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Dad wants to tell about 'the real Alex'

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Standing in front of his two-story home on Westland's north side, a somber Pete Letkemann rejected the way his 18-year-old son, Alex, has been portrayed as a vicious criminal involved in the stabbing, beheading and burning of former Westland resident Daniel G. Sorensen.

"We are chomping at the bit to get the word out about the real Alex — not this pretend Alex they're talking about," Letkemann said.

The family's desire to tell their story has been hampered by attorneys who have advised them against talking while the case is unfolding against their son and another defendant, 17-year-old Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township.

"Ask anybody who knows Alex and they will tell you that he's not like this," Pete Letkemann said.

With that, he walked into his house as an autumn breeze blew gently along this quiet, well-kept street where residents are stunned that Alex Letkemann is charged with first-degree premeditated murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse.

A neighbor who only wanted her first name, Emma, used said she can't believe the same boy who played hockey in the street and who did odd jobs for elderly

Please see **ALEX, A3**



Alexander James Letkemann

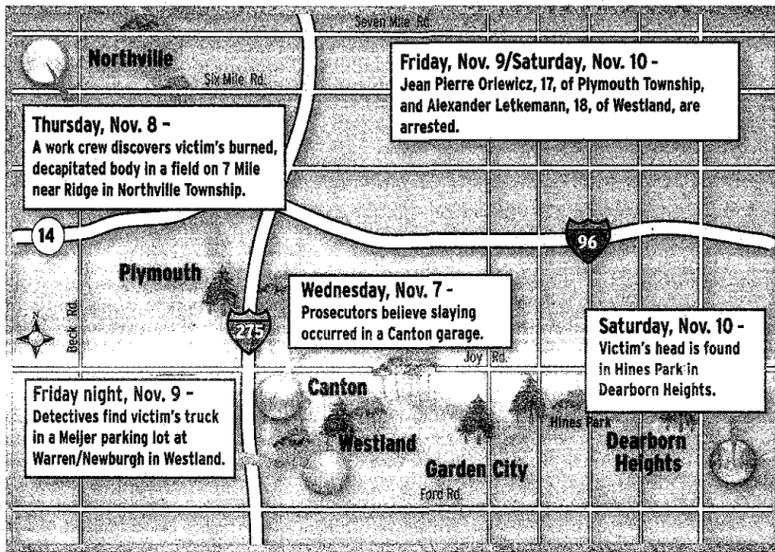


Jean Pierre Orlewicz



His parents say Daniel Sorensen, a former Westland resident killed last week, was fiercely loyal to friends and family.

'Shock of shocks'



Map shows time line in the investigation of the slaying of Daniel Sorensen.

Charges in beheading death stun neighbors

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Emotions among residents in the Plymouth Township neighborhood of accused killer Jean Pierre Orlewicz were still running the gamut among shock, fear and protectiveness days after the 17-year-old Canton High School senior was arrested in connection with the brutal murder

of a 26-year-old River Rouge man.

Neighbors watched Friday as several police cars, at least some unmarked, surrounded the family's Beacon Hill home. One neighbor, who frequently steps outside to smoke because his wife is ill, said he thought at first the family was "having a party."

It soon proved to be something far more serious.

"This was the shock of shocks," said the neighbor, who asked not to be identified. "This is the type of neighborhood where people don't come out much at night ... I'm not saying I knew (Jean Pierre Orlewicz) very well, but he always drove slowly because of kids, and he'd help his mom in the yard."

Please see **CHARGES, A3**

Victim's father: 'There was a lot of love'

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Danny Sorensen came from a very large family, despite the fact he was an only child.

That's because Sorensen, killed last week in a brutal attack police say was perpetrated by two teenagers from Plymouth Township and Westland, respectively, used the same distinction to define family and friends.

That's why, according to his dad, some 200 members of Danny's "family" were on hand to pay their respects at his funeral Tuesday.

"Danny was a funny per-

son," said James Sorensen, 51, a retail manager who lives in Westland with his wife, Kim. "He loves his friends; he'd do anything for them. The definition of friend and family was interchangeable for him. He had a lot of people who loved him."

The elder Sorensen was frank about his son. For instance, he had a record for a sexual offense when he was 18 that was initially portrayed in the media as part of the reason for his death but has since been "cleared up," according to Jim Sorensen.

The case occurred in Illinois when Danny was

18, and actually constituted a consensual relationship between him and a girl who turned out to be 14 at the time. The term "sexual predator" appeared in headlines and newscasts in the days following his death, but Jim Sorensen thinks all of that has been cleared up now.

"When this first came out, (the media) made a big issue of Danny being on the sexual offender registry, but I think they've clarified that," the elder Sorensen said Tuesday. "You heard people say, 'He was a sexual predator, he got what he deserved.' Well, that's just ignorance. By and large,

we're very pleased with how (Danny) has been portrayed. "He had some struggles, but he was a good kid."

As a youngster, James Sorensen said, Danny was "precocious." There was the time, when Jim was a college student in Utah and his young family lived in college-owned housing, when Danny would be playing in the complex's yard and would disappear.

Jim would frantically walk the grounds, calling his son's name, only to discover him in the home of another child.

Please see **SORENSEN, A3**

Glenn students round up food for Salvation Army

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Salvation Army desperately seeking bell-ringers. See story on A2

They're lightweight and portable.

They're also sold in boxes of 12, and when the top prize in a food drive is determined by the number of items donated, it's no wonder, Ramen noodles are a popular item in the John Glenn High School Student Council's annual food drive.

"We've got lots and lots of noodles," said council vice president Miesha Johnson, placing packages of the noodles on a stack that was taller than she is. "They're not heavy and they're easy to carry."

Of course, there's lots of canned fruit, vegetables, beans and soup to round out the donations that are headed for the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps.

The food drive actually is a competition among second-hour classes at the high school. Students spent last week bringing in donations. Student Council members collected and counted on Monday for pickup by the Salvation Army on Tuesday.

The counting is important because the class that brings in the most food wins a pizza or sub party. Second place is a doughnut and bagel party, while the third-place class gets candy bars, said Skye Jones, Student Council president.

On Monday afternoon, it looked as though John Retzer's class would win with more than 3,000 items turned in.

"He gives out extra credits," said Jones. "He gives out .5 credit for noodles and 1.5 for canned goods. His classes are hard — they're AP — classes and those kids need the help."

Jones expects the final count will be between 5,000 and 6,000 items and possibly enough to bet Wayne Memorial

High School which also is staging a food drive. The two high schools are competing for the bragging rights of collecting the most food.

When the two schools last did it in 2005, it was Wayne Memorial that won, although Jones and Johnson hint that the contest may have been rigged.

"They started a week earlier than we did," said Jones. "They schedule theirs after they heard when ours was. We got 3,000 last time, and they said they got 6,000."

Jones and Johnson are excited about the students' response this year. Normally, the Student Council promotes the collection during announcements, but were delayed in getting the word out until Nov. 2 because of testing.

"We're not allowed to make announcements when they're taking tests, they don't want us to disturb them," Jones said.

This food drive is just one of monthly community service projects done by the Student Council. The council does a blood drive in March and holds jar wars to help raise funds to donate to Friends of EB.

"During Christmas we plan to adopt two children," said Johnson.

"We do plan to go to a local elementary school and throw a Christmas party," added Jones. "We'll make cookies and do face painting. We try to do at least one project a month, the party is our December project."

Ten to 15 Student Council members helped collect the food Monday afternoon. Jones was grateful classrooms with large amounts of food like Amanda Laidlaw's class with 1,193 items counted for them.



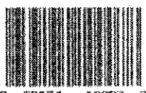
TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn junior Asra Najam (floor), sophomores Louissa Villaroman (behind) and Sidrah Nijam (right) pack carry out can food that was collected for the John Glenn High School Student Council's annual food drive.

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Coming Sunday in Health



With the holidays coming, keeping a healthy weight can be a challenge.

Westland woman found incompetent to stand trial in child abuse case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman accused of tucking her newborn baby in a trash bag and putting him in her parents' garage has been found incompetent — for now — to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, officials confirmed Monday.

Forensic experts have declared 27-year-old Valeeka Gartrell incompetent because she doesn't understand court proceedings against her and can't assist in her own defense, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

Gartrell is charged with attempted murder and first-degree child abuse amid allegations she put her baby in a trash bag after she gave birth on the morning of April 23 at her parents' house, near Joy and Hix roads on Westland's northwest side.

Relying on forensic experts, Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien has adjourned Gartrell's trial until she is determined competent — if ever — to stand trial.

Gartrell will be re-evaluated periodically to determine whether she is competent, Miller said.

Gartrell in June had waived her right to a preliminary hear-

ing, prompting Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos to order her to stand trial. If the case goes to trial and ends in a conviction, Gartrell could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

During the summer, now-retired Judge Gail McKnight had reduced Gartrell's bond from \$100,000 cash to \$50,000/10 percent after one of Gartrell's cousins offered to watch over her and give her a place to stay while the case is pending. The defendant was released after her family posted \$5,000.

Police have said that Gartrell's infant son and her 3-year-old daughter were in the care of their grandparents.

Authorities have said Gartrell woke her mother April 23 and told her that she was bleeding. Her parents, who knew she was pregnant, took her to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where doctors told them the baby already had been born, police Sgt. Chris Benson has said.

