

Running on Empty

Local woman chronicles recovery from anorexia.

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Domestic violence survivors move ahead with lives.

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Roses are red ...

Top Valentine's Day date ideas.

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WESTLAND Observer



SUNDAY
January 30, 2005
75 cents

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 71

www.hometownlife.com

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'He was lucky, I was lucky.'

Mark Goosby
Wayne Memorial security team member



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Goosby has been described as having great rapport with the students at Wayne Memorial High School, but he's also won accolades for saving the life of a young man who was choking on a piece of food.

Staffer has right move to save student's life

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Principal Lorri MacDonald describes Mark Goosby as the "eyes and ears" of Wayne Memorial High School. A member of the school's security team, he "has his finger on the pulse of the school." Known as Seven - his call name on the portable radio he carries - Goosby is even more now ... he's a lifesaver. On Dec. 9, the Westland resident used the skills learned in a first-aid course to save the life of a student who was choking on a piece of hamburger. "They usually say you get five minutes of fame and I think I've got my 10 minutes' worth," said the Westland resident who has been honored by the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, the city of Wayne and the Wayne Police

Department where he's a reserve officer. "We notice things like this, things like this are hard to ignore," said MacDonald. "Mark is one of those people who's quiet about it, but we couldn't do it without him. All day long, it's Seven." Goosby was walking in the cafeteria's B lobby when heard someone say a student was choking. The school's athletic director and a physical education teacher had been unsuccessful in doing the Heimlich maneuver. Goosby took over and after three-four times dislodged the chunk of food. "His lips were black, he was going under," said Goosby. "When I got there he was limp. When the food came out, it was like thank you, Lord. The color came back to his face all of sudden and that was pretty cool. He was lucky, I was lucky."

The luck was his recently completing a first aid course at Schoolcraft College so he could graduate his Wayne Police reserve officers training. Goosby knew basic first aid from his 24 years in the U.S. Army, but in the class, he learned something - how to do the Heimlich maneuver. According to MacDonald, the school has staff trained as first responders, and the average everyday teacher, coach or physical education instructor may have had the training for something like what happened early on in their careers. "All the right circumstances came together, probably because his training was so recent, he was able to save his life," said MacDonald. "We are careful, but this is something that doesn't hap-

PLEASE SEE **SAVE, A7**

Majority of council favors pay increase

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A majority of Westland City Council members confirmed Friday that they will not vote to overturn pay raises approved for them, City Clerk Eileen DeHart and Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt has asked her colleagues for a formal vote to reject or accept pay raises ratified Monday by the Local Officials Compensation Commission, which sets salaries for elected officials.

Even if Graunstadt musters the three council members necessary to get the issue placed on a council agenda, it appears almost certain that the raises won't be rejected.

Five of seven council members would have to vote against the pay increases to block them, but an informal poll by the *Observer* indicated Friday that a council majority actually supports the raises.

"Personally, I think the LOCC did its job, and I think we just need to move on," Councilman James Godbout said.

Graunstadt has suggested that council members should vote to reject an LOCC decision to give 3 percent pay raises this year and next to the council and the mayor.

"This is not about people desiring an increase. This is about a tough, difficult, unfortunate economic time that we live in, and we should not be accepting salary increases," she said. "I really feel strongly about that."

Cicirelli, with a \$90,465 salary, hasn't had a pay raise since she took office in January 2002. Her predecessor, former Mayor Robert Thomas, also had accepted salary freezes.

Pay levels haven't changed in five years for the council president (\$12,970), the second-in-line president pro tem (\$12,383) and the other five

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt has asked her colleagues for a formal vote to reject or accept pay raises ratified Monday by the Local Officials Compensation Commission, which sets salaries for elected officials.

council members (\$11,796). Although she opposes pay hikes for the council and mayor, Graunstadt said she supports a 68 percent salary increase that boosted DeHart's salary from \$50,000 to \$84,035. She said the LOCC merely reversed a decision made two years ago, when it slashed the clerk's pay by more than \$32,000 after voters approved a ballot measure making the job an elected post rather than council-appointed.

Graunstadt called on council members to decide the pay raises so that residents will know where their elected officials stand on the issue.

"I think we owe it to them to say where we stand," she said. Other council members indicated that, by not voting and by allowing the raises to take effect, they are making their positions known.

Council raises would range between \$350 and \$400 a year. Cicirelli's salary would climb from \$90,465 to nearly \$96,000 within two years.

"I'm not going to vote against it," Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer said of the LOCC's decision. "I'm going to take the money that comes to me and give it to charities."

PLEASE SEE **PAY, A7**

Patients say chiropractor 'can't be matched'



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chiropractor James O'Dell, who's been in business 35 years in Westland, enjoys playing his guitar.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

He's a guitar-picking chiropractor who worked his way through college playing in a rock band called The Subluxations - named after problem areas of the spine. His patients have included Michigan's former Miss America Kaye Lani Rae Rafko, who visited his office during her reign, and local disc jockey Arthur Penhallow, famous for shouting "Baby!" on WRIF-FM. His extended family includes 35 chiropractors, including his 88-year-old father, who still practices in Southgate. And even though he flies his own plane, a Cessna 182, James W. O'Dell has been

grounded for 35 years in his same Westland chiropractic office, on Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer. Drywall company owner Robert Warfield, 45, drives an hour each way from his Jackson home to see O'Dell. He has made the trip since he left Westland 17 years ago. "I've tried other chiropractors," Warfield said, "but he can't be matched." Warfield's job leaves him tense, sore - and he said he needs a good chiropractor like O'Dell. "I wouldn't be able to keep working without him," Warfield said. "He knows the body, and he's a second-generation chiropractor. A lot of

PLEASE SEE **CHIROPRACTOR, A7**

Hearing continued in embezzlement case

A Livonia woman will have to wait until Feb. 8 to learn whether she will face trial amid allegations she embezzled money while managing a Westland apartment complex. Mary Adele Olson, 35, appeared Thursday in Westland District Court for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether she should stand trial on charges of embezzling more than \$20,000. An accountant and residents of the apartment complex - Warris Farms at Newburgh and Joy roads - testified Thursday. But police Sgt. Steve Borisch said the testimony didn't conclude and will continue Feb. 8.

Olson, former Warris Farms manager, could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison, if convicted. A not-guilty plea has been entered in her court file. Borisch has said that at least \$76,000 was embezzled at Warris Farms. Olson is accused of renting to new tenants and pocketing their rent - sometimes paid in cash. Most of the incidents apparently happened last year, Borisch said. Charges surfaced after the management company learned that apartments that should have been clean, for lack of tenants, had actually been used.

