas, Chad (Jennifer) Nequist and Jessie (Jessica) Edmunds; sisters, Kim (Jay) Phillips and Joelle Edmunds; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Scott (Valerie) Hallett; grandmothers, Laura Kutniowski and Jackie Neal; Sebastian, Natalie and Juan Rothman; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many other loving family members and friends. He was predeceased by grandpa, Donald Neal; grandma and grandpa, Margery (Wilbur) Thomas; and grandma, Virginia Yorty. Memorial contributions are suggested to Aaron's son and daughter's educational fund. Funeral Services were held Monday, January 24, 2011, at Nelson-House Funeral Home. On-line condolences can be sent to the family at www.nelson-house.com

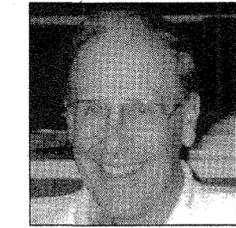


BRIAN M. WOLKAN

Age 50, of Walled Lake passed suddenly at his home January 18, 2011. He was born February 26, 1960, in the Old Redford neighborhood in Detroit, moving to Livonia, and graduating Franklin High School, class of 1978. He was a longtime employee of Red Lobster - Novi, of which he was loved by all who know him. He is survived by his mother CJ (Jan) Wolkan-Spencer and step-dad George Spencer of Westland; sister, Lynn (Kent) LeBoutillier, and their son Shawn of South Berwick, Maine; Brother, Brad (Yma) Wolkan, and their sons, Jake and Nate, of Livonia, Michigan. Brian loved music and played his '76 Stratocaster often. He was a rock and roll child of the 70's and liked listening to music the old fashioned way, on a turntable. He enjoyed hunting with his brother, camping and everything outdoors. His gentle smile will be missed by many. A family and friends memorial gathering will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 5 to 8 pm at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd. (just north of 5 Mile) in Livonia. Please sign Brian's online guestbook at: www.cremationmichigan.com

ROBERT W. KLEINSCHMIT

Age 84, January 25, 2011. Beloved husband of Amy for 58 years. Loving father of Amy Lea (James) Thomas, Bob (Nancy), and Bill (Ramona) Kleinschmit. Cherished grandfather of Matthew and Nathan Thomas, Bobby, Lindsay, and Andrew Kleinschmit. Dear brother of Meta Silverthorn. Memorial Service Saturday 3 PM at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Visitation Friday 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. Memorials suggested to the Church.



LUKE E. KREMER

January 19, 2011, age 85. Luke was an Electronics Technician in the aerospace and defense industries. He served in the United States Army, 28th Tank Battalion during World War II in the Pacific Theater. Predeceased by wife Marilyn and brother Felix. Survived by sons Eric (Tina), Matthew, Kurt (Carol) and Glenn (Peggy); daughter Ellen (Jerry); grandchildren Addie, Jack, William, Helena, John, Mark, Paul and brother Quintin. Member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church where a Memorial Mass will be held later.



WILLIAM "TOM" AVERY

Age 76 of Howell graduated to Heaven Saturday, January 22, 2011 in Florida. Dear husband of Carolyn K. (Geelhood) Avery. Devoted father of Sandra (Alton) Brink of Troy and Kay (David) Bowerman of Howell. Also survived by seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Private family services will be Thursday, Internment at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Arrangements by MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Please visit the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

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Exp. 12/31/2011 EHO

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REDFORD TWP. OFFICE SUITES Small suites avail. From 1 room & up. Great rates incl. utilities. CERTIFIED REALTY INC. (248) 471-7100

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Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home
PT. schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart, call 9-5, M-F.
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Large apartment community in West Bloomfield is looking for an individual to live on site with a minimum of 5 years exp. in related fields. Good salary, benefits and housing.
Fax resume: 248-960-7656

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All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity." Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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Comfort Keepers
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CNC MILL
Set up/operate
CNC Grinder
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Or Jean 313-593-1645

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Equal Opportunity Employer

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5060
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Call mornings Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri. 734-522-5501

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BRANDS BUSTED OUT AT DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

The North American International Auto Show may be over for another year, but the impressions it left on Detroit-area car shoppers - and on the national and international auto industries - will reverberate throughout 2011.

The show at Cobo Center represented a return of some of the optimism and even brand bravado that had characterized the Detroit extravaganza for many years leading up to the Great Recession.

Among the highlights of presentations by brands and executives to the global automotive press, before the public show opened:

Buick Highlights Luxury Ambitions: The General Motors luxury brand has always been Cadillac. But since the company slashed its active brands from eight to four last year, Buick brandmeisters have been trying to move their marque upscale by calling it "luxury" as well.

That happened again at the show John Schwegman, U.S. vice president of marketing, touted the new Verano compact sedan as a "luxury" vehicle that would compete with "European and Japanese" upscale brands. He also noted that, in 2010, Buick's sales rose by 52 percent, the most of any mainstream brand in the U.S. market, and "placing it No.4 among all luxury brands, and

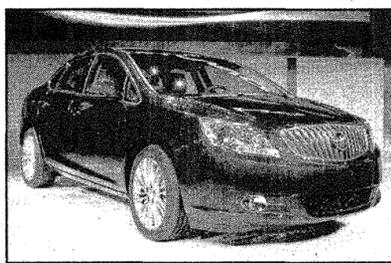
ahead of Lincoln, Infiniti and Audi."

