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**SUNDAY**  
February 4, 2007

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Worker denies taking money

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman denied Thursday that she embezzled \$1,000 from a client she was supposed to help while overseeing a city-based family assistance program.

Tonya Cramier-Oncza, 39, told the *Observer* she is wrongly accused of taking money that a struggling mother needed to buy a vehicle for work.

"This is just not right," Cramier-Oncza said, after a Westland judge ordered her to stand trial for using a check to embezzle \$1,000 from a client.

Cramier-Oncza was employed by an outside agency for the last two years to oversee the federal Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, which provides assistance for cars, schooling and other services to help recipients become independent.

She is accused of embezzling \$1,000 and depositing money into her personal checking account while working out of the city's Dorsey Community Center. She called the allegations shocking and said that, if she had chosen to steal, she had access to much more than \$1,000 through Westland's housing department.

"I had access to millions of dollars," Cramier-Oncza told the *Observer*. "If I was going to steal money, do you think I would deposit it into my own account?"

### TRIAL ORDERED

Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos ordered her to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after hearing testimony Thursday during a two-hour preliminary hearing.

"I think she was planning to steal money ... that belonged to the housing commission," Bokos ruled.

Yolanda Parker, the alleged victim, testified that Cramier-Oncza advised her in October to use \$2,000 in FSS funds to buy a vehicle she needed for her job at a Westland dollar store. Parker said she was later told that the program's rules had changed and that she was issued a check for only \$1,000.

When Parker went to Best Bank on Ford Road, she was told by a teller that a \$2,000 check had already been cashed in her name one day earlier. Parker was shown the \$2,000 check, on which she said her name had been forged and misspelled.

"I was shocked. I started crying," Parker testified.

PLEASE SEE MONEY, A5



Matthew Karpiuk, winner of the elementary division of Wayne-Westland's 27th annual Earle Chorbagian Elementary School Spelling Bee, receives a hug from his mother Rebecca and grandmother Eva Garcia Thursday morning at Adams Middle School after the awards presentation. Matthew is a fifth-grader at Edison Elementary School in Westland.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## How well do you spell? Students show their command of words in annual spelling bee

For more photos of Thursday's 27th Annual Earle Chorbagian Spelling Bee, visit our Westland Photo Gallery online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

An eighth-grader at Marshall Middle School and an Edison Elementary fifth-grader walked away with top honors at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools 27th annual Earle Chorbagian Spelling Bee on Thursday morning.

Angela Blay correctly spelled the word "mirage" to capture the middle school title, while Matthew Kariuk spelled the word "ridiculous" to win the elementary competition.

"It feels real good, something I can't explain," said Matthew who won the competition in the eighth round. "I tried to study as much as I could and go over every language of origin. German was the hardest because I don't know that one."

"He's always been a good speller," said his mother Rebecca. "He gets his memory for spelling from my mother. It skipped a generation."



Marshall Middle School eighth-grader Angela Blay, winner of the middle school spelling bee is congratulated by Earle Chorbagian, the namesake of the annual competition.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Also there watching was Eva Garcia who said her grandson "does try to do his very best in everything."

"He's a good student, an A student," she said. "I think he wants to be an engineer, he likes to put things together. He also likes to win."

The daughter of Randy and Kim Blay, Angela won the mid-

dle school competition in the 12th round. She credited her victory to her family.

"I had my sister and parents help me," she said. "I practiced every night before I went to bed."

The students were supplied a book that contained potential

PLEASE SEE SPELLING BEE, A4

## Ex-library worker's suit claims sexual harassment

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A former Westland library employee alleges in a lawsuit that she was sexually harassed, defamed and ultimately fired after she complained of how she was treated.

Debbie Nogle, a former administrative assistant, is seeking a minimum of \$25,000 and other damages, reinstatement to the job she lost in January, and an end to alleged discriminatory policies.

Her lawsuit was filed Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court by Ann Arbor attorney Nicholas Roumel. It names the library, board member Michael Rintz and acting co-directors Marilyn Kwik and Lisa Hausman.

Rintz hadn't returned phone calls by Friday afternoon, and a library employee said Kwik and Hausman weren't available. Board attorney Michael McNamara said he hadn't seen the suit and couldn't discuss it.

Nogle's lawsuit marks the latest chapter for a library plagued by controversy. Nogle was hired in June 2005 by former library Director John Patane, who became the second director fired in a two-year period when the board ousted him last May.

Nogle's suit alleges that she was sexually harassed by Rintz and that she was fired in January by Hausman and Kwik after she made complaints to the board attorney.

"I was very, very shocked after everything I've done for that library and all the hard work I've put into it," Nogle told the *Observer*.

Shortly after Nogle was hired, the suit alleges that Rintz, an attorney, started visiting her frequently even though he didn't have an office at the library, on Central City Parkway south of Warren.

The suit contends that Rintz would close the door when he walked into Nogle's office and talk about personal things like his wine cellar and fondness for fine dining. It alleges that he told Nogle she was pretty and that he "would look salaciously at her body."

The suit alleges that Rintz asked Nogle out and that he "would teasingly tell Ms. Nogle that she would be the library director someday, and that he would always protect her."

Nogle began to hear false workplace rumors that she and Rintz had a relationship, the suit contends.

After Rintz and then-Director Patane began having differences, the suit claims that Rintz went to Nogle's office to try to gather "negative information" about Patane. Rintz had a temper that included "screaming, profanity and threats against (Nogle's) job if she did not cooperate."

The suit contends that Patane had contacted the Westland city attorney's office and then-Mayor Sandra Cicirelli to tell them that Rintz had been sexually harassing Nogle.

PLEASE SEE SUIT, A5

## Security cameras help nab girl who wrote threats

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

The student who administrators believe left five threatening messages on a bathroom wall at Cooper Upper Elementary was caught after cameras were installed.

"We did catch who it was and she is being dealt with," said Mark Schultz, the district's administrator in charge of safety. He spoke before the PTSA council Wednesday.

"I'm glad I put the cameras in. It was worth it. Students were scared," Schultz said. He said he consoled one student who cried for an hour after finding a message.

The 11-year-old suspect faces criminal charges. The case is being handled by Westland police.

The student does not face an automatic expulsion. The school district will decide appropriate punishment, Schultz said.

The threats were written on a bath-

room stall shortly before lunch. One said the perpetrator placed bombs throughout the school; others threatened to kill anyone who told.

The student was caught Jan. 11, after the last message was found.

In addition to cameras, teachers monitored who asked permission to use the bathroom during that time frame.

"We can breathe easier now," said Cooper Principal Terry Taylor. The threats weren't deemed credible, but

were fully investigated by Westland police.

Officers searched the building after students were dismissed, but Cooper students were never evacuated.

Schultz, who interviewed the student, said that that the student was responsible for three threats in a week-and-a-half span in early January and two in November.

"There were no copy cats," he said.

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# Getting into harmony

## Center teaches youngsters how to open up using beat of music

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

In 1999, Melissa Bila Regan and her 18-month-old daughter, Brennan, began taking Music Together classes.

Brennan, now 9, has moved on from the interactive children's program, but her mother is just getting started.

Regan, a Farmington Hills resident, is about to launch her own Music Together center called, Harmony and Me, at 7311 N. Lilley Road in Canton.

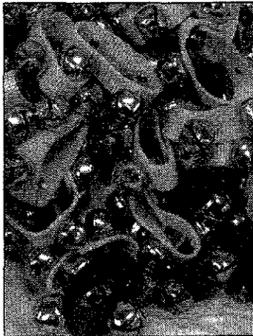
"I absolutely love this program and have got to experience it as a parent and as a teacher," said Regan, who started teaching music classes in 2003. "It's incredible to see children open up."

Available to newborn through kindergarten-age kids, the Music Together program is divided into nine weekly, 45-minute classes that feature songs, instruments, chants, rhymes and dance.

While many are accompanied by parents, some children take the informal classes with grandparents, aunts, uncles or their caregivers.

"This is not just putting on a CD or popping in a tape," said Regan, who's taken a break from her career as a nurse. "The kids get a real sense of parent participation and the parents end up loving it, too."

The Music Together pro-



Harmony and Me uses a variety of musical instruments, including drums and jingle bells (shown here) to help children gain confidence.

gram was made public in the late '80s and is based on the notion that all children are musical. Its Web site, www.musictogether.com, states "All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture, provided that their early environment supports such learning."

Regan says the program's impact is evident on her own children.

Her youngest daughter, Julia, 5, recently crossed the threshold that marked the end of her Music Together participation.

"It's amazing," she said. "Brennan is very comfortable



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Melissa Bila Regan will soon launch her own Music Together center called, Harmony and Me, at 7311 N. Lilley Road in Canton.

musically and can do various styles of dance and Julia can sing in harmony."

Regan also said she's seen how the program has brought families together.

"I had a family that was having a hard time bonding with their adopted child and I ended up getting a letter that said how much the program did for their relationship," she said. "It was so beautiful that was a gift they received from this."

The first nine-week session begins March 13.

Registration, which includes two music CD's, an illustrated

songbook and a parent's guide, is \$145 per child or \$102 each for siblings. Siblings under 9 months old are free.

Free 30-minute sample classes will take place at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 at the center.

Regan will host another free session at 11 a.m. on March 3 at The Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

For more information or to register for a sample class, call (248) 489-9330 or log on to www.HarmonyAndMeKids.com.

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### INFORMATION CENTRAL

## The race is on

Unless you've been sharing close quarters with Punsutawney Phil, you're probably only a handful of Americans who aren't aware that the race is on. That's right: the 2008 presidential race is taking shape.

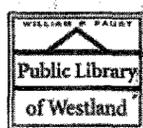
To date, approximately 26 presidential hopefuls have either set up an exploratory committee, are thinking about it, or have already thrown in their hat in hopes of becoming the 44th president of the United States.

To get a little perspective on presidential elections throughout our country's history stop by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. A vast array of titles including, *Selecting the President: From 1789 to 1996*, published by Congressional Quarterly, Robert North Robert's notable *Encyclopedia of Presidential Campaigns, Slogans, Issues and Platforms*, and Alan Schroeder's *Presidential Debates: Forty Years of High-Risk TV*, might just do the job.

However, if campaign financing peaks your interest, take some time to read Alan Marzilli's *Election Reform*, Bradley A. Smith's, *Unfree Speech: The Folly of Campaign Finance Reform*, or any of the many other titles that line the shelves.

If all this talk has you wondering whether you should start penning your own platform, how about checking out Susan Guber's *How to Win Your 1st Election*, Dick W. Simpson's *Winning Elections: A Handbook of Modern Participatory Politics* or even William S. Bike's *Winning Political Campaigns: A Comprehensive Guide to Electoral Success?*

What election would be complete without an array of political trinkets? For the collector in all of us, find the true value of your favorite campaign giveaways in Theodore L. Hake's books, *Collectible Pin-Back Buttons, 1896-1986: An Illustrated Price Guide* and Hake's *Guide to Presidential Campaign Collectibles: An Illustrated Price Guide to Artifacts from 1789-1988*. These books are sure to keep you busy until the balloting begins.



For the purists, enjoy listening to the voice of the great political leaders when

checking out the sound recording *Great American Speeches: 80 Years of Political Oratory or Greatest Presidential Speeches of the 20th Century*. Relax and listen to the first inaugural speeches of Franklin Roosevelt (1933), John F. Kennedy (1960) and Ronald Reagan (1981), just to name a few.

No matter whether you're in a blue, red or green state, your library has something for you. Just stop by or visit us on the Web at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

**Highlighted Activities**  
**The Roots of American Music:** 7 p.m. Feb. 7.

Join Detroit musician Ray Kamalay as traces the development of early American music from its link to slavery up to the early Jazz Age. Kamalay's discussion touches on freedom, ancient and modern slavery, spirituals, blues, minstrel shows, ragtime and jazz, and he performs throughout.

**Internet 101:** 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10.

A beginner's guide to the Internet - how to get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Microsoft Word for Beginners:** 2 p.m. Feb. 10.

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font style and size, check spelling and print. No registration is required.

Information Central is compiled by Marilyn Kwik at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

### CORRECTION

A story in Thursday's issue of the *Westland Observer*, contained a comment that the addition to the Wayne Memorial High School Alumni Arena couldn't accommodate volleyball play. According to school officials, the addition includes an official competition volleyball court and that the gymnasium has seating for 400 people.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE GARDEN CITY CITY COUNCIL ON THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY THE GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL, OSTEOPATHIC

The City Council of the City of Garden City will hold a public hearing at 7:25 p.m., on February 19, 2007, in the Garden City City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, on the proposed issuance by the Garden City Hospital Finance Authority of bonds (the "Bonds") for the benefit of Garden City Hospital, Osteopathic (the "Borrower").

The proceeds of the Bonds will be loaned to the Borrower and used by the Borrower, together with other available funds, for any one or more of the following purposes (i) to refund the Garden City Hospital Finance Authority Hospital Revenue and Refunding Bonds (Garden City Hospital Obligated Group) Series 1998A originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$25,040,000 (the "Prior Bonds"), (ii) to fund a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, and (iii) to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds. The Bonds are proposed to be issued in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Twenty Three Million Dollars (\$23,000,000). Additional detail with respect to the items being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds is available upon request.

The proceeds of the Prior Bonds were used, together with other available funds, (i) to refund the \$20,080,000 Michigan State Hospital Finance Authority Revenue Bonds (Garden City Hospital Obligated Group) Series 1991A (the "Series 1991A Bonds"), (ii) to finance the acquisition and installation of various items of equipment for and renovations and improvements to the physical facilities of the Borrower located at 6245 and 6255 North Inkster Road, Garden City, Michigan (the "Hospital Facility") and the acquisition of computer and office equipment at the administration facilities of the Borrower located at 6701 Harrison, Garden City, Michigan, (iii) to fund a debt service reserve fund for the Prior Bonds and (iv) to pay the costs of issuing the Prior Bonds.

The proceeds of the Series 1991A Bonds were used, together with other available funds, (i) to finance or refinance renovations and improvements to and equipment for the Hospital Facility, (ii) to pay a portion of the interest on the Series 1991A Bonds, (iii) to fund a debt service reserve fund for the Series 1991A Bonds and (iv) to pay the costs of issuing the Series 1991A Bonds.

The Bonds will be limited obligations of the Authority payable only from loan repayments to be made to the Authority, and certain funds and accounts established by the bond indenture of the Authority for the Bonds. The Bonds will not be a general obligation of the Authority and will not be a debt of the City of Garden City, the State of Michigan or any political subdivision of the State of Michigan. The Authority has no taxing power and the issuance of the Bonds will not obligate the City of Garden City, the State of Michigan or any political subdivision of the State of Michigan to levy or pledge any form of taxation for the Bonds or to make an appropriation for the payment of the Bonds.

The hearing will provide a reasonable opportunity for expression of opinion, argument on the merits, and introduction of documentary evidence pertaining to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. Written comments will be accepted by the City Council but must be received on or before the date of hearing.

DATED: February 1, 2007

Allyson Bettis, City Clerk  
6000 Middlebelt Road  
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jparent@hometownlife.com

**Hugh Gallagher**  
Managing Editor  
(734) 953-2149  
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

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## AROUND WESTLAND

### Coffee Hour

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold a district coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Anderson will have information regarding the state's budget crisis available for any interested individuals.

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

### Free lecture

Dr. William H. Karl D.C. and Contours Express for Women will present The Five Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7. The presentation will be held at Contours Express, 6558 Wayne Road in the Hunter Plaza, Westland.

Learn why diets really do not work, ways to avoid weight gain in the future, how to lose weight with diet and exercise right now. Learn the proper way to eat, and how to reduce your chances of breast cancer and diabetes.

There is no charge. Call (734) 425-8588 to make a reservation.

### Mentoring program

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Westland is sponsoring "Educating Youth Through Mentoring" as part of its African American History Month in February.

The featured speakers will be State Rep. Alma Wheeler-Smith, D-54th District, at 7 p.m. Feb. 8, Christopher Lindsey, principal of the Academy of Westland, at 7 p.m. Feb. 15, and Kay Williams-Hales, principal of Winship Elementary School in Detroit, at 7 p.m. Feb. 22.

The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. The Lutheran Church of Our Savior is at 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Call (734) 728-3440.

### Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multigrain pancakes, coffee, juice, hot fruit, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available. The center holds pancake breakfasts on the second Thursday of the month.

### Z-PAC dinner

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Parents Advisory Council will hold a Valentine Dinner and Silent Auction on Friday, Feb. 9, at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the sit-down dinner served at 7 p.m. The dinner will be prepared by Chef Tony Paquette, head of the center's culinary arts program. There also will be a silent auction featuring a variety of Zebra collectibles. Seating is limited, only 125 tickets will be sold at \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Tickets are available by calling Wayne High Principal John Albrecht at (734) 419-2200.

# Players shed high school roles in musical

A synchronized basketball dance routine and duet reminiscent of *Grease* are two of the upbeat numbers in the Creative and Performing Arts production of *High School Musical*.

The show runs Thursday through Sunday in Carli Auditorium at Churchill High School.

It tells the story of teens breaking out of their high school stereotypes. Junior Diamond Vinson, in her first play since seventh grade, plays a brainiac who wants to sing hip-hop.

"I like this better than *Grease*," she said. The two shows have often been compared. "It's up to date, more new school."

The musical is co-directed by Mary Murphy, choreographer, and Lori Porter, vocals.

It features a cast of 70 students. Senior Dan Crosby and junior Brianna Devlin play teens whose love of music brings their worlds together. Sophomore Alexa Kalasz and senior Michael Hood play the

brother and sister troublemakers.

As opposed to the fall musical, the dark *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, deemed inappropriate for youngsters, *High School Musical* appeals to a larger audience.

"Even my 8-year-old daughter is singing these tunes," Porter said. Midday matinee shows are sold out to elementary school groups.

Tickets are also going fast for weekend performances.

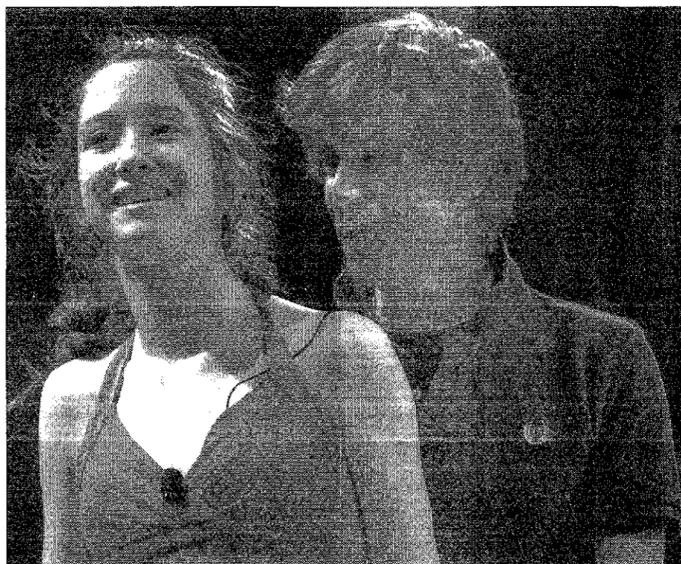
The 2006 Disney musical was only recently made available for high school productions and offers plenty of opportunities in music and dance, Porter said.

"We wanted to be one of the first in our community to do the show," she said.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 8-10. The final performance is 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.

For tickets, call the CAPA box office at (734) 968-8736.

By Rebecca Jones



Churchill students Brianna Devlin as "Gabriella Montez" (left) and Dan Crosby as "Troy Bolton" rehearse a scene from the Creative and Performing Arts production of "High School Musical," which opens Thursday.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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# P·A·R·I·S·I·A·N

One Day Sale prices and Seniors' discount effective Wednesday, February 7, 2007. [13453A]



Kimberly Hood looks as though she was thinking how to spell the word her daughter Kayla Hood, fifth-grader at Hoover Elementary, was spelling at the bee.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Pronouncer Judy Handley, director of elementary school development, gives the fifth-grade students some advice before beginning a practice round.

Krystin Harris hugs her daughter Kaitlyn, spelling bee runner-up at Patchin Elementary, who was a little nervous because school spelling bee winner Alexis Davis had yet to arrive for the district spelling bee. Alexis did arrive just prior to the start of the event.

**Garden City**  
**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 8, 2007 School Election, must file nominating petitions no later than:

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007**  
**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: February 1 & 4, 2007

**SPELLING BEE**

FROM PAGE A1

spelling bee words as well as tips about preparing for and participating in the competition.

"There was one that tells you how to sound the words, but I didn't really use it," said Angela, who had little difficulty in spelling her words.

This is the 27th year the dis-

trict has held the spelling bee, named after retired assistant principal Earle Chorbagan who initiated the competition when the daily newspaper stopped sponsoring one.

It started out as one spelling bee for students in grades 5-8, but was split into two spelling bees for elementary and middle school students two years ago.

Chorbagan was on hand to present plaques and American Heritage Dictionaries to the winners.

"For an old teacher, it's a thrill to be here," said Chorbagan, adding the spelling bee was held on what is the 50th anniversary of the opening of the school.

Unlike previous years when the spelling rounds number in the high teens before a winner was declared, this year's decision came fairly early. The students faltered on spelling such words as "sultan," "karate," "per-

colate" and "easel" in the middle school competition, while the elementary students heard the dreaded "that's not correct" from judges for words like "admiral," "amnesia" and "enthusiasm."

But even those students who didn't make it to the end were assured they were winners just the same.

"You have done an exceptional job, you've spent hours preparing for today," said Judy Handley, director of elementary school development, who served as one of three pronouncers. "By the nature of the competition there can be only one winner, but you are all winners."

In addition to Matthew Karpiuk, students competing in the elementary spelling bee were: Malik Garris from Elliott, Rahul Singh from P.D. Graham, Fred Smith from Hamilton, Ikiesha White from Hicks, Kayla Hood from

Hoover, Sydney Meade from Jefferson, Alexandra Bushway from Kettering, Kyle Bowen from Lincoln, Elise Penhollow from Madison, Alexis Davis from Patchin, Danni Portman from Roosevelt, Alyssa Cosselmon from Schweitzer, Zachary Anderson from Taft-Galloway, Malik Hayes from Vandenberg, Mariam Darwish from Walker-Winter and Brittany McGrath from Wildwood.

In addition to Angela Blay, students competing in the middle school spelling bee were: Taylor Grondy, David Petosky and Kateland Leong from Adams; Krysta Forrester, Taylor Blevins and Allison Hammond from Franklin; Shakim Harris and T&Lur Kuykendall from Marshall; and Tessa Diaz, Austin Smarsh and Susan Abbott from Stevenson.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

**CITY OF WESTLAND**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36801 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

**Petition #2585-Sole Property Investments-5720 Hix Road**  
 Request for a sign variance from Section 15:6.3(b) of Ordinance 248 in order to allow a second off-premise sign for the Ford & Hix Oil Change/Car Wash site. The sign would be located on the Ford Road side of the service station property immediately to the south located at 38350 Ford Road, property that is not part of the oil change property. The property proposed for the off-premise sign is at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Hix.

**Petition #2586-Darrell Maynard, 30726 Hiveley**  
 Request for a variance from Article X, Section 22-303(c) of the City of Westland Code of Ordinances as a result of the installation of a six (6) foot, six (6) inch high privacy fence in the east side yard of the home along the street side of the lot.