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Circulation 1-866-887-2737
Classified 1-800-579-7355



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Coming Thursday in Filter

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Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, The Philadelphia Dance Company and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet celebrate contemporary African-American dance.

City, schools skeptical of state tax plan

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to build support for the governor's plans for Single Business Tax restructuring and economic stimulus plans, Lt. Gov. John Cherry spent much of his visit to the Garden City Democratic Club Wednesday talking about protecting educational funding — a fact not lost on the city officials.

"Without saying so, he told us they are cutting our state shared revenues. They are acting like they can just cut our state shared revenues," said Garden City City Manager David Harvey, following the meeting.

Some present at the meeting like teacher and Garden City Education Association president Michael Riley were skeptical of promises that K-12 funding won't be reduced and in fact increased under the governor's proposals.

"I'd like to know what an acceptable body count is, if next year we have 150 school districts in trouble," said Riley.

Changing the SBT and reducing the taxes for most business are part of the governor's plan to encourage growth in the economy and jobs, according to Cherry.

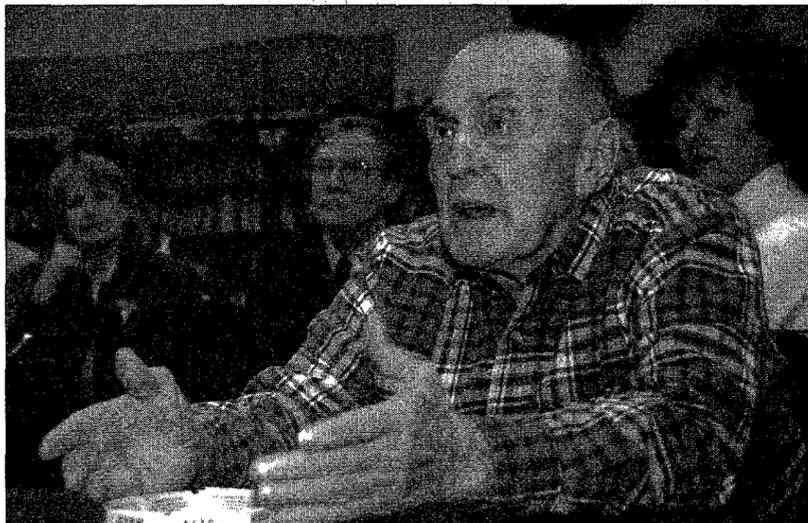
"Jobs flee Michigan because we tax companies when they make an investment here. We need to tax them when they make a profit," said Cherry.

Another important component of the economic growth plan is making sure there is an educated population to fill jobs, he said.

"We need to double the number of college graduates. We need to invest more in K-12 education, colleges and universities," said Cherry. "They are the engine to drive the state."

With continuing difficult financial conditions, Cherry said the state needs to invest in priorities, such as education and infrastructure to stimulate economic growth.

"As a school principal, I'm pleased to hear you say you and the governor are working hard to protect the most



Cliff Johnson, president of the Metro Wayne Democratic Club, asks Lt. Gov. John Cherry about funding during Cherry's visit to the Garden City Democrat Club.



Lt. Gov. John Cherry spoke and had a question and answer session at the Garden City Democratic Club meeting Wednesday night.

important things like K-12 education," said Garden City Mayor Jaylee Lynch. "One thing I was waiting to hear you say is how you are going to

protect the cities."

With state-shared revenue cuts totaling nearly \$3 million over the last three years, Lynch said the state is crippling the city.

"I'd like to hear that police, fire and other services the city provides are as important to the state as they are to us," she said.

There has been a lot speculation about state shared revenue cuts, Cherry said, but added he wasn't aware of any proposed cuts.

"The state's constitutional responsibility is education — it's the only one," Cherry said. "We do understand that revenue sharing is to pay for first responders and cuts in revenue sharing make that difficult. It all becomes a balancing act."

While the city has eliminated staff positions, reorganized and made other changes to work with less funding, Harvey questioned what kind similar measures the state had taken to provide some short-term financial relief.

"We've robbed other funds to balance the budget and that option is gone. More cuts will

put me in the position of going back to council to close something," he said.

Cherry offered to personally send Harvey a letter outlining cost reduction steps taken by the state.

"You can't write revenue sharing checks, if the account is empty. You have to understand how dire the situation is," said Cherry. "We saved millions on our fleet by downsizing it and restricting cell phones. We negotiated significant concessions from employees and reduced staffing levels below the 1974 levels."

Garden City resident Billy Pate commented that he considered his community one of the best run in the state.

"I certainly hope you will listen carefully to what people have to say. This local unit of government is the most important part of government in my view," he said.

"We'll listen, but I won't make foolish promises. We have empathy with the plight of the cities," Cherry responded.

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Rec programs available for mid-winter recess

Mid-winter recess in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools is only a few weeks away, and for parents looking for things to do to keep their kids busy, the Westland Parks and Recreation Department has the answer.

The department is offering a variety of activities beginning with golf on Monday, Feb. 13.

Don't worry about the cold weather, kids in first-sixth-grades can enjoy an hour of golf instruction on the golf simulators at the Westland Municipal Golf Course on Merriman, south of Cherry Hill.

The class will be at 10 a.m. and costs \$5 per student. Pre-register at the golf course or Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, Young Champions/Cheer America will be offering 1 1/2-hour clinics at the Bailey Center. The clinics are for kids of all skill levels and ages 6-14. Cost is \$10 per clinic or \$30 for the entire day.

Kids should bring a water bottle with their name on it, and those signing up for the whole day should bring a sack lunch. Sign up at the Bailey Center.

The lineup is:

■ Beginner tumbling 9:30-11 a.m. Participants will learn such skills as forward and backward rolls, hand and head stands, back bends and cartwheels.

■ Cheerleading 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Participants will learn cheers, chants, basic arm movements, jumps, basic dance movements and more.

■ Baton 1:45-3:15 p.m. Participants will learn basic baton, tosses and various tricks along with dance moves and marching movements.

■ Self defense 3:30-5 p.m. Both boys and girls will learn essential skills, including stranger danger, safety awareness, punch, kicks, blocks and other basic moves.

The Detroit Rockers come to the Bailey Center on Thursday, Feb. 17, for a soccer clinic for kids in first-eighth-grades. The clinic is 2-4 p.m. and cost \$15

The department is offering a variety of activities beginning with golf on Feb. 13.

per person. Sign up at the Bailey Center.