Relatives returned to the Gartrell house and heard cries coming from the garage. They found the newborn alive in a garbage bag, Benson said.

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Bowling benefit

Friends of Bridgette Mozham will hold a bowling benefit for the youngster and her family 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at Town 'N Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland. The cost is \$10 per person for three games of bowling and shoes. There also will be a raffle and 50/50 drawing. Prizes include gift cards and gift certificates, and autographed Detroit Red Wings hockey puck and skateboard from DC Skateboard. Register at the door.

A fifth-grader at Madison Elementary School, the youngster was injured when she and her cousin were hit by a motorist while they were crossing Cherry Hill Oct. 18. She is now out of the hospital and recovering at home.

For more information or to make a donation, call Madison School at (734) 419-2710.

Free dinner

Rocky's Family Diner, 1622 S. Wayne north of Palmer, is offering a free Thanksgiving

dinner to families in need 3-6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21, owner Rocky Gjoka said. The meal will include a free turkey dinner, coffee and dessert. For more information call (734) 727-0640.

Praise and worship

The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour in Westland will feature The Urban Lutheran Gospel Choir in praise and worship at 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the church, 29425 Annapolis. Refreshment will be served following the service. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

In concert

Singer Sarah Wilson will perform songs from her CD Saturday, Nov. 17, at AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets cost \$20 and include dinner, Wilson's show and an open bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available by calling (734) 721-9440.

Collection

In recognition of Homeless

AROUND WESTLAND

Awareness Week which is Sunday-Saturday, Nov. 11-17, the Wayne County Family Center in Westland is collecting as many items on their "agency wish list" as possible.

Items such as diapers, powdered laundry detergent, flashlights and batteries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, twin-sized bed sheets can be dropped off at the center at 30600 Michigan Ave., just east of Merriman. For a complete list of acceptable goods, call Nancy Bass, resource coordinator site supervisor, at (734) 721-0590.

Wrestling Club

The Westland Bottle Rockets, a wrestling club for ages 5-14, meets 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at John Glenn High School. Practice will begin Monday, Nov. 26. The club meets from November to March. Fee is \$20. For more information call contact Judy at judylaw1122@yahoo.com or call (734) 634-4595.

Fall bazaar
The Village of Westland will

have its fall bazaar 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, featuring baked goods, handmade jewelry, crochet items, home-grown herbs, crafts and more. The Village is located at 32001 Cherry Hill.

For more information call (734) 762-8896.

Tribute to Stars

Tickets will be available Friday at the door of the Wayne-Ford Civic League for a celebrity impersonator show to benefit the Westland Goodfellows, which buys Christmas gifts for needy children.

The event, called A Tribute to the Stars, costs \$25 and includes a mostaccioli dinner and a show including impersonators of Shania Twain, Toby Keith, Neil Diamond, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m.

The event is being sponsored by the Westland Jaycees. For more information call Jaycees chaplain Gary Bulson at (734) 729-6683.

Salvation Army needs bell-ringers

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Facing a larger outcry for help and a projected \$55,000 budget shortfall by Christmas, the Westland-based Salvation Army this year desperately needs bell-ringers for its red kettle campaign, officials said.

"We have very few (bell-

ringers) compared to what we need," said Sandy Kollinger, volunteer coordinator for the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps.

With the red kettle campaign starting Friday, Kollinger still needs volunteer bell-ringers to work two-hour shifts at 13 sites, mostly in Westland at places such as Kroger stores

and Westland Shopping Center.

To help, call (734) 722-3660 or go online to www.ringbell.org, where a listing of kettle locations and time slots can be found.

A volunteer can typically raise enough money in two hours to provide meals for 50 or more children, Salvation Army officials say.

Even before the holiday season, the Wayne-Westland Corps already had been besieged by requests for help from more than 2,000 additional people compared to this time last year.

"I do believe it is because of the economy," Salvation Army Capt. Matt O'Neil said. "I believe that with the loss of jobs and some of the bigger factories closing, more people are relying on the Salvation Army and other nonprofit or assistance type of agencies."

The problem is only expected to worsen as Christmas approaches.

From Friday through Christmas Eve, bell-ringers are needed to help 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Kollinger said. The money will help the Salvation Army during the holiday season and through the next year.

Local businesses also will be helping to boost revenues for the Salvation Army, said Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Fodale. Restaurants, grocery stores and banks will be involved by putting out red kettles on specific days.

Billed as the Red Kettle Challenge, restaurants that participate will compete to raise the most money on Nov. 30, followed by banks on Dec. 21 and grocery stores on Dec. 22, Fodale said. A listing of businesses joining the effort will be announced soon, she said.

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Weekly night out aims to strengthen families

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

With parents busy with work and youngsters occupied with school and activities, it can be hard for families to spend quality time together.

The Garden City Family Resource Center is offering weekly family nights, including dinner, through the Strengthening Families

Program. It's open to parents and children 6-11 years old. Participants must be residents of western Wayne County.

"Parents and children will come together for dinner each week. There will be a lot of fun things. It is great to get out and bond with the kids and learn some new stuff," said Monica Fulton, Garden City Family Resource Center director.

Funded by a \$50,000 state

grant, the Strengthening Families Program is aimed at helping families avoid substance abuse and delinquency problems as youngsters move into the teenage years. The program also addresses individual issues, such as reducing home life stress and helping a child control their anger.

"Maybe communications is not so great in the family, the parents are busy. This stops that

pattern," Fulton said. "The parents and kids can learn about each other and get the kids grounded so they can go out in the world knowing what's right."

The program is also designed to improve family relationships, parenting skills and the youngster's social and life skills.

About 10 families have already signed up for the free program, which will begin Jan. 22. A second session will be

scheduled in the summer. "At this point we aren't turning anyone away. We could handle 20-25 families. All they have to do is call and make an appointment with the coordinator. It's all free," Fulton said.

The Strengthening Families Program is what is called an evidence-based program, Fulton said, which has had proven success in other communities nationwide.

That track record, plus Garden City's history of community-to-youth support programs, was a plus when the very competitive grants were awarded, she said. Garden City has had a Youth Assistance Program since the early 1980s and the program was expanded to the Family Resource Center.

For more information or to register for the program, call (734) 793-1860.

CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1

"I was amazed," said the neighbor, who has lived in the neighborhood 28 years. "But kids today ... who knows?"

Orlewicz and 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland face a preliminary hearing Monday in 35th District Court in Plymouth. Each is charged with one count of first-degree premeditated murder, one count of felony murder and one count of mutilation of a corpse in the death of Daniel G. Sorensen, a former Westland resident.

The pair was arraigned Monday in 34th District Court in Romulus.

Police allege Orlewicz and Letkemann, a former Livonia Churchill High School student, lured Sorensen into the garage of the Holly Street home of Orlewicz's grandfather in Canton Township, stabbed him to death, burned his hands and feet with a blow torch to prevent identification and sawed off his head.

Police said the pair then took Sorensen's body to a field in Northville Township, doused it with gasoline and set it ablaze. The head, police said, was dumped in the Rouge River and turned up in Hines Park

near the Dearborn Heights-Detroit line.

On Monday, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said at a press conference the killing was done "simply for the thrill of it."

"All of us up here have seen every crime imaginable, and all of us are puzzled why someone would kill just for the thrill of it," she said. "It's bone-chilling."

According to Worthy, Sorensen owed "small amounts" of money to at least one of the suspects, but money "did not appear" to be part of the motive. Nor, Worthy made sure to point out, did Sorensen's previous record as

a criminal sexual offender, which had received play in the media since the discovery of his body Thursday morning.

According to Worthy, the crime was planned out well in advance. She said the garage floor had been covered and cleaning materials were on hand to clean up after the crime.

"The crime scene was prepared, and they had made plans how to clean up and dispose of the body," Worthy said. "This was a well thought out, planned-out crime. It was very methodical."

On Tuesday night, gawkers were driving by the Holly Street home where the murder was committed. Police have

increased their presence in the area.

A resident who's lived on the street for 27 years and did not want to be identified finds it hard to believe that the suspects gave no thought to being caught.

"The street is a busy one because it is the main thoroughfare in the subdivision. People regularly walk their dogs while skateboarders work on their jumps on the sidewalks. Anyone could have come upon the scene," said the longtime resident.

Worthy said they have "at least one statement," from one of the suspects, though she declined to answer whether

the statement amounted to a confession. She also said there were at least three other "persons of interest" who have been identified, and that information came from at least one of them.

The fact one of her neighbors was involved in the killing was a sobering thought for one Beacon Hill woman.

"I'm sure (Orlewicz) could see some of our back yards, where our children play," said the woman, who asked not to be identified. "I think we're relieved he didn't say, 'Let's go get one of those easy targets.'"

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ALEX

FROM PAGE A1

residents could be involved in the murder of Sorensen, whose burned body was found last Thursday in Northville Township. Authorities later found Sorensen's head in Hines Park in Dearborn Heights, and have accused the teens of nothing short of a "thrill kill."

"Alex seemed like a nice kid," Emma said, standing on her porch. "He helped an elderly couple down the street. He would cut their grass, and he would shovel snow."

"He's not like those Columbine kids," she said, referring to the 1999 school shooting rampage in Colorado. "He's not like that. This is a good family. This is really sad news for all of our neighborhood."