Publish February 4, 2007

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 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

**THE MESSENGERS** (PG-13)  
 (11:55) 1:55, 3:55, 5:55, 7:55, 9:55  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

**EPIC MOVIE** (PG-13)  
 (11:25) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

**CATCH AND RELEASE** (PG-13)  
 (11:20) 1:50, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

**DREAMGIRLS** (PG-13)  
 (11:00) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

**STOMP THE YARD** (PG-13)  
 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** (PG)  
 (11:15) 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:20

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## SUIT

FROM PAGE A1

After Patane was fired last May, the suit alleges that Rintz became more aggressive toward Nogle even though she rebuffed his advances. In August 2006, while Nogle was delivering library board meeting packets to board members, "Rintz invited her into his home, urged her to come in and have some wine with him, and then attempted to hug her and kiss her on the mouth," the suit contends. Nogle said she left.

At Nogle's office, Rintz started inquiring about her relationship with her boyfriend and told her not to become pregnant "because it would ruin her body," the suit alleges. She said she ordered him out of her office.

After he was rebuked, Rintz's demeanor changed and he stopped speaking to her, according to the lawsuit. Nogle also claims she was shunned by Kwik, head of reference/adult services, and Hausman, head of children's services.

The suit describes Nogle as being "completely stressed out" by the harassment.

Nogle notified McNamara, the board attorney, of the situation in November, the suit alleges. By January, Kwik and Hausman had been named co-directors by the board, pending the hiring of Patane's replacement.

On Jan. 11, the suit claims, Nogle told Hausman that she believed the library was in violation of U.S. Department of Labor Rules for illegally avoiding paying overtime to certain employees. Five days later, Nogle contends she was told during a meeting with Hausman, Kwik and McNamara that she was being fired.

Ultimately, the suit alleges, "Rintz used the power of his office to use defendants Hausman and Kwik to engage in retaliatory harassment against Ms. Nogle and to ultimately discharge her, after he succeeded in getting them to become co-directors of the library."

On Friday, McNamara said that after a copy of the lawsuit is received, he will ask Rintz, Hausman and Kwik if they want him to make any statements on their behalf.

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

## LeBlanc backs Democrats' trash plan

Responding to a report released last week showing Canadian and out-of-state garbage increased to 6.3 million tons in 2006, State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, has thrown his support behind a plan to attack the economics of the ever-growing trash trade by raising the paltry charge that trash companies pay to dump in Michigan.

"More and more trash continues to flood into Michigan every day because we're a cheap place to dump," said LeBlanc who chairs of the House Appropriations State Police sub-committee and sits on Appropriations subcommittees

of Corrections and of Economic Development. "We must put an end to the massive influx of Canadian and out-of-state trash that is flooding into Michigan so we can protect our land, air, water and way of life. Michigan must become a magnet for jobs, not trash."

Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality said Canada and other states dumped 6.3 million tons of trash in Michigan in 2006, up from 6.2 million tons in 2005. Canadian and out-of-state trash now accounts for more than 30 percent of total waste landfilled in Michigan. In 1996, Canada and other states dumped only

1.9 million tons of trash, about 13 percent of trash landfilled in Michigan.

The House Democratic anti-trash plan would:

Raise Michigan's dumping charge from 21 cents a ton - the lowest in the region - to \$7.50 a ton, the highest in the nation.

Ban new landfills and strictly limit the expansion of existing landfills until 2012.

Return money from the new dumping charge - expected to total \$170 million in the first year - to local communities to pay for roads, fire and police and more recycling.

Crack down on jurisdictions that send prohibited waste to

Michigan, and make it easier to prosecute and punish repeat offenders with up to \$10,000 in fines.

For more than four years, House Democrats have led the fight against Canadian and out-of-state trash, saying that a high dumping charge is the best weapon against imported garbage.

The nation's largest importer of trash, Pennsylvania, slashed garbage imports after it raised its dumping charge to \$7.25 a ton in 2002. In 2001, Pennsylvania took in 12.6 million tons of imported trash; in 2005, that amount plunged to 9.6 million tons.

## Whitehead to answer residency issue Monday

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools trustee Kevin Whitehead said Friday he will make an announcement about his future at the school board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the board office.

Whitehead's eligibility to serve on the board has been challenged officially by members of the Citizens for Livonia's Future, based on their contention that he no longer lives at a house in the district.

Although Whitehead has said he spends time with a female friend in another community and travels out of state, he calls the house his "primary residence." Others have disputed that.

Neighbors of the Arden Street house, where there's a for sale sign, said Whitehead goes there - but doesn't live there.

When the issue was raised at a meeting Monday, Jan. 29, Whitehead said he would look at the information, talk to fellow board members and

an attorney. "In the end, the right thing will be done," he had said.

On Friday, Whitehead said he still wanted to talk to the board president, superintendent and attorney.

In any case, he prefers to make his announcement publicly and above-board. "I want to do this on camera. I want to do this my own way," Whitehead said.

The question of where he regularly spends the night is, according to state law, an important factor. The law defines residence, for a person to be qualified to vote, as a place where "a person habitually sleeps ..."

Whitehead is serving his sixth year on the board, making him the second most-senior trustee on the board of seven people.

Members of the CFLF pushed the issue last week in an attempt to get a swift answer from Whitehead. If there's a board vacancy 90 days before the May 8 election, voters would be able to fill the seat. Ninety days before May 8 would be Feb. 8.

## Wayne Memorial seeks Distinguished Alumni

Wayne Memorial High School is looking for an outstanding graduate to be recognized as its Distinguished Alumni at the June 2 commencement ceremony.

"We have had many outstanding people graduate from Wayne Memorial," said Wayne Memorial Principal John Albrecht. "Many have contributed significantly to the betterment of society on a local, state, national or international level. The Distinguished Alumni Award is our way of honoring an outstanding graduate on an annual basis."

The award has become a part of the annual commencement ceremony. The winner is awarded a medal inscribed with the official school seal.

"This is an opportunity for our current graduating class, to hear first hand from a for-

mer alumnus who has made his or her mark on society," Albrecht said.

The most difficult task is locating alumni who have distinguished themselves since graduation.

Wayne Memorial High School is asking the community to help in the search.

To nominate a Wayne Memorial graduate, call Mary Huber, secretary to the principal, at (734) 419-2206 or write her at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI.

A Distinguished Alumni Committee has been established at Wayne Memorial to choose the 2007 recipient. The winner will be announced in May and will be honored at commencement on June 2.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 16.

## MONEY

FROM PAGE A1

The teller, Melissa Rembert, called Cramier-Onca while Parker was inside the bank, and Parker said Cramier-Onca wanted her to bring the \$2,000 check to her.

Under questioning, Parker denied ever asking Cramier-Onca to cash a check for her.

Rembert testified that Cramier-Onca came into the bank on Oct. 31. She said the defendant, a regular customer, had a \$2,000 FSS check signed by herself and supposedly Parker.

"She wanted to deposit it into her (personal) account and issue a check for \$1,000 to Miss Parker," Rembert said.

The teller testified that she carried out the transactions after Cramier-Onca told her that Parker couldn't accompany her because she was disabled, which she isn't.

By chance, Rembert said she was the same teller who helped Parker the following day, when she came in with the lesser \$1,000 check issued at Cramier-Onca's request.

Rembert asked Parker whether she had signed the earlier \$2,000 check over to Cramier-Onca. Rembert said Parker told her that she hadn't.

Rembert testified that she canceled Cramier-Onca's transaction and advised Parker to report the discrepancy to Westland police.

## MORE TESTIMONY

Meanwhile, Karen Welling, a housing department supervisor, testified that she never told Cramier-Onca to put Parker's money into her own account. Welling said the defendant was supposed to give a check to Parker.

During her call to the Observer, Cramier-Onca said the allegations didn't add up.

"If I was trying to cheat anybody out of anything, I wouldn't have sent them to the bank where I cashed the check," she said.

Cramier-Onca said she had

planned to give Parker the other \$1,000 one day after she gave her the first half of her payment. She said she couldn't get all the money at once, and she said she wanted to expedite the initial \$1,000 because Parker was in desperate need of the money to secure a vehicle she planned to buy.

"I was trying to help her get her car," Cramier-Onca said.

In court, prosecutor Luke Skywalker said the defendant has a prior conviction for insurance fraud from 1997. He said she also had a probation violation in 1998.

The testimony and Skywalker's statements prompted Bokos to increase Cramier-Onca's bond from \$5,000 personal to \$10,000/10 percent. Cramier-Onca was held until \$1,000 was posted on her behalf later Thursday.

Charges against her are punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Defense attorney Brian Stacey told Bokos that Cramier-Onca has helped numerous people improve their lives.

"She does a great deal of work for people," Stacey said.

Cramier-Onca said she has helped 80 senior citizens and 20 veterans get the assistance they need to currently live on their own. She said she didn't need to embezzle \$1,000 because she was making about \$37,000 a year and her husband was earning \$40,000.

Cramier-Onca is a member of the Westland Historical Commission and the Local Development Finance Authority. She attended a historical commission meeting on Tuesday, even after she had been arraigned on criminal charges.

Cramier-Onca vowed to continue helping people even though she said her face has been rubbed "in the concrete."

"I'm going to stand back up, and I'm going to go back out and help more people," she said. "This is one obstacle."

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**BASKETBALL CAMP**  
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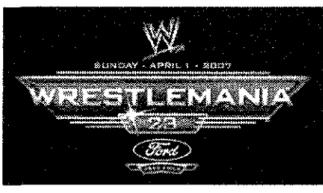
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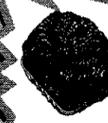
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# Detroit Zoo seeks piece of state budget pie

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo, is seeking \$12 million from the state for zoo operations, but not all state legislators are buying.

The Legislature appropriated \$4 million for the zoo in 2006, following a public outcry over the possibility of the landmark at Woodward and 10 Mile in Royal Oak closing.

"We don't have any money," state Rep. Chuck Moss (R-Birmingham) said, noting the state's \$800 million deficit. "We're looking at trying to protect money for schools and health care."

"I love the zoo," Moss added, noting he takes his kids there. "It generates money for the region. We just plain don't have the money."

Moss, a first-term legislator, noted similar cutbacks in private industry such as General Motors and Ford, and noted there could be cuts elsewhere such as state police or mental health services.

"It's a pretty bad time to be asking for extra money from Lansing," Moss said. "I hate to be Scrooge here, but we just

don't have the money. The state of Michigan is not in a position to be a sugar daddy right now."

Kagan, reached Tuesday, noted the discussions with the state have been ongoing for some time. Zoo officials have asked the state for help following last year's transition to the zoo being operated by the nonprofit Detroit Zoological Society.

"At that time, they said they would help us with Part A. We're not expecting an outcome for some time," Kagan said.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is scheduled to introduce her budget next week.

"I think everybody in Michigan is concerned with the state's finances," Kagan said. "We understand that has to be resolved."

"I think it's been excellent," he said of the transition to DZS operation. "The transition has gone really well."

Attendance was up about 50,000 last year, and zoo membership is around 50,000 families, the largest of any cultural institution in Michigan.

"There is a cost in doing all of that," Kagan said of animal



Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo.

preservation and other zoo work. "We need some public support."

Kagan's plan is for a regional tax to appear on the ballot in 2008; he notes many other cities have similar taxes and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks tax has been assessed locally for many years.

"We are hopeful that the community will be supportive of that," Kagan said of the regional tax. Last year's public outcry showed "clear community support and recognition of the value" of the zoo, he said.

Kagan said the zoo brings an economic value to the region, including jobs: "We just need this one-time state assistance to get us to the regional piece."

The governor and Legislature have already shown they understand the zoo's value, he said.

# State education savings plan a good gift for a child

We just had a newborn grandchild and we would like to begin to save for his college education. Any suggestions?

Congratulations on your newborn grandchild. I think it is great that you are thinking about a college education, as I believe it is never too early to begin to save for college.

My recommendation is to make a contribution into the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP). The Michigan Education Savings Plan (www.misaves.com) is what is known as a 529 Plan and these types of programs have a number of advantages. First, the income from this investment grows on a tax-free basis as long as it is used to pay for college expenses. In other words, when your grandchild uses the money for college, there are no tax consequences on the distributions. In addition, you can deduct contributions you make off your Michigan income tax return.

There are numerous 529 Plans on the market; however, the MESP is the only plan that you are allowed to deduct your contributions from your Michigan income tax return. You can deduct \$5,000 of contributions on a single return and \$10,000 on a joint return. The MESP, unlike many other plans, is commission-free and has very low fees.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that money from the MESP can only be used in Michigan schools. This is not the case. You can withdraw money from the MESP for basically any public or private institution in the country. In addition, the money can be used not only for tuition, but also room and board and all required fees.

Through the MESP, you have a variety of investment options that you can choose from. For a newborn, I generally recommend the moderate age-based allocation option. What this investment option does is invest the money in a variety of investments geared for long-term growth. As the child gets older and closer to college, the portfolio gradually becomes more conservative.

One of the beauties of the MESP is that it only takes \$25 to start a plan and you never have



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

to add any additional money.

One last note regarding the MESP is that it does not have to be a child or grandchild for you to start a plan. Basically, anyone can open a plan for any child.

For those of you who are looking at buying a gift for a child, I believe the Michigan Education Savings Plan is an excellent program to consider.

**My broker has recommended an S&P 500 fund for my portfolio. I notice that the class share of the mutual fund is a B Share. What are your thoughts?**

I am not a fan of B Share mutual funds and I never recommend them. In the mutual fund industry, there are a variety of different classes of mutual funds. Each one of these classes of mutual funds has different fees associated with them. As an example, in most B Share mutual funds there are very high ongoing management fees charged on a year-by-year basis. In addition, in a B Class Share mutual fund, there is typically a five-year penalty provision if the fund is sold. What this means is that if you liquidate the investment prior to five years, you have to pay a penalty to the company. My philosophy has always been that investors need flexibility and low costs and that is something that does not exist with B Share mutual funds.

When you purchase a mutual fund, it is important to understand all of the fees involved. Every mutual fund charges a management fee. The management fee is how the mutual fund company itself makes money. In addition to the management fee, some mutual funds will also charge commissions or what is known as loads. Commissions are on top of the management fees and, in most cases, fund companies that have commissions also have high manage-

ment fees.

In the situation at hand with the B Share mutual fund, this type of class share has one of the highest management fees associated with it. Therefore, when an investor purchases this type of fund, they are going to pay higher yearly fees. My recommendation is that an investor should never use a B Share mutual fund as they are not investor friendly.

I recognize that many of the commission salespeople that sell mutual funds will tell you that the B Share mutual fund is no-load or has no commissions. Technically, they are right, because there is no commission deducted from your initial investment, but they are not telling the whole story. B Share mutual funds have substantially higher ongoing fees as well as surrender penalties if you get out, generally, in less than five years. Therefore, whether you call it a commission or a fee, it is still money coming out an investor's pocket, which lowers their return.

In the situation at hand, as opposed to buying a B Share S&P 500 fund, I would recommend that you consider purchasing the Vanguard 500 Index Fund (800-992-8845). Vanguard is a no-load company and has very low management fees. When a fund is no-load, it means that 100 percent of your money goes to work for you and no money is paid in any sales charge.

As far as I am concerned, there is one reason and one reason only that people invest money and that is to make money. To do that, investors need to be concerned with costs as well as performance. Therefore, if your goal is like mine, to keep more money in our pockets and fewer commissions in the hands of brokers, then avoid B Share mutual funds and concentrate on the commission-free funds. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at [money@hometownlife.com](mailto:money@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

# Zoo offers free admission to children

Looking for a cure for the kids' cabin fever? Look no further than the Detroit Zoo. One child ages 2-12 will receive free admission to the zoo on Mondays and Tuesdays during the month of February when accompanied by one adult at the regular admission price. The offer is available only with a printable coupon which can be found on the zoo's Web site at [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

While a number of the zoo's animals seek shelter when the temperature drops, others take the opportunity to play. The Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys, can often be spotted enjoying their outdoor hot tub in the winter months. The Amur tigers, wolverines, red pandas, Asian wild horses, elk and bison also adapt well to colder temperatures.

A popular attraction any time of year is the Arctic Ring of Life, featuring the 70-foot Polar Passage with its spectacular views of swimming polar bears and seals. When it's time to warm up, visitors can head over to the Butterfly Garden - where the temperature is always a balmy 75 degrees - and enjoy more than 40 species of butterflies from Costa Rica and El Salvador. Other indoor experiences at the Zoo include the National Amphibian Conservation Center, Penguinarium, and Holden Museum of Living Reptiles.

Kids of all ages can enjoy the Wild Adventure Simulator, an educational, action-packed thrill ride which offers a unique you-are-there experience from the comfort of a spe-

cially equipped, motion-simulated big-screen theater seat. Passengers must be at least 36 inches (three feet) tall, and it is recommended that they be at least 5 years of age or older. Located in the Ford Education Center, the Wild Adventure Simulator is open during regular Zoo hours; show times vary. Tickets are \$4.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

# Nursing group plans bocce ball fund-raiser

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fund-raising event, Bocce for Bucks III sponsored by Complete Infusion Services, offers patrons a unique opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players. The event will be held on 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township.

Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tournament play, ideal for families and people of all ages, an Italian buffet, silent auction

and much more.

New this year, is a private benefactor reception to be held 6 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Park West Gallery in Southfield.

Funds raised will help provide an innovative, life-saving system - VNA's TeleHomecare program. TeleHomecare is a tool used by VNA to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits.

For sponsorship, advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III, please call (248) 967-8324 or visit [vna.org](http://vna.org).

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**Drugs topic of town hall meeting**

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

Recovering addicts, treatment professionals and concerned parents will form a panel of experts to discuss drug abuse and its effects on the community.

The Save Our Youth Task Force town hall meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Livonia City Hall.

Mark Menestrina, director of the Detox Center at Brighton Hospital, will moderate. He also serves as medical director for the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance.

He said addiction should be treated as a disease, like hypertension or diabetes. The stigma associated with addiction should also be removed.

Menestrina is a recovering alcoholic and drug addict who has helped 20,000 chemically dependent patients and their families in the past 15 years.

Pain pills are more easily available and are being abused, Menestrina said. They are being sold or traded at schools, said Dennis Hinze, student assistance coordinator from Stevenson High School. He will also participate in the panel.

"It really is an important issue to look at as a community," Hinze said. "Law enforcement can't do it by themselves, treatment professionals, schools, I don't think even parents can do it alone."

"I hope we have a full house," Menestrina said.

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## Israel offers many surprises for its first-time visitors

As my family and I finalized plans for a long-awaited trip to Israel recently, many friends and other family members reacted with horror, fearing for our safety, as if we were planning to walk into an active war zone.



Mike Rosenbaum

Mention Israel, it seems, and thoughts reflexively turn to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This attitude is a sad consequence of that conflict because our 11-day trip to Israel in December was an amazing and eye-opening experience for us, and would likely prove equally enjoyable for many, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Anyone interested in history, art and culture, or who wants to see evidence of the very best, and very worst, in human nature should make the trip.

It's also a land that will surprise you, no matter how well-informed you are regarding its history or its current events. Israel is a place that must be experienced with your own senses before you can begin to understand it.

For example, it's one thing to know, intellectually, that Jerusalem is sacred to the world's three major monotheistic religions. It's another thing to take a 20-minute walk that begins at the Western Wall — the only remnant of the second great Jewish Temple, which lies literally in the shadows of the Dome of the Rock — then continues through an Arab market, with calls to prayer booming over local mosques' loudspeakers, and ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus was buried.

It's one thing to read about the First Century Roman conquest of Jerusalem, when approximately 1 million people were killed and the city was practically burned to the ground. It's another to view the scorched stone walls of a 2,000-year-old home, to see the remnants of that horrific fire, and feel anger inside at that ancient, but all-too-familiar atrocity, the senseless destruction of Jews.

After walking out of those excavated ruins in Jerusalem's Old City, however, I felt fierce pride to view the Israeli flag flying from neighboring buildings, to see that Jews once again thrived within the city the Romans once demolished with such vigor.

But here, again, no doubt many of your thoughts are returning to today's Arab-Israeli conflict. My pride at witnessing Israel's flag in Jerusalem, after all, is not shared by the Arab inhabitants of that

city, or of that country.

But traveling to Israel forces you to see the conflict differently.

And that leads to the biggest surprise of our trip.

After spending six days in Jerusalem, we were scheduled to drive to Tiberias, in the Galilee area. I assumed we'd travel on Israel's side of the pre-1967 borders, as a necessary safety precaution. Not so. Our guide packed us in our Ford van and drove east, through the middle of the West Bank, before turning north through the Jordan Valley area.

Before returning to pre-1967 Israel, we passed numerous small villages — some Jewish, some Arab, as our guide matter-of-factly pointed out — within easy walking distance of each other.

I was in Israel as a tourist, not as a journalist, so I couldn't investigate the villages further. I don't know their histories. I don't know much about their interactions, although our guide said the Jewish and Arab villagers generally engage in some commerce, but otherwise stay out of each others' areas.

Nevertheless, I know what I saw, and what I didn't see. There were no guards, military personnel or checkpoints between the villages. There were no large fences or other barriers. Arab villagers could walk unhindered to a neighboring Jewish village in minutes, and vice-versa. In other words, Jews and Arabs were living on disputed territory, in peace.

Now, those Jews may believe the entire West Bank rightfully belongs to Israel, while their neighboring Arabs would likely rather live in an independent Palestine.

But at least they're not fighting about it.

So, based on my experience, anyone who's interested in visiting Israel but fears the violence, should make the trip. Unless there's an active shooting war going on, the most danger you're likely to face is on the roads — Israelis tend to be very aggressive drivers.

As for the Arab-Israeli conflict? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers there. I just wish that today's version of the ancient Roman legions, i.e., those who call or work for Israel's destruction, would learn something from those West Bank villages I witnessed. Certainly, peace between nations is a more difficult and complex achievement than peace between villages. But peace between villages is a start.

Mike Rosenbaum is the sports editor of the Southfield and West Bloomfield Eccentrics. He can be reached at (248) 901-2589 or by e-mail at mrosenba@hometownlife.com.

## Readers offer suggestions on state money crisis

Editor's note: We asked readers to offer their suggestions to Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state legislators as they struggle with the state's financial crisis. We ran several letters in Thursday's paper and online. Here are some more responses.

### Watch the spending

Thank you for allowing citizens some input on how to handle the current state finance crisis.

When operating a family budget, Michigan citizens decide what they can and cannot afford to purchase. It is our belief that the state government should do the same. When the family budget comes up short for a Michigan family, we are forced to look at income vs. outgo. This is what you need to do:

1. Clean house. And we don't mean from the bottom up. We mean from the top down. Get rid of every special committee, every "created" position and every person that is not crucial to running the state. This action alone will save the state millions. Learn to make decisions by listening to your on site advisers and using your own judgment. Don't form a special committee for every problem that comes up.

2. When you are considering cutting "government services" such as money to schools and local government, remember this: These are not government services. These are essential tools that are provided for by the citizens of Michigan in the form of taxes. The tax you collect from the citizens is not your personal pocketbook. Michigan cannot afford government spending sprees.

3. When you have an \$800 million deficit, you are spending too much. If you don't have the revenues, you should not be spending. That should be clear enough.