Clinic players will learn how to reach the next level with individual attention and game situation drills. For more information, call the Rockers at (734) 427-6017 or by e-mail at rockersoccer02@aol.com.

■ The Detroit Pistons will have a youth basketball clinic 1-2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, for kids in first-eighth-grades. Cost is \$20 per person, and register at the Bailey Center. For more information, call the Detroit Pistons at (248) 377-8653.

There will be five skill stations — ball handling, passing, shooting, defense and rebounding, as well as prizes, contests, games and a Pistons Souvenir.

Preregistration is required for all four programs and must be done two days in advance of the activity. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department also is offering Take-a-Break Days! Day Camp during mid-winter recess Feb. 14-18, and during spring recess, March 28-April 1.

The day camp is for kids ages five-13 and is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The cost is \$30 per day, with the fifth day free, if you register for the full week. There's also a 25 percent discount for each additional child in the same household.

Activities include swimming, ice skating, arts and crafts, wallyball and more. Kids should bring a swimsuit and towel and sack lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Register at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

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Calling all former Academic All-Stars

Since 1985, the *Observer & Eccentric* has honored outstanding students through its Academic All-Star program.

This year marks the *Observer's* 20th year of honoring local students and we'd like to hear from our former Academic All-Stars.

If you were an *Observer* Academic All-Star, let us know what you have been doing since your selection. What did you study? What careers did you have? What's your life been like since that time? Tell us your story and include your high school graduation photo and a recent photo, too.

Special annual sections about the Academic All-Stars have saluted the intelligence, involvement and industry of the best and brightest students in public and private high schools around

Oakland and Wayne counties

This year, we're planning a special edition in honor of the program's 20th anniversary.

If you're a former All-Star or a parent who can provide information and photos about your former All-Star, e-mail Special Editor Mary Klemic at mklemic@oe.homecomm.net or mail to *Observer & Eccentric*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009 Attn: Mary Klemic. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached. You can e-mail photos in a jpeg format (please send largest size possible) and make sure photos are identified.

The special section will be published in May 2005.

PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

Wayne Road in Westland, will hold an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday March 8. Meet teachers and other co-op parents, and register for 2005-2006 school year. Willow Creek is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4-years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday

and 4-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. For more information, call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.
YWCA Readiness
The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

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Husham al-Husainy, director of the Karbala Islamic Education Center in Dearborn, cast his vote with supporters at his side Friday.

Local Iraqi-Americans thrilled to cast votes

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Until this weekend, local Iraqis didn't have a choice in their homeland.

"People had to choose between Saddam and Saddam," said Joseph Kassab of Farmington Hills, while preparing Friday afternoon to take friends and family to Southgate to participate in their first true democratic Iraqi election.

"Now, there are 111 slates and more than 6,000 candidates," added Kassab, with amazement in his voice. "I never thought, in my mind, this was ever going to happen."

President of the Chaldean National Congress of the United States, Kassab was born in the predominantly Christian village of Telkif, in the northern province of Mosul. Christian Iraqis have historically been the minority in the mainly Islamic country.

Kassab's friends and family planned Friday to cast their votes for a Christian party.

"Iraqi Christians have been oppressed for so long, now this is their time to make a choice and decide on the candidates," said Kassab. "It is a very exciting day for all Iraqis. This is an experience they haven't had for 66 years."

Thousands of Iraqi-Americans were expected to vote Friday, Saturday and Sunday at a former big box store in the Downriver community of Southgate. It was one of five U.S. voting sites for the historic election that will seat a new governing assembly for Iraq.

To be eligible to vote outside of Iraq, voters had to be at least 18 years old, born in Iraq or be the son or daughter of an Iraqi-born male.

It's the first time Jacob Bacall, of West Bloomfield and his father, Jamil Bacall, 78, of Southfield are able to vote for an Iraqi government.

"We have 17 people going to vote on Sunday," said Jacob Bacall, who is past president of the Chaldean Iraqi American Association of Michigan.



PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thinking about the life she had in Iraq is 91-year-old Merriam Kano of Troy. The purple tip of her finger shows she has just cast her vote in the country's first election since Saddam Hussein was removed from power. Kano's husband was in an Iraqi prison for 10 years before she and her husband came to the U.S.

While they were still pouring over the 167 pages of information on the parties and candidates on Friday morning, Bacall said his friends and family had it narrowed to two or three secular parties.

"I'm not going to vote for an Islamic government," he said. "I would like to see a secular regime, a government that meets the needs of the people and serves the best interests of the country."

Bacall noted Iraq is suffering after many years of war.

"They need to recover what they have lost and they need to build bridges with the West," he said.

Bacall was also born in the Mosul village of Telkif and came to the United States on Dec. 10, 1977. He said local Iraqi-Americans in the tri-county area are actively supporting the election. He was surprised to see so many parties on the ballot.

"I said, 'Let me check, I think there's something wrong here,'" he laughed, describing the ballot he printed off the Internet. "That just tells you how much interest they have in this election. This is a great indication that something great is going to happen."

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Salvation Army and clubs have long worked together

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lt. Col. Clarence Harvey often finds people think his organization is American and not international.

"The Salvation Army has been in Asia for 125 years," said Harvey, retired Eastern Michigan divisional commander. The Detroit community has been overwhelmingly generous, he said, donating more than \$2 million to assist victims of the late December tsunami crisis.

"We stand here to say thank you to each one of you," Harvey told members and guests at the Jan. 27 Westland Rotary Club meeting.

Harvey, a Canton resident, described his 38 years in the Salvation Army service, and his last assignment in charge of public relations based in Washington, D.C. He met people he never thought he would as a boy in Detroit.

He grew up on the west side, in the Livernois-Joy area, and went to a Salvation Army gym as a child to play.

"I had what I had and made the best of what I had," he said.

One day, Harvey was asked to come in and pose for a publicity photo of him hoisting a food basket surrounded by prominent businessmen. He took the basket home and never saw that photo.

Years later, he was assigned by the Salvation Army to a small town in Missouri, and joined Kiwanis. Club members there also needed a needy child for a publicity photo.

"Life was repeating itself. I never knew what it all meant," he said.

He learned years later that the photo he was in as a boy included Tigers greats Hal Newhouser and Harry Heilmann, along with business leaders of that era.

Lt. Col. Clarence Harvey grew up on the west side, in the Livernois-Joy area.