Across the street, a neighbor who identified herself only as Lynne voiced similar shock

about allegations against Alex Letkemann.

"I'm just very surprised," she said. "As Alex got older, he wanted to move out of the house, like most teenagers do. But he ended up staying at home."

Referring to the Letkemann family, Lynne said, "You would think them to be the typical suburban family. The parents are very nice people."

Livonia school officials said Alex Letkemann dropped out of Churchill High School in April 2006 but later earned his diploma through the adult education program.

According to Westland police and district court officials, the teenager had some minor legal problems earlier this year that pale in comparison to the new allegations against him.

He was cited for a misdemeanor retail fraud charge in March amid allegations he and a friend stole cough syrup from the CVS store at Warren and Venoy, police Lt. Daniel

Karrick confirmed.

That ticket was later dismissed, according to Westland 18th District Court Administrator David Wiacek.

Alex Letkemann also was charged with driving a 1992 Pontiac Bonneville into a fence and leaving the car at the scene April 8 at Spring Valley and Fountain, on the city's north side, Karrick said.

Letkemann pleaded guilty in September to failing to report the accident — reduced from a more serious charge of leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage, Wiacek said.

The teenager also admitted responsibility for a civil infraction of driving without using due care and caution, Wiacek said.

Letkemann received two points on his driving record. He also paid fines of \$500, Wiacek said.

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SORENSEN

FROM PAGE A1

"I'd tell him, 'You have to tell us when you're going somewhere,' and he'd say, 'But I made another friend,'" Jim remembered, smiling at the thought. "He was precocious. If his mom and I were going out, he wouldn't be clinging to us, crying. He'd be pushing us out the door, because he knew he was going to have fun with the baby-sitter."

As a young man and into adulthood, Jim Sorensen said, Danny continued to make friends easily, and he was fiercely loyal to them. He would often go down his list of friends, looking for someone "to hang with," Jim said.

"He'd call someone and say, 'Dude, wanna hang out? Oh, you gotta work? OK,' and

then it would be on to the next number," Jim Sorensen remembered. "It would be like speed-dialing until he found someone he could hang out with."

David Friede of Livonia met Danny Sorensen nearly two years ago, through mutual friends. It wasn't long, Friede said Tuesday, before they had become friends themselves.

"He was one of the nicest people I've ever met," Friede said. "If you were broke down on the side of the road, he was the guy who was going to stop and help you, whether he knew you or not."

Not much information has been released by law enforcement authorities about how Sorensen knew his alleged killers. Police say Jean Pierre Orlewicz, 17, of Plymouth Township and 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland lured Sorensen, a 26-year-old from River Rouge, to

the Canton home of Orlewicz's grandfather, where they attacked, dismembered and burned him.

James Sorensen said he'd never heard of Letkemann — "It's my understanding he'd only met him recently," he said — and said he'd "heard (Orlewicz's) name bandied about." Sorensen said he had no idea why Danny went to meet them the night he died.

And on Tuesday, he simply wanted to remember his son.

"His nickname was Bear, and that's what he was like, like a big, lovable teddy bear," Jim Sorensen said. "There were a lot of people (at Tuesday's funeral), friends of Danny's who we'd never met, who came up to us and told us what a great guy he was."

"There was a lot of love."

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This is just a sampling of courses available in November and December. For the latest information on course availability visit www.schoolcraft.edu/ces/



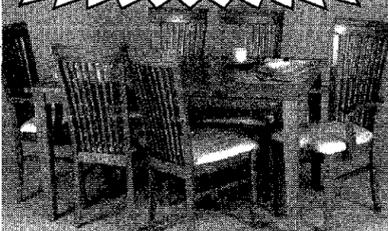
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JEWELLERS / GEMOLOGISTS

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Extended store hours Mon. - Sat., 10:00am to 6:00pm... Now open Sundays, 12:00 noon to 5:00pm
*We are required to exclude certain watch brands and designers from this event.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blood Drive
St. Damian Church, 30055 Joy, Westland, will be holding an American Red Cross blood drive 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in the Community Room. Call (734) 421-6130 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

New Year's Eve party
Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday,

Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (oven-baked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

Railroadiana
The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and swap toys and trains show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer west of Merriman, Westland. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts of various gauges and more 150 dealer tables. Tables are \$10 per table. Reserve tables by calling (734) 595-8327. Dealer setup is at 9 a.m.

the day of the show.

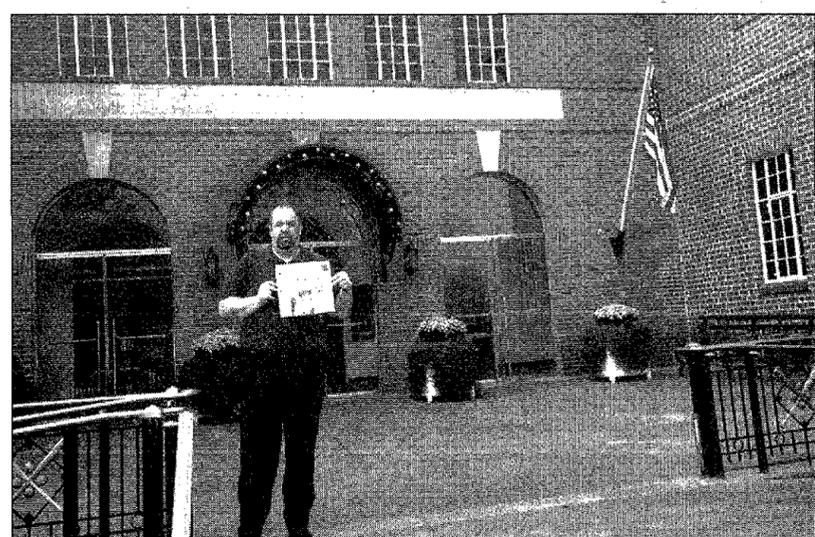
Annual luncheon
In recognition of World AIDS Day, the University of Michigan-Dearborn Women's Resource Center, Student Activities Office, and new student group Keep A Child Alive will host the second annual AIDS Awareness Luncheon noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29. The theme will be "Get Educated; Get Tested; Get Real." Hear the life story of someone living with HIV. Get educated on the real facts about HIV/AIDS. Find out how to get tested and how to protect yourself. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in Kochoff Hall C in the University Center on the main U-M-Dearborn campus. Make reservations by calling the Women's Resource Center at (313) 583-6445 or e-mail at womensresourcecenter@umd.umich.edu by Monday, Nov. 26.

Orchestra openings
The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in its intermediate and advanced orchestras, as well as a sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School on Newburgh north of Joy Road, Livonia. For more information, call Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or by e-mail at auditions@LYPM.org.

Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 8 p.m. Check it out on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

Casino fund-raiser
Enjoy an afternoon at the Greektown Casino on Sunday, Nov. 18, to benefit St. Damian Youth Group. Tickets are \$25 and include charter bus transportation to and from the casino and a \$15 coin voucher to use at the casino. The bus departs from St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road in Westland at 1 p.m. and will return back to the church at 7 p.m. Get tickets by calling (734) 421-6130.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
One-day-a-month volunteer drivers are needed to transport seniors and disabled who are unable to drive to medical appointments. Phone messenger volunteers are also needed to help set up rides to the medical appointments. This is also a one-



Wish You Were Here

Gary Bulson of Westland took a trip to New York state and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown where he posed with his Westland Observer for Wish You Were Here. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Westland Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

day-a-month opportunity that can be done right from home. People interested in helping can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or contact him by e-mail at GCHS.MCLM@yahoo.com.

and ethnic food available. For more information, call Virginia at (734) 522-9653 or Deb at (734) 946-0173.

bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

CRAFT SHOWS

St. Michael Lutheran
St. Michael Lutheran Church will hold its Holiday Marketplace Arts and Crafts Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at the church, 3003 Hannan at the corner of Glenwood, Wayne.

Franklin High
Those who make hand-made crafts or fine art are invited to participate in the juried Franklin High School Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17. Money raised goes to the athletic department at FHS. For information, contact Julie Culp, (734) 522-0039.