4. If you have an \$800 million deficit and you receive some windfall money (big tobacco settlement), it makes sense to balance your budget and THEN you consider the amount left over as surplus. Since this was not done with your tobacco money, are we to assume that you don't consider the state in a financial crisis? You earmarked the money for your pet projects and then you form a special committee to figure out how to solve the budget deficit. In truth, you had the power to take care of the deficit and did not.

5. Michigan has the second highest paid legislators in the nation but we are one of the most financially troubled states. Our state legislators make good wages. They have very short work weeks. If the state is in need of a "special committee," please catch some of our legislators on the two-three days off during the week and draft them to sit on the committee.

6. You have a powerful workforce at your disposal. Michigan workers have strong work ethics and a good sense of what is right. Re-train your unemployed blue-collar workers. Don't let their unemployment benefits run out and then tell them to take out grants and loans to get degrees necessary to obtain these high tech positions. It was blue-collar workers who made this state into the automotive capital of

the world, not the state government. Don't forget us. Help us, and we will help you out of this mess you have created.

A. Parrish  
Troy

### Redundant bureaucracy

I remember the time when we in Michigan had no state income tax, no sales tax, and no SBT tax, nevertheless the state government functioned just fine. Perhaps Gov. Granholm's 12-member emergency commission should study how that was done, and accordingly make suggestions to the governor.

I think that the present budgetary problem in the state has a lot to do with overgrown, overcompensated, often redundant, and underworked bureaucracy. Probably it can be reduced by half without adverse consequences. We would then have a leaner, more efficient, most likely friendlier to the public, better functioning state government.

We should learn how they do it in the private industry, for example at Ford, General Motors, and other companies. From huge losses they recently incurred, apparently they are now on the way to profitability with considerably reduced workforce, and scaled down wages and benefits. What works to their advantage, it could work just as well to the advantage of the State of Michigan without more taxing already overburdened with taxes public.

Joseph Wira

### Cut compensation

1. Do not raise taxes.  
2. What do we cut? The level of compensation of state, county and city government pensions, retirement and lifetime medical benefits. I'm talking teachers, elected officials etc. Make them similar to their private sector workers plans. We can't afford the 55-year-old retirees with all of those expensive perks for life. The only exception would be police and firefighters. These folks go to do their public service each day with the risk that they may not come home at the end of the day. Please note that I have a problem with their benefits package, not their salaries. They have been very smart to defer much of their compensation to their retirement packages which no one ever seems to scrutinize.

3. Let education dollars follow the student. I pay \$2,500 a child for a Catholic education that vastly outperforms the \$9,500 spent on public school students. Too much is wasted on bureaucracy.

4. Don't spend \$80,000 on a chief of staff for the governor's husband.

5. If 35 or 40 other states all have a part-time legislator (like Michigan used to) and many are much more populated than Michigan, go back to the part-time legislature like we had before.

Mike Hayes  
Livonia

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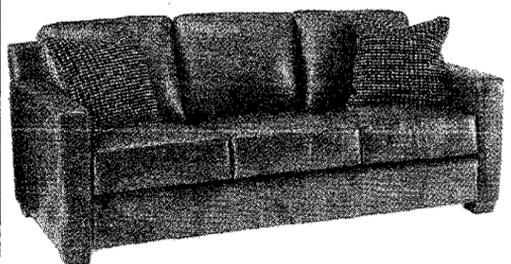
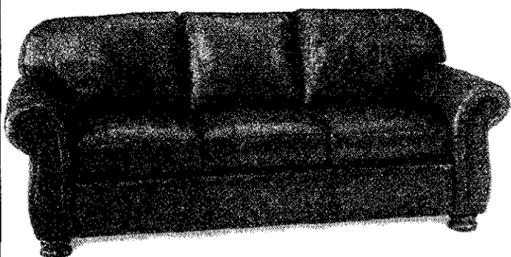
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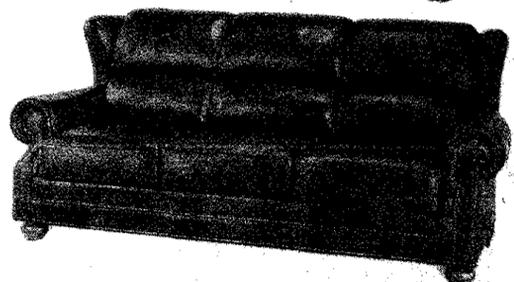
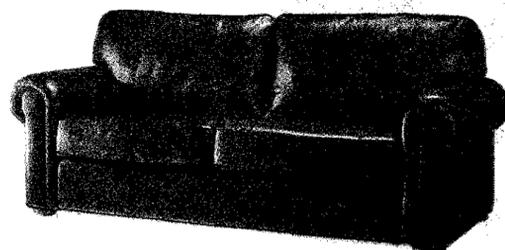
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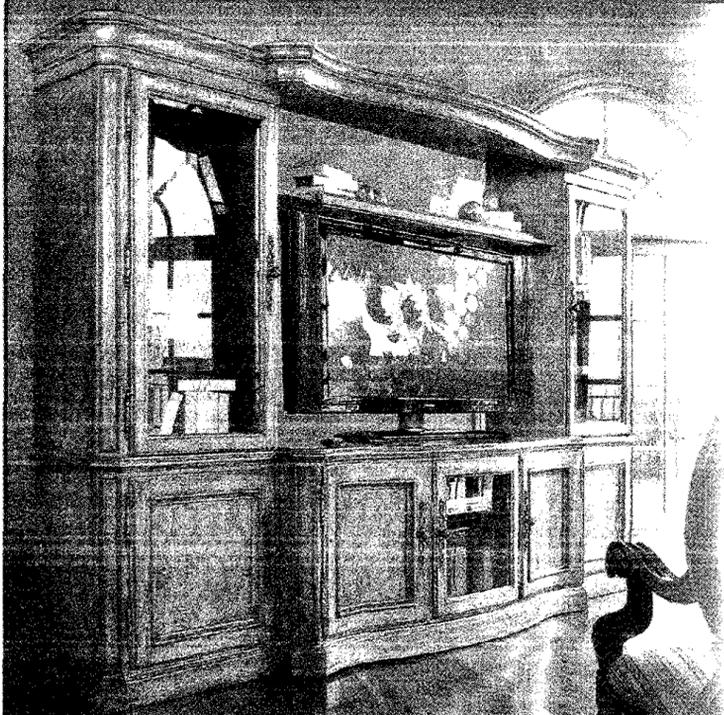
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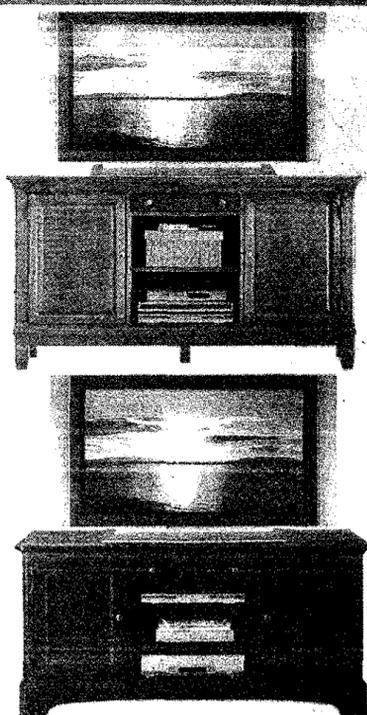
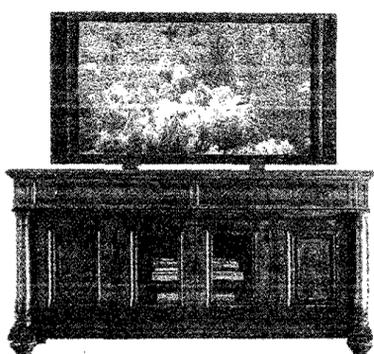
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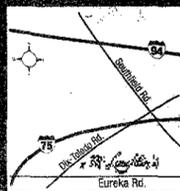
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# SPORTS

**B** (LW)

Sunday, February 4, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

## Northville deflates Wayne on Storrs' shot at horn

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Alvin Storrs admitted it wasn't one of his better performances on the basketball court.

But the 6-foot-2 guard from Northville, arguably the best player in the Western Lakes Activities Association, made the shot that counted Friday night, a 15-foot buzzer-beater to spoil Wayne Memorial's Coming Home Days celebration, 47-45.

With the win, Northville improved to 12-1 overall and 6-0 in the Western Division. The loss drops Wayne to 7-6 and 3-3.

Storrs, headed to Grand Valley State, had an off-night shooting going

### BOYS HOOPS

4-for-16 from the floor. And his two missed free throws with 25 seconds left enabled Wayne to rally all the way back from a 13-point third quarter deficit, tying the game at 45-all thanks to pair of free throws by Martez Abney with 21.37 seconds to play.

Northville played for the last shot after calling a timeout in the front court with 11 seconds remaining. Storrs received the sideline inbounds pass and worked his way down right side against a pair of Wayne defenders, nearly turning the ball over twice in the process.

"I really don't remember what hap-

pened, all I knew is the time was running down," said Storrs, who finished with a team-high 16 points. "I just tried to turn and face the basket, get my feet set, which is something I worked on all week with the coaches."

After Wayne lost 66-44 to the Mustangs on Jan. 16, coach Wayne Woodard decided to employ a zone defense in an effort to try and slow down Storrs.

The Zebras did a stellar job on the Northville guard, including the final two possessions of the game. On the previous possession, Storrs was bailed out on a foul call after being hemmed in after taking a pass with 25.78 seconds left, leading to a pair of free throws (which he both missed).

"I thought we had him trapped in

the corner," Woodard said. "There were a couple of deals here and there. Basically (on the last shot) we wanted to close the gaps with our feet and give as much help (defense) as we can. And if he (Storrs) did give it up, we wanted to contest shots."

The Zebras led 13-12 after one quarter, but found themselves down 37-24 on a basket by Martins Trautmanis with 1:24 to go in the third period.

Offensively, Wayne had trouble making shots against Northville's zone, going 10-of-38 through three quarters.

Wayne, however, turned it on during the final period, outscoring Northville 19-10 as Mike Lee had

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, B2

## Sidelines

### Bridges lifts MU

With Canton alum D. J. Bridges shooting the lights out Wednesday night, the Madonna University's men's basketball team defeated host Indiana Tech, 84-76.

Bridges, a junior forward, hit 12-of-18 from the floor and led all scorers with 31 points, lifting Madonna to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory.

The Crusaders improved to 9-16 overall and 5-4 in the WHAC.

Madonna, which led 44-33 at halftime, also had solid outings from senior forward Derrick Mudri (14 points), junior guard and Plymouth Agape Christian alum Charlie Henry (11 points) and senior forward Doug Creighton (12 points).

Tim Browning Indiana Tech (14-11, 3-6) led with 12 points.

### MU women win

Martina Franklin's double-double spearheaded the Madonna University women's basketball team to a 67-65 victory Wednesday over visiting Indiana Tech.

Franklin, a Redford Union alum, scored a game-high 25 points and pulled down 14 rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 9-16 overall and 4-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Eighteen of Franklin's points came in the second half, when MU outscored the Warriors 37-31 to pull ahead.

Junior guard Call Crawford scored 15 points and dished out five assists for Madonna while sophomore forward Christie Carrico collected 10 points and seven rebounds.

Kim Parker scored 18 points for Indiana Tech (9-16, 2-7 in the WHAC).

### Final LJAL signup

The Livonia Junior Athletic League will stage its final registration for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 3, at Frost Middle School, located on 14041 Stark Road, Livonia.

The program is open to all boys and girls ages 8-14 who are residents of the City of Livonia or Livonia Public Schools district.

The cost is \$85 per player. E-mail Eric Carrier at eric.carrier@ljal.com.

## Seay what? Lady Ocelots in 1st

### Sophomore center leads S'craft past Mott, 84-75

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Maricka Seay provided the thunder inside, while teammate Adrena Walker-Price rained three-pointers from the outside as Schoolcraft College took a stranglehold on the Eastern Conference race with an 84-75 triumph Wednesday night over Mott Community College of Flint.

Seay, a 5-foot-11 sophomore center from Detroit CMA, finished with a game-high 28 points and 12 rebounds. Not to be outdone was Walker-Price, a freshman guard from Detroit Country Day, who drilled five rainbow set-shots from beyond the arc en route to 15 points.

Schoolcraft, ranked No. 4 in the latest NJCAA Division II national poll, improved to 19-2 overall and 12-0 in the conference. Mott falls to 17-5 and 10-2 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

"This was a big step because my kids haven't been tested for awhile," Schoolcraft coach Karen Lafata said. "This gives us a two-game cushion in the conference."

Schoolcraft could do little wrong in the opening half, shooting 66 percent from the floor (20-of-30) to take a 48-36 advantage. Seay scored 15 first-half points, while Price made three triples during the first 20 minutes of play.

"We just knew what we wanted to do - spread the floor with four (players) out, one in and get the ball to 'Ricka,'" Lafata said.

Schoolcraft, however, got into foul trouble, forcing Lafata to go into a zone defense, and cooled off considerably from the floor during the second half going 13-for-30.

And with Seay (shoulder) and reserve forward Shana King (leg) going to the bench early

PLEASE SEE OCELOTS, B4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft's Maricka Seay drives to the basket during first-half action Wednesday night against Mott Community College.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Under control

Lutheran Westland's Katy Ramthun (12) bumps the ball back between teammates Rachel Becker (top) and Lauren Schwecke (8) during Thursday's Metro Conference five-game marathon match with Clawson. See story on Page B3.

## On Super Bowl Sunday, Miller deserves his due time

Sometimes reporters and editors get brainlock late at night. And in my case, it might be the cold weather has frozen more than a few brain cells.

And because the Super Bowl goes off tonight in Miami, I hope it's not too late to make amends.

I confused two great men - Fred Miller, Livonia youth football coach, and a guy named Smith, who

happens to be the Chicago Bears coach.

I've known a few Fred Smiths in my day - the old-time Tiger base-

ball statistician, the men's basketball coach at Siena Heights University and the athletic director at Comstock High School immediately come to mind.

I had Smith on the brain in this previous story that appeared in Thursday's paper when it should have been Miller.

This could be the most embarrassing mistake in my 28 years, but I'll take my medicine and swallow. It's almost as bad as a headline that once appeared in the Observer: "Suicide victim in serious condition."

Hopefully I got this right because Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith would be envious of Fred Miller.

That's because the Livonia Falcons varsity coach knows a thing

or two about winning Super Bowls ... in the Western Lakes Junior Football League.

Miller has been coaching junior league football for the past 35 years, starting in 1972 with the Falcons as an assistant coach under Bill Rice before taking over as the varsity head coach in 1973.

And Miller has put together quite an impressive resume in 275 games, going 214-50-11, including 30 winning seasons (11 undefeated), and winning two of the first three Super Bowls in the newly formed WLJFL.

Yet, Miller doesn't look at his worth in terms of wins or losses.

"We just try to play basic foot-

PLEASE SEE MILLER, B2



Coach Fred Miller (left) and his longtime assistant Sonny Micallef have been fixtures in the Falcons Unit varsity football program in Livonia.





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# Rockets edge Vikings in 2 OTs; Knochel, Spartans upset Salem

It was gut-check time Friday night for the Westland John Glenn boys basketball team and the Lakes Division leaders came away with a big road win.

Keshawn Martin drove baseline and fed Earl Hardison with the game-winning layup with only 21.6 seconds left as Glenn outlasted host Walled Lake Central in double overtime, 68-66.

Glenn is now 9-4 overall and remains in first place all alone in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association with a 6-0 mark.

Hardison finished with a game-high 27 points, while Stefan Marken added 11. Martin added nine points and nine assists.

"It was a great win for us," Glenn coach Dan Young said, "just a great atmosphere to win a game like this, especially on the road."

Rob Jones' basket with a minute to go in the second overtime set up Hardison's game-winning basket.

Central had three cracks at tying the game in the final seconds, but couldn't convert.

It was 55-all at the end of regulation thanks to Cody Rzezniak's half-court shot at the buzzer.

"We were able to hang in there and make plays down the stretch," Young said.

## WLAH HOOPS

Ryan Peterson led the Vikings with 17 points, while Brandon Joseff and Matt Guldan added 16 and 14, respectively.

**STEVENSON 58, SALEM 55:** Luke Knochel enjoyed a big night, scoring 26 points and dishing out seven assists Friday as host Livonia Stevenson (3-10, 2-4) upset the second-place Rocks (7-5, 4-2) in a WLAH-Lakes Division game.

Knochel hit five triples on the night as the Spartans built a 45-32 advantage through three quarters before holding on.

Derek Severson, who iced the game with a pair of free throws with only seven seconds remaining, finished with nine points along with Chris Mulcahy.

"It was good to be back at home after playing four of our first five division games on the road," Stevenson first-year coach Brad Miller said. "The first three quarters we were really solid."

"We kind of reset our goals coming into this game. Instead of winning the division title, our goal now is getting into the playoffs."

Nate Wilson also contributed to the win with seven points and 10 rebounds.

Stevenson made 11-of-13 free throws on the night, including 9-of-11 in the final period as Salem outscored the Spartans, 23-13.

Grant Stone led Salem with 23 points, while Ross Davis added 15.

**CHURCHILL 55, W.L. NORTHERN 42:** Junior forward Ryan Rosenick

scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds Friday as host Livonia Churchill (6-7, 2-4) avenged a 27-point setback to Walled Lake Northern (6-7, 1-5) in a WLAH-Lakes Division game.

Rosenick made 8-of-9 shots from the floor during the second half as Churchill outscored the Knights, 27-16.

Andrew Vagnetti chipped in with eight points.

"We were patient offensively," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We had some great possessions the second half."

The Chargers also received solid defense from guards Nick Seger and Billy Gutowski, who limited Northern's top scorer Ryan Bahmiller (12 points) to one field goal, a triple, in the second half.

"I'm proud of our team," Solak said. "Defensively we locked down. Seger and Gutowski did a great job. It was a total team effort."

Junior guard Robert Johnson added 12 for Northern, which was outscored 17-5 in the decisive final period.

**W.L. WESTERN 54, FRANKLIN 29:** In a WLAH-Western Division game Friday, Darryl Warthen scored 15 points to propel Walled Lake Western (3-10, 2-4) past host Livonia Franklin (2-11, 0-6).

Franklin trailed 24-18 at intermission before Western went on a 17-4 third-quarter run.

Quinton Cooper added eight points and controlled the boards for the Warriors.

Ryan Matthey scored eight to lead Franklin, while Alex Reid contributed seven points and 10 rebounds.

# Bears control own destiny Last-ditch Schoolcraft rally falls short, 69-67

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

## COLLEGE HOOPS

Flint Mott has all but taken the suspense out of the Eastern Conference men's basketball race in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The nationally-ranked Bears captured their 16th straight to improve to 20-2 overall with a 69-67 triumph Wednesday night against host Schoolcraft College.

Kevin Tiggs, a 6-foot-4 sophomore forward from Flint Northern, led the victorious Bears, now 12-0 in the conference, with a game-high 31 points.

Second-year forward Terrence Watson (Detroit Murray-Wright) added 14.

Rivals Mott and Schoolcraft usually battle it out for first place right through the end of the regular season, but the conference race is all but foregone conclusion with a month to go.

"We have a four-game cushion with six to play, and four are at home," said Mott coach Steve Schmidt, whose team survived a late Schoolcraft rally to hang on for the win.

"We knew coming in this was a great game for us. We needed to play this type of game and give this type of effort because we have not had a lot of tight games. We've haven't been tested like this in awhile."

Schoolcraft, now 13-8 overall

and 8-4 in the conference under first-year coach Mike Brown, simply did not have enough offensive firepower to overhaul Mott. The Ocelots never got into their offense other than an occasional pick-and-roll play.

The Ocelots shot a paltry 27 percent during the first half (10-of-37), but found themselves down only three points at intermission, 29-26, thanks in part to the play of guard Corey Spates, the Purdue University transfer who bagged 15 of his team-high 26 points.

Mott also blocked a mind-boggling 12 first-half shots, many inside against Schoolcraft's bull-dozing 6-foot-5, 260-pound forward Nate Minnoy, who went just 1-of-11 from the floor during the opening 20 minutes.

Minnoy, who ended up with 15, got his shot blocked more on this night than he probably did during his entire half-season stint last year with the Boilermakers.

"We're in the top five in team defense in the country, around 60 points (per game), and we knew Schoolcraft as the ability to put up a lot of points," Schmidt said.

Mott led by as many as 11 points on four different occasions during the second half, but Schoolcraft refused to fold. Central Michigan University

transfer Jon Yeazel, a 6-4 guard from Wayland, drilled a pair of free throws with 3:09 remaining to pull Schoolcraft to within three points, 65-62.

Minnoy's three-pointer from the wing with only 13.85 seconds closed the gap to 67-65. Mott's Thomas Kennedy then split a pair of free throws with 11.64 seconds to play and Spates' last-ditch triple try with under 10 seconds remaining went in-and-out as the Bears held on for the victory.

Yeazel added 11 points, while Josh Samarco contributed 10, but the Belleville product shot just 3-of-12 from the floor after scoring 36 three days earlier vs. Kirtland.

"Josh just couldn't get it going," Brown said. "But we didn't lose because of effort. Mott made plays to win the game. We were right there, but couldn't get it done. They (Mott) play extremely hard and they don't take plays off. They defend as well as anybody."

Schoolcraft, which sputtered in the half-court game, made just 19-of-62 shots from the floor (30.4 percent). The Ocelots, however, stayed close by making 26-of-35 free throws (74.2 percent).

"They have a lot of skilled players," Schmidt said, "and to hold them to 67 points is a great effort defensively."

The two teams meet again Monday, Feb. 12 at Mott.

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# Warriors roll to victory over Clawson

All nine players scored Friday as Lutheran High Westland breezed to a 69-46 Metro Conference boys basketball victory at Clawson.

Senior guard Kyle Ramthun led the Warriors' scoring attack with a game-high 20 points. Senior guard Sean Vandenberg and senior forward Josh Haller chipped in with 12 and 10, respectively. Junior center Nate Bachert grabbed eight rebounds.

"Everybody scored and everybody contributed, it was a nice effort," said Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun, whose team improved to 8-4 overall and 4-2 in the Metro.

The Trojans, who trailed 35-

## CAGE ROUNDUP

15 at halftime, got nine points from Justin Kopp.

Clawson falls to 2-11 overall and 1-6 in the conference.

**LUTH. NORTH 62, CLARENCEVILLE 39:** Steve Doerflinger and Brian Budchuk each scored 17 points Friday to lead Metro Conference leader Macomb Lutheran North (13-0, 6-0) past visiting Livonia Clarenceville (2-9, 2-4).

Clarenceville trailed by only three, 17-14, with 5:40 to go into the first half before North went on a 9-0 run. The Trojans were outscored 38-22 in the second half.

Point-guard Lonnie Fairfax scored 14 points in a losing cause.

North, which did not commit a defensive foul until 1:08 left in the

third period, was 17-of-29 from the free throw line.

Clarenceville was 5-of-10.

**FRANKLIN ROAD 63, HURON VALLEY 47:** Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-11, 0-5) put up a battle for three quarters Friday before succumbing to host Novi Franklin Road Christian (6-6, 3-2) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game.

Brothers Josh and Dave Mansfield paced the Warriors with 16 and 14 points, respectively.