Those people were committed to bettering their community, Harvey said, praising Westland Rotary for its efforts to establish a Salvation Army facility in Westland. Harvey retired as a Rotarian and has been a member of other service clubs such as Kiwanis and the Lions.

"Service clubs have been a major part of my life," he said of his involvement at clubs around the United States.

After retirement, Harvey was asked by a wealthy man who was ill to put together a charitable trust.

"He had a dream of helping people, needy people," Harvey said.

Harvey found it challenging to give money where it was truly needed and would be well-spent, more difficult than his years of raising money for the Salvation Army.

He praised Rotarians for their polio eradication efforts, which he has observed in foreign countries.

"I was able to say I was a part of that," he said.

Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Capt. Matt O'Neil introduced Harvey, noting he was commander when O'Neil's wife, Mindie, was growing up in a Salvation Army family. The Harveys' son is a Salvation Army officer and taught the O'Neils during training college in Chicago.

"He's more like a role model," Matt O'Neil said of Clarence Harvey. "He's a powerful man."

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PLACES AND FACES

Valentine party

SS. Simon & Jude Church will have a Valentine card party 6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at the church, 32500 Palmer Road. There will be door prizes and table prizes and a 50/50 drawing. A light meal and snacks will be provided.

Participants are urged to bring friends and games and to play the card games of their choice.

Tickets are \$7. Call (734) 728-2090 or (734) 729-2716. Tickets also will be available at the door. Proceeds will go to the building fund.

Toy show

The Westland Rotary Club will host a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles, Beanie Babies, action figures, die cast toys, slot and model cars, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more. There also will be 50/50 raffles and drawings for door prizes.

Show admission is \$3 for adults with children under age 12 free. Proceeds will support Rotary charities.

Table space is available at \$30 per table and is available by writing to Westland Rotary Toy Show, 6600 Burnly, Garden City, MI 48135. For more information, call Mary McGraw at (734) 748-8515.

Grab your date

Moms and Dads, grab your favorite partner or that very special princess. The always popular Fairy Princess Ball and annual Daddy-Daughter, Mommy-Son Western hoedown are coming in February.

This is the third year the Parks and Recreation Department is offering the Fairy Princess Ball. Two dances are planned - 3-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. - Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

There will be refreshments and dancing for young ladies and their escorts - dad, grandpa and older brother or uncle - as well as a souvenir photo by McFerran Studio.

The cost is \$15 per couple, plus \$7 for each additional child. Tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, Feb. 1. Corsages are available at \$7 each and must be purchased at the time of registration. No tickets or corsages will be available at the door.

The Western Hoedown will be 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8 and also includes a souvenir photo by McFerran Studio and refreshments. Caller Mike Brennan will lead couples through traditional square

dances, mixers and special dances.

The cost is \$10 per couple, plus \$5 for each additional child. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 5. No tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, call the Bailey Center at 722-7620.

Quilt show

Grange No. 389 will have its annual spring quilt show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 S. Newburgh, Westland.

The show will feature quilt classes - a cathedral window quilted pillow and special kids classes 9 a.m. to noon, quilted book cover class 1-4 p.m. and paper piece project 1-6 p.m. - quilt displays, demonstrations, appraisals and lunch. There also will be a display of old, new, unfinished quilts, wall hangings and quilted clothing. The entry fee is \$1 per piece to be judged.

Table space also is available for vendors. The cost is \$25 for a 10-by-10-foot space.

The kids class costs \$5, the pillow and book cover classes cost \$20 each, and the paper piece project \$30. Preregistration is required. Tickets are \$1 in advance and \$2 at the door.

For tickets or to register, call Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857. Registration also can be sent to Strebbling at 5692 N. Globe, Westland, MI 48185. Include your name address and telephone number as well as an alternate phone number.

Euchre tournament

The Village of Westland is hosting its first Euchre Tournament for seniors age 62 and older at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at the senior community, 32001 Cherry Hill between Merriman and Venoy, Westland. There is no fee, however, space is limited and reservations must be made by Feb. 15 by calling (734) 762-8926. Pinochle and Bridge players are welcome for open card games

Vegas Nights

James Caan won't be there, but the thrill of Las Vegas will be when St. Theodore Parish holds two Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4-5.

Hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Women and Men's Club, there will be Black Jack, easy craps, Let It Ride, roulette, money wheel and 50/50 drawings. The maximum prize will be \$500 per person. Food, beer, wine and soft drinks also will be available. Admission is \$2.

St. Theodore Parish is at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-4412.

Area skaters are now U.S. champion team

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

How do you improve on perfection?

If you're U.S. National Figure Skating champion ice-dancers Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, you arrive at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena most mornings at 10 a.m. and sweat through rigorous five-hour practices under the watchful eyes of world-renowned coaches Marina Zoueva and Igor Shpilband.

And you do it all with a 100-watt smile on your face.

Using moves that were as smooth as the ice they were skating on, Belbin and Agosto soared above the competition at the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships two weeks ago in Portland, Ore. The duo - who train at the Arctic Edge and are members of the Arctic Figure Skating Club - were not only good in Portland - they were perfect, recording a record-shattering 14 perfect 6.0 scores.

"The performance we had in Portland was a combination of a number of things," said Agosto, who lives in Farmington Hills. "Everything seemed to come together at the right time, and Igor did a great job of putting together the choreography."

PICTURE PERFECT

The 20-year-old Belbin, who resides in Canton with her parents, and Agosto have been the talk of the U.S. ice-skating community since racking up the string of flawless scores on the way to capturing their second consecutive national title.

They shattered the previous record of four perfect ice-dancing marks set in 1983 by Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert

"I think the key to our success is that the judges and the crowd realize that what we're doing is not an act," said Agosto, 23. "We're actually having fun out there, and that comes across in our routine."

Belbin and Agosto were brought together six years ago by Shpilband, who moved them to his home base - the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills - to see if they would mesh as a skating tandem.

He got his answer in about the time it takes to lace up a pair of skates.

"I saw a lot of potential in

them right from the start," Shpilband said. "They matched up perfectly. The number-one reason they're so good is that they have such strong basic skating skills, plus they are athletic and strong. They have such a feel for the music and they work so well together."

"They're both attractive people, too, and they're beautiful to watch, which is important to the judges."

UNFORGETTABLE EFFORT

Shpilband said the couple's record-breaking performance in mid-January was a week that will be etched in his mind forever.

"The night they got all the perfect scores is one I'll never forget," he said. "It was nice to see all the hard work they have put in pay off. They are one of the youngest teams of ice-dancers to enjoy this much success. They're only 20 and 23 while most of the top ice dancers in the world right now are around 30. They have a lot of potential as long as they keep working at it."