Senior fitness
Seniors can get in shape through some programs offered at the Maplewood Center. The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Craft show

Vendors wanted for upcoming holiday craft show at Wayne Recreation Center at Howe and Annapolis in Wayne The event will be 1-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29. There are 25 available tables. People interested in reserving a spot call (734) 595-1083

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Advocacy group
The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

Sts. Peter and Paul

St. Peter and Paul Church will hold its 19th annual arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, in the church hall, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$1. In addition to crafts, there will be a raffle and bake sale, with cabbage rolls

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m.,

Substance abuse support

A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 11/29/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1046 - Joseph A. Donaldson - Chair, Vacuum, Mattress
1246 - Lori Hill - 2 TV's, Bike, 20 Boxes
3020 - Josephine Holt - 5 Totes, 20 Boxes, 2 Tool Boxes
3180 - Renee Robinson - Couch, Table, 2 Chairs
3196 - Shirley Tolbert - TV, 10 Boxes, Table
3204 - Fredrick McCray - Refrigerator, 2 Bikes, Misc Items
4036 - Jacquelyn Mason - TV, 2 Totes, 2 End Tables
5060 - Rab Malik - Lawnmower, Stove, Shelves
5154 - Ronald Yancey - Dresser, Mattress, Misc Items

Publish: November 15 & 22, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, November 29, 2007, various items of the City of Westland DPW will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
3576627	1988	GMC	GMT-400	1GTGK34K7JE529861
3576691	1995	GMC	Vandura	1GTGG35KXSF553020
3576674	1997	Pontiac	Grand Am	1G2NE52T7VM542003
3576662	1995	Ford	Taurus	1FALP52U8SG261284
3576646	1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	1G2NE52T1WM521827
3576778	1994	GMC	Vandura	1GTGG35KORF518867
3576704	2002	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAPP71W52X114605
3576731	2000	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAPP71W5YX163571
3576708	1994	GMC	Sierra	1GTPC14Z8RZ535738
3576609	1987	Ford	Conventional "N"	1FDYR82AXHVA40366
3576747	1995	GMC	Sierra	1GDJC34K8SE504840

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, November 28, 2007, from 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: November 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #908F, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Taco Bell Restaurant w/ Drive-thru, 201 S. Merriman Road, Parcel #069-99-0006-004, East Side of Merriman Road, South of Cherry Hill Road, Peter Lyders

Case #1635C, Proposed Land Division, 2245 Newburgh Road, Parcels #049-01-0014-002, -0014-003 and -0015-002, West Side of Newburgh, South of Ford Road, Glen Shaw Jr.

Case #2159A, Proposed Land Division, Parcels #018-99-0014-000 and -0015-703 East Side of Newburgh Road, South of Joy Road, Paul A. D'Orazio

Consideration of Resolution for Posting of Notice of Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Westland Planning Commission for the Year 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #311E, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, 8050 N Middlebelt Road, Parcel #002-99-0078-000, Northeast Corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt Road, Thomas A. McMasters (Sleiman Saad)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

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Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1127B, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Happy's Pizza, 31250 Ann Arbor Trail, Parcel #006-01-0164-001, Northeast Corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman Road, Happy Asker (Nick Sandia)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1601C, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Indoor Classic Car Sales, 2167 Marie Street, West Side of Marie Street, South of Ford Road, Parcel #050-01-0207-000, Rickey F. Novak (Austin G. Batallia).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1635B, Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from R-5 to CB-3 (Single Family Residential to General Commercial Business) 2245 Newburgh Road, Parcels #049-01-0014-002, -0014-003, -0015-002 and -1106-301, West Side of Newburgh, South of Ford Road, Glen Shaw Jr.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 15, 2007

Pets cry 'fowl' at Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the start of the holiday feeding fest – for both people and pets. However, Petland says animal lovers in Westland and Garden City need to be aware of how dangerous it can be for Fido or Fluffy to pack on a few pounds.

"At Petland, we stress to our customers the importance of providing their pets a healthy, balanced and nutritious diet, especially during the holiday season," said Donna Kurdziel, owner of the Petland store in the Westland Crossing Shopping Center, in Westland.

Obesity in pets is becoming a real concern. Not only does it shorten pets' lives, it also dramatically increases health risks. Diabetes, heart disease and joint ailments are among the obesity-related concerns for pets.

Data released by Veterinary Pet Insurance of Brea, Calif., indicates that in 2006, 7 percent of all medical claims were related to pet obesity. The company reports 25-40 percent of pets in America, compared to up to 60 percent of American adults, are overweight with obesity being defined as 10-15 percent more than ideal body weight for their specific breed.

"Our pampered pets have become couch potatoes who receive little exercise and are being fed foods that often lack true nutritional value," said Kurdziel. "At Petland, we counsel pet owners to avoid table scraps, to offer nutritional pet foods in monitored portions, and to get out and exercise a bit with their best friends."

Petland partners with a number of makers of high-quality pet foods, including Hill's Pet Nutrition – Science Diet, IAMS and Nutro.

"Nutro Pet Products has several obesity prevention foods for dogs, and while Nutro's daily dietary offerings aren't strict like the popular Atkins Diet, their weight management foods contain fewer calories and fat while offering optimum protein," said Kurdziel.

For cats, Hill's offers a low-carbohydrate, high-protein prescription diet, to manage metabolism and diabetes, as well as a low-calorie, high-fiber formula.

"Pets have different nutritional needs at different stages of their lives. Obesity can come into play at anytime. At Petland, we're trained to help match their pets' nutritional needs with their lifestyles and activity levels," said Kurdziel, adding that ignoring obesity and proper nutrition can cut years off their companion's life.

In addition to monitoring a pet's diet, Petland recommends owners get in shape themselves by enjoying the human-animal bond and exercising with their pets.

"Both people and pets need to exercise for good health. A walk after work several times a week will do both parties good," said Kurdziel.

Learning to walk or run with a pet can be a challenge. However, Petland pet counselors are able to link pet owners with a number of useful aids – special collars, leads and collapsible water bowls. Petland pet counselors also can offer a number of health tips.

Petland offers these tips for pet owners who want to improve their pet's health by losing weight:

- Use interactive, pet-safe toys to interact with your pet.
- Give love, not food, to your overweight pet. Petting and grooming are both good ways to give your pet a little extra attention.
- Feed your overweight pet away from your other pets to curb stealing of food from another pet's bowl. It's also a good idea to keep your overweight pet out of the kitchen

when the family is having dinner, ending your pet's compulsion to beg for table scraps.

Your pet's digestive system is not receptive to rich "people foods." In addition, sudden diet changes can easily lead to an upset stomach with vomiting and diarrhea. Greasy and fatty leftovers can overwhelm the pancreas and lead to a serious condition called pancreatitis, which may require lengthy hospitalization.

■ Talk to a pet professional to determine the right food and the right daily portion for your pet.

The Petland store in Westland is part of Petland, Inc., a franchise operation with more than 200 full service, retail pet centers across the United States, Canada, Chile, Japan and South Africa.

For more information on Petland, visit www.petland.com.

Laurain presents saxophone recital

Saxophonist Scott Laurain will present his senior recital Saturday, Dec. 2, at Eastern Michigan University.

Laurain, a 2003 John Glenn graduate, will perform 4 p.m. in Alexander Recital Hall on the EMU campus. There will be no admission charge for the recital.

The recital will feature music by Arthur Honegger, Bernhard Heiden, John

David Lamb and Jacob Ter Veldhuis. *Billie*, by Ter Veldhuis uses an electronic accompaniment, including sound clips of the great blues singer Billie Holiday. Playing the piano on the recital will be Carla Gonthier of Canton. Saxophonist Jessica Brancaleone, a senior music education student from Anchor Bay, will also assist Laurain.

Laurain is a member of Dr. Max Plank's saxophone studio and Amy King's flute studio, at Eastern Michigan. While at EMU, Laurain has been a member of the Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony and Marching Band. He plans to student teach in the winter semester of 2008, and will graduate in April with a bachelor's degree in music education.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

on the north side of Schoolcraft road, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. The \$9.50 per person charge includes a spaghetti dinner with salad, dinner rolls, and dessert. To reserve tickets (to be picked up at the door), e-mail all guest names to soccer18chika@hotmail.com. Please include phone number or other contact method. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the event. For more information, call the church at (734) 425-7280 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will help support their 2008 mission trip to Waterloo, Iowa.

NOVEMBER

Book and bake sale
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 16-17, in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. The Women of the ELCA are sponsoring this sale as a fund-raiser for the Batten Disease Support & Research Association, a neurological disease that is always fatal and generally affects young children.

Many voices... one song
Welcomes the Biakuye Unity Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, 22055 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. No charge although a free-will offering will be collection. Meet the artists reception follows the concert. For more information, call (248) 540-9124.

Bazaar & mini cookie walk
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 23310 Joy, a few blocks east of Telegraph, Redford. Use Joy entrance to Basement Hall. Proceeds go to School/Building Fund.

Free Thanksgiving breakfast
Meet your neighbors at Harvest Ministries Church 9-10:15 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, 23233 Drake, between Grand River and Freedom Road, Farmington Hills. No charge. For information, call (248) 478-1511.

New church service
Let Beacon Hill Christian Church (DOC) be that light on the hill that will help you find your spiritual grounding and firm foundation in this ever-changing world at a new church service beginning 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, in the chapel at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton. Enter through the south double doors next to the play area.

Course in Miracles
Introduction seminars based on A Course in Miracles spiritual self-study book 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8; 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Understanding A Course in miracles takes place 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, and Dec. 15. For more information, contact Jim White at (734) 259-0207 or send e-mail to love.comm@hotmail.com.

Heroes
Series explores the lives of five ordinary heroes 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, 25, and Dec. 2, at Life Covenant Church which meets at East Middle School, 1042 Lilley (S. Mill), Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 634-2697.

Upper Room Ministries
Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

Fashion show
Monday, Nov. 19 (doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.), presented by Women of the Immaculate Conception at Knights of Columbus Hall, 30759 Ford road. Cost is \$15. For tickets, call Noreeno Debono, (734) 722-8360, or Shirley Rourke at (734) 721-1794.

Luminescence for Advent
A women's afternoon of reflection to prepare for the upcoming Advent season takes place 1:31-4:31 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, at St. Hilary's Church, 23901 Elmira, one block east of Telegraph, south of Plymouth road. Enter off Appleton and turn right on Elmira. Designed for women ages 18 to 99, combines music, presentations, discussions and creative expression. People of all faiths welcome. Presenter is Sister Pat Hergenroether. Cost is \$20, includes materials and refreshments. Reservations with payment are due Nov. 19. For more information, call (313) 533-1560 or send e-mail to shillary@twm.rr.com.