Sophomore Kyle Tacia and junior Ryan Jones each tallied 14 points for the Hawks, who trailed 42-35 after three quarters before Franklin Road pulled away.

"We fought pretty hard, the effort was there and I'm happy with that," Huron Valley coach Jim Ott said.

Franklin Road was 13-of-22 from the foul line, while Huron Valley hit 8-of-15.

## MILLER

FROM PAGE B1

ball," said Miller, who played high school football at Redford Union. "We'll run the slot-I (formation), but I might change up. I teach fundamentals, try to build a foundation and hope they grow and learn. I like to put game plans together, see how they progress. We don't win all the time, but we win our fair share. My thing is to always play hard and do your best."

The thought of coaching another season never gets old for the 55-year-old Miller, who works inside for the Detroit Police Department's Violent Crimes Task Force Unit.

When August rolls around and conditioning starts, Miller begins to mold a team of varsity players who range in age from 12-14 and weigh anywhere up to 170 pounds.

"I just said that when it stops being fun..." Miller said.

"That's when I'll step back. It's just really rewarding and humbling. It's just a joy to watch the boys and seeing what I can do. It's been tremendous."

Miller can't stop now anyway.

That's because his son, Matthew, 12, who has played two seasons each at the freshman and JV levels, becomes eligible to play for his dad at varsity level.

And Miller embraces the idea of coaching his own son. He has no reservations.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said.

He's even convinced his wife, Beth, once a nonfootball fan, to take an interest.

"She loves it, she's very supportive," he said. "Even though it takes a lot of time away, she understands."

Miller has developed many surrogate father-son relationships over the years.

"Having my own son (Nicholas) play for this man the past two seasons and

watching him turn my son from a little boy to a young man made me realize what a truly remarkable man Fred is," said Michael Rotter, Falcon unit director and football commissioner for the Livonia Junior Athletic League. "He demands only that the players give their all and leave nothing on the field."

"What is totally amazing is that the LJAL is a first-come signup, and not a tryout team. And yet he has recorded that many victories. That alone tells you what kind of coach he is."

Sonny Micallef, Miller's assistant the past 17 seasons, started as a field director in the LJFL in 1981 and sent two of his sons, Ryan and Randy (now the offensive coordinator at Walled Lake Central High), through the Falcon program.

Both played under Miller.

"He cares about kids so much, and as far as teaching the game, he's wonderful at it," said Micallef, a retiree from Ford Motor Co. who spends his winters as a "snowbird" in Venice, Fla. "I've been around him for 25 years and the kids have so much respect for him. I can't explain it. He's just great. His leadership keeps everything going."

Micallef and Miller are also adept at playing the role of good cop, bad cop. They've got the routine down pat.

"I'm very emotional, a holler guy, rah-rah," Miller admits. "I'll read them the riot act when I have to, but I'll also praise them. You can only beat them down so much or you'll lose them. Sonny is the guy who smoothes things over. We have a very good working relationship."

Adds Micallef: "I'm the one they come to after... I'm 'Father Sonny.' Fred will never take you down too far. He'll build you back up and give you praise. He's also got real sense of humor to coach as long as he has."

Despite the impressive record, Micallef said Miller has

it all in perspective.

"If you don't succeed, it's not the end of the world and that's why he's been successful," Micallef said. "He wants his kids to put out the extra effort, but he's never preached winning, and the kids respect and understand that."

Miller also keeps tabs on his former players. Many have excelled at the collegiate and high school level.

Among his former standouts from Stevenson High are David Hall, a former Michigan quarterback who played tight end and defensive end for the Falcons, along with his brother Jeff, and Jim Spala (Wayne State).

Miller also coached brothers Mike and Jeff Gatt, who later went on to play at Redford Catholic Central High and Hillsdale College.

He's also seen a couple of stars on the other side of the field.

"I certainly remember the Granger brothers (Roy and Jason)," said Miller, referring to the All-State running backs from Farmington Hills Harrison.

And it's not uncommon to find Smith watching a former player at the Catholic Central or Stevenson, or showing up to see a local college game.

"I'm a fan of Stevenson, Catholic Central and Michigan," he said.

Miller said he'll probably view Sunday's Super Bowl in Miami from his own home.

When asked who he was rooting for, Miller didn't hesitate.

"Dungy's from Michigan, I'd like to see him win," said the Falcons coach.

Coaches come and go in the NFL, but Miller appears to be on his way to a Joe Paterno-like tenure in the WLJFL.

"They'll have to carry him off the field," Micallef said. "He just loves teaching the game all these years."

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## HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

seven of his 10 points, while Abney added five of his game-high 18.

A steal at mid-court by Lavertis Hawkins led to Abney's two free throws, which knotted the count at 45-all.

"We went to our press situation and we were close," Woodard said. "It's a game of inches, I guess, as they say in baseball. The biggest thing is that we were down 13 and

did not quit. Last year if we had been down double-digits, we would have been done."

Mike Rogers and David Burke added 10 points for the Mustangs, while Trautman and Bret Spencer each had six.

Last year, Storrs missed a last second shot that rimmed in-and-out in a district game against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, Northville's only loss of the year. He also made a shot late to beat Walled Lake Central, but had never done it at the horn.

"I put a lot on myself as the point-guard," Storrs said. "When you're up 13, you should cruise to victory. I got a little flustered and I was not thinking on my feet. I had a couple of bad turnovers. It was my fault and I missed those free throws. I'm lucky my teammates came out and played the way they did tonight. I'm just happy we won, but there's got to be easier ways to win."

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## Churchill breaks up Rocks in Lakes clash

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Pity the poor forearms that find themselves in the path of the meteoric kills of Livonia Churchill hitters Kyndra Abron and Lauren Krupsky.

On Wednesday night in a battle of Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division unbeaten, the Chargers' dynamic duo's spikes bruised the Salem gymnasium floor more than the Rocks' arms in Churchill's come-from-behind 23-25, 25-16, 25-18, 25-20 victory over the Rocks.

Krupsky, a senior who will be hitting for Central Michigan University in the fall, ripped 32 kills, while Abron, a junior bound for Michigan State University in the fall of 2008, notched 22 floor-shaking kills.

The triumph improved state-ranked Churchill's record to 28-2-1 overall and 5-0 in the Lakes. Salem slipped to 24-3-1 and 4-1, respectively.

"Kyndra and Lauren are obviously big-time players," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said following his team's conquest of the Rocks. "We live-and-die with what they do and they certainly didn't disappoint us tonight."

While the Chargers' one-two front-row punch is formidable, it's far from the only reason they're ranked seventh in the state in Division 1, Grenier emphasized.

"Above and beyond some of those big bangers we have, I also have kids who fill roles, who pass really well and serve tough," said the Churchill coach. "Outside of the home-run balls that Lauren and Kyndra hit, I have some kids that deserve equal billing with some of the efforts they make with their great defense."

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

"Everyone sees the home-run ball, but we always talk about the fact that they wouldn't be possible without ball control and defense."

Kelly Archer (19 digs), Stephanie Bradshaw (13 digs), Anna-Marie Gatt (eight digs) and Kelsey McKenzie (31 set assists) were the Chargers' top non-hitters against the Rocks.

During the early going, the Rocks looked like they may duplicate last year's three-game home sweep of Churchill when they rode strong front-row play from Lauren Kurtz and Teresa Coppiellie to a game-one win. Salem, however, seemed to lose its rhythm during the opening points of Game No. 2 and was never able to regain it.

"We came out strong in the first game, but then as the second and third game went on, our passing kind of broke down and we didn't get a lot of defense against Churchill's big hitters," Salem coach Amanda Suder said. "If you don't have the blocks, it's hard to dig up some of those hits that come from Kyndra and Lauren. Overall, I think we played at about 50 to 60 percent of what we're capable of playing at. But give Churchill credit. They played very well."

"We'll see them again later on this season, so this certainly wasn't our last dance with Churchill."

Kurtz shined for Salem, netting 17 kills and 15 digs. Teresa Coppiellie (10 kills and 11 digs) and Jansan Falcusan (33 assists, seven digs and two blocks) also turned in stellar performances.

ewright@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2108

## Lutheran Westland spikers dig out win in 5

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

It was more of a ping pong match than anything else.

Lutheran High Westland and Clawson went back-and-forth for over two hours Thursday night in a key Metro Conference girls volleyball encounter.

The outcome wasn't decided until the fifth game as the host Warriors, ranked No. 9 in Class D, remained unbeaten in the Metro with a hard-fought 25-20, 25-27, 25-22, 21-25, 15-6 victory over the Trojans.

Lutheran Westland, now 18-2-4 overall and 4-0 in the conference, received a game-high 23 kills and seven blocks from 6-foot-1 sophomore middle hitter Becca Refenes. Senior Kayla Gieschen and sophomore Katey

Ramthun combined for 16 kills from their outside hitting positions. Setters Lauren Gieschen and Julie Jongsma, meanwhile, teamed up for 21 and 17 assist-to-kills, respectively.

But the Warriors literally had to reach down for the win against the defensive-oriented Trojans as the two Laurens, Schwewe and Gieschen, led the way with 31 and 26 digs, respectively.

"They (Clawson) get a lot of balls back and one of the things that frustrated me was our errors led to some easy points, especially the second game and the fourth game when we were up so big," Lutheran Westland first-year coach Kevin Wade said. "But we came back strong when we held those big leads and we easily could have folded."

The Warriors had game-point, 24-21, during the second game and let it slip away. They also led 14-6 in the fourth game, only to have Clawson claw back:

"We try to make less mistakes than the other team, we're scrappy," said Clawson seventh-year coach Ray McCann. "We knew we had the Rebecca (Refenes) girl to block. We wanted to go at her as much as possible and try and tire her out."

"But they (Lutheran Westland) are a well-rounded team because you look at Kayla (Gieschen), who is a nice player, too. Overall Westland is very scrappy."

Clawson's comeback in the second and fourth games were sparked by senior setter Meghan Hauswirth, who finished with 11 total kills, and 5-8 outside hitter

Sara Edwards, who wound up with 10 kills and six blocks.

The fifth and deciding game, however, was all Warriors.

"They (Clawson) had started to pinch in, they did a good job blocking when we were going outside," Wade said. "When we started the fifth game we started going middle with Refenes and Ramthun."

The loss drops Clawson to 17-7-2 overall and 3-2 in the Metro.

"I think the emotion ran out in the fifth game," McCann said. "We needed to win that third game and hold the momentum. I can't be upset with the loss because we spent everything that fourth game. We played hard, it was back and forth, but give them credit."

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## Patriots best Plymouth in 5

Livonia Franklin coach Linda Jimenez called it "the turning point."

After splitting the first two games Wednesday night at Plymouth, the Patriots found themselves down 15-10 in the third.

Sam Wensing came off the bench to serve five straight aces and the Patriots got back on track, pulling out a 16-25, 25-15, 25-20, 22-25, 15-10 girls volleyball win over the Wildcats.

Wensing finished with six aces on the night as Franklin improved to 11-13-3 overall and 4-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Plymouth falls to 13-13-3 and 1-4. Senior Liz Dempsey was Franklin's top attacker with 20 kills and six blocks, while Laura Marshall added 11 kills and six digs. Junior setter Kelly Powers had 51 assist-to-kills on the night, while libero Cassie LaPrairie returned all 15 serves.

"Like the (Walled Lake) Western match, this could have gone either way," Jimenez said. "Plymouth played intense and served well. They are well coached. Once again our senior leadership was the backbone of the victory. Their presence of confidence raises everyone else's

performance. Our team loves to battle and compete."

### Spartans clip Glenn

Sophomore Meg Iafate finished with 11 solo blocks on the night as Livonia Stevenson earned a 25-21, 25-12, 25-21 WLAA-Lakes Division win at Westland John Glenn.

Stevenson is 12-5-1 overall and 2-3 in the division, while Glenn falls to 11-12--3 and 1-4.

Laura Khalil led a balanced offensive attack for the Spartans with seven kills. Jamie Pounders and Hannah Diebel each added four, while Kelly Snitchler contributed three. Pounders also had three solo blocks.

Setter Jill Flaughter had 18 assists, while libero Jordan Pilut finished with 18 digs and three aces.

Other digs leaders included Amber Sharp with 15, Snitchler with 14 and Stephanie Labby with 13. Labby and Pilut added four and three aces, respectively.

Glenn mustered just 16 kills on the night led by Virginia Butler and Brittany Holbrook with five each. Kirstin Kirk led the defense with 16 kills.

### BOYS SWIMMING

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 107  
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 70  
Feb. 1 at John Glenn

200-yard medley relay: Central (R. Miceli, M. Wilson, B. Nedrow, S. Riley), 1:53.32; 200 freestyle: John Burgess (WJG), 2:10.63; 200 individual medley: Miceli (WLC), 2:20.81; 50 freestyle: Matt Espy (WJG), 24.23; 1-meter diving: Jon Whitt (WJG), 228.15 points; 100 butterfly: Nedrow (WLC), 58.99; 100 freestyle: Espy (WJG), 54.47; 500 freestyle: T. Tedreington (WLC), 5:44.99; 200 freestyle relay: John Glenn (Espy, Billy Lyons, Josh Eldridge, Whitt), 1:39.63; 100 backstroke: Miceli (WLC), 1:03.87; 100 breaststroke: Wilson (WLC), 1:10.6; 400 freestyle relay: Central (Nedrow, M. Jamette, B. Baumgardner, Riley), 3:44.3. Glenn 2nds: 200 medley (Kevin Chappelle, Eldridge, Dan Fabry, Shawn Long), 2:01.18; Fabry, 100 butterfly (1:07.49); Chappelle, 100 backstroke (1:07.19); 400 freestyle relay (Espy, Lyons, Burgess, Whitt), 3:49.46; 3rds: Whitt, 200 IM (2:25.24); Lyons, 50 freestyle (25.33); 100 freestyle (56.95); Burgess, 500 freestyle (6:03.54). Glenn's dual meet record: 1-7, 0-3 WLAA-Lakes Division.

SALEM III  
LIVONIA CHURCHILL 72  
Feb. 1 at Salem

200-yard medley relay: Salem (David Olson, Stan Chen, Nick Leone, Jason Williams), 1:49.55; 200 freestyle: Matt Underhill (S), 1:54.66; 200 individual medley: Leone (S), 2:11.18; 50 freestyle: Steve Jones (LC), 24.11; 1-meter diving: Matt Hope (LC), 182.40 points; 100 butterfly: Chen (S), 59.26; 100 freestyle: Underhill (S), 51.51; 500 freestyle: Leone (S), 5:08.99; 200 freestyle relay: Salem (Jon Babb, Nathan Spala, Williams, Underhill), 1:37.49; 100 backstroke: Olson (S), 1:03.8; 100 breaststroke: Chen (S), 1:05.49; 400 freestyle relay: Churchill (Ben Lamerand, Jones, Jake Keeler, Drew Randall), 3:35.34. Churchill 2nds: 200 medley relay (Jones, Mark Gordon, B. Lamerand, Randall), 1:49.77; B. Lamerand, 200 freestyle (1:56.6); 100 butterfly (1:01.51); 200 freestyle relay (Gordon, Keeler, Jason Young, Matt Castelli), 1:43.39; Jones, 100 backstroke (1:04.98); Gordon, 100 breaststroke (1:07.36); 3rds: Randall, 200 IM (2:15.36); 500 freestyle (5:09.22). Churchill's dual meet record: 5-4 overall, 1-2 WLAA-Lakes Division.



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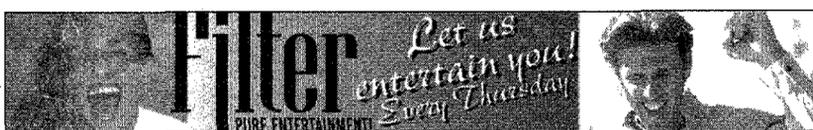
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WHO'S YOUR TIGER?

PREP WRESTLING

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 49 WALLED LAKE NORTHERN 15 Feb. 1 at W.L. Northern 125 pounds: Jeremiah Austin (WJG) decisioned Josh Giesy, 10-6; 130: Andrew Roesner (WLN) pinned Nick Shak, 3-10; 135: Dave Pichla (WLN) dec. Zaid Ammari, 8-7; 140: Jim Wood (WJG) p. Ryan Pichla, 3-38; 152: James Zerebiny (WJG) p. Jon Crable, 5-21; 160: Scott Brown (WJG) dec. Keith Phalacker, 4-1; 171: Andrew Hein (WJG) p. Craig Waldie, 5-37; 189: Joey Kowitz (WJG) dec. Josh Ruggles, 12-7; 215: Shamir Garcia (WJG) p. Zach Lehtonen, 1-32; 285: Brendan Sizemore (WLN) dec. Frank Toarmina (WJG), 4-3; 103: Anthony Pavlich (WJG) p. Gunnar West, 2-56; 112: Hunter West (WJG) dec. Josh Austin, 12-5; 119: Jared Stephens (WJG) p. Josh Bradford, 1-56. Glenn's dual meet record: 11-6 overall, 5-0 Western Lakes Activities Association-Lakes Division (clinched title).

3-152: Eric Kitada (WLW) p. Justin Jaroh, 1-00. Franklin's dual meet record: 24-2 overall, 5-0 WLAA-Western Division (clinched title). LIVONIA CHURCHILL 49 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 17 Feb. 1 at Churchill 103 pounds: Bryan Boshaw (LC) won by major decision over Bobbie Hatfield, 16-4; 112: Matt Hecksel (LC) won by void; 119: Andrew Murray (LC) pinned Ray Kort, 3-41; 125: Dave Kort (WLC) p. Brett Appel, 3-11; 130: Adam Rowe (LC) p. Don Kril, 3-26; 130: James David (WLC) dec. Greg Roberts, 4-3; 140: J.P. Gaffke (LC) p. Ken Walker, 1-23; 145: Allen Frantzen (LC) dec. Tyler Dillon, 9-8; 152: Danny Small (LC) dec. Adam Fenn, 11-5; 160: Brian Ziemba (LC) p. Dave Burwell, 1-24; 171: J.J. Vandenbosche (LC) dec. Jordan Kerastis, 4-3; 189: Brian Decker (WLC) won by major dec. over Curtis Castleberry, 11-1; 215: Ed Derocher (WLC) won by major dec. over John Shekell, 11-1; 285: Mark Parrish (LC) p. Gek Lubitz, 0-38. Churchill's dual meet record: 8-4 overall, 4-1 WLAA-Lakes Division. 16th annual OBSERVERLAND INVITATIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Jan. 27 at Livonia Churchill TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 213 points; 2. Westland John Glenn, 186; 3. Belleville, 175.5; 4. Canton, 169.5; 5. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 164.5; 6. Livonia Churchill, 117; 7. Livonia Stevenson, 104; 8. Wayne Memorial, 86; 9. Lutheran Westland, 86; 10. Salem, 74.5; 11. Farmington, 51.5; 12. Plymouth, 48; 13. Redford Union, 44; 14. North Farmington, 33.5; 15. Garden City, 33.5; 16. Livonia Clarenceville, 6; 17. Farmington Hills Harrison, 4.

Chargers pressed in 3-1 division win

Livonia Churchill remained atop the Lakes Division boys hockey standings in the Western Lakes Activities Association with a 3-1 victory Friday night over visiting Walled Lake Northern at Edgar Arena.

The Chargers, ranked No. 3 in Division I, improved to 14-2 overall and 5-0 in the division. Northern falls to 10-5-2 and 3-3.

"They (Northern) came to play," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "It was a physical game at a good pace. We were tested, and we needed that. It was a good division game."

Northern's Sam Sparling opened the scoring with an unassisted goal at the 4-minute mark of the first period. Churchill's Tyler Cotter answered 33 seconds later on an assist from Kody Strong to knot the game at 1-1 after one period.

Dustin Wischmeyer scored what proved to be the game-winner at 7:42 of the second period on assists from Dan Bostick and Andy LaBerge.

Defenseman Phil Wendecker's unassisted goal on a four-on-four situation gave the Chargers a two-goal cushion with 3:33 left in the game.

Churchill outshot the Knights, 35-22, as Charger netminder Scott Lewan earned the victory.

Ed Hojnacki (32 saves) was in goal for Northern. PINCKNEY 7, FRANKLIN 5: A.J. Eibler tallied the game-winning goal with 7:34 left Friday as host Pirates (9-10) stormed back for six third-period goals to beat Livonia Franklin (3-14) in a non-league game played at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

The Patriots, who were outshot 28-16, gave up three straight power play goals in the final period.

Chris Zale led Pinckney with a pair of goals and one assist. Franklin led 3-1 after two periods on power-play goals by Tyler Barnes (from Nick Brooks), Stefan Witte (from Derek Cripe and Ron Perian), and Dan Ostrosky (from Brandon Pump and Alex Wypych).

In the third period, Franklin scored twice on goals by Jordan Chisholm (from Perian) and Barnes' second (from Chisholm and Dave Muller).

"We played great the first two periods - good breakouts, good on the power-play and penalty killing," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said. "In the third period it looked like some of our players gave up when they scored a couple of goals and we could not get through it."

STEVENSON 4, W.L. CENTRAL 1: Marcus Voran notched his fourth hat trick of the year Wednesday, raising his season goal total to 25, as Livonia Stevenson (13-3-1, 4-1) downed visiting Walled Lake Central (5-9-3, 1-4) in a WLAA-Lakes Division game.

Voran's natural hat trick was highlighted by a pair of third-period goals - at 8:07 (from John Vella) and 11:17 (unassisted).

After a scoreless opening period, Central's Andy Knudsen got on the board at 6:26 of the second on an assist from Justin Hunter.

But the Spartans answered with a pair of goals before the same period ended - Zach Roberts (from Brandon Mazzocco and Kyle Zagata) at 8:50; and Voran (from Roberts and Dan Darrow) at 13:04.

It was Zagata's first career point.

PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson goaltender Jeff Pashnick made 16 saves to post the victory, while Central's Brett Malbin had 22 stops.

"This was an important game for us," Stevenson coach Mike Humitz said. "We had lost two in a row and you never want those streaks to last long."

"I think it took us awhile to get some quality chances to score. But as the game went on, we were able to generate some offense. We got a good game from our defensemen and that's always a good sign."

CHURCHILL 6, ANCHOR BAY 2: Six different players scored Wednesday as Livonia Churchill (13-2) rolled to a non-league victory over host Fair Haven Anchor Bay (4-11-2).

Keith Yackley and Steve Greco each tallied a goal and assist for the victorious Chargers, who led 5-0 after two periods. Josh Proben, Phil Wendecker, Kody Strong and Garrett Miencier also tallied goals in the victory.

Assists went to Nick Harakas, Andy LaBerge, Zac Archer, Scott Sundberg, Matt Heinzelman, Dan Bostick and Tyler Cotter.

Adam Gainer and Silverio Romano scored late third-period goals for the Tars.

Churchill outshot Anchor Bay, 31-9, as Scott Lewan was the winning goaltender.

"We bounced back well, it was a good game for us to regroup," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose third-ranked Chargers were upset only three days earlier by Grose Pointe North, 3-1.

NORTHVILLE 9, FRANKLIN 1: Brandon Wales collected two goals and three assists Wednesday to lead the Mustangs (9-7-1, 4-2) past Livonia Franklin (3-13, 1-4) in a WLAA-Western Division game played at Edgar Arena.