Belbin and Agosto's six-year run as partners is an accomplishment in itself, she admitted.

"A lot of ice-dancing teams break up after a year or so," she said. "They start nit-picking each other and it tears them apart. We're very driven and after the same goals, so we get along great."

"I guess you could say we're still in the honeymoon phase of our skating careers together," Agosto added, smiling.

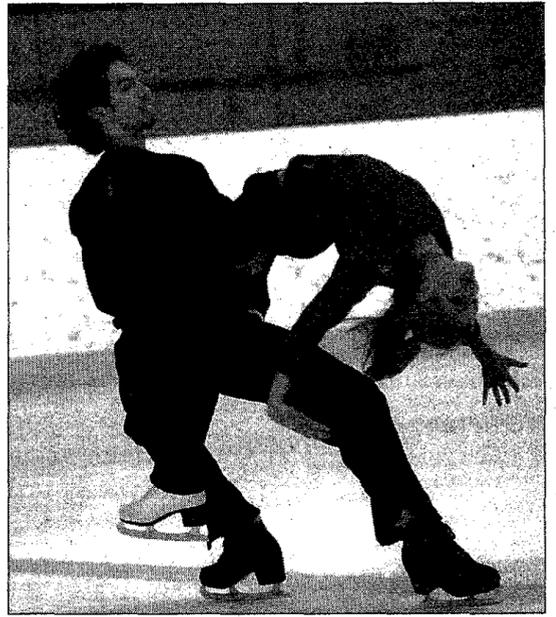
SKATE AND SLEEP

The couple moved their training base from Bloomfield Hills to Canton in the summer of 2003 due to the freedom the managers of the Arctic Edge offered them.

"I love it here," Belbin said. "We can skate pretty much whenever we need to, which wasn't always the case with the former place, which was giving more and more ice time to its members."

Belbin said she enjoys living in Canton for many reasons, notably its laid-back lifestyle.

"I only live about five minutes from the rink, so it's very convenient," she said. "And the people here are great, too. They're very warm towards us. I also like the fact that there aren't a lot of distractions in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ben Agosto and Tanith Belbin practice Monday afternoon at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. The pair captured their second consecutive ice-dancing title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Jan. 14 in Portland, Ore. They have also organized the Skate-Aid For Tsunami Relief, to be held Feb. 4 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Canton. Most days, when we're not traveling, I go straight to the rink and skate, then go home and sleep."

Belbin said that despite the fame she and Agosto have achieved in the world of figure skating, they are, for the most part, still cloaked in a blanket of anonymity.

"We don't get recognized very often (outside of the rink)," she said. "Unless you've achieved a lot in this sport over a number of years, you're not going to get a lot of recognition - unless you whack another skater in the knee," she joked, referring to the infamous Tanya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan episode in 1994. "We're actually more well-known in China and Japan than we are here."

TRAINING DAYS

When they're not competing in events, Agosto and Belbin train on the ice approximately five hours a day from September through May.

During the summer, they take a break from on-ice practice and switch to more off-ice workouts like weight-training and car-

diovascular exercises.

Since Belbin was born in Canada, the duo won't be able to compete in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

They do, however, have their sights set on the 2010 games.

"I got my green card in 2002, and - unless you get married to an American - you have to wait five years after that before you can gain U.S. citizenship," explained Belbin. "We'll still be in our prime in 2010, so that's what we're shooting for."

NO LET-UP

After reaching perfection, some athletes lose their competitive fire.

Not Agosto and Belbin. "We don't give ourselves a lot of slack," admitted Agosto. "Igor always pushes us so that we feel that perfection is just out of our reach."

That motivating ploy may have to be altered after their performance two weeks ago, when they not only grabbed perfection - they mass produced it.

ewright@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2108

Skaters hit ice for tsunami relief benefit

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Training for the United States Figure Skating Championships was the number one thing on the minds of Canton-based ice dancers Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto in early January - but it didn't monopolize the pair's thoughts or time.

Belbin and Agosto, who train at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena, manage to adjust their schedules so that they could

organize Skate-Aid For Tsunami Relief, a star-studded ice show that will raise money for the victims of the deadly Tsunami in southeast Asia. All of the funds raised will go to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

"The more we heard about all of the deaths and the tragedy that occurred, the more we wanted to do something to help," said Belbin, who lives in Canton. "Ben and I have been involved in fund-raising ice

shows before, so we knew how difficult they are to put together, but we've received a lot of help from sponsors and companies who have donated their services for free. We haven't spend one cent yet on anything."

But the pair has spent many hours doing everything from booking flights for the performing skaters to distributing fliers that promote the event.

Among the performers will be Belbin and Agosto, who won their second consecutive United States Figure Skating pairs ice-dancing championship two weeks ago in Portland, Ore.; 1992 Olympic gold medalist Victor Petrenko; 2002 Olympic and World medalist Timothy

Goebel; 2005 U.S. national champion Johnny Weir; 2005 U.S. pairs champions Katie Orscher and Garrett Lucash; and five-time U.S. National Champions Liz Punsalan and Jerod Swallow.

The event will be held Friday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. Tickets for adults will be \$20 while children 12 and under will get in for \$15. Premier seating tickets, which include a post-show reception with the skating stars, cost \$100.

To order tickets, call the Compuware Sports Arena Box Office at (734) 453-6400.

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Sports Hotline (734) 953-2104
Circulation/Customer Service ... 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
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Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates
Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

A HomeTown Communications Network publication
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GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BID ADVERTISEMENT

Garden City Public Schools will receive sealed Request for Quotation (RFQ) Packets until 2:00 p.m. local time, Wednesday, February 9, 2005, for Asbestos Abatement at Garden City Middle School and Garden City Administration Building. (Abatement for Spring and Summer 2005 Renovations)

Mail sealed packets to Garden City Public Schools, Purchasing Office, 1333 Radcliff, Garden City, MI 48135.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Garden City Schools Board or the Garden City Schools Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Publish: January 30, 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
Publish: January 16, 30, February 13, 20, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 10, 2005

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY Notice of Filing Deadline

All Local School Board candidates who wish to seek office at the May 3, 2005 School Election, must file nominating petitions no later than:

Tuesday, February 8, 2005 before 4:00 p.m.

Petitions must be filed with the Garden City Clerk's Office located at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City Michigan, 48135. Clerk's Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
City of Garden City, Michigan**

Publish: January 27 and 30, 2005

DEATHS

A
John W. Andrews, 73, died Jan. 24.
Martha L. Armstrong, 92, of Livonia, died Jan. 17.
Catherine Maxine Arnold, 80, of Clarkston, died Jan. 25.