Heart quest
A series of seminars being broadcast worldwide, via satellite, started 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at Cherry Hill SDA Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Garden City.

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

UPCOMING
The Golden Glide
The Mt. Hope Congregational Church Youth Group hosts a dinner dance with music from the Big Band Era 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at the church

Gingerbread open house
The Inn at St. John's Gingerbread Open House takes place 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at 44045 Five Mile at Sheldon, Plymouth. The free family event features live reindeer petting, carriage rides, a gingerbread house display, visits with Santa, music and refreshments. Donations of non-perishable food items are requested to benefit St. Vincent De Paul. Additional information can be found at www.theinnatst-johns.com or call (734) 414-0600.

Nativity displays
More than 200 Nativity displays from around the world in a Celebration of the Christmas Creche 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9 (\$7 per person at the door, \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more; Preview party and lecture by Bengt Swenson 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 (tickets start at \$50 and benefits the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, RSVP required by calling (313) 824-4710) at their building, 15415 E. Jefferson at Somerset, Grosse Pointe Park. The nativity displays are from the private collection of Bengt and Elaine Swenson.

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

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

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

Fall worship schedule
Chapel service begins at 8:45 a.m. and includes simple worship and Holy Communion; adult Sunday school and Bible Cinema are at 9:30 a.m. nursery care provided. Worship and Sunday school for children through eighth grade is during the 10:30 a.m. hour. Nursery care also provided during the service. On the fourth and fifth Sundays they will be participating in community worship which includes everyone. Senior High youth are invited to meet 7 p.m. Sundays, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-6038.

Singers wanted
Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. If you like to sing and love God (or just want to get to know God) join in. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

Fall schedule
Please see RELIGION, A7

Massages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

BEVERLY JEANNE MOFFITT

Age 79, Farmington Hills, MI. Passed November 9, 2007. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



DOROTHY E. CINADER

Age 82, passed away November 11, 2007 after a short illness. She is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years Wesley, her son Douglas and her sister Mavis Marsh-Weickum. Dorothy was born in Canistota SD to Vern & Mary Gordon on April 11, 1925 and moved to Michigan after her marriage in 1945. She and Wesley raised 5 children in Troy, Royal Oak and Clarkston Michigan before moving to Phoenix in 1972. Dorothy is survived by her sister Velma Lauck of Salem SD, 4 children, Cheryl (Robert) Cobb of Phoenix AZ, Carol (John) Farmer of Muskegon MI, Dan (Sue) Cinader of Ann Arbor MI, David (Dayna) Cinader of Salem OR, 6 grandchildren, Jennifer Cinader, Jamie (Jack) Page, Laura (David) Sobelman, Carrie Phillips, Carly Cinader and Katie Cinader; and 6 great grandchildren, Ashley, Austin, Madison, Faith, Logan, and Abbey. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 14th at Shadow Mountain Mortuary, 2350 E Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Valley.



ELNOR ISABEL (Jewell) HOLLAND

Born in Detroit August 27, 1924, formerly of Novi, passed November 10, 2007 at the West Bloomfield Nursing Center after a long illness. Mother of Patricia Anne Soma (Anthony) of Walled Lake. Sister of Ralph (Rosemary) Jewell of Alma, Aunt of Larry Jewell and Lynne Price. Cousin of many especially Elizabeth Keith, Susan Jones and Jamie Ann Jones, Sister-in-law and friend of Margery F. Holland of Detroit and former wife of Robert Holland of Detroit, Friend and Neighbor who will be missed. Retired from Clarenceville High School where she was Department Chair. Graduate of Ferris, MSU, Oakland University and Loyola. Active in the community of Novi serving on many committees and Boards including SWOC Cable Access Committee. Formerly hosted several programs on local cable. Member of Delta Kappa Gamma, AAUW, Eastern Star and Daughters of Scotia. Associated with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Novi Chamber of Commerce. Visitation Friday at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills, 31950 W. 12 Mile Road, 248-553-0120 from 1-4 and 6-8. Visitation Saturday at Funeral Home noon until Memorial Service at 1:30. Flowers or Donations to Charity are requested. Envelopes are available at the Funeral Home for Gleasons, DHIS, Novi Library and Madonna University Scholarship Fund.

ERIN KATHLEEN GOBESKI

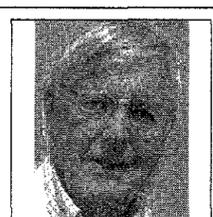
Passed away on November 1, 2007 at the age of 24. Beloved daughter of James and Linda Gobeski. Dear sister of Sasha (Jerry Cunningham) Gobeski and Molly Gobeski. Granddaughter of Veronica Gobeski and Sigrid Break. Niece of Ronni (Kim) Cornforth, Jerry (Ola Unger) Gobeski, Gale (Bob) Sinicola and Donna (Ken) Wiecezera. Special friend to Curtis Leggins. Memorial service Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 11 am at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Contributions suggested to Dawn Farms, 6633 Stoney Creek, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com

YAEKO ERWIN

Age 83, November 12, 2007. Born January 1, 1924 in Kobe, Japan. Beloved wife of Louis. Dear mother of Keiko (Mark) Greca, Nancy (Kirk) McCordell and Belinda (Keith) Abbott. Grandmother of Paul and Jonathan Maison, Derek and Shelby Abbott. Great-grandmother of Akira Maison. Yaeko will be remembered as a kind, generous and well-loved woman to all. Visitation Friday 2pm until her funeral service at 7pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. Private burial at Michigan Memorial Park

FLORENCE J. NUGENT (nee Schrade)

March 5 1909-November 1, 2007. Born to parents Ella and Edward Schrade in Mt. Clemens. Teaching degree from Western Michigan. Taught country school until marrying Otis James Nugent in 1927 (died November 23, 1991). Earned Master's Degree from Wayne State and taught at Lanse Cruise in Mt. Clemens until retirement. Devout church goer-63 years. Zion Evangelical and Reformed in Mt. Clemens and 35 years at Trinity Presbyterian in Plymouth. Children: Janet Christner, Nancy Bobean, Karen Brooks, James Nugent, nine grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. A private memorial service will be held at Trinity Presbyterian, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI Saturday, November 17, at 11:00am



HAROLD J. KELLEY

Age 81, October 12, 2007. Beloved husband of the late Gloria. Loving father of Cynthia (Richard) Moniaci, Susan (Robert) Prothro, and Karen (Timothy) Ellison. Dearest grandfather of eight and great grandfather of eight. Dear brother of Virginia Johnstone and the late Wallace, Paul and Darrell. There will be a memorial service Saturday, November 17, 11AM at the Community of Christ Church, 3830 Crooks Rd. Troy. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Beaumont Hospice and/or the church. Share your memories at: www.sawyerfuller.com



HELEN W. MORROW

Age 96 years, of Pompano Beach, FL passed away October 30, 2007, 19 days after her beloved husband of 75 years, Arthur R. Morrow, passed away on October 11, 2007. She was born June 15, 1911 in Cambridge, OH to the late Roy and Blanche (Feaster) White. Art was active in the banking business in Cambridge, and he and Helen were both active in many community affairs. In 1948 Art and Helen moved from their home in Cambridge to Michigan, where Helen became a charter member of the Bloomfield Village Garden Club and was active in her community schools and the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, MI. In 1993 they moved to Pompano Beach, FL to retire and enjoy life where they both were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach. She loved her home and family and was blessed with many friends. Helen was an avid bridge player and a passionate sports fan. She loved to travel, and she and Art enjoyed many world travels. During World War II, Helen was a Red Cross Worker in Cambridge, OH and recently received a pin from the Broward County, FL Chapter of the American Red Cross. Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Jean (Richard) Black; son, Mike (Midge) Morrow; grandchildren, Andy Morrow, Allison Morrow, Richard (Leigh Ann) Black and James Black; great-grandchildren, Scott, Brian, Eric, Keith, Stephanie, Kristin and Cassandra and sisters, Mabel Riddle and Louise Druesedow. In addition to her husband she was predeceased by her son, Tommy Ray Morrow in 1938, and by her sister, Barbara Flood. The family would like to thank the doctors, caregivers, nurses and others who gave our mother care and companionship during her last year. The family greeted friends at 9am at the Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Pompano Beach, FL on Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 9:00 - 9:45 AM, followed by funeral services at 9:45 AM in the funeral home chapel.

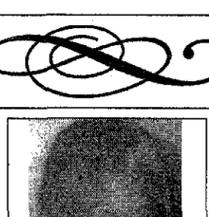
SHIRLEY RUTH CEASAR (NEE: Chapman)

Born November 11, 1928 in Detroit, MI. Passed away October 26, 2007, at age 78. Loving wife of the late Albert. Beloved mother of Carey Lynn Murphy and Patricia Ann Ayoub. Grandmother of Heather Smith (Rick), Siobhan Murphy, Sinon Ayoub, Paul Murphy, Ameer Ayoub and Wah'ja Ayoub. Great-grandmother of Sianna, Lanae, Arianna and Jaisten. There will be a memorial service on November 18, 2007 at 2:00pm at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff Road, Livonia, MI 48150. (734) 421-5406. Call Carey at (248) 830-4511 for more information.