Verano will go on sale in the U.S. late this year, the latest model in what Buick is calling a "product renaissance" that began with the Enclave crossover-utility vehicle and continued with introductions of the new LaCrosse and Regal sedans.

Verano will have a "refined and sporty profile," Schwegman noted. It will boast "the most comfortable seats in the segment," he said, an available heated steering wheel, connectivity to a Pandora system that will stream music to Bose speakers, and a remote unlock and start with "no range limitations."

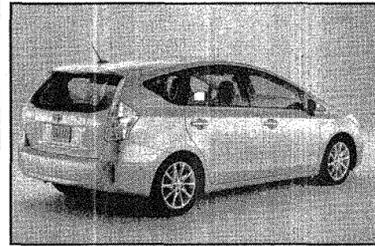
Marchionne Spreads the Word for Detroit: He's much softer-spoken, but Sergio Marchionne's ability to draw and hold auto-industry crowds is increasingly reminiscent of another Chrysler CEO of Italian descent.

He told Detroit's dean of talk-radio hosts that he believes strongly in the Jeep brand, especially after the new Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV, introduced last fall, has gotten off to a fast start in sales. Customers of all Chrysler brands have been short of new sheet metal to consider for a couple of years, of course, but now Fiat has helped Chrysler turn on the new-product spigot again, with revamped and new vehicles such as a fresh version of the mainstay 300 sedan that was unveiled at the Detroit show.



Toyota's first in a new family of Prius vehicles, the V.

The 2011 Buick Verano is meant to capture sales in the compact-luxury segment



"I think Jeep can actually become a global brand powerhouse," Marchionne told Paul W. Smith on WJR Radio. "Jeep can carry this brand internationally."

In fact, Marchionne said, he has been so impressed by how Chrysler designers, engineers and manufacturing managers put together the new Grand Cherokee and established output in the Chrysler assembly plant in Detroit that he has awarded the group with responsibility for developing a new SUV in partnership with Maserati, another Fiat brand, for a line of vehicles that would be sold worldwide.

"V" Are Family as Toyota Extends Prius Lineup: Toyota unveiled two new vehicles that extended its single-vehicle Prius brand to a "family" of models that now includes a larger Prius and Toyota's first plug-in hybrid.

Prius may have had problems finding buyers over the last couple of years of relatively quiet gasoline prices, but recent jumps have quickened the interest of American consumers in hybrids again. December sales of Prius in the U.S. were a record for any winter month.

And exact timing aside, extending the Prius sub-brand gives Toyota its best

chance yet to plumb its "mystique and persona," said Bob Carter, Toyota division general manager. "Prius has the highest brand awareness of an hybrid, with almost one million sold. The brand is like Levis with jeans, or Kleenex and tissue."

Prius V - for "versatility" - has 60 percent more cargo space than the current third generation of the original Prius hybrid, Carter said. Yet it offers the same emissions reductions as the current Prius. The new Prius has "comfortable seating for five" and is aimed especially at young families who like the vehicle's green credentials but wanted more interior room as well, he explained.

Stylistically, the vehicle resembles some of the smaller crossover-utility vehicles already on the market. It has a squared-off rear end and a low, broad, rectangular-shaped hatch for easy access.

Prius V also will feature a standard back-up camera and a moonroof made of lightweight resin. It will be the first Toyota equipped with the widely hailed Entune infotainment system that the company introduced last week at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S GO!
I am a SWF, 5'2", in my 60s, brown eyes, brunette, who loves movies, casinos, arts, etc. ISO tall, 60-75, gentleman, for a possible relationship. Call and leave a message. ☎982305

LET'S CHAT!
SWF, 5'2", blonde hair, small build, seeks SWM, 70-75, NS, who likes trips, good friendships, movies, and many different things with good conversation and SOH. ☎332890

SEEKING A REAL MAN
SWF, 38, 5'3", 145lbs, long light brown hair, smoker, has one kid, likes shooting pool, cards, seeks WM, 28-48, who's caring, affectionate, understanding, honest, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎336218

ARE WE A MATCH?
SBF, 38, 5'8", 150lbs, looking for a SBF, 35-45, who likes movies, dining, concerts, walks in the park, hanging out. ☎324444

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 49-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. ☎362317

LOOK NO FURTHER
Affectionate, loving, down-to-earth SWF, 34, looking for a fun, open-minded, laid-back SWM, 35-58, who enjoys movies, travel, going on walks. ☎326994

SEEKING A BLACK MAN
SBF, 44, no children, lives alone, looking for a non-smoking, non-drinking, drug-free man who enjoys travel, playing cards, getting together and just having a good time. ☎332295

PEOPLE-PERSON
DWF, 65, 5'2", 107lbs, two grown sons and one granddaughter, looking for SWM, 58-66, NS, who is family-oriented, easy to communicate with, and fun to be with. I love concerts, dining out, taking walks. ☎334842