B
Martha M. Brown, 87, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 31.
Wallace H. Brown, 92, of Auburn Hills, died Jan. 6.

C
James Smith Clark III, 42, of Canton, died Jan. 24.
Muriel Clayton died Jan. 24.

F
Donald G. Ferguson, 84, of Auburn Hills, died Jan. 14.

G
Patricia Ann Gibbs, 79, of Lake Orion, formerly of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 22.
James A. Gilmore, 91, of Bloomfield Township, died Jan. 19.
Eldon Gregory, 90, of Livonia, formerly of Plymouth and Northville, died Jan. 23.

H
Donna J. Harless, 75, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 23.
Edna L. Harp, 75, of Auburn Hills, died Jan. 15.
Doug L. Humer, 57, of Auburn Hills, died Dec. 28.

J
Jerry D. Johnson, 65, of Winter Haven, Fla., died Dec. 28.

L
Grace R. Lemerise, 83, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 3.
Kay W. Libke, 69, of Plymouth, died Jan. 27.

M
Ronald L. McCandless, 66, of Livonia, died Jan. 21.
Helen D. MacDonald, 78, of Farmington Hills, died Jan. 25.

N
Robert Thomas Nichols died Jan. 15.

P
Harold E. Paulus, 90, of Troy, died Jan. 11.

R
Floyd E. Ramsey, 81, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 6.
Frederick Rozich died Jan. 23.
King Ruhly, 86, of Birmingham, died Jan. 22.

S
John R. Schettenhelm, 85, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 23.
Margaret E. Stallard, 79, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 18.
Donald E. Stapleton, 77, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 10.
Alice M. Story, 86, of Livonia, died Jan. 26.

V
Mable Vincent, 93, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 5.

W
Madlyne R. Walter, 91, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 14.
James H. Woodall, 82, of Rochester, died Jan. 2.

Z
Walter B. Zetterlund, 75, of West Bloomfield, died Jan. 15.
Atsuko Zmich, 59, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 23.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

The Public Library of Westland, located at 6123 Central City Parkway, will be conducting a "Garage Sale" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, and again from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6, in the meeting rooms of the library, just inside the front doors.

All sale items are priced and will be sold as is. Items to be sold include computer hard drives, monitors, printers, keyboards and mice. Also, chairs, lamps, calculators and a sectional sofa will be on sale.

These items have been replaced with upgraded technology components so that the library can service its patrons more efficiently.

This sale is open to the public, but excludes Westland City/Library employees and their family members.

Please direct your questions to the library's reception desk at (734) 326-6123 after 10 a.m.

Teen Candy Raffle - Open to sixth-12th-graders. Count the goodies in the jar in the Young Adult Area Feb. 1-14. Candy winner will be announced on Feb. 15.

Unleashed: The Sixth Sense, Your Pet and You - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1. Registration required.

Is your dog down in the dumps? Why is your cat acting so weird? Explore the realm of psychic phenomena with pet psychic Reverend Kathleen. In addition to discussing psychic



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in *Passages* on page C5.

communication with animals, she will answer specific questions. Just bring a picture of your pet, past or present.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

RECREATION

The following programs are offered through the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Karate
Discover the Shotokan style of karate with instructor Tony Valvona. Learn a form of self-defense that helps build self-confident and self-

discipline while improving fitness, coordination and flexibility. For additional information, call Valvona at (248) 348-8752.

Classes are available for men, women and children ages 6 and up. Courses are on-going, beginning the first Wednesday of every month and meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Cost is \$75 for residents per quarter (three months) and \$78 for non-residents per quarter, payable to City of Westland. There also is a \$25 First Year Club Registration, payable to Tony Valvona. Uniforms are free to new beginners only (all sizes in stock).

Young American Self-Defense
This fun course is designed for self-defense purposes only and covers the Stranger Danger Technique.

Safety papers will be handed out weekly. Basic through black belt levels are taught by certified black belt instructors. Awards and promotions are included throughout the program.

The age level is 4-15 years of age. Session 2 is Feb. 7-May 16, no class March 28.

Times are 6:30-7:15 p.m. for ages 4-6, 7:15-8 p.m. for ages 7-9 and 8:45 p.m. for ages 10 and up. Cost is \$5 per student per day, \$70 for entire session.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, call (616) 538-2888 or e-mail at melycoa@attbi.com.

Lil' Dragons Martial Arts
Lil' Dragons teaches respect, discipline, confidence, flexibility, bal-

ance, coordination, self-control, cooperation, health, fun fitness and stranger awareness. The new program provides fun, high energy classes designed especially for 5-7-year-olds. These classes are 30 minutes long.

Half-hour classes for 8-10-year-olds as well as hour-long classes for those 11 years and older and adults are available.

Classes are available 5:30-6 p.m. for Lil' Dragons (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee), 6-6:30 p.m. karate for 8-10-year-olds (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. ages 11 and up, including adults (cost \$35 per month and \$25 uniform fee).

Classes are at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information, call (248) 348-8752.

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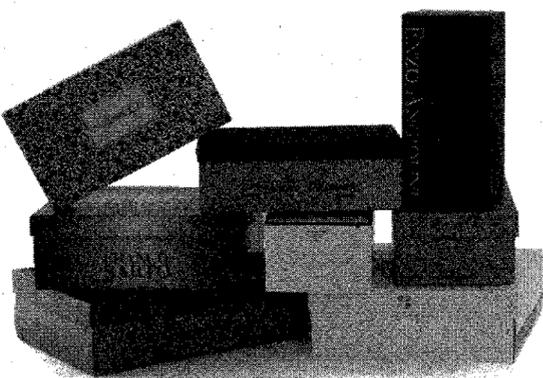


ladies' outerwear clearance

Extra 60% off Entire stock of red-lined ladies' outerwear.
Orig. 100.00-650.00, sale 75.00-521.25, **now 30.00-208.50**. IN COATS. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE. EXCLUDES ST. JOHN.

semiannual ladies' apparel clearance

Extra 60% off ENTIRE STOCK of red-lined ladies', petites' and Parisian Woman apparel. Orig. 26.00-198.00, sale 19.99-149.99, **now 7.99-59.99**. IN LADIES' SPORTSWEAR.



semiannual ladies' shoe clearance

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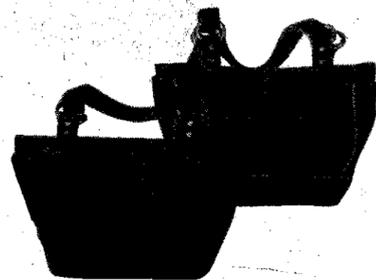
semiannual handbag clearance

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Schools and Parisian stores to combine for fund-raiser

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Laurel Park's Parisian will team up with area schools next month to raise money and support education.