LINDA K. FERNELIUS

Age 45, passed away Nov. 1, 2007 after a long illness. Her bright spirit will be missed by all who knew her, especially her colleagues and students at Beaulieu Elementary School. She was preceded in death by mother Dottie, and is survived by her father Earl, her sister Margi, and niece Emma, all of Tucson. A celebration of Linda's life was held in Jacksonville on Nov. 4; her ashes will be scattered at her favorite campground on Jekyll Island, GA. Contributions in Linda's memory may be made to the Beaulieu Faculty Fund, 4555 Craven Rd., Jacksonville, FL, 32257, attn: D. Runyon.

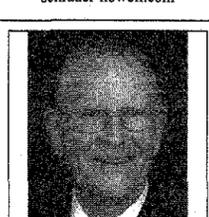


MARCELLA WILLIAMS

Age 77, of Southfield, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 8, 2007 Loving mother of Margretta Potts (husband, Glenn), Roberta Amos (husband, Will), Thomas Hamm (wife, Mildred), Arthur Hamm, Fred Williams Jr. (wife, Gaylen), and Marcell Troupe (husband, Leroy). Cherished grandmother of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Viewing was held Monday at Haley Funeral Directors in Southfield. Home Going Services were Tuesday, November 13th, at Unity Baptist Church in Detroit, with burial taking place at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Livonia. Arrangements entrusted to Haley Funeral Directors in Southfield. On-line condolences & obituary at: www.haleyfuneraldirectors.com

MARY KATHERYN BENDER

Of Plymouth-Northville, age 91, November 10, 2007. Retired teacher from the Plymouth School System. Beloved wife of the late Eddie J. Bender. Loving mother of Michelle (Skip) Dorrington of Plymouth, Peter (Nancy) Bender of Virginia and Thomas (Susan) Bender of Pinckney. Dearest grandmother of Patrick (Holly) Dorrington, Michael (Nadine) Dorrington, Mandy Bender and Meredith Bender. Dearest great-grandmother of Cass, Ali and Kate Dorrington. Services were held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church on Tuesday. Contributions suggested to Arbor Hospice or Concord University. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com



RICHARD (Dick) J. BIRDSALL

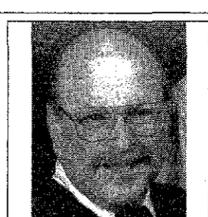
Age 81, of Livonia since 1937. Went home to be with our Lord November 11, 2007. Beloved husband of Mabel (Gary) Jones, Lawrence (Cathy), Mary, Cynthia, Sallie (Kurt) Keller & son-in-law Glenn Schneemann; cherished brother of Marjorie, A. Kenneth & Marilyn. Mr. Birdsall is also survived by 16 grandchildren & nine great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Linda Schneemann. Visitation was held Wednesday at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home. Funeral service 11:00 AM Thursday, November 15 (in state 10:30 AM) at Covenant Community Church, 24800 Student, Redford, MI.

KATHRYN STRATTON GRABEL

Age 86, Farmington Hills, MI. Passed November 10, 2007. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

RICHARD VOSSLER MORGAN

Age 70, of Punta Gorda, Florida, passed away November 8, 2007. He was born November 21, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan to Thomas and Ruth (Vossler) Morgan. Richard graduated from Birmingham High School in 1955 and received a B.A. from Michigan State University. He served in the US Army Reserves, Fire Brigade. He retired from Computer Sales and moved from West Bloomfield, MI in 2001 to Punta Gorda. Richard was a member of the Punta Gorda Elks, St. Andrews Golf Club, Platinum Point Yacht Club, PSI Upsilon Fraternity and Power Squadron He served on the board of directors at Pointe Aux Barques in Port Austin, Michigan in a community beyond description where he developed many lifelong friendships. He was a loyal friend to all, and loving companion to his wife, Patty. Richard will be greatly missed by his daughter, Christine Taylor Morgan of Punta Gorda; sons, Scott (Kerry) Boone of West Bloomfield, MI, Greg (Edylyn) Boone of Phoenix, AZ and John (Jennifer) Boone of West Bloomfield, MI; brother Thomas Morgan of Birmingham, MI; four grandchildren He was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years, Patty. A celebration of Richard's life will be 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at Burnt Stone Presbyterian Church with Rev. Tim Steward officiating. Memorial reception is scheduled Saturday, November 17, 2007 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce Township, MI 48382. Memorial donations may be made to Burnt Stone Presbyterian Church, 11330 Burnt Stone Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. To express condolences to the family please visit: www.Ltaylorfuneral.com and sign the online guest book. Arrangements are by Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services.



STANLEY ZUGER

Age 55, of Royal Oak, passed away, November 8, 2007. Beloved husband for 35 years of Clarice. Loving father of Shaul Zuger of Rochester Hills and Jon Zuger of Royal Oak. Dear brother of Freda Schram and uncle of Lori Schram. Memorial Visitation Saturday 1PM until the time of service at 3PM at the Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 2125 12 Mile Rd., (2 blks W. of Woodward), Berkley. Final Resting Place, Resurrection Chapel—Roseland Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Beaumont Heart Foundation or the Beaumont Cancer Foundation. Share your memories at www.sawyerfuller.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

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 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM 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: 734-953-2232

Attn: Obits c/o Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2232

For more information call: Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067

or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION

FROM PAGE A6

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, has new worship hours for Fall - Three Hours Of Power! Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. with Christian education for all ages at 10 a.m. Leadership is shared by class members. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program began 7 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 20, and continues on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. For information, call

(734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

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

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (S12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Worship change

Began Sunday, October 7, the early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia will be at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west

of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese's ENDOW program, the study group focuses on dignity of women of all ages and faiths. The group meets 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays to Dec. 5, in the Convent Meeting Room behind the school, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. The second session meets 9:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays to Dec. 4 in the same room. Different Times, Abiding Dignity deals

with women's inherent dignity at all stages of life. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. Cost is \$60 for materials but no one will be turned away because of an inability to pay. To register, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or visit www.endowonline.com.

ENDOW

Educating on the Nature & Dignity of Women, a women's study group to discover their God-given dignity and femininity through Catholic teaching runs Thursdays to Nov. 15, in Bixman Hall (church building) at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required. Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Study the Gospel of Luke through November, then move on to Romans. Come once or more often. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

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

Thrift Shop

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

Ladies Bible study

Women of the Word Ladies Bible Study began focusing on the Book of James Tuesday, Sept. 11, and continues 9:30-11:10 a.m. Tuesdays to Nov. 13, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. The \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study material. Child care will be available for children through age 5 in the morning. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

Registration

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

p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Religious education

Children's Religious Education began 10:45 a.m. to noon Sunday, Sept. 9, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Cost is \$90 for first child, \$30 for each additional child. Call (734) 425-9333.

Morning prayers

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

J.O.Y. meeting

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

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST

UNITED METHODIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180



Virgil Humes, Pastor

Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Clarenceville United Methodist

20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Libranche

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional



Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Staffed Nursery Available

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

Canton Christian Fellowship

Pastor David Washington and The CCF Family would like to invite you to...

"Where the Word is Relevant, People are Loved and Christ is the Key" Join us for Worship Service at 10:30 am



Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00 am Located at 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI, 48187 Between Haggerty Road and Lilley Road SW corner of Joy Road and Ronda Drive 734-404-2480

It's not about Religion, it's about Relationships. Come to a place where lives are changed, families are made whole and ministry is real!

More than Sunday Services

Worship Services 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities

Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.ptumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149

Worship Service and Sunday School Nov. 18 - 10 a.m. only Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2265 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

9600 Levee • So. Redford • 313-937-2424 *Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rockrohr*

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Education Hour 9:45 a.m. Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233

CATHOLIC

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EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 28310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

Worship in Downtown Plymouth First Presbyterian Church

Main & Church Streets - (734) 453-6464 8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. visit us at www.fpcp.net Accessible to all

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 451-0444 REV. RICHARD A. PERETTO Weekday Masses Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m. Saturday - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church

33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Sabbath School (all ages)-11:00 a.m. Worship Service-Hispanic-12:30 pm. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am We Welcome You To A Full Service Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-8220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1925 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA

25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 8:00 P.M. Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia (backing lot is on N.W. corner of Lenox & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided)