Jordan Duff's goal at 3:32 of the final period stopped the contest because of the eight-goal mercy rule.

Northville had three power-play goals on the night.

Other goals for the Mustangs were scored by Kyle Ziomek, Ross Riehl, Mike Garbarz, Steve Dawson, Wes Gates and Mike Piotrowski.

Franklin's Alex Wypych scored at 2:42 of the second period from Devon Bower and Rob Ringe to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Northville outshot the Patriots, 35-12.

KINGSWOOD 4, LADYWOOD 3: Goaltender Catherine LaGrasso made 40 saves and Audrey Stapleton scored the game-winning goal with 4:08 remaining Wednesday to lift host Bloomfield Hills Kingswood (13-3-1, 11-2-1) past Livonia Ladywood (10-2-1, 10-2-1) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game at Wallace Arena.

"LaGrasso played a great game, but we helped her out a lot," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We played them again Friday (4 p.m. at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena) and our goal is to win the second seed."

Ariel Magidson added a goal and two assists for the victorious Cranes, who moved into second place by a half-game over the Blazers.

Kelsey Goin and Danielle Colangelo also scored for Kingswood.

Prenella Semma tallied all three Ladywood goals, including a power-play goal.

Brittney Holtz and Rachel Killian chipped in with two assists each, while Heather Sartorius and Abby Kienbaum contributed one each.

Michelle Wyniemko was in goal for the Blazers.

OCELOTS

FROM PAGE B1

in the half with injuries, Mott made a run, pulling to within two, 52-50, with 13:57 left on a basket by Sheria Hatcher, who led the Bears with 21

points. The Lady Ocelots responded with an eight-point run, highlighted by a Walker-Price triple and never let the Lady Bears get closer than seven the rest of the way. "This was a typical Mott game," Lafata said. "The question was going to be would be we tough enough to take their

punch? We've been through this before with Mott. And the next time we play them (Feb. 12 at Mott) will be a battle, too."

Brittney Ivey and Janelle Harris chipped in with 12 and 10 points, respectively, for Schoolcraft. LaDwan Jones (Wayne Memorial) dished out five assists.

Three other Lady Bears scored in double figures including Shaquetta Mance (16), Nicole Holmes (14) and Lakeara Leslie (13).

Meanwhile, Mott's top scorer and rebounder, Janee Williamson, who was averaging 24 points per game, is out for the season with a broken fibula. She has missed the last six games.

But Mott coach Leitita Hughley refused to make excuses.

"Schoolcraft shot the ball well tonight," she said. "Nobody surprised me. They're a good shooting team and they made baskets when we couldn't."

"They did a great job cutting to the basket and getting her (Seay) the ball.

"Defensive-wise, they did a good job keeping the ball out of the paint. And they made layups when we didn't."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Feb. 6 Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m. W.L. Central at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Luth. North at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m. Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m. Northville at Franklin, 7 p.m. John Glenn at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m. Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Luth. N.West, 7 p.m. Luth. Westland at Harper Woods, 7 p.m. Westside Christian at Huron Valley, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Monday, Feb. 5 W.L. Northern at Churchill, 7 p.m. W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m. Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m. John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m. Northville at Wayne, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6 Ladywood at Mercy, 6:30 p.m. Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 6:30 p.m. Luth. Westland at Luth. North, 6:30 p.m. Taylor Baptist at Huron Valley, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7 Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m. W.L. Central at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 Ladywood at Birm. Marian, 6:30 p.m. Harper Woods at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 Luth. N.West at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Bedford Invitational, 8:30 a.m. UM-Dearborn Tournament, 9 a.m. PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Feb. 7 Churchill vs. Salem, Stevenson vs. Stoney Creek, at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Viking Arena (Hazel Park), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 Franklin vs. Canton at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. (Youth Hockey Day at Joe Louis Arena) Ladywood vs. Kingswood, 4 p.m. Stevenson vs. Marquette, 7 p.m. (Trenton Showcase at Kennedy Arena) Churchill vs. Mona Shores, 8:40 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 (Trenton Showcase at Kennedy Arena) Churchill vs. Cranbrook, 4 p.m. Stevenson vs. Brother Rice, 6 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Feb. 7 Luth. Westland at Harper Woods, 5:30 p.m. Clarenceville, Lutheran N.West at Lutheran North, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Western Lakes Tourney at Canton, 9 a.m. Metro Conference Tourney at Harper Woods, 10 a.m. BOYS SWIMMING Tuesday, Feb. 6 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 W.L. Northern at Churchill, 7 p.m. W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 MISCA meet at EMU, TBA. GIRLS GYMNASTICS Monday, Feb. 5 Livonia Red-Blue vs. Canton at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m. PREP BOWLING Monday, Feb. 5 Clarenceville vs. Farm-Harrison, Ladywood vs. North Farmington at Woodland Lanes, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6 Ladywood vs. Northville, Clarenceville vs. Divine Child at Novi Lanes, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7 John Glenn at Novi (Lanes), 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Dennis Jaeger Catholic Tourney at Oak Lanes, 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 Utica Eisenhower Doubles Tourney at Sterling Lanes, TBA. PREP SKING Thursday, Feb. 8 Divisional Championships at Alpine Valley, TBA. GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER Wednesday, Feb. 7 John Glenn at W.L. Northern, 6 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Feb. 7 Schoolcraft at Wayne County, 7:30 p.m. Madonna at UM-Dearborn, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Delta CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m. Madonna at Cornerstone, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Feb. 7 Schoolcraft at Wayne County, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Delta CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m. Cornerstone at Madonna, 1 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, Feb. 9 Whalers vs. Owen Sound at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 2 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.

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**Decaf may still have a kick**  
PETER'S PRINCIPLES - PAGE C7

**Low vision aids: Equipment assists visually impaired**  
HEALTH - PAGE C6



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Sunday, February 4, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

# HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

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Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

## Break free from self-limiting beliefs

My favorite part of junior high school was the walk to school on the very first day. My friend Judy and I talked nonstop about the exciting life we were about to start. We weren't little kids in elementary school anymore. We were teenagers with so much to look forward to — going to school dances, wearing makeup, having boyfriends. We were thrilled and a little nervous.

As it turned out, my social life made taking biology and physics in the same semester, a breeze. I entered junior high with braces, glasses, and something I'd never had before, acne. My best friend had a clear complexion, a bit of a weight problem and a keen fascination for science fiction.

I imagined being a junior high school kid was like being a celebrity. I was going to be sought after and admired. Reality was a let down. The only way I knew how to deal with disappointment was to go inward. I became quiet and timid. The more I stayed to myself, the more I taught the kids around me to expect me to be shy.

Dan, the most popular boy in school said to everyone, "Did you hear that Cal is going out with Judy?"

He was talking about my best friend. Just before I started talking, he said, "What a joke. He must be crazy." Everyone laughed. How could they all laugh about my best friend, and in front of me? I wanted to scream at them, but it was too out of character for me, so I didn't. "I'm invisible," I concluded. With a sad heart, I accepted my role, and lowered my expectations.

The summer before high school, I realized I had a chance to break free. Four junior high schools fed into my new high school. Most of the kids wouldn't know me. They would have no expectations of how I was supposed to be. I had a new attitude and more realistic expectations.

Taking a bold move, I walked into the student activities office on the first week of school, and signed up to run for class treasurer. I had to collect 50 signatures to run for student council, but I didn't know 50 kids. Yikes!

My moment of truth came in Spanish class. The only girl I knew was Sue, and she hated me. I looked down at my blank student council petition, took a deep breath, felt the fear, and asked her anyway. "Sue, would you please sign my petition so I can run for student council?"

I braced myself for a "no," but she said "yes" and the ice melted. She even smiled. Before lunch, my petition had all 50 signatures on it. I was doing it. I was going to run for office. Wow. I turned in my form. Then, soon after, something crazy happened. I became class treasurer. Not because I was voted in, but because no one else ran against me. I didn't expect to win. I just wanted the kids to see my name on the ballot, which in my mind, would break me out of the "shy kid" role forever.

The new officers, myself included, were named on the morning announcements. Everyone in my classroom congratulated me. Then, the most shocking thing happened. The popular kids from my junior high were walking down the hall in my direction. Julie, the ring leader, said "Congratulations Marilyn." So did the others.

I wasn't really invisible in junior high, it just felt like it. Back then, I behaved the way I thought an invisible person was supposed to behave. Now that belief was gone, I was free to start being myself.

My next insight came from Cindy. She had stellar people skills and more school spirit than anyone I knew. She said, "Marilyn, I'm proud of you. I would have run for class treasurer, but I was too afraid of losing." I knew a lot about feeling afraid, but I didn't realize someone like Cindy felt that way too. No wonder I ran unopposed. In that moment I took Cindy, Julie and all the others off their pedestals, and realized that fear and doubt are a normal part of being human. Things changed for me from then on. I was visible. I didn't hang with the popular crowd, but I had friends, great friends, and felt happier and more self expressed. Life was in balance.

Are you locked in a role? Are you feeling trapped by other people's expectations? What one thing will you do today to break free from being typecast? Let the beginning of 2007 be a time for dropping self-limiting beliefs and allow yourself to be more self expressed.

Marilyn Suttle can be contacted on her web site at:

WWW.SuttleOnline.NET, or by E-mail at Marilyn@SuttleOnline.net.

**Life Balance**

Marilyn Suttle



An older male elephant walks along the main road through Kruger National Park, creating a Jumbo traffic jam.

PHOTOS BY SHARON SHEEHY



A group of impala getting a drink from a watering hole as seen from a Kruger National Park rest camp.



Resting up after breakfast, this young male lion decided to lounge about just a few feet from the road.

## Veterinarian visits diverse land of wild animals, great cities

Dr. Brad Davis is the medical director for the VCA-Garden City. He writes a column on pets for the Thursday Hometownlife.com section.

BY BRAD DAVIS

The name alone inspires thoughts of exotic cultures, of thick jungles filled with animals you've only seen before in zoos, and of unbearable conditions only the most intrepid explorers could survive.

When people heard I was planning a trip to Africa, many worried for me, concerned of unknown dangers. When I

returned, I found that people actually wanted to hear about the trip, giving my stories excited rather than humoring attention.

Movies created the images we have of Africa: a dense jungle with Tarzan swinging tree to tree. They filmed those movies in central Florida, and the bird that screams in nearly every early jungle movie was a peacock, which is actually from Asia.

While the search for the movie Africa might prove impossible, what Africa does offer is the opportunity to experience a truly



Drs. Brad Davis and Sharon Sheehy stand in front of Blyde River Canyon, near Johannesburg, South Africa. Sheehy is a veterinarian and owner of Sheehy Animal Hospital in Livonia.

PLEASE SEE AFRICA, C3

## Yankee Air Museum members flying high

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Before the last flame from the Oct. 9, 2004, fire was extinguished, Yankee Air Museum members set their sights on the future. The 1941 hangar and eight of the museum's vintage planes were destroyed, but not the dream of preserving aerospace history in southeastern Michigan.

Founded in 1981 at Willow Run Airport near Ypsilanti, the museum rises like a phoenix from the ashes with an official groundbreaking April 16. Yankee Air president Dick Stewart is inviting the public not to wait until then to "come out and see us and



Sonny Elliot shares his experiences as a World War II P.O.W. during a showing of The Great Escape by the Yankee Air Museum.

PLEASE SEE MUSEUM, C2

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# Competition to select Michigan opera idol

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Aspiring young opera singers won't face the kind of tongue lashing they might after a performance in Parma, Italy, but they will have the opportunity to learn from the judge's comments at the 13th annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students presented by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan.

John Zaretti isn't expecting any of the rabid opera fans from his hometown of Parma on May 6 when young vocal students face off in concert, but hopes supporters turn out to encourage the aspiring students. But first the president of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan must find young amateur singers ages 15-19. In November, dozens of letters went out to high school vocal music teachers across the state. A total of 10 finalists will be selected from cassette audiotape or CD auditions. Entries must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 16. For more information, call (734) 455-8895.

In addition to critiques from this year's judges George Shirley, director of the University of Michigan School of Music's vocal arts department, and Karen VanderKloot DiChiera, founder and director of community programs for Michigan Opera Theatre, each of the finalists receive a cash prize ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 thanks to the generosity of the Italian American Club of Livonia



Scott MacLeod won the 1996 Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition presented by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan. He returned to state last fall in the title role of the nonprofit's production of Puccini's comic one-act opera Gianni Schicchi.

Charitable Foundation. The Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Twp. provides the venue.

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan presents four to five concerts a year along with the competition and lectures to generate interest in the operas of Giuseppe Verdi as well as other composers of Italian music for the theater.

"We want for kids to learn a new experience, to test their voices against classical music in a different language, a different culture. They have to learn Italian and finalists have to sing in Italian before a live audience," said John Zaretti of Canton. Zaretti co-founded the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan with Dino Valle in 1988.

"It's very important that at the end of the competition, judges stay and review your performance. It's valuable advice. Many of the winners and finalists have gone on to

The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music. Music is the sustenance throughout life. Not everyone will go on to a career in opera, but there are those who have gone on to musical theater or choral work."

Zaretti was especially touched by the letter 1996 winner Scott MacLeod wrote after the competition. MacLeod grew up in Okemos where his first exposure to opera came late in high school. He especially appreciated receiving the \$1,000 cash prize from the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan.

"It really gave me a lot of courage to pursue this very difficult art form. As much as we don't want the arts to be about capitalism and finances, it gave me the opportunity to see that one can financially benefit from the arts."

MacLeod went on to earn a bachelor of music degree from Northwestern

University, and master of music from Florida State University. Since then he's performed with Central City Opera, Utah Opera, Opera Omaha, Florida State University, National Symphony of Costa Rica, Opera North in New Hampshire, Quisisana Opera in Maine, Florence Masterworks Symphony in South Carolina, and Des Moines Metro Opera. Today, MacLeod is an administrator with an opera company in North Carolina while pursuing a career in performance. Last fall he returned to the state in the title role of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan production of Puccini's comic one-act opera Gianni Schicchi. Upcoming performances include singing the role of Marullo in Rigoletto with the Greensboro Opera in North Carolina.

"Opera has more sentiment, heart, depth," said MacLeod. "I like the idea of antiquity, the history behind it. Opera you put on the costumes and you're wearing the costume of the ages."

Loving opera came naturally to Zaretti. He grew up in a small farm town in Parma where everyone in his family sang while shucking corn with neighbors in the evening.

"Parma, Italy, is known to opera fans as the lion's pit of opera," said Zaretti.

"Verdi was born there, Toscanini. If you make it there, you can go on to sing with La Scala or the Metropolitan Opera."

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## MUSEUM

FROM PAGE C1

help us rebuild." Visitors have the opportunity to support the museum at its monthly film event to raise funds and awareness about the memorial for the World War II generation at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in Hangar 2 on the southwest side of the field at Willow Run Airport. For directions, visit [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org).

On the marquee is *The Great Escape*, starring Steve McQueen. Based on a true story, the film focuses on prisoners of war trying to escape a camp during World War II. Yankee member and World War II bomber pilot Sonny Elliot shares his experiences as a P.O.W. in Stalagluft I after his B-24 was shot down over Germany. After the war, Elliot went on to become a broadcasting legend in the Detroit area. He presently delivers weathercasts on WWJ-AM (950).

Tickets are \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Seating is limited. Call (734) 483-4030. Doors open at 5 p.m. so guests can view the museum's remaining vintage planes, including the B-17 Yankee Lady, B-25 Yankee Warrior and C-47 Yankee Doodle Dandy.

"It's like any museum. It has great memories and things we just don't want to forget," said Elliot, a Farmington Hills resident. "It's living history."

Debbie Stewart hopes supporters will be touched enough by the museum's plight to come to the Hearts Go Out to Yankee Dinner and Auction, Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland. The event begins with a silent auction at 5 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. dinner, then a live auction with several opportunities to bid on airplane rides and vacation packages.

Tickets are \$75 apiece or \$650 for a table of eight. Phone bidders must pre-regis-

ter by calling (734) 483-4030. For a complete list of items, visit [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org). Jack Roush, founder of Roush Industries in Livonia, has donated NASCAR memorabilia signed by his drivers. The items include four quarter panels from Roush racing cars, one still with tire marks on it.

"There's a MiG-17 you can get in and start it up (during the July 7-8 Blue Angels' Thunder Over Michigan event presented by the museum at Willow Run Airport)," said Debbie Stewart, event coordinator. "Or ride in a MiG-21 (Russian Mach 2 fighter jet). That would cost \$15,000 if you went to Russia (trip to Indiana to ride in the jet not included). We have two B-17 rides, two in a B-25, TNJ and T-6 World War II planes, three day trips in a C-47, and a ride in a Pitts with three nights in Boulder City, Nevada, with a ride over the streets of Las Vegas and the Hoover Dam and as much aerobatics as you can stand (does not include trip to Nevada)."

All of the proceeds from the silent and live auctions go toward the rebuilding effort for the museum's new campus. Concept drawings detail the five buildings that will house the vintage planes and memorabilia. The first structure built will be a visitor center and corporate offices with a retail store and meeting space.

"At the groundbreaking on April 16 our planes will be open for tours," Dick Stewart said. "It's a way of letting the public know that we're viable and on our way to recovery. All four of our flyable airplanes will be up — the B-17 Yankee Lady, B-25 Yankee Warrior, C-47 Yankee Doodle Dandy, and B-77 Stinson Yankee Friendship, which was made locally in southeast Michigan."

For more information about the Yankee Air Museum, call (734) 483-4030 or visit [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org).

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Detroit. Keynote speaker and Emmy award winning actress Tracey Conway tops off a morning of seminars, screenings, and a silent auction beginning at 9 a.m. Emceed by Lila Lazarus of FOX 2, the luncheon and fashion show begin at noon.

The Red Dress tour, presented by Deloitte, will also be on display featuring items from national and local celebrities including Dr. Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, Vanna White and actresses Jackie Zemen and Kristen Bell.

Call 248-827-4214 or visit [www.americanheart.org/detroitgoesred](http://www.americanheart.org/detroitgoesred)

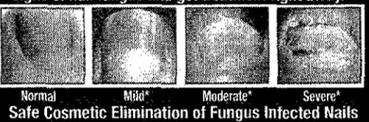
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# Angela Hospice provides free support for bereaved

## AFRICA

FROM PAGE C1

exotic and ancient part of the world, and to see a place where the native animals still live wild.

One country cannot define this varied continent, just as the United States can't be defined by one state. Picking a country to visit varies by what you want to see and experience.

Most people look for a combination of three things: culture, geography and animals. The country of South Africa, located at the continent's southern tip, could be the perfect spot for a first trip when considering all three of these categories.

"South Africa is beginner's Africa," said David de Le Quearra, our tour guide with Southern Circle Tours and a native of Durban, South Africa. "The accommodations are comfortable and first-rate, not like what you might see in the poorer nations."

Tanzania and Kenya both make tremendous destinations for the wildlife watcher, while Uganda, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia also can be great vacation spots, but South Africa boasts the best facilities for comfort, with flora and fauna that rarely disappoint. First-time North Americans visiting South Africa also appreciate that signs and most conversations are in English, despite the country having 11 different official languages, including Afrikaans and Zulu.

## GREAT WILDLIFE VIEWING

South Africa's gorgeous landscape tends to be overshadowed by the amazing opportunities for wildlife viewing in places like Kruger National Park, about a three-hour drive east of Johannesburg. Here, you can stay in rest camps in the heart of one of the truly great wild places on earth, where lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes and all the other plains animals exist as they have for centuries.

Despite the location, these camps don't cost an arm and a leg to visit, for either the accommodations or for the meals served from the cafeterias.

The strength of the dollar against the South African rand (one rand equals about 13 cents) gives you more money to start with, and consistently lower prices help that money go further. This affordability is another feature making South Africa such a great vacation.

We had dinner for two at a top of the line restaurant in Cape Town, which would cost about \$80-\$100 in the Detroit area, but cost us about \$35, tip included. Economics like this allow visitors to live more extravagantly, which adds to the vacation fun.

South African people tend to be friendly, with no noticeable anti-American sentiment. For South Africans, being so far from the rest of the world makes the world's problems seem very distant.

That distance, however, makes getting there no fun at all. The flight to South Africa has to be the biggest downside of the trip.

Flight time will vary by where your layover is, but our trip to Johannesburg from Detroit, with a layover in Paris, totaled about 18 hours in the sky.

Europe's disorganized plane loading methods added a few more hours, making it about 20 hours on the plane,

## TRAVEL TIPS

■ Although malaria sounds like a disease from another era, visitors still must protect themselves. Before any exotic vacation, contact a facility that specializes in travel medicine, such as Passport Health of Farmington Hills (www.passporthealthmi.com). They'll make sure you get the vaccines and medications you need.

■ When you've decided a trip to Africa is for you, contact a professional with an emphasis in South African tourism, such as Julian Harrison of Premier Tours (www.premiertours.com), who has been named a top travel specialist for Africa by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine. The travel agent should listen to what you want to experience, then try to set up the tour you are looking for within your budget and comfort zone.

■ Crime has long been an issue in South Africa, but when you speak to the people about it, they sound very similar to Detroiters defending their area to those visiting for the Super Bowl. Yes, there's crime, but if you stay away from bad areas, don't pick up hitchhikers and don't flash money around, you should stay pretty safe.

■ The monetary unit in South Africa, the rand, is about 13 cents in American money, but that can vary. Once you figure out that 100R is equal to about \$13, you can get a pretty good idea about what things cost.

■ Everywhere tourists go, native Africans set up tables of souvenirs, mostly crafts they made themselves and jewelry made from local gem stones. The interesting items they sell, the inexpensive cost, plus getting to interact with locals, makes getting souvenirs a good time.

■ Check with the airline and airline security Web sites to make sure you will be allowed to bring back souvenirs before you buy them. I had two bottles of wine that I purchased from the duty-free shop confiscated when boarding the flight.

■ Though it feels strange at first, it doesn't take long to get used to driving in South Africa. The problem I most faced was looking out the window to my right when I was looking for the rearview mirror that was to my left.

■ For information on South Africa Tourism, go to www.southafricatourism.com. For information on Kruger National Park, go to www.sanparks.com. For guidebooks, *Frommers* gives you great nuts and bolts information, and *Insight Guides* (by the Discovery Channel) offer a colorful book titled *South Africa*, with beautiful pictures and information of each region.

Yes, South Africa is one of the odd nations where the traffic is on the "wrong" side of the road, which can drive a North American driver to the wrong side of crazy. After some practice, a little bit of stress and figuring out which side of the car to enter, the driving is not a problem. You just need to get used to it.

## KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Once you have arrived and rested, South Africa's top attraction awaits you: Kruger National Park, one of the premier national parks in the entire world. Beautiful and huge, this park has just about every African species you'd want to see.

While stopped on the entrance bridge to check in, we felt like the visitors seeing Jurassic Park's dinosaurs for the first time, as we saw a herd of elephants in the river below. Seeing these animals living wild reminds you why you made this long journey.

Much of the area can be toured by car, which is important, as both leaving the road in the vehicle and leaving the vehicle on foot are foolish and strictly prohibited.

(The rule about leaving the

road in the vehicle is enforced by the rangers. The rule about leaving the vehicle on foot is enforced by the rangers and the lions.)