The semi-annual Celebrate Education event will run 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at both the Livonia and Rochester Hills store locations. Organizers call the fund-raising opportunity a win-win for schools and the surrounding communities.

For the cost of a \$5 ticket, participants receive 20 percent off anything they purchase during the Celebrate Education event. The school or school group that sells tickets retains the entire profit from those sales.

In addition, anyone wishing to volunteer from a participating school can raise money based on the hours they spend at the store, assisting with on-site ticket sales or putting away merchandise. Volunteers shift last about two to three hours. The more volunteers who sign up, the more money a group can raise, organizers explained.

Jill Engel, special events coordinator, said she loves to see the

For the cost of a \$5 ticket, participants receive 20 percent off anything they purchase during the Celebrate Education event.

students come in and volunteer on event day.

"They are so excited," she said. "They have so much fun."

Randy Dell, store manager at Laurel Park's Parisian, compared Celebrate Education to a busy Saturday during the holiday shopping rush. The store is packed with volunteers to assist the Parisian staff, and packed with shoppers taking advantage of the 20 percent merchandise discount. An unofficial goal for the Laurel Park Parisian is to include all Livonia Public Schools in its Celebrate Education event this year.

Dell said the event, which began about six years ago, continues to grow.

According to Engel, last fall 25 schools participated in the

program. About 36 schools have already signed on for the February event.

"We raise a lot of money for schools," she said.

Between the two Parisian store locations, more than \$30,000 was raised during the last Celebrate Education private sale event.

"I think it's the easiest form of fund raising," said Dell, adding that the store itself provides the forms and tickets and coordinates all aspects of the daylong shopping event.

Currently schools and groups from the following communities have signed up to participate on Feb. 26: Livonia, Southfield, Farmington, Westland, Northville, Plymouth and Canton. But it's not too late to sign up. Engel said sports teams, musical groups, PTO's and entire school buildings are welcome to join the effort to raise money for their needs.

The event draws shoppers into the entire mall. Dell said Laurel Park Place has been "very supportive" of Parisian's community outreach efforts.

For more information, or to sign up, call (734) 953-7500 or send e-mail to Jill_Engel@parisian.com.

Madonna students named to Dean's List

Named to the Dean's list in recognition for superior academic achievement during the Fall 2004 term at Madonna University were Westland residents:

Lisa Abela-Tesner, Jennifer Anderson, Mitchell Andries, Kathleen Andrus, Amanda Andrysiak, Renee Armour, Courtney Arnold, Heather Arnold, Maureen Asmat, Stephanie Baker, Scott Balko, Jacki Belcher, Jacqueline Bonnett, Anthony Borowski, Erin Brockert, Patrick Carpeni, Marianne Carter, Linsay Cecil, Sarah Cole, Stephen Conn, Melissa Coscia, Christopher Cosselmon,

Kathleen Crouch, Susan Cumming, Angela Decker, Tammy Denstaedt, Leanne Domzalski, Margaret Fernandez, Jeremy Francois, Steven Funston, Adrienne Gazdag, Kelli Gibbs, Jennifer Glennon, Diane Godlewski, Sarah Graff, Jennifer Grantham, Michele Greer, Lawrence Grezak, Michael Harhold, Gail Harris, Bryan Holloway, Susan Huggins, Angela Ilievski,

Barbara Jones, Crystal Kahler, Joseph Keen, Jessica Kelly, Michael Kennedy, Mary Kern, Angela Kimling, Amanda Knight, Jessica Koch, Charlene Koehler, Emily Kostelnik, Lindsey Litwinczuk, Cecile MacDonell,

Wendy Marquette, Megan Martin, Harry Maurer, John McDaniel, Joseph McFarland, Susan Mendenhall, Michelle Merandi, Mark Minnaugh,

Lorraine Misinec, Shobana Mohanan, Charles Norwood, Jennifer Palmer, William Parker, Christopher Peplinski, Joyce Perkins, Diana Pool, Barry Rafferty, David Randall, Shannon Rushlow, Marlene Sabbagh, Jacquelyn Sikora, Kristen Slade, Jennifer Smith, Audrey Tatro, John Tavana, Kelly Tyler, James Walla, Jill Whitehead, Kara Wisniewski, Nancy Woodington,

Renea Wotus, Jennene Wright, Luvenia Wright, Elona Xhermali, Tiffany Zaremba and Lori Zielinski.

PAY

FROM PAGE A1

"I'm not going to turn it down," he said. "I'm not going to make this a political thing."

Councilman Richard LeBlanc said he wouldn't mind voting on the pay raises, but he said he supports them. He said he has favored pay increases for city employees and that he will be consistent in support-

ing them for elected officials.

LeBlanc accused the LOCC of erring two years ago when it slashed the clerk's pay.

"The decision to reduce the salary was politics," he said. "It was based on potentially who might run for that position."

LeBlanc, himself, was considering a bid for the clerk's office until the LOCC gutted the pay. On Friday, he said he would support moves to abolish the LOCC and place the

issue of pay raises in the hands of council members.

Council members William Wild and Michael Kehrer couldn't be reached Friday, but council President Charles Pickering - like Stottlemeyer, Kehrer and LeBlanc - said he will not vote to reject the pay raises. Referring to the LOCC's decision, he said, "I am fully in support of it."

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CHIROPRACTOR

FROM PAGE A1

medical doctors don't give you time of day, but he talks with you about what's going on in your life.

"He's on the same level as his patients. He has a friendly relationship with his patients, and he cares about them."

O'Dell started his Westland practice on Dec. 23, 1969, after working at his father Clair O'Dell's office. His patients come from such communities as Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Canton, Plymouth and Redford.

O'Dell's extended family includes 35 chiropractors. His father was the first.

With his quick wit, it's hard

to tell whether O'Dell, 58, is joking when he says he might just work another 30 years.

"I have to keep up with my father," he said.

While playing guitar with The Subluxations, O'Dell studied at the Logan Basic College of Chiropractic in St. Louis.

Over the years, he believes that the chiropractic business has deservedly gained respect since it originated in 1895. His practice has allowed him to provide for his wife and high school sweetheart Bobbie, and their four children.