SAY I DO
Me: Black, short, young, extremely sexy, very sensitive, slightly dominant ways, lives alone. You: not white, under 50, tall, 200-300lbs, stable, gentle, compassionate, handyman, very affectionate. We are: NS, N/D, N/Children, monogamist, serious, poetry, cooking, jazz, homebody, very laid back wants marriage, no pets. Leave name and number only. ☎328835

WEST SIDE BEAUTY
Professionally employed in the beauty field, SWF, 5'6", slender, 64, seeks a gentleman, 44-52, HWP, many interests including music, movies, cultural events, camping, and most things outdoors, light smoker, for friendship leading to relationship. Sincere responses only. ☎234943

ISO COMPANIONSHIP
Attractive, flexible SBF, 63, 5'4", 105lbs, loves dancing, movies, dining, travel. Seeking honest, sincere, independent, humorous gentleman for friendship, possibly more. ☎324468

A RARE LADY
SBF, 56", NS, N/D, very humorous, would love to meet a gentleman, 40-65, to be my special friend. Race unimportant. ☎232943

LET'S ENJOY LIFE TOGETHER
Semi-retired WF, young 60s, 5'6", brown/brown, easy on the eyes, HW proportionate, seeks WM, 58-66, NS, health-conscious, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy music, theater, movies, museums, art fairs in the summer and enjoy life and general. ☎327176

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP
Attractive SWF, 55", 125lbs, fun-loving, attractive blonde who is retired would love the companionship of a gentleman, 65+, with a pleasing personality. ☎330211

SEEKING A MAN WHO IS...
young-at-heart like me. Recently widowed WF enjoys dining, dancing, bowling, golf, good movies and more. Would like to have good male companionship with a WM, 50-65. ☎330750

I'LL BE WAITING
Very gorgeous SF, multi-racial, 31, 5'7", medium build, in search of a man, race unimportant, 40-45, kids ok who is living his life to the fullest, financially secure, sincere, who likes concerts, cooking and traveling, for friendship first leading to possible relationship. ☎332436

LOVES TO HAVE FUN
SBM, 35, NS, handsome, spontaneous, professional, 5'11", 180lbs, muscular body, D/D-free, hazel eyes, caramel complexion, short wavy hair, down-to-earth, romantic, likes cuddling, cooking, movies, dining, shopping, fishing. Seeking SWF, 19-45, for casual dating, possibly more. ☎336282

THE ONE FOR YOU
Handsome SWM, 48, 6'1", 250lbs, brown/brown, NS, enjoys all kinds of music, action movies. Looking for SWF, 35-50, for friendship, maybe more. ☎332992

LET'S HANG OUT AND TALK
Laid-back SWM, 40, wants to meet a SWF, 30-45, who is ready for a relationship. ☎326556

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

TALL ATHLETIC SWM
Good looks, good personality, muscular, 60, 6'2", 205lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, degreed, easygoing. I enjoy exercising, the park, road trips and trying new activities. Seeking single female for fun, friendship and more. Age and area open. ☎313108

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
SWM, 53, 5'11", 180lbs, NS, like chess, backgammon, coffee houses, going to the gym, comedy clubs. Seeking SWF, 35-55, with similar interests for friendship first leading to possible LTR. ☎218827

ONE-WOMAN MAN
Italian SWM, 52, brown/brown, in very good shape, seeks AF, 40-65, who likes going out and having fun. ☎330127

HANDSOME MALE
SBM, 6', HWP, professionally employed, kind, considerate, confident, likes concerts, travel, dining, seeking WF, 30-58, attractive, passionate, loving and affectionate. ☎398497

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 66, HWP, professionally secure, seeks honest SDWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED
SBM, 35, NS, handsome, spontaneous, professional, 5'11", 180lbs, muscular body, D/D-free, hazel eyes, caramel complexion, short wavy hair, down-to-earth, romantic, likes cuddling, cooking, movies, dining, shopping, fishing. Seeking SWF, 19-45, for casual dating, possibly more. ☎336282

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<p>New 2011 Ford Fiesta 4 Door S</p> <p>WAS \$15,065 ONLY \$103⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,807 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Focus 4 Door SE</p> <p>WAS \$18,800 ONLY \$149⁺ PER MO. !! A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$1,781 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Fusion SEL</p> <p>WITH LEATHER!</p> <p>WAS \$25,530 ONLY \$183⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$2,992 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Taurus SEL</p> <p>WAS \$28,195 ONLY \$259⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,149 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Flex SE FWD</p> <p>WAS \$29,850 ONLY \$269⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,080 due at signing.</p>
<p>New 2011 Ford Edge SE FWD</p> <p>WAS \$27,995 ONLY \$239⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,113 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Ranger Pickup</p> <p>WAS \$18,755 ONLY \$249⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,083 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Escape XLT FWD</p> <p>WAS \$24,775 ONLY \$199⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,050 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Explorer "ALL NEW DESIGN"</p> <p>WAS \$29,310 ONLY \$274⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,194 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford F-150 Reg Cab XL PLUS</p> <p>WAS \$24,215 ONLY \$19,421⁺ A/Z PLAN PURCHASE</p>

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