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

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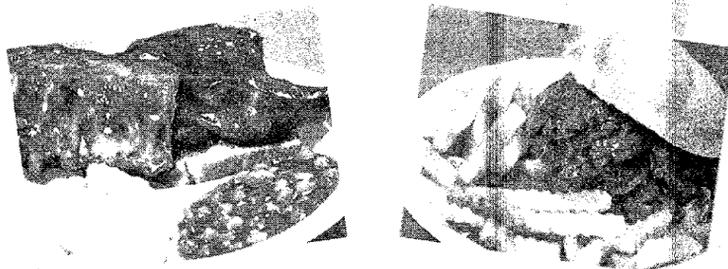
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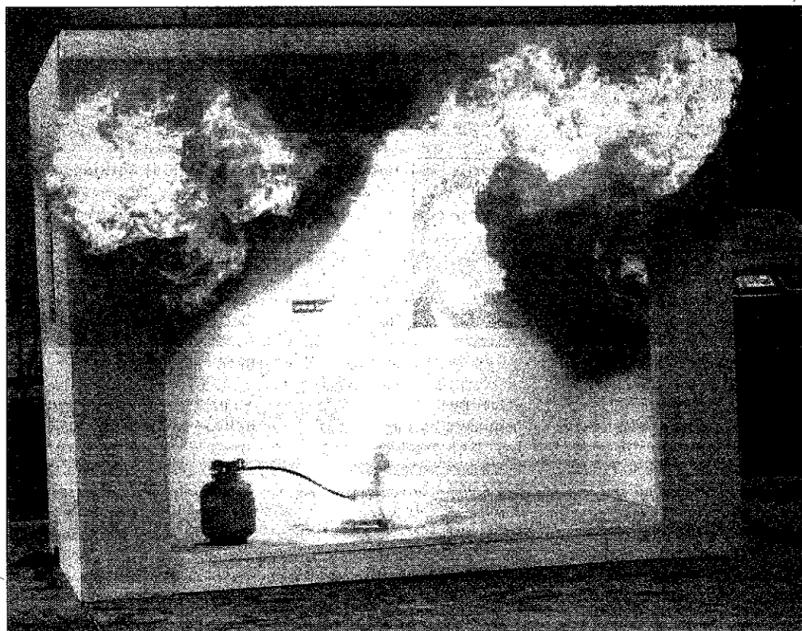
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The Farmington Hills Fire Department conducted a "live burn" demonstration of what can happen when a partially thawed turkey is placed in a turkey fryer.

Turkey fryers can be a fire menace

BY LT. DENNY HUGHES
FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Are you one of the growing numbers of people now using a turkey fryer to cook your bird for the Thanksgiving holiday? The trend has been very popular in the southern United States for many years thanks to celebrity chefs such as Martha Stewart and Emeril Lagasse. While many people rave about the taste and time saved in the kitchen, fire officials and Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) are very concerned that some backyard chefs may be sacrificing safety for good taste.

Underwriters Laboratories, one of the nation's leading independent testing companies, has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with their coveted and trusted U.L. mark. With an increase in fires related to turkey fryer use, and based on U.L. test findings, turkey fryers just may not be worth the risks involved in using them.

There are many reasons a deep fryer can be dangerous. As mentioned above, the trend is popular in the

south, but here in Michigan and other northern states, the weather is very unpredictable on Thanksgiving Day. It can be raining or snowing, tempting many people to bring their fryer to an indoor area, such as the garage. This has the potential to create a huge disaster at your home. A fryer of this type should never be used indoors!

Consider these other safety issues as well:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling hot oil onto the burner and create a large fire.

- If the pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill over when the turkey is lowered into the pot. Oil will hit the flames on the burner and engulf the room with fire.

- Partially frozen turkeys contain water. Water and hot oil don't mix, so if you lower a partially frozen turkey into a fryer, expect an extensive fire.

- These fryers have no thermostat controls, so the units have a tendency to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.

- The side of the pot, lid, and handles get extremely hot, posing severe burn hazards.

If these safety issues still aren't enough to make you rethink using a deep fryer, here are some tips to reduce the possibility of disaster at your home:

- Never use a turkey fryer on a wooden deck or inside a garage or home.

- Place the fryer a safe distance away from any building.

- Rain and snow will create

a problem with the hot oil, so reconsider using the fryer if precipitation is in the forecast.

- Fryers should be used on a firm, flat surface to prevent them from tipping over.

- Once the pot is filled with oil and the burner is turned on, you should never leave the fryer unattended for any length of time.

- Keep pets inside and keep children at a safe distance.

- Use well-insulated pot-holders or oven mitts and wear safety glasses to guard against oil splatters.

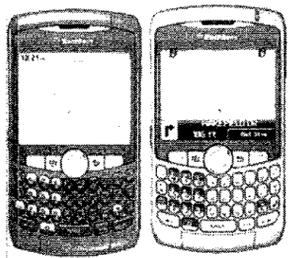
- Turkeys must be thoroughly thawed and also be very careful of injecting marinades into your bird. The extra liquid may cause the oil to spill over, starting a fire. The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing, allowing 24 hours for every five pounds of bird.

- Keep a portable fire extinguisher nearby. Never use a water type extinguisher to extinguish a grease or oil fire.

- If your fryer does catch fire and you are unable to extinguish it, dial 911 immediately!

Also remember that the oil inside the pot will remain hot for hours after your turkey has been removed. Don't bring it indoors and again, keep children and pets away from the pot. Have a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

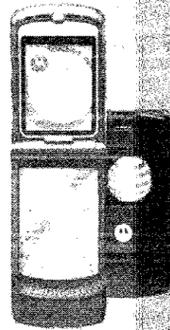
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
PO Box 30204
Lansing, Michigan 48909
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE, that the Land and Water Management Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing at the City of Westland Friendship Center, 1119 North Newburgh Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to secure the views of interested persons concerning the following application for permit:

Application for Permit 07-82-0035-P under Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, by Kentmoor LLC, c/o Doug Monroe, 32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 400, Royal Oak, Michigan. The applicant proposes to develop 14.3 acres of vacant land off Hannan and John Hix Roads, between Palmer Road and M-12, to construct the Maida's Woods Condominium site with 39 detached single-family homes, and associated infrastructure. A total of approximately 1,416 cubic yards of clay fill will be placed in approximately 0.33 acres of emergent wetland for construction of roadways and preparation of lots. Water main, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer lines will be placed under wetland using the open trench method. An underground storm water management system is proposed, with discharge to an existing 36 inch storm water main along John Hix Road. Mitigation is not proposed. The project is located in T2S, R9E, Section 30, City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan.

The application is available for review at the DEQ website, www.deq.state.mi.us/CIWPIS, or may be reviewed in the Land and Water Management Division, DEQ, 27700 Donald Court, Warren, Michigan 48092-2793, by calling 586-753-3862. The public hearing record will remain open for 10 days after the public hearing date. Any written comments to be submitted for the public hearing record must be received at this address on or before the close of the record.

The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 30307 of the cited statute. The hearing will not be a court-type proceeding; witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross examination. Public hearings are primarily informational and are held to encourage the expression of views and presentation of facts.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will, upon written request, provide a copy of the Department's decision on this application.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Wendy Fitzner, Chief
Permit Consolidation Unit
Land and Water Management Division
517-373-9244

Date: November 9, 2007

NOTE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should call the telephone number listed above in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Publish: November 15, 2007

CE068912-28

OUR VIEWS

Astronaut's visit inspires students

A small school put western Wayne County on NASA's map when they decided to make and send cards to astronaut Sunita Williams, during her 6 1/2-month stay aboard the International Space Station.

They did it with the enthusiasm of school children, which showed when Williams and her flight director Bob Dempsey visited St. Damian School earlier this month.

It's not that often a celebrity visits the area, let alone a real-life astronaut and her flight director. That's a first — one that didn't go unnoticed by state and city officials who joined students in welcoming Williams and in giving her gifts to remember her visit to Michigan.

While Williams brought copies of her mission patches for the students, but we believe she and Dempsey brought much more to the students. The excitement of going into space, the thrill of living and working on the space station, working with space by staying on the ground came through loud and clear in everything they said and did.

Their visit was more than a piece of history. It was an inspiration for the students, who hung on their every word. How many students left the school gymnasium with their own dream of one day becoming an astronaut? How many young girls looked at Williams and imagined themselves standing in her place?

They may only know Mercury astronaut Alan Shepherd, the first American in space, and Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, as names in a textbook. But they know Williams as a living, breathing astronaut who took the time to talk to them and show them what it's like to live in space.

What she didn't tell them is that she holds three records for female space travelers — the longest spaceflight (195 days), number of space walks (four) and total time spent on space walks (29 hours, 17 minutes).

We can't say enough about the visit by Williams and Dempsey and what they brought to the children. How we explore our universe is about to change, as NASA transitions from the space station to a return to the moon and on to Mars. Who knows, one of those students they inspired may be among those future space explorers.

Early interest critical to affecting election

You've heard it before — every vote counts. It bears repeating after some very close races this month. Notably, two races — one for city commission, the other city council — tied in Macomb County.

What readers may not hear, however, is the importance of getting involved in the electoral process early. From the looks of the presidential race, which has been heating up more than a year before the election, the word "early" has taken on new meaning — and urgency.

Primaries not only are an expression of who voters like, they're also a vote on the policies and promises of each candidate. The drive to move up primaries in the election calendar is designed to have a greater impact on those candidates and issues.

So if you have a burning issue, get involved. The primaries are a great way for voters to bring home national politics to the local level.

Primaries not only are an expression of who voters like, they're also a vote on the policies and promises of each candidate. The drive to move up primaries in the election calendar is designed to have a greater impact on those candidates and issues. So if you have a burning issue, get involved. The primaries are a great way for voters to bring home national politics to the local level.

Another way to have an impact on national policy issues is to pay attention to the congressional seats that will be filled in 2008. Republicans like Joe Knollenberg in Oakland County and Thaddeus McCotter in Wayne County could be vulnerable, if voters associate them with the increasingly unpopular policies of President George W. Bush.

The Knollenberg race is building rapidly. Who eventually wins could depend on which candidates' supporters do the best job of getting out the vote. Will you be among them?