O'Dell believes that everyone's spine and nervous system can benefit from twice-monthly visits to a chiropractor.

"It allows the body to function the way it was designed to function - healthy," he said. "It's hard to get people to

understand that it's a way of life."

He runs his business with help from three employees - massage therapist Teri Taig and chiropractic assistants Nicole Jones and Jennifer Conley.

Patients who visit O'Dell for the first time will receive an X-ray spinograph.

"That's our blueprint that tells us what kind of care we need to put that patient on," O'Dell said.

Warfield, who still drives from Jackson to visit O'Dell, has no plans to change chiropractors.

"I've been in the drywall business for 27 years, and I need a good chiropractor," Warfield said. "He's the best."

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SAVE

FROM PAGE A1

pen all the time. We're more likely to have falls and sprained ankles. This isn't your everyday type of thing."

Goosby has come full circle with his job at Wayne Memorial. Growing up he lived across the street from the school. It was his playground. He played in the school yard and played hockey on the flat land behind the school.

He graduated from there and at age 18, enlisted in the

Army where he was a paratrooper and in rapid deployment. He retired in 1997 and worked as an area manager for Wal-Mart, but left to be with his daughter for her final year of school.

"I'd give her a ride to school everyday," he said. "I bought a Harley to goof around with and put in an application for a (police) dispatcher in Westland and put in an application here. I got hired here."

MacDonald can't say enough about his work with the students.

"Mark is humble, he has

great rapport with the students," she said.

"You can't hide from these kids," he said, adding, "I'm a hyperactive fireball, that's one reason I get along with the kids."

Goosby hasn't talked to the student whose life he saved, but that's OK. He's just glad he was able to help him.

"I guess I was just lucky that day," he said. "I didn't want to be in school that day, but I learned something and was able to save a life."

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Judge Kelly wants tougher bond recovery plan

BY RUSS HAMMOND
CORRESPONDENT

Third Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly says the court needs to do a better job collecting forfeited bonds when defendants skip out on their court dates.

"The court will enforce bonds," Kelly said. "The court hasn't been very strict enforcing this in the past."

Implementation of a criminal bond forfeiture program is one of several objectives for 2005 outlined in an interview with Kelly. The chief judge also wants to see action on the Court Tower initiative for a new courthouse, an upgrade for the court's computer software, better service by the Friend of Court and pay increases for court employees.

Kelly, a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Notre Dame Law School, oversees the largest and busiest court in the State of Michigan. The 3rd Circuit has nearly 800 employees, including 66 judges. She has been a judge for six years and is entering her fourth year as chief judge.

Also known as Wayne County Circuit Court, the 3rd Circuit handles all criminal, civil and family court cases for the county. In 1997, the state legislature combined the Recorder's Court with the Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court to create the current court.

The court is divided into three separate divisions, all in Detroit: The Family Division, the Criminal Division and the Civil Division.

The Family Division handles all matters involving juveniles,

as well as all cases pertaining to domestic relationships. The Criminal Division handles felony cases, high misdemeanor crimes and all criminal appeals from district courts throughout Wayne County. The Civil Division hears civil cases where the dollar amount of the controversy exceeds \$25,000, the largest and busiest court in the State of Michigan.

Kelly said that the county needs an effective plan to collect forfeited money.

When a defendant is released on bond, they are expected to show up for their court date. Unfortunately, some people never come back for their court appearance. This automatically forfeits the defendants bail and the money is supposed to be turned over to the court. The 3rd Judicial Circuit Court has not kept up in collecting forfeited bonds.

Kelly said that the county needs an effective plan to collect forfeited money. The plan that Wayne County will be using was modeled after a program used in Oakland County. She said that Wayne County officials have worked very closely with Oakland County to create the bond forfeiture program.

In Oakland County, the prosecutor's office maintains a weekly computer list of those who didn't show for court dates. They allow no-shows three weeks and then issue an order for forfeiture of bond. Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Edward Cibor said the program has netted the county hundreds of the thousands of dollars for the county general fund over the years.



Third Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly

She added that the implementation of the plan, which began in the Criminal Division at the end of this month, will increase court revenue by an estimated \$2 million per year.

"We need to be proactive in collecting money," Kelly said. Another matter that Kelly feels strongly about is the Court Tower initiative that is under a feasibility study by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. The study, which started nine months ago, examines the possibility of a new courthouse that would contain all divisions of the court under one roof.

Ficano's office said the county is looking at the plans, specs, financials, and the intergovernmental agreement between the county and the 3rd Circuit Court that was considered in 2001 for a location near the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in downtown Detroit.

But at present Ficano is studying a different approach — a correctional facility that would include facilities for the

'The court will enforce bonds. The court hasn't been very strict enforcing this in the past.'

Mary Beth Kelly
Third Circuit Court chief judge

court and the prosecutor's office.

The objective is to provide a single location for detention, the courts, and prosecutors, alleviating the pressure on local outcounty lockups. A regional complex would eliminate early detention due to overcrowding and provide one location for processing. Ficano's study committee is assessing the feasibility of the plan with no new taxes.

Additionally, the site considered in 2001 is owned by the Greektown Casino and would be utilized as their permanent site.

Currently, the three divisions of the court are in three separate buildings. Only two are in downtown Detroit and are within walking distance of one another.

The Criminal Division is at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on St. Antoine and the Civil Division is in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building on Woodward Avenue. The Family Division court is split, the domestic relationship cases are heard at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building and the juvenile cases are heard at the Lincoln Hall of Justice on East Forest and the I-75 freeway.

Kelly would prefer that all of her divisions be under one roof instead of being spread through three different buildings.

"Mr. Ficano is looking into the feasibility of this," Kelly said. "This study has been done before — on and off over the last 10 years."

Along with a new courthouse, Kelly said another objective for 2005 is new software for the court's computer system. The current software does not allow the three divisions to communicate with one another.

Kelly said that the cost for the software was \$1.2 million. But she adds, "Our request is supported. There's hope."

Friend of the Court, which is the child support wing of the

Family Division, is another area that Kelly looks to improve upon. Friend of the Court handles cases involving child custody, divorce, child and spousal support and parental visitation scheduling. Recently, they opened a new call center to handle the nearly 1,200 phone calls a day that they receive.

Kelly also wants to develop a program for Friend of the Court that would establish paternity sooner. This, in turn, would speed up the child support process.

This year, Kelly would like to provide a pay hike of three percent to court employees. She said that it has been five years since the employees have received a raise in pay.

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