Small rest areas allow day visitors to picnic, use the restroom or buy supplies, but the main time out of the vehicles occurs when stopped for the night at the rest camps, which are scattered throughout the park and enclosed with electrified fences.

The camps feature comfortable housing, with simple round huts covered in thatched roofs, with the refrigerator and kitchen sink on the porch. Some rest camps have more amenities than others, even to the point of having museums, fancy restaurants or an overlook of the savannah or watering hole that's outside the fence.

At times, the electrified fence can make you feel like you are in a zoo, as the animals will walk right up to the fence, such as the warthog who wandered up to the fence during dinner one evening, just a few feet from our porch, or the lion we heard grunting a few feet away in the darkness.

## A BRAAI

The rest camps have no telephones or televisions. Evenings

can be spent listening to ranger lectures, going on a night tour (which enables you to almost see the nocturnal animals, as they disappear from the spotlights quickly), looking at the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere and, of course, the almost obligatory braai, a South African barbecue that just could not be tastier.

David de La Quearra loves to make a braai for his guests. "It's a tradition," he says. "(South Africans) love cooking for people who appreciate it. I'm more than happy to cook for my guests every night. If I were at home, I'd be cooking a braai by myself, anyway!"

Food in a braai can include various meats, including impala or nyala steaks, beef and the wonderful sausage known as boerewors, which become a borderline addiction. Should you desire more elegant accommodations, many private lodge areas about the park on the western edge and offer incredibly luxury. Of course, extravagance comes at a cost: One night in these lodges can cost more than a week in a rest camp.

Time of year makes a huge difference as to what you see in Kruger. An October trip, which is springtime in the Southern Hemisphere, will give you the opportunity to view more baby animals, but the brush is thicker because of the early spring rains, so the animals become harder to find. This stays true throughout the warm weather.

Guides give you the best opportunity to find the big five (lions, leopards, elephants, cape buffalo and rhinoceros, which were the animals most sought after by the hunters). They know the park and the animals' tendencies. They also help make sure you're where you need to be, allowing you to enjoy your trip without the hassles of trying to drive and spot wildlife at the same time.

A two-hour flight from Johannesburg gets you to Cape Town, one of the world's great cities, on the west coast of South Africa. Cape Town can be viewed as a microcosm of South Africa, as some areas of the city burgeon with wealth and opulence, while less than a block away a neighborhood appears blighted.

For a visitor, however, the city offers a plethora of activities, including the beach or just shopping at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.

You could visit Robben's Island, an Alcatraz-style jail where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, or the operating room where Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant.

Short drives from Cape Town can get you to the vineyards where they create some of the great wine in the world. Numerous nearby national parks and nature preserves let you see the animals native to this part of the country.

Cities like Simon's Town feature charming shops and the nearby Boulder's Beach African penguin colony.

The multicultural, exciting nation of South Africa gives visitors many options for fun, from extensive activity to a simple rest on a beach. The people, generally pleasant and welcoming of strangers, tend to make you feel more like a guest than a tourist.

The country's location, so far into the Southern Hemisphere, the years of apartheid and fears of African travel have helped to keep it hidden as a top-notch travel destination. By hosting the 2010 World Cup, South Africa will be discovered as one of the great places to be in the world.

I am very glad to have seen it before the attention has a chance to change it.

'It can be such a relief to hear other people who are grieving talk about their experiences. It helps people to know that they are not alone in what they are going through and that it will get better.'

Rebecca Hyman  
Angela Hospice bereavement manager

get better."

Angela Hospice holds General Grief Support Groups, open to all losses, the second and fourth Tuesday of each month with a session at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. both days. The hospice also holds special topic groups to meet a variety of needs for grieving adults and children. Special topic groups include Loss of a Spouse, 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month; Heartstrings for parents who have lost a child, 7-8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month; Men in Grief, 6:30-8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, and Suicide Loss for those who have lost a loved one through suicide, 6:30-8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. A Women's Grief Support Group is held each spring and fall, call (734) 953-6012 for dates and times.

A Children's Grief Support Group for ages 6-8 and 9-12 is also held in spring and fall for eight consecutive Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Groups for parents of grieving children are held concurrently. Call (734) 464-2683 to register.

The hospice also provides one-on-one bereavement support. For more information, call (734) 953-6030.

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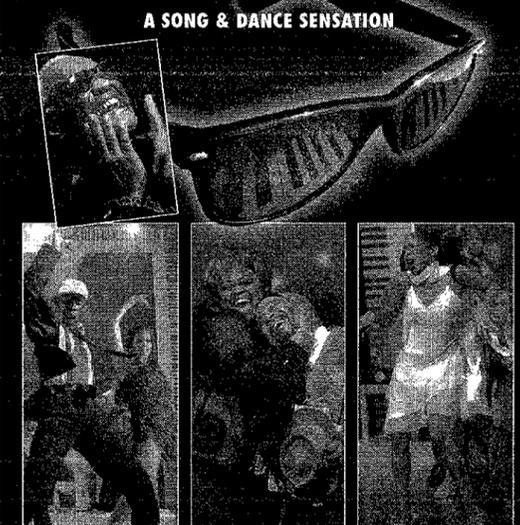
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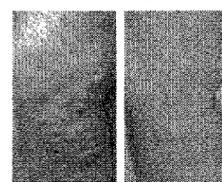
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# Benefit steeps guests in Italian culture

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Guests looking to immerse themselves in Italian culture won't have to travel very far. The Italian American Club of Livonia stirs together a culinary extravaganza of dishes including pasta from Compari's and sausage from Guilio's Cucina Italiana with arias performed by three opera singers for its 12th annual dinner dance Sunday, Feb. 11. The event begins with a Mass at noon at the Italian American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile.

Tickets are \$45. A seven-course meal and dessert follows the Culinary Extravaganza provided by Livonia and Plymouth area restaurants and produce merchants. For those who like to dance, the Mike Wolverton Band entertains from 4-6 p.m. To order tickets, call (866) 990-IABC, ext. 2, or Joseph Yekulis at the St. Louis Center (734) 475-8430 for more information. Reservations requested by Feb. 8.

Proceeds benefit the St. Louis Center in Chelsea. The center cares for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

"It's going to be very special this year with the three opera singers," said Mary Galasso, Italian American Club of Livonia president. "They're

going to be doing it gratis. The money goes to transportation costs for residents of the St. Louis Center. We annually replace a high mileage van in the fleet with a newer model so they can get to work, the doctor or out for recreation. The vans put on 150,000 miles a year."

John Zaretti, president and co-founder of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, is calling on sopranos Natalie Conte and Rebecca Eaddy, and baritone Jonathan Smith to sing for the Italian American Club of Livonia members who annually sponsor cash prizes for the opera theater's high school competition in Michigan. Conte won the 1999 competition. Eaddy was a finalist in 2001. Smith received the opera theater's \$1,000 prize for the University of Michigan School of Music's study abroad program in Italy in 2006. The three will perform arias from Verdi's La Traviata, and Mozart's Don Giovanni and Così Fan Tutti. Raffaella Medor Naurato accompanies them on piano.

"It's a great cause," said John Zaretti of Canton. "We have done concerts there before and feel our Italian music and art are very appreciated. We felt it would be good to present the students so they could see the results of their encouragement."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



St. Louis Center resident Lisa Roberts waves goodbye in front of the van taking her to work at the Taco Bell/KFC in Chelsea. The Italian American Club fund-raiser on Feb. 11, will help purchase a new van to assist residents in getting to work on time.

## Serenade your sweetheart with a singing valentine

Nothing says you care like a Singing Valentine. A barbershop quartet from the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society will serenade your sweetheart at home, work or anywhere else in the Wayne, Dearborn, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, or Northville areas.

In addition to the Valentine serenade of two love songs, your special person receives a red rose and a personalized Valentine's Day card. The vocalists will

even deliver your special personal gift if you wish.

The cost for a Singing Valentine is \$40. If you wish to present the Singing Valentine in person by singing with the quartet, the cost is only \$20.

Call (734) 467-9681 or (734) 422-7468 to schedule the delivery between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, or send an e-mail to

Valentines@WeSingBarbershop.com. Orders will be taken up to Feb. 13.

## Adopt a rabbit in February

February is Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month. Rabbits are the third most popular house pet in the U.S. and are companionable, intelligent, and use litter boxes. Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary will hold two adoption events during this month.

If you would like a new friend with whom to share your home, please come meet some friendly bunnies 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Specialty Pet Supplies, 1449 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 453-6930.

Pooch photographer Cindy Rogers will also be in attendance for pet portraits so bring your pet (any species).

The second adoption event takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Pet Emporium, 4940 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. Call (734) 929-6533.

For more information or to complete an application to adopt a rabbit, visit the Web site at [www.rabbitsanctuary.org](http://www.rabbitsanctuary.org).

## Project to help educate women prisoners

The American Association of University Women's Legal Advocacy Fund granted the University of Michigan-Dearborn the 2006 Progress in Equity Award for its efforts to educate women in a local prison.

The university's College Level Courses at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women in Plymouth Township offers university-certified courses in women's studies, composition, sociology, African American studies, and other subjects to women at the prison. Courses are taught by university professors on a volunteer basis.

"We are honored to recognize this innovative program," said AAUW Educational Foundation President Barbara O'Connor. "We continue to be impressed by the important work it does to advance women's educational opportunities in a critically underserved population."

The program's effects are two-fold - giving female prisoners hope to overcome life's obstacles, and compelling the community to challenge conventional stereotypes about women in prison. The program received \$5,000 from AAUW.

"Women who receive a college education or begin the degree process while in prison fare better when they rejoin society than those who do not," said Program Director and University of

Michigan at Dearborn Professor Lisa Lempert. "College builds a context for transformation and responsibility that the women take with them as they leave the facility."

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that promotes equity for women with a cash reward. Since 1987, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has recognized more than 38 programs throughout the country for progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women.

"When the Michigan legislature made it illegal to use tax dollars for inmate college tuition, this enterprising group of volunteers stepped in to fill a critical need and give a second chance to women in prison," said Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. The University of Hawaii, Honolulu received an honorable mention for its Bridge of Hope program, which provides on-campus student employment and support programs for welfare recipients.

An awards presentation was held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus to honor the Scott Prison project. Eleanor Siewert, member of the AAUW national board of directors and AAUW of Birmingham branch, presented the award.

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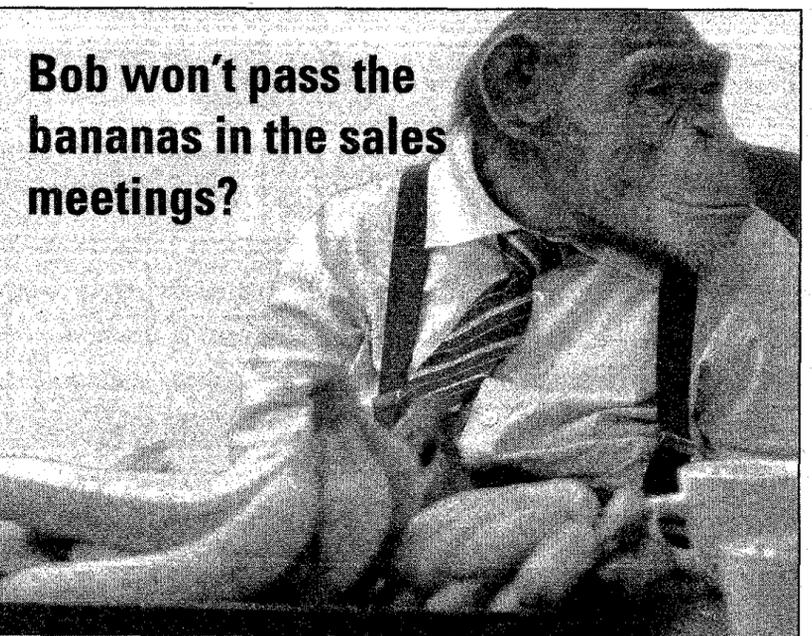
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## ENGAGEMENTS

## Wick-Lambrix

Kathleen and Larry Wick of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra Ann Wick, to Curt William Lambrix of Hart, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a 1995 graduate of Thurston High School. Her undergraduate studies were at Central Michigan University. Her graduate studies were at Bowling Green State University. She is employed as a speech and language pathologist in the Charlotte, N.C., area.

The prospective groom is the son of Ellen and Arnold Lambrix of Hart, Mich. He is a 1996 graduate of Hart High School and attended Central Michigan University. He is employed as an 8th grade



teacher of math in the Charlotte area schools.

An Aug. 3, 2007, wedding is planned for Holy Cross Church in Livonia.

They will honeymoon in St. Lucia.

## Moriarity-Rozum

Bob and Nancy Moriarity of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori Kathleen, to Charles Joseph Rozum Jr. of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in education. She is a kindergarten teacher in the Wayne-Westland School District. Lori is pursuing a master's degree in learning disabilities at Madonna University.

Her fiancé is the son of Charles Sr. and Claudia Rozum of Livonia. He is a 2000 graduate of Catholic Central High



School. He is employed by the state of Michigan. He is pursuing a degree at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

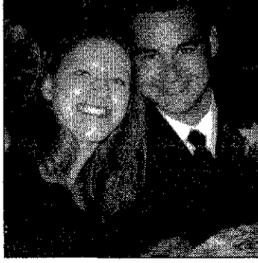
A July 2007 wedding is planned at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Redford Township

## Smedley-Bullock

Ronald and Christine Smedley of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Candace Smedley, to Matthew Franklin Bullock of Saginaw.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School's MSC program. She received a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. She is in the third year of a three-year veterinary pathology residency at MSU for board certification in veterinary pathology.

The prospective groom is the son of Frank and Teddi Bullock of Valencia, Calif. He is a graduate of William S. Hart High School in Newhall, Calif. He has a bachelor of science degree from the University of



California, Davis. He received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State in 2001. He is presently practicing emergency veterinary medicine in Saginaw.

An Oct. 20, 2007, wedding is planned for University United Methodist Church in Lansing followed by a reception at Hawk Hollow Country Club in Lansing. The couple will honeymoon in Hawaii.

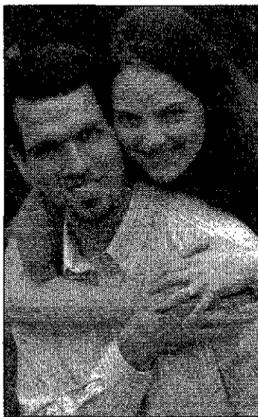
## Motsinger-Bowers

Thomas and Patricia Motsinger of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Anne Motsinger, to Paul James Bowers of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Dayton. She is employed as an engineer at DTE Energy in Detroit.

The prospective groom is the son of Mark and Mary Ann Bowers of Livonia. He is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is a consultant for Urban Science of Detroit.

A May 26, 2007, wedding is



planned for St. Colette Catholic Church.

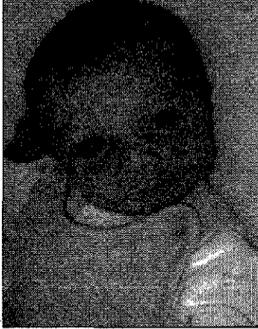
## BIRTH

## Dominic Luca Giovannini

Erick and Lisa Giovannini of Livonia announce the birth of their son, Dominic Luca Giovannini, on Dec. 20, 2006, at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Grandparents are Melvin and Rosalie Wolicki of Livonia and Erick and Denise Giovannini of Livonia.

Great-grandparents are Antoinette Wolicki of Dearborn Heights and Ricardo Giovannini of Dearborn.



## How to submit announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Sunday editions of the Observer.

There is no charge to submit an announcement.

To obtain a copy of our forms for engagements, weddings, anniversaries and births email Hugh Gallagher at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

Or send the information to

Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150:

Please send photos in a vertical format.

If you are e-mailing a photograph, please send it as a "jpeg" Photographs may be picked up after publication; or enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953-2149.

## MISC. SINGLES

## Moon-dusters

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. For more information, call Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197.

Holiday dance, 7:10-30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, Roma Banquet Hall, 32550 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:45 p.m.

Formal attire recommended but Sunday best will do. Tickets \$26 members and associates, \$29 guests. For information or reservations, call Joe Castrodale, (248)968-5197.

## BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

## Game Night Challenge

A tournament of board games. Friday, Feb. 9, St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Admission will be a dish of food to pass and \$5 at the door. Refreshments will be supplied. There will also be a

cash prize. For details, call Michele at (313)996-8644.

## Breakfast meeting

Saturday, Feb. 17, at Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford Road, south side in Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy M. at (734)513-9479.

## Annual Mass for Divorced and Separated

2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Light dinner to follow. For details, call Michele at (313)996-8644.

## METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Join our E-mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events. Information (248) 544-6445. Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## Euchre

Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave, just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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**JUDY O'CONNOR**  
Long time Redford resident & Beech Lanes employee, passed away Jan. 25, 2007. She will be dearly missed.

**IN MEMORY OF LAURIE A. JOLY**  
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And I'll be seeing you."  
With all our love, Mom & Dad,  
Rick, Linda, Patti, Sue & Nan

**GRACE MARIE NEAL**  
Age 82, Jan. 31, 2007. Beloved wife of the late Dale Neal. Loving mother of Larry Fairlamb, Cynthia (Bob) Grenier and the late Michael Neal. Also survived by eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Funeral service at the R. G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Monday at 10 a. m. Visitation Sunday from 2-9 p.m. Please sign the online guestbook at www.rgharris.com

**JOHN L. "SWEDE" SWANSON**  
Age 74 of Garden City and formerly Erie, PA, died Saturday, December 16, 2006 at Hope Nursing Care Center in Westland. He was born January 26, 1932 in Erie, PA, son of the late Carl and Jennie A. Adams Swanson. He had resided in the Erie area for most of his life prior to moving to Michigan over 20 years ago. Swede was a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War. He was a member of American Legion Carl Neff Post #571, as well as the 40/8. Throughout Swede's career, he had been employed in the tool and die industry prior to his retirement. He enjoyed fishing and will be fondly remembered for his many acts of kindness and charity. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Carl Gustav Swanson; and two brothers, William and Melvin Swanson. Survivors include two sons, Mike Swanson and wife, Betty, of Harbor Creek, and Chris Swanson and wife, Pat, of Garden City, one daughter April Sudul of Tionesta, PA, four grandchildren: Michael, Matthew, Kyle and Kayla; a dear friend, Patty Smith of Michigan, and many nieces and nephews. Interment was at Erie County Memorial Gardens and he was given full military honors.

**ROBERT M. JONES**  
BRIGHTON, MI (Formerly of Westland). Age 75, passed away January 31, 2007. He was born September 21, 1931 in Detroit, MI the son of Clarence J. and Inez P. (Ball) Jones. On January 29, 1955 in Detroit, MI Robert married Marlene Richards. Robert was employed with General Motors before his retirement in 1988. In addition to Marlene survivors include his children: Cheryl Ruszala of Key Largo, FL, Robert (Patricia) Jones of Spotsylvania, VA, Donald (Dawn) Jones of Brighton, Karen (Martin) Knoll of Pinckney, David (Micky) Jones of Westland and ten grandchildren. His siblings, Kathleen, Dennis, Clarence (Red) and Jeanette preceded him in death. A Farewell Service will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, February 3, 2007 at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Entombment will take place in Washtenong Memorial Park. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Heart Assoc. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home where the family will receive friends on Friday from 1-8PM. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Robert's family at 877-231-7900 or visit his guest book at borekjennings.com.

**PATRICIA CORRIGAN SHARP**  
Age 82, passed away Thursday, February 1, 2007. Patricia was born September 29, 1924 in Detroit, MI to William and Emma Corrigan. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a Master's in Library Science from Wayne State University and was employed for three decades as a librarian at Stevenson and Churchill high schools. She served as president of the Livonia League of Women Voters. She is survived by two daughters from her second marriage and two grandchildren. She will be missed by her family who loved her. The body has been cremated as no services are planned. Memorial contributions can be made to the Friends of the Livonia Public Library.

**WM. TAYLOR BALL**  
Who Passed away on Feb. 5, 2004. You are dearly missed. Esther Stuky

**MARVLU STEWART LLOYD**  
On Thursday, February 1, 2007, Marylu Stewart Lloyd passed away at Presbyterial Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina, surrounded by her family. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She was born December 7, 1923 in Ironton, Ohio, to Joseph Wagoner Stewart and Elizabeth Handley Stewart and grew up close to Cadmus, Ohio in southeastern Ohio. She excelled in school, graduating at age 16. A year after graduation she moved to Huntington, WV and attended Huntington Business College where she received a degree. She worked across the Ohio River in Point Pleasant, WV during WW II. In May, 1946 she met the love of her life, Wendell Eugene Lloyd, who was returning from his WW II assignments in the US Navy. They married on December 22, 1946 and celebrated over 58 years of marriage before Wendell's passing in 2005. Marylu was devoted to her family, spending countless hours on her children's activities. She never met a stranger and was a very gracious host, entertaining hundreds of friends in her home for over 50 years. She was very active in numerous charitable, church and civic organizations. Wendell and Marylu shared a full life of family, friends, music, golf, bridge, and parties while living in Michigan, Washington, Texas, Ohio, and for the last thirteen years on the Atlantic coastline in the little town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina. She will be sorely missed by her five children—John Lloyd and his wife Sue of The Woodlands, TX; Susan Vogel and her husband Steve of Rock Hill, SC; Wendy Buechele and her husband Bill of Ft. Worth, TX; Katie Hill of Troy, Michigan; and Melinda Bradley and her husband Thad of Rock Hill, SC; as well as her grandchildren, Tom Lloyd and wife Andrea, Christopher Lloyd, David, Dan and John Vogel, Bryant and Claire Buechele, Beth and Jenny Hill, and Joe, Tommy and Stewart Bradley; great grandchildren, Madeline and Isabella Lloyd; sister-in-laws Betty Ann Stewart and Marilyn Donaldson; brother-in-law Don Gothard; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. She will also be missed by countless friends she stayed in contact with through her 83 years of life. Marylu was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and one brother Paul Stewart. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 11:00 AM at Willis Funeral Home in Gallipolis, Ohio, followed by her burial at Ohio Valley Memory Gardens. Friends and family may call at the funeral home from 6 to 9 PM, Tuesday, February 6, 2007. Pallbearers will be grandsons, Tom and Christopher Lloyd, David, Dan and John Vogel, Bryant Buechele, and Joe and Tommy Bradley. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in Marylu's name to the American Diabetes Association or to the Swansboro United Methodist Church, 665 West Corbett Avenue, Swansboro, North Carolina 28584. Please visit www.willisfuneralhome.com to send e-mail condolences.