The early impact of voters is even more keenly felt at the county level. For instance, in Wayne County, the countywide races are conducted in strongly-held Democratic territory. So even though the races are partisan, the real contests will be in the August primaries on the Democratic side of the ballot.

Clearly while it's important to vote, it's also important to get involved early on and stay interested in the political process.



Be a bell ringer

"Thanks for the chance to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army."

That's been the overwhelming response we've received from excited first-time volunteers for our Red Kettle Campaign.

The Salvation Army will again be busy from Nov. 16 through Dec. 24, ringing bells at more than 300 retail locations in the metro Detroit area. You can help us by logging on to www.ringbell.org for Wayne-Westland and signing up to be a volunteer bell ringer. You can register to ring for just two hours, and in that time collect enough money to provide meals to more than 50 needy children. All kettle locations and time slots that are available to volunteer for are listed at www.ringbell.org for Wayne-Westland.

This is a fantastic way for companies to give back to the community, for students to get involved in community service and for parents and grandparents to show their children the importance of helping those less fortunate. Take a few minutes to check out www.ringbell.org for Wayne-Westland and find the kettle site that is closest to you. Each shift is only two hours long and every volunteer makes a difference. Come be a part of the "Changing Face" of the Red Kettle Campaign and help us meet our goal of 50,000 volunteer bell ringers.

Remember, two hours can change a life.

Capt. Matt O'Neil,
corps officer

Sandy Kollinger,
administrative assistant/volunteer coordinator
The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps

Election fraud?

I am both amused and trying to figure the logic behind the process of requiring a photo ID when voting in person. Since anywhere from 10 to 20 persons automatically receive absentee voter ballots by mail and return the marked ballots to City Hall by mail, why isn't some sort of ID required of those voters? Anyone can sign the ballot application and then sign the outside envelope when the ballot is returned.

Anyway, terrorists have more ambitious plans than to mess up our election system. Besides, our politicians in Washington have done a good enough job of that already.

Leonard Poger
Westland

Fresh point of view

Congratulations to O&E and all of the young reporters who contributed to the new Student Voices feature! I especially enjoyed the article about the Quo Vadis, written by Tyler Vosgerchian. It brought back memories from my childhood growing up in the metro Detroit area, seeing that unique building. It is also interesting to hear its history. Now that new attention has been given to the Quo Vadis, the fact that the architect is world renowned for designing the World Trade Center, perhaps an investor will restore the building before it is too late.

Let's all encourage our young reporters. What a fresh point of view to walk

past a place that we adults have seen so often that we tend to forget it's there, and ask what, where, when, why, and who and deliver a quality story. That's what journalism is all about!

Lisa Hudson
Plymouth

Bishop deserved better

Thanks to Kurt Kuban for a great editorial ("Too many make immigrants scapegoats for nation's ills," Nov. 8). I was at St. Thomas a' Becket when Bishop Daniel Flores spoke and was dismayed at the response of the audience. I thought he eloquently described the dilemma — conflicting rights of countries to secure their borders, and the right of man to move for the purpose of feeding their family. This is a complex issue, not easily reduced to right and wrong.

I spend summers in Traverse City where the farmers have been unable to hire enough help to pick their crops. The migrant workers are vital to the U.S. agricultural industry, and the recent tightening of our borders has led to a serious reduction in the workforce. The farmers advertised for farm help with large posters and an 800 phone number. The last time I heard, they hadn't received a single call — so much for Mexicans stealing jobs.

I am hoping that the people that night were not parishioners nor Catholic. I wanted to tell them if they are so interested in keeping Mexicans and Central Americans out of the U.S., they should consider sponsoring a child through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA). These people do not want to leave their countries. It is a hardship born out of desperation.

Maureen Anthony
Canton

Column was off the mark

According to Kurt Kuban's column on illegal immigration, Bishop Daniel Flores was treated rather impolitely after positing that Americans should treat illegal aliens with respect and dignity. With that unrealistic premise, it's no wonder the bishop incurred his audience's wrath. Respect is earned, not given. And making a mockery of this country's immigration laws is not exactly the best way to earn respect from Americans.

In his column, Kuban attempts to play the great humanitarian, performing a little verbal tap dance, with each step geared to obscure the illegality aspect. But illegality is at the heart of this issue. It's not fear of job loss. If that were the case, Americans would decry every single immigrant who steps foot on these shores. It's not racism. No one is bad mouthing Hispanics who are here legally.

Does Kuban think that Americans wouldn't be just as furious if it were millions of Norwegians flooding our country while giving the finger to our laws? Indeed, it's illegality that produces animosity toward the trespassers, with the tangential consequences merely adding fuel to the anger.

The most egregious part of Kuban's smoke screen rhetoric was comparing his immigrant ancestors to the tres-

passers. The analogy was not only an insult to his people, but to everyone who immigrates to this country while playing by the rules.

Larry Binstock
Canton

Promotes prejudice

At a time when racial profiling is a societal anomaly and against the law, it's incredulous that a respected member of the fourth estate would print a miscreant's description saying, "he was described as Arabic, etc.," under the police briefs. Tragically, it's that kind of prejudice labeling that promotes discrimination, suspicion and divides people into partisan groups.

Regardless of skin color and tone, dress, language inflections, proximity of the describer to the individual being described, police officers are trained not to profile no matter their prejudices. Law breakers come in all sizes, shapes, colors — and white — and ethnic backgrounds. No particular ethnic group or color is more predisposed to criminal activity than any others. Prejudice — a belief without basis — is learned. It's not inborn, not in the DNA.

William J. Carruth
Royal Oak

Wrong way

Parks and fisheries are government assets that should be encouraged. Tourism is a profitable industry essential to Michigan. School and road expenses require better auditing. Teachers unions run education and children do not get much bang for their buck. Educator pay and benefits are among the nation's best, but reading, writing and arithmetic results are shameful.

Politicians suffer from inbreeding: They talk mostly to each other. Maple Road suffers "roundabout" panacea. MDOT statistics may claim they reduce accidents, but many drivers fearfully avoid them. These expensive replacements for stop lights would not survive a vote by the drivers or taxpayers.

If Michigan shuts down, common sense might return. It happens when all other options fail.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

QUOTABLE

"It's a good feeling. It's very humbling. We've tried to put the residents first, and it looks like they've responded to it. This is a good vote of confidence."

- Mayor William Wild after winning the two-year term up for grabs in last week's general election

Michigan, workforce are at a crossroads

Michigan and its workforce are at a crossroads. The globalization and evolution of our industries is changing the talents and skills companies demand to maintain and grow successful businesses. Michigan's challenge and duty today is to help provide that workforce.

It is not optional. It is a transformational change that we must embrace as a state if we hope to keep our lifeblood ... our workforce in Michigan. Our people are talented. They are gifted. They are innovative and they are mobile. If they cannot find jobs in Michigan they will leave. That, in turn, could cause companies to rethink their commitment to Michigan because they cannot fill the positions they need.

We need to take action now. More than 300,000 people have lost their jobs in our state since 2000 and our rate of unemployment is among the highest in the nation. The individuals need and want to work, yet many need additional education and training to be able to meet employer needs.

In 2010, a short three years from now, 70 percent of the fastest growing jobs in our state will require a post-secondary degree. Today only 29 percent of our residents age 25 and over have attained an associate's or higher degree. We have time to train this workforce but it is limited time. We need to take bold actions now. The economic future of Michigan and our residents depends on it.

Earlier this summer, Gov. Jennifer Granholm introduced the No Worker Left Behind initiative. No Worker Left Behind is a free tuition program that helps unemployed or underemployed workers get the training they need for new jobs and to help employers find qualified workers. To qualify, an individual must be unemployed, have received a layoff notice or be employed but with a family income of less than \$40,000.

By combining state and federal dollars already used for worker training programs, No Worker Left Behind can offer free tuition of up to \$5,000 a year for education and training for high-demand jobs in emerging industries such as health care. About 100,000 qualified individuals are expected to take advantage of this program and pursue a degree or occupational certificate at any Michigan community college, university

In the face of Michigan's economic challenges, we need to make investments in our workforce that help us regain and create jobs that pay good wages, support a vibrant middle class, and forge a strong tax base in our state. Failing to do so would mean more poverty, more job loss, and putting ourselves among the states racing to the bottom. No Worker Left Behind is our chance to stay competitive in the changing global economy.

or other approved training program. So far \$37 million in 2007 federal grants designed to pay for worker retraining has been used as part of this program. No Worker Left Behind initiative represents Michigan's future. The program will educate the kind of workforce that current and future businesses demand, which will increase investment in Michigan and enhance our economic development. We must build a sustainable program that continuously develops a workforce that meets the needs of businesses and instills a desire for lifelong learning in our residents.

In the face of Michigan's economic challenges, we need to make investments in our workforce that help us regain and create jobs that pay good wages, support a vibrant middle class, and forge a strong tax base in our state. Failing to do so would mean more poverty, more job loss, and putting ourselves among the states racing to the bottom. No Worker Left Behind is our chance to stay competitive in the changing global economy. We owe it to our families, our communities, and our businesses to give our workforce the skills it needs to compete.

For more information about No Worker Left Behind, please visit www.michigan.gov/nwlb or call your local Michigan Works! agency at (800) 285-WORKS (9675).

Marge Sorge is chair of the Council for Labor & Economic Growth, a board of business, education, labor, human