**ELTON R. (RANDY) EATON**  
Born to the Sterling Eatons of Plymouth, Michigan on December 10th 1940 in Detroit, passed away peacefully at home on January 28th 2007. His father and grandfather both served in the Michigan Legislature and were distinguished Michigan weekly newspaper publishers. After attending Cranbrook School and the Universities of Miami and Michigan, Randy was pulled away by the family newspaper business, The Plymouth Mail, which he successfully took over and ran for many years. In Randy's own words, "I've been happily married for 34 years and a life lived, but way not complete. I've worked as a newspaperman, football coach, TV commercial actor and brand model, created a swanky blues club in London's Covent Garden, worked as a criminal defense associate, PR guy, Montana horse wrangler, commercial photographer, and lastly with his sons at Thunderdog Studios on their brilliant toy manufacturing projects." He wrote: "Best of my life has been (and still is) my relationship my sons. My best friends, greatest supporters and dearest hearts are my sons. If I have a moral rudder it is: cultivating friendliness and compassion. That, and this: Never Quit no matter the opposition." During the closing years of his life Randy founded the Detroit Men's Club. Organized with the intention of encouraging area businessmen and artists to bring a total stranger to a bag lunch at unique and usually inaccessible locations, like back stage at the Detroit Opera House. In three years the club grew to over 200 members; and, many galleries owners, businessmen, artists and young entrepreneurs came to know each other. As Randy liked to say, "my goal is to show people they have more in common than they think; and, to uplift them if I can." He is survived by his wife Gillian a distinguished theater artist and three beloved sons, Rob, Matthew and Tristan, and a chosen and beloved daughter Leslie. Five beautiful grandchildren, Alexandra, Peri, Pierce, Roxanne, and Harrison, also survive him. His dear sister Cynthia Eaton Johanson lives in Florida. Randy's rich life was made more joyful by an astoundingly wide group of beloved friends and family in Michigan, New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, London, Wales and all over the World. He and his family are deeply grateful for their generous hearts and loving support especially during the final months of his illness. There will be no funeral, but there will be a public remembrance in the Spring. In the spirit of Randy's life, and in lieu of sending flowers, the family requests well wishers to simply hand a twenty-dollar bill to a total stranger.

**CORPORAL MARK D. KIDD**  
Age 26 of Milford, died January 25, 2007 in the Anbar province in Iraq while serving his country as a Marine. He was born April 14, 1980, in Dearborn the son of Frank & Janet Kidd. Mark graduated from Wixom Christian School in 1998 and attended Eastern Michigan University with plans on practicing International Law for the US State Dept. He attended Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Brighton, was a strong Christian man and a true patriot. He enjoyed meeting new people, politics, and listening to jazz. Mark joined the United States Marine Corps on January 1, 2000 and was on active duty until Dec. 31, 2005. In April 2006, Mark was asked to serve his country again, and he willingly and proudly returned to active service. He volunteered to be deployed back to Iraq in August of 2006. In all, Mark served 3 tours of duty, gladly answering his country's call to serve against the war on terror. He was proud to be a Marine, and served with honor. At the time of his death, Mark was a Corporal assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division in Mt. Clemens. Surviving, in addition to his parents, is his brother, Matthew Kidd of Milford, his grandparents, Hulda & Dan Pierocchi of Livonia and Wanda & Joseph Kidd of Milford. He is also survived by numerous extended family members and friends. The funeral service was held on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Cornerstone Church. Interment with military honors followed at Brighton Hills Cemetery, Brighton. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Cornerstone Christian School, Brighton, in honor and remembrance of Mark. To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit the family web page at: www.keehfuneralhome.com. Please click on "sign and view family guestbook."

**MAY YOU FIND COMFORT IN FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**LAWRENCE A. DAMASK**  
Age 86, died January 27, 2007 at the Adventist Care Center in Orlando, Florida. He was a resident of Westland, Michigan from 1961 to 2003. He is survived by his daughters, Bonnie (Tracy) Frenkel of Florida and Terrie Damask of Texas and his son, David Damask of Michigan; two granddaughters; one sister, Anne (Herbert) Lee of Ohio and one brother, Earl (Fran) Damask of Florida; and many nieces and nephews. His wife Eunice predeceased him in 1992. Mr. Damask worked in tool and die at the Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant and retired in 1985. He served three years in the Army Engineer Corps in the Pacific during World War II. Mr. Damask was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As such he was an avid hunter and fisherman. His daughter Bonnie said he never missed a deer season. He was active in the Boy Scouts with his son David. During his retirement years he was also active with both the Elks and the VFW in Plymouth, Michigan. Mr. Damask was cremated and will be interred with his wife at Parkland Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Michigan. His daughter Bonnie is planning to hold a memorial service in Michigan this summer. Arrangements were made by Resurrection Funeral Home, Clinton Township, MI.

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

**Deadlines:**  
Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday Noon for Thursday  
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to: oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232

For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-618-7653 ask for Char or Liz

CF0842979

## Low vision aids Equipment assists visually impaired

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Four out of five days of the week, Nancy Simmons is on the road showing visually impaired people how the equipment sold in her Livonia store changes lives. Born with hereditary retinitis pigmentosa, Simmons was legally blind by age 15 so she understands the importance of low vision equipment such as video magnifiers for those with macular degeneration, inoperable cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and other conditions that impair sight.

The term low vision means that even with glasses a person can not see well enough to perform daily activities like reading or driving. Simmons was able to use video or electronic magnifiers as an aid for 25 years until she could no longer see.

"I started investigating the equipment when I got into the workforce," said Simmons, who earned a degree in social work from Central Michigan University before working for a private agency in Detroit. By then she needed the electronic equipment which came out in 1971. "I was finding it impossible to get any information. It was frustrating. I was hugging this machine when I found out there was equipment out there."

### LIFE'S WORK

From that day, Simmons wanted to make the electronic magnifiers accessible to all visually impaired people so in 1987 she bought a car, hired a driver and began demonstrating and installing the equipment throughout Michigan. In 1997, she and husband Sal Falsette opened Low Vision Solutions in Livonia after working out of their Redford home. In addition to electronic magnifiers, the store offers handheld magnifiers; talking clocks, key chains, wrist watches, blood pressure monitors, and color identifiers for matching clothes; kitchen and personal care aids, and big print items including calendars, check and deposit registers, and bingo cards. Prices range from \$3 for magnifying glass to \$3,000 for a video or electronic magnifier.

"We have customers from elementary age to 100 plus, visually impaired accountants, teachers and lawyers who couldn't go on working," said Simmons.

Standing in front of the latest technology,

store manager Kristina Smith shows how easy it is to operate the electronic magnifiers available from manufacturers such as Humanware, Optelec and Enhanced Vision.

"The screen moves, tilts and you can make the screen brighter or darker," said Smith. "You can put pill bottles under the machine to read them."

The closed circuit television technology of the video magnifier allows Jack Finneren not only to read his prescription on the machine, but newspapers, household bills and directions on food labels. The 84-year-old Farmington Hills man has been legally blind for about five years due to macular degeneration, a disease that progressively shrinks vision. His independence would be severely limited if not for the electronic magnifier and Gerry, his wife of more than 60 years. He also attends a low vision support group in the Farmington Senior Center at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month to share and learn tips for living with his impairment.

"I had a couple of times in the past where the equipment needed repair or adjustment and when I was without it it was very tough," said Jack Finneren. "Today in the grocery stores there's a lot of good meals you can heat. I put the directions on how to cook the food on the machine then make my own file for next time."

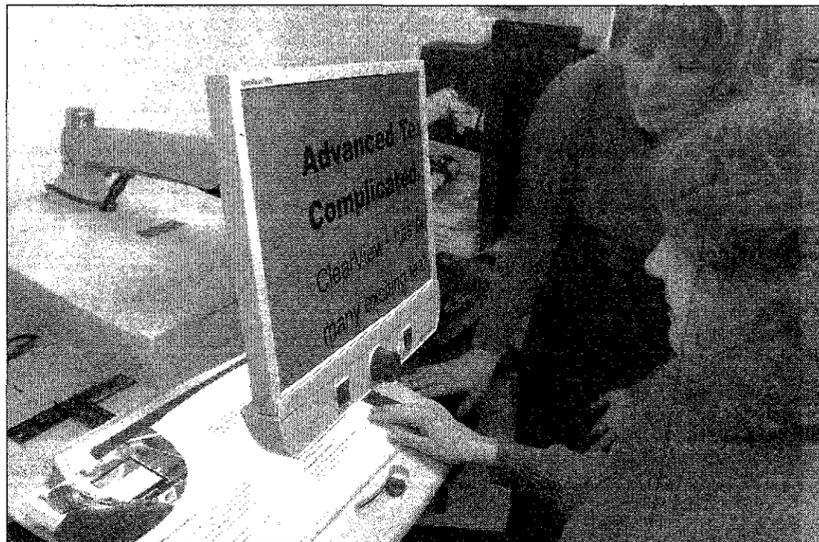
### TECHNOLOGY CHANGES

Like Simmons, Kathy Gargagliano carries an entire line of low vision and blindness products at the Able Zone's Magnifiers and More Store in Troy. Before opening nearly six years ago, Gargagliano produced adaptive software and talking hardware for the blind. She suffers from age-related diminished vision and works on a large print keyboard at the store.

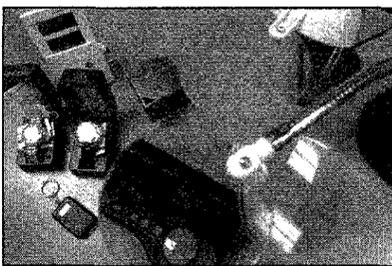
"With computer technology changing so rapidly that has impacted the video magnifiers," said Gargagliano. "We now have very good cameras that pick up the image and port it over to TVs, LCD computer monitors. But before they make a purchase, we do recommend clients see a physician if they haven't."

Simmons and Gargagliano both work with low vision physicians throughout the state who help patients enhance their vision with devices, optics such as telescopic and microscopic glasses, and lighting.

Dr. Carol Marston-Foucher of Marston Optometrics frequently refers patients to Low



Kristina Smith, top, goes over an enlarging machine with Nancy Simmons in Simmons' Livonia store, Low Vision Solutions, which carries aids for the visually impaired.



Low Vision Solutions in Livonia carries a wide variety of aids for the visually impaired including talking thermometers, talking watches, talking clocks, talking keychains, and Big Eye lights equipped with magnifiers.

Vision Solutions. A Livonia optometrist, Marston-Foucher is one of about 29 certified low vision providers in the state.

"Most of the patients have a physical condition or disease that prevents them from seeing normally with glasses," said Marston-Foucher. "We refer patients for electronic magnifiers and for those who physically can't hold print up close if they have a tremor. They can set it down on the table and work. Many people will tell you they couldn't live on their own without the electronic magnifiers. It makes a huge difference in quality of life and independence."

### COSTS A FACTOR

When Marston-Foucher became an optometrist in 1980, electronic magnifiers were costly and basic. Today, voice synthesis for computers, Zoomtext software, and lighter and thinner lenses or optics help visually impaired person maintain independence.

"Awareness has changed," said Marston-Foucher. "Specialists who dealt with the condition would say nothing more can be done to treat you. Now even if we can't treat it, there is help for you."

"Premature infants have a much higher survival rate now but many of them have vision problems. We work with the school systems in western Wayne County so they understand the impairments and have access to what they need."

For more information and a list of low vision providers, visit [www.themoa.org](http://www.themoa.org) or call the Michigan Optometric Association at (517) 482-0616.

Low Vision Solutions, is at 27520 W. Seven Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. Call (248) 777-1100, toll free at (877) 277-1127, or visit [www.lvsontheweb.com](http://www.lvsontheweb.com).

Able Zone's Magnifiers and More Store is at 3456 Rochester Road, north of Big Beaver between 16 Mile and 17 Mile, Troy. Call (866) 663-2253 toll free.

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## Technology Blizzard offers latest assistive equipment

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Julie Burger is excited about showing off the latest assistive equipment for the visually and learning impaired at the Technology Blizzard 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh, north of Five Mile, Livonia. A teacher for the visually impaired in Livonia Public Schools, Burger is always looking for new equipment to help students learn. Vendors from across the U.S. will offer a variety of products at the free event which has been held every two years since 1999. Keynote speaker Jay Stiteley of the Seeing Eye Dog School in New Jersey talks about how technology has led to his success. For more information, call (734) 744-2525, ext. 72292.

"We'll have some of the more exciting stuff like the Braille Notes, an electronic Braille that's like a computer," said Julie Burger. "It opens many doors, allows access to the Internet. It's like a laptop. For school it's fabulous because you can take it from class to class."

"Closed Circuit TVs will read the print to you as well as enlarge it on the screen and have a camera to zoom it on the chalk board. The Mimio Board suction cups to a black board and can show up on a computer screen if a student

has problem taking notes. The Audio Graphing Calculator is done on the computer. It puts the graph into an audio form and embosses it into a tactile form. Before this there wasn't anything out there for graphs."

It took Gary Gaynor nearly 10 years to find low vision equipment after he became legally blind in 1976. The Livonia man was working as an accountant when he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa. Today, Zoomtext software allows him to use the computer when updating the Visually Impaired Information Center directory he co-founded with Kathy Fleissner in 1995. Optical Illusions Blind Ski Club is one of 900 different resources in the 88 page directory with listings for books, magazines and libraries, computers and electronic equipment, low vision physicians, recreation and support groups, Braille transcribing and repair, camps, cultural and performing arts, education, government agencies, guide dog schools, and toys and adaptive teaching aids, travel and tourism.

For information, call (734) 421-6599 or visit [www.viic.org](http://www.viic.org). "My life would be terrible without the equipment," said Gary Gaynor. "I live alone so it helps me to be more independent."

## Decaf may still have a kick



Connie from Waterford says that she has been cutting back on her caffeine and has been drinking decaf coffee. A friend told her that there is still caffeine in decaf. She wants to know if this is true.

### Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Connie, your friend is right, there is still caffeine in decaf coffee, and you might be surprised how much! Researchers at the University of Florida went around to several popular coffee shops and tested the caffeine content in their decaf coffee. What they found was very surprising. The decaf coffee had anywhere between 8.6 milligrams to 13.9 milligrams of caffeine in a 16 ounce serving. A regular cup of coffee has about 170 milligrams of caffeine.

So what's the big deal? This is a very big deal for people who shouldn't have caffeine, such as pregnant women or people

with certain medical conditions. And think about this: two cups of decaf coffee could equal the same amount of caffeine in a cola drink!

Darcy from Clarkston emails saying she's been experiencing shortness of breath. At first it was only every now and then. Now it seems to be happening more often. What could this be?

Darcy, stop what you are doing right now and call your doctor to set up an appointment! Most of us at some time or another have had shortness of breath, but when it is happening often, like it is for Darcy, it could mean something serious is going on. Researchers found people who complained of shortness of breath were at an increased risk of death from a heart attack. So if you've been suffering with repeated episodes of shortness of breath, it is important to have your doctor check you out!

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Website [www.peternielsen.com](http://www.peternielsen.com). Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### FEBRUARY

#### CHADD meeting

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder support groups offer presentations for parents and another for adults 7:30-9 p.m. (registration begins at 7 p.m.) Monday, Feb. 5, at Way Elementary School, 765 W Long Lake Road, east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Free for members, \$5 donation per non member family with option to join on site. For information, call (248) 988-6716. Parent session will be on Thinking Straight about AD/HD and Mood Disorders with psychologist Steve Ceresnie, PhD. Adult presentation features a testimonial by Gregg Siubowski on Substance Abuse, Confusion and Self-Sabotaging Behaviors.

#### Hospice volunteer training

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. In as little as two to four hours per week, volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family members, or provide office support. A free 15-hour comprehensive training program is provided. The next training session is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday,

Feb. 10, 17 and 24. All training takes place at the VNA of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600, Oak Park. For information or to register, call (800) 882-5720, ext. 8361, or visit [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org).

#### Blood drive

American Red Cross holds a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, in the Parish Hall at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins welcome. Call (734) 464-1222.

#### Feldenkrais class

Are you experiencing back or neck pain? Would you like to be more flexible? Michele Schoel, physical therapist, gives a free Feldenkrais class 6-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Astarte Yoga Studio, 21894 Farmington Road, one block south of Nine Mile. Registration required, call (248) 427-0550. Bring a blanket or mat to lie on and three bath towels to use as supports. If you are unable to lie on the floor please let us know when you register. Following the intro class there will be a six week series starting 6-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18. Cost is \$55 for series, \$10 prepaid per class, or \$11 per class on a walk-in basis. For more information on Feldenkrais visit [www.feldenkrais.com/method](http://www.feldenkrais.com/method) or call Schoel at (248) 752-0661.

## Sciatica?

**Suburban Detroit** - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midischerniation.com](http://www.midischerniation.com)

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### Arthritis Today

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Phone: (248) 478-7860



### RHEUMATOID NODULES

Rheumatoid nodules are firm round masses of tissue the size of a pea or marble present in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The nodules may be single or in clusters; in the majority of patients nodules are present in the fingers, particularly the thumbs, the elbows, and in the bottom of the feet.

Rheumatoid nodules occur as a result of the occlusion of a small blood vessel because of rheumatoid associated inflammation plus the irritation of the surrounding tissue from repeated pressure. For this reason the favorite sites of rheumatoid nodules are the fingers, elbows and the bottom of the feet. In addition, because of the effect of shoes on feet, the Achilles tendon and the sides of the feet are at risk for nodules.

The rheumatoid nodule serves as a marker for indicating that the arthritis is active and aggressive. If you have nodules, your doctor will likely place you on two or more disease modifying medications, and see you on a frequent basis until he is satisfied you are not developing new nodules.

Note that I mentioned above that the "majority" of nodules were at areas where arthritis and repeated pressure occur. Rheumatoid nodules can appear in other locations. The most troublesome site is the lung. The appearance of a rheumatoid nodule simulates what the beginning of a lung cancer looks like. Even with the best technology available, there are times when the doctor needs a lung biopsy to distinguish a harmless nodule from a dangerous cancer.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT'S E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 No, I do not want to receive advance notice or special offers for shows coming to my area.

**FEB. 28 -  
MAR. 4**



Mail entries to: *Disney On Ice Contest*  
c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
36251 Schoolcraft Road  
Livonia, MI 48150

[ticketmaster](http://www.ticketmaster.com) (248) 645-6666

[www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com)

# Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 734-953-2078

**5000-5980**

**Entertainment**

Help Wanted-General 5000

**2007 EXPANSION**

\$15-base/apt. Sales/service, no telemarketing, no exp. needed, conditions exist. Must be 18+. Apply Now! Positions filling fast!!! (248) 426-4405

**ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST**

The Rehmann Group offers an exceptional environment for career challenge & satisfaction. We are seeking an experienced Bookkeeper to join our Farmington Hills team. Our ideal candidate will bring 2 years of career experience demonstrating strong people skills and knowledge of the accounting and payroll functions. Must have a solid understanding of payroll & sales taxes and proficiency in QuickBooks. QuickBooks certification, training and setup exp. a Plus. MS word and Excel skills req'd. Please reply: THE REHMAN GROUP, #A367, 4085 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, MI 48911 Fax 517-316-2401 www.rehmann.com

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/SECRETARY**

Excellent opportunity available in our busy Birmingham area. Residential Builder and Property Management Firm. Experience in the construction field with computerized accounts payable and job costing desired. Please send resumes to: Box 1484, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

**APPOINTMENT SETTER**

Ideal for anyone who cannot get out to work. Work part-time from your home. Scheduling pick-ups for Purple Heart call 9-5PM. Mon-Fri. 734-728-4572

**APPRENTICE GRANITE FABRICATOR**

Are you a precise and process-oriented, self-determined individual who take pride in crafting high-quality products the first time around? Are quality and procedure important to you? Great Lakes Granite & Marble is looking for Apprentice Fabricators to train & join our 1st & 2nd shift. Please email resume [11pa@boomstone.com](mailto:11pa@boomstone.com) or fax to 313-531-1797

**ASSISTANT SERVICE MANAGER**

National leader in apartment management has a career opportunity for an Asst Service Mgr. at Woodbridge Pond Apts. in Westland. Min 2 yrs general mgt exp req'd (incl. G.D. & T., plumbing, electric, appliance & pool). CPO pref. Fax resume to: Attn: WBP-7055 at 734-425-9005 or email [woodbridgepond@ced-concord.com](mailto:woodbridgepond@ced-concord.com)

**BUILDING MONITOR**

In public library. Background in security and handyman skills preferred. PT evenings and weekends. \$11.81-\$14.77 depending on exp. Vacation, sick leave. Full job description at [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

**CANTON TOWNSHIP JOB FAIR**

The Charter Township of Canton is hosting a JOB FAIR on Friday, February 9th 4:00-7:00 pm and Saturday, February 10th 9:30-12:00 pm at Summit on the Park Banquet and Conference Center, 46000 Sunbelt Parkway, Canton, MI 48109. Canton Township is hiring for several part-time/seasonal positions. Come prepared to complete an employment application. Job descriptions, with complete qualifications are available on the Canton Township website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) or may be viewed at the Canton Township Human Resources Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188. APPLICANT MAY BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR HIS/HER DRIVING RECORD, AT OWN EXPENSE, THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**City of Livonia Crossing Guard**

The City of Livonia Police Department has immediate openings for School Crossing Guards. Pay rate is \$9.00 per hr. Please submit application to: City of Livonia-Civil Service Department 3rd floor, City Hall 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 466-2530 No resumes in lieu of application. M/F/H - An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Help Wanted-General 5000**

**CNC LATHE**

Machine Shop in Westland. Must be able to set up and program CNC Lathes with Fanuc controls. Knowledge of C Axis live tooling & Mastercam helpful. The person for this position must be a self-starter, highly motivated, work well with others and on their own. Only experienced need apply. This is a day shift position. Competitive pay based on exp. Overtime, 11 paid holidays, good benefits. Email: [info@robmar.com](mailto:info@robmar.com) Fax: (734) 326-2506 No phone calls.

**CNC MACHINE OPERATOR**

To run water jet cutting systems. Competitive wages & benefits. Please send resume: Water Jet, PO Box 300798 Waterford, MI 48330

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH LIAISON**

AdvancePath Academy, a dropout/credit recovery program for grades 9-12 in Ecorse, is seeking a part-time community outreach liaison to serve as the key connection between the Academy, students' homes, and the community. The liaison will encourage parental involvement, develop community resource services, assist with the Academy attendance, and recruit out-of-school youth to enroll into the Academy.

Interested candidates should contact the academy or submit a resume and cover letter by February 8th to: Harris Ferrell c/o Ms. Yolanda Joiner Ecorse-Advance Path Academy 27225 West Outer Drive Ecorse, MI 48229 Office: 313-559-1793 Fax: 313-294-4793 [joineryoyo@gmail.com](mailto:joineryoyo@gmail.com)

**COMPARISON** for retirement home in Livonia. Night shift, 11pm-7am, part-time. 14265 Middlebelt. No phone callist

**COURTESY OFFICER** (Southfield), wanted for 3rd shift duty, 2+ yrs. experience mandatory. Please fax resumes to 248-356-6858

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Canton storage facility Excellent communication and computer skills required. Part/full time. Fax resume 734-459-5755

**Customer Service Rep**

Needed for Troy based company. Applicant must be well organized & able to handle high volume workload. For interviews call: (248) 588-8683 x237

**DATA ENTRY/CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Strong computer, customer service & phone skills req'd. Microsoft Word, Excel, database experience a plus. Medical benefits avail for FT. Starting at \$8 p/hr. Fax 248-479-0575 or email: [pat@v-tech.org](mailto:pat@v-tech.org)

**DELIVERY/SALES**

\$775-\$1050/WK. 6 needed. Company vehicle. Training. Sales required. (248) 471-5200

**DIETARY AIDES**

Part-Time to Full-Time for assisted care facility in Livonia. Must work some weekends. Fax resume: 734-425-1083

**FORM GRINDER**

Precision Tool & Die manufacturer seeks an experienced Form Grinder. Competitive wages, excellent benefits and overtime for qualified applicants. Online applications accepted via email at: [form\\_grind@msn.com](mailto:form_grind@msn.com) or fax to: (734) 453-9924

**GROCERY EXP'D**

In ordering grocery & beverage. Plum Hollow Market. Corner of 9 Mile & Lahser.

**GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTORS**

For pre-school & recreational program. Exp. preferred. Competitive wages & benefits. Contact director at 248-735-8850 ext 3106.

**Hair Salon in Westland**

Looking to keep more of your income in your pocket? We are looking for professionals with clientele to start immediately. Hair Stylist, Nail Tech, Massage Therapist. Call for more details: 248-299-5640

**HAIR STYLIST**

Unisex shoppe. 75% 5 days to replace a former employee. Call 313-608-1969

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS**

\$15 base/apt. Customer sales/service, no experience necessary. Conditions exist. Apply Now! (248) 426-4405

**INSTRUCTORS**

The Frankel Jewish Academy We are now accepting applications for:

- English Instructors
- Social Studies Instructors
- History/government Instructors
- Math Instructors
- Hebrew Instructors
- Judic Studies Instructors
- AP Instructors
- College Guidance Counselor

**MASTERS DEGREE** (or it's equivalent) is required. Fax resume to 248-661-4324 or email [employment@jamd.org](mailto:employment@jamd.org) The Frankel Jewish Academy is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**DRIVER/SECRETARY**

Must have good computer skills & a good driving record for a small office in Novi. Contact Gordon: (248) 348-7774

**Help Wanted-General 5000**

**DRIVERS, CDL A & B**

For local deliveries. Paid medical & dental. Call 7am-5pm. 734-722-9586

**DRIVERS - CLASS A**

ClearPoint Resources. 2 yrs. exp. Med Card. Clean MVR & Background. FAST Cert Preferred! Local & Regional Runs. All Shifts Available. (877) 277.2750

**Electrical Technician/Programmer**

This is a hands on position. Allen Bradley PLC programming required. Must be capable of troubleshooting machine control systems. Ability to read & understand electrical Schematics. Exp. in panel & machine tool wiring. Good understanding of industrial electrical engineering principles-sensors, drives, motor Understanding of AutoCad preferred. Periodic travel required. Mail: Attn: H.R. 41575 Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170 Fax resume: (734) 453-5041

**ENGINEERING RECRUITMENT SECTION**

- Software Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Product Engineer
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Test Engineer
- Network Engineer
- Sr. System Engineer
- Sales Engineer
- Or any Engineering Position!

You can place your ad in this specialized section for only \$50/inch (three inch min.). The Observer & Eccentric's Engineering Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, February 25th, 2007. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Monday, February 19th at 5pm.

Contact one of our Representatives for more information, or to reserve your space today!

**1-800-579-7355** [careers@hometownlife.com](http://careers@hometownlife.com)

**ENTRY LEVEL ACCOUNTING**

Local Canton based co. seeking an entry level accountant with a Bachelors degree. For immediate consideration please apply at [www.ademployment.com](http://www.ademployment.com)

**EXPEDITER**

Precision tool manufacturer has an opening for an Expediter. A good work ethic, along with the ability to communicate with our customers, a current resume and a smile! Fax resume: 734-721-9806 EEOE-Drug Free Workplace

**Customer Service Rep**

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**REAL-ESTATE at it's best!**

**Help Wanted-General 5000**

**Inventory Control**

Precision tool manufacturer has an opening for a detail-oriented, enthusiastic individual to assist with inventory movement. A good work ethic, along with the ability to communicate with our customers & customer service department, a must! Computer skills such as, Microsoft Word, and Excel also helpful! We offer a State-of-the-art manufacturing facility, competitive salary and full benefits package.

**MARKETING: A good job is hard to find.** (You just found it!) Michigan's fast growing sports marketing firm is looking to fill 10 positions. Paid training with exp. in promotional marketing, sales, PR & entry level management. NO exp. necessary. Call Julie: (734) 432-5101

**MARKETING ASSISTANT**

We are looking for a qualified person to work in nice surroundings with terrific people. This person would need to be flexible, as hours may vary, and days will include some week end work. Experience preferred but would consider training right person Hourly plus commission. Full time/Part Time Applications and/or resumes: Village of Westland 32001 Cherry Hill Westland, MI 48186 email: [roberts@pvm.org](mailto:roberts@pvm.org) Fax: 734-782-8925 Phone Nancy at 734-782-8956.

**Mechanically Inclined**

Person needed part-time to service electric power tools. Exp. helpful but not necessary. Fax resume to: (248) 476-1090

**City of Farmington Department of Public Services**

Accepting applications for a custodial position in the Public Works Division. Wage: \$14.14 per hour, plus benefits. High school diploma or GED, and two years experience in commercial custodial maintenance. Must be experienced in commercial floor power equipment, commercial carpet cleaning equipment and all other aspects of commercial custodial equipment. Must be capable of working unsupervised days, afternoons or midnights. Must possess and maintain a valid Michigan Driver's License. Must be able to work nights and weekends. Applications available from Department of Public Services, 33720 W. Nine Mile, Farmington, MI 48335. Completed applications must be received in the Public Services Department by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 07, 2007. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Circulation Supervisor**

Full-Time (36 hrs/wk) Includes evening/weekend hrs. Full benefits. Associates Degree; 2 yrs. library experience, supervisor experience, computer literate; strong interpersonal skills. See [http://www.wblio.org/aboutus/library\\_jobs.html](http://www.wblio.org/aboutus/library_jobs.html) for more info on responsibilities, qualifications & other details. Application, resume & references to: Director West Bloomfield Public Library 4600 Walnut Lake Road W. Bloomfield, MI 48323 by 02-26-07

**LOCKSMITH TECHNICIAN**

Permanent full time road service position. Commercial & Residential. Installs. Fax resume with salary req. to: 313-342-7580.

**MACHINE OPERATOR/ASSISTANT**

Livonia Co is seeking an experienced Machine Operator/Asst. Must have previous manufacturing experience. Advance Tech Services 734-457-0056 [www.advantetps.com](http://www.advantetps.com)

**Machinist/Field Installation**

Must be skilled in Bridgeport, Lathe. Position includes Machining, Machine Building, Fab, some Welding, Field Installation & Service Travel Required. Pkg. Field background a plus. Mail: Attn: H.R. 41575 Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170 Fax resume: (734) 453-5041

**MAINTENANCE**

Manufactured home community in Novi needs a FT maintenance person. Maint. exp. necessary. Snow plowing req. Valid drivers license essential. Fax resume 248-474-8630

**MANAGER**

For dry cleaner in Northville. Good pay & benefits. (248) 207-9717

**REAL-ESTATE at it's best!**

**Aerostar Manufacturing**

Production CNC Machining in Romulus, MI

**ACCOUNTING**

Accounting professional reporting to corporate controller. G/L & related entries, closing, budgeting, payroll, & other office support activities related to HR & administration Accounting degree preferred with 2 yrs. of experience. ENGINEER/ESTIMATOR 5 yrs. exp. preferred. Software knowledge of Micro Estimating, Excel, and AutoCAD desired. CNC PROGRAMMER & SET-UP Programmer for CNC mills and lathes. Minimum 10 yrs exp with Fanuc controls and G&M programming. Current openings on all shifts. Aerostar offers an attractive wage & benefits package. Email Cathy at: [cathy@aerostar.com](mailto:cathy@aerostar.com) or fax: (734) 942-1947

**PROGRAMMER ANALYSIS**

Needed in Troy MI. Send resumes to Mrs. Marcia Killian, at Lason, Inc., 1305 Stevenson Hwy Troy MI 48063 Ref #984

**PURCHASING**

Entry-Level position for manufacturer. Seeking degreed candidates, preferably in operations or material logistics, but will consider other degrees. Good opportunity with a solid company. Fax resume: 248-478-1189

**Help Wanted-General 5000**

**QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICIANS**

Growing company in Plymouth has a need for Quality Control Technicians. Responsibilities include: cleaning and sanitizing tanks, filters, and filling of tanks. Qualified candidates will have 2 years of college biology or chemistry, or 1 year QC experience in the food/beverage industry, or allied field. Additional weekends & overtime will be required as needed to support the needs of the business. We offer competitive benefits package. Submit resumes to: Attn: QC #1 e-mail: [jmcraemer@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcraemer@hotmail.com) Obscure Water Co. E.O.E.

**RECEPTIONIST in Southfield**

30 hrs. a week, duties include administration and data entry. A positive personality, good voice and general office skills get you a flexible schedule and paid time off. Send resume to: [hr@mcDonalds.com](mailto:hr@mcDonalds.com) or fax: 248-356-5021

**RECEPTIONIST/ERRAND RUNNER**

Professional business firm seeks front desk receptionist/errand runner for long term position. Duties include answering phones, filing, typing and outside office errands. Hours 7:30-4:30 but overtime expected when necessary. Fax resume to 248-553-5840

**SECRETARIAL/CLERICAL**

Southfield Plaintiff Law Office. Must be professional, articulate, organized, team player. Knowledge of Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, Excel and Access is desirable. Fax resume to Sharon (248) 552-8575

**SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Busy office has an excellent opportunity for the right, self-motivated individual. Must have a minimum typing speed of 80 wpm and be able to work independently. PLEASE FAX SALARY REQUIREMENTS, along with resume, to 248-598-3321 attn. Susan

**SECRETARY/DRIVER**

Must have good computer skills & a good driving record for a small office in Novi. Contact Gordon: (248) 348-7774

**SNOW PLOWING**

Plow drivers \$15-25/hr Sidewalks \$10-18/hr 4 Wheeler w/plow \$30-45/hr Subs w/plow \$55-70/hr (313) 582-9051 Fax: (313) 582-9084 [greenerside.com](http://greenerside.com)

**OFFICE ASSISTANT HVAC**

company seeks energetic person w/ Data Entry and good communication skills. Duties include handling customers, invoicing, answering phones, and general office duties. Fax resume w/ salary requirements, 734-425-1422.

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Part time position HELPING HAND Fax resume to: 248-457-0112 [helpinghand@healthcare.com](mailto:helpinghand@healthcare.com)

**PARTS DEPARTMENT**

Position open in fast growing company based in generator co. EXPERIENCE MANDATORY. Apply now, be a part of this exciting standby power industry. Market wages & full benefit package. Fax resume to: (248) 624-7410 [www.GenPowerProducts.com](http://www.GenPowerProducts.com)

**Production Bakery**

LaJoy Group is seeking qualified candidates to join their great team. Career w/great pay Medical, Dental, 401 (k) Schedule flexibility is required Located in Plymouth Please call: 734-453-1115 or email: [kjameson@lajoygroup.com](mailto:kjameson@lajoygroup.com) EOE

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

A Troy, MI based manufacturer of Aerospace parts is in search of a manager for the production area. This individual must be familiar with aerospace requirements, be able to read blueprints and understand G & T. A college degree, solid communication and leadership skills along with the ability to work in a team environment are also required. Daily requirements include scheduling, interaction with manufacturing personnel, process improvement and overseeing subcontractors and maintenance/machine repair. We offer competitive wages with good benefits in a clean A/C facility. Please send resume to: Human Resources Dept. PO BOX 656 Troy, MI 48099 or email: [info@trutron.com](mailto:info@trutron.com)

**PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS**

Due to growth our manufacturing facility in Plymouth is recruiting for Production Technicians. Qualified candidates will have at least two years experience in a manufacturing environment. Electrical and Mechanical experience required. Technical degree or certification a plus. This position will require you to do minor machine repairs and adjustments. Overtime will be required to support the needs of the business. We offer a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, 401K with company match and more! Send resume to: Attn: PT #14, email: [jmcraemer@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcraemer@hotmail.com) Obscure Water Co. E.O.E.

**BOOKKEEPER**

Industrial distributor in Redford seeks Exp. Bookkeeper with A/R, A/P, Payroll & other administrative responsibilities. Fax resume: 734-459-1701

**BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY**

General office. QuickBooks, Accounting, receivables, payables. Property Management. Southfield. (248) 352-2550

**EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Career opportunity that offers advancement within a fast paced growing company. Ideal candidate should possess a minimum of 4 yrs. Accounting experience plus ADVANCED Microsoft Office skills. Candidate should have creative marketing skills and the ability to multi-task. We offer a state of the art progressive environment, a competitive salary and full benefits package. Send resume to: Box 1478 Observer & Eccentric 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 [careers@hometownlife.com](mailto:careers@hometownlife.com) (Code 1478) EOE

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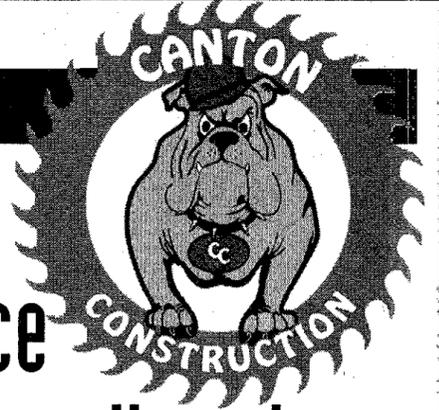
A Troy, MI based manufacturer of Aerospace parts is in search of a manager for the production area. This individual must be familiar with aerospace requirements, be able to read blueprints and understand G & T. A college degree, solid communication and leadership skills along with the ability to work in a team environment are also required. Daily requirements include scheduling, interaction with manufacturing personnel, process improvement and overseeing subcontractors and maintenance/machine repair. We offer competitive wages with good benefits in a clean A/C facility. Please send resume to: Human Resources Dept. PO BOX 656 Troy, MI 48099 or email: [info@trutron.com](mailto:info@trutron.com)

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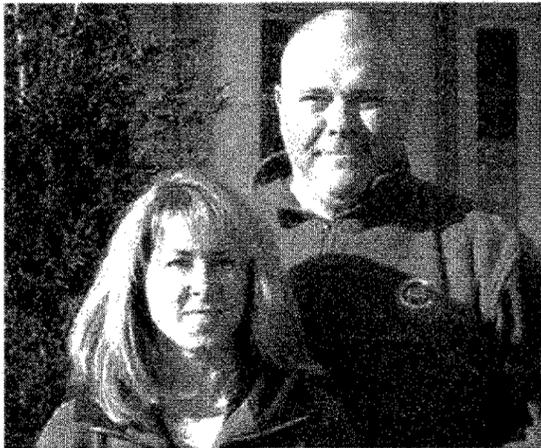
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# One Resource for All Your Residential and Commercial Maintenance and Construction Needs—Right Here In Your Hometown



We are Marissa and John Sarnecky, President and Vice President of Canton Construction. Canton is our hometown where we live, work and play with our three children, and proudly sponsor a wide range of community youth activities.

In 1995, we took over a small, fledgling commercial construction company. Today, Canton Construction is a thriving residential/commercial general contracting business that is well-respected in the community as much for our integrity as for the quality of our work.

Doing business fairly and honestly has earned us excellent, long-term relationships with municipalities, businesses and residents in Southeast Michigan. The Canton Construction team is ready to help in any way you need.

## Heating & Cooling Is One of Our Specialties

Canton Construction is a licensed mechanical contractor and an American Standard heating and air conditioning dealer. Our heating and cooling professionals are experienced and highly trained to provide quality installations and service.

## For Home and Business, Inside and Out—We Do It All!

For a growing number of homeowners and businesses, Canton Construction is the single source for a wide range of structural needs. We'll tackle almost any job—just ask us! Most importantly, we'll stand behind our work after the job is done.

Here is just a sample of our services:

## Fast, Convenient Construction Site Cleanup



For commercial and residential customers alike, our Reliable Removal dumpsters make quick work of construction site cleanup. Call about our affordable rates.

### Interior

Drywall  
Electrical  
Flooring  
Framing-rough/finish  
Granite  
HVAC  
Plumbing

### Exterior

Asphalt  
Concrete  
Gutters  
Railing systems  
Roofing  
Siding  
Sprinkler systems

### Remodeling & New Construction

Kitchens  
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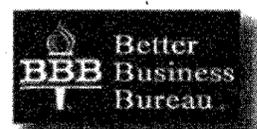
With our new Accessibility & Mobility Solutions division, we can now offer homeowners and businesses custom design, modification and remodeling services.

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**CLASS REUNIONS**

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

**REUNIONS**

**Berkley High School Class of 1987**

A 20-year reunion is planned for Nov. 24, 2007. Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987. Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734)422-0087 or e-mail info to kimsiasophia@gmail.com. Reunion website is www.BHSreunion1987.com for further information and details.

**Bishop Borgess Class of 1987**

A 20-year reunion, Sept. 15, 2007, at the Livonia Marriott. Contact borgess87@hotmail.com for more information.

**Dearborn Fordson Class of 1977**

A 30-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox.net with your current address and phone number.

**Dearborn Edsel Ford Class of 1967**

A 40-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, approximately \$35. For information, call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336-0192 or e-mail efhs67@yahoo.com

**Detroit Chadsey Class of 1957**

A 50th Reunion is being planned for the summer of 2007. Looking for January, June and Summer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989) 366-

9288. **Detroit Cody Class of 1957**  
A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites, Livonia is Oct. 5, 2007. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, CD, champagne toast and much more. This invitation is to all 50s' graduates. Deadline is June 25. Call 800-859-9502 or email lorel@wideopenwest for details.

**Detroit Denby Class of 1957**  
A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 7, 8, and 9, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron. Seeking lost graduates, January/June classes. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please email maroonfowl@aol.com or call (248) 642-0249.

**Detroit Henry Ford Class of 1967**  
A 40th reunion will be held 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia. Seeking January, June and summer graduates from 1967. For information, call Ellen (Nelhoff) VanderRoest at (248)684-7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast.net.

**Detroit Holy Redeemer Class of 1957**  
A 50-year reunion, Oct. 12, 2007, at O'Kelley KofC Council, Dearborn. In interested in attending or know the whereabouts of former classmates, contact John Duff at oliverlynn@aol.com or phone (734)261-3346.

**Detroit Mackenzie Class of 1957**  
Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct. 19, 2007. Call Eleanor at (734)425-8278.

**Detroit Western Class of 1962**  
A 45-year reunion will be held in September 2007. Seeking information on classmates from that year. All other classes welcome. Contact Judy Hull Rakowski at (734) 459-3832 or Judy Spiro Scranton at jiscranton@yahoo.com

**WEDDINGS**



**McCloud-Reed**  
Melanie Joy Reed and Mark Thomas McCloud were married Oct. 28, 2006, in a beachside ceremony on the lawn of Boca Bay Pass Club, Boca Grande, FL. The Rev. Wendy Shullenbarger, Chaplain of Venice Regional Hospital, officiated at the 4:30 p.m. ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Sharon Reed of Kingsport, Tenn., and the granddaughter of the late William and Maggie Reed, and the late Kyle Lee and Pauline Williams. The bridegroom is the son of Frank and Janet McCloud of Rotonda West, FL, formally of Garden City, Mich., and the grandson of Howard Wathen and the late Hyla Wathen, and the late George and Janet McCloud.

Amanda Junot, friend of the bride, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Heather Lanning, Cori Bray and Wendy Weaver, all friends of the bride. Rick Lang III, friend of the bridegroom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Erik McCloud, brother of the bridegroom; Jason McCloud, cousin of the bridegroom; and Justin Jones, cousin of the bride. Brandon Reed, brother of the bride, was usher.

The bride graduated from Volunteer High School, received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Milligan College and is pursuing a master's degree in the nurse practitioner program at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Fla. She is employed as a registered nurse at Venice Regional Medical Center, Venice, Fla.

The bridegroom graduated from Garden City High School, received a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. He is employed as a golf professional and manager at Pro Golf of Port Charlotte, Fla.

Following a wedding week with family and friends on Florida's Gulf side and a wedding trip to Florida's southeast beaches, the couple resides in Englewood, Fla.



**Allison-Helppie**  
Grant Helppie and Kelli Allison were married June 17, 2006, at Cranbrook Art Museum with the Rev. Stephen Grafe of Cross of Christ Church officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Susan Allison of Westland and the late Kenneth Allison. She is a 1998 graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School. She received a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy in 2003 and a master's degree in 2004 from Western Michigan University. She is employed at Botsford Hospital.

The groom is the son of Richard and Leslie Helppie of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He is a 1998 graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School. He attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and Grand Valley State University. He is employed at ACS Healthcare Solutions.

The bride was attended by matron of honor Arien Weber of Westland, a friend of the bride, and bridesmaid Susie Bobrowski of Clawson, a friend of the bride. Ramsi Ginzler of Philadelphia, N.Y., a cousin of the groom, was the flower girl.

The groom was attended by best man Ryan Atkins of Corona, Calif., the groom's cousin, and groomsmen Chris Parotte of Pittsburgh, Pa., a friend of the groom. The ring bearer was Jakob Atkins of Corona, Calif., the groom's cousin.

A reception was held at the Troy Hilton. The couple honeymooned in Tahiti, Bora Bora and Moorea. They are making their home in Livonia.

**ANNIVERSARIES**



**Goudeseunes celebrate 50th anniversary**

Robert M. and Barbara (Bates) Goudeseune of Canton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan 26.

The Goudeseunes were married Jan. 26, 1957, at Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville. They have lived in Canton for 35 years.

The Goudeseunes have four children: Timothy Goudeseune of Westland, Scott (Barbara) Goudeseune of Littleton, Colo., Kimberly (David) Goethe of



Canton and Robert A. (Susan) Goudeseune of Farmington Hills.

They have seven grandchildren. Robert is retired from Sunset Excavating in Livonia. Barbara is retired from Chase Bank.

Robert belongs to the Plymouth Elks. The couple enjoy good music, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

A party was held Dec. 30, 2006, at the Plum Hollow Country Club to celebrate with family and friends.



**40th Anniversary**

Roy and Brenda Green, of Westland, celebrated 40 years of marriage on Jan. 20. The couple met at Northeastern High School in Detroit and married on Jan. 20, 1967 at Temple Baptist Church on Grand River in Detroit. They raised three daughters, Kelly (David) Dole, Stacy (Dan) Jenkins and Amy (Eric) Schilbe



Roy Green and Brenda Barnes, in 1966 on Belle Isle in Detroit, a favorite hang-out for the high school sweethearts.

and they are the proud grandparents of Abby, Megan, Mackenzie and Evan.

The couple celebrated their anniversary in Niagara Falls, where they spent their honeymoon in 1967.

Enter Today!

Here is your chance to be part of **Oh Baby! 2006** and maybe win dinner out!

**Oh Baby! 2006**

All babies born in 2006 can be published in The Observer & Eccentric on **Sunday, February 18, 2007** and all the entries will be placed in a random drawing.

Fill out the coupon below and send it in along with a photo of your baby. Be sure to include a stamped, self addressed envelope if you'd like your photo returned. **All entries must be received by February 10th, 2007.**

Two lucky entries will be picked from a random drawing for dinner gift certificates, one valued at \$100 and the other valued at \$50. The winning babies will be published again on Sunday, February 25th, 2007.

Your cost is \$25!

Send a photo, stamped, self addressed envelope and \$25 to:

Attention: Classifieds  
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**THE Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

Please Print  
Child's Name (First, Middle & Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_, 2006 Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \$25 enclosed.

Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  American Express or Discover card. (circle one)

Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (required) \_\_\_\_\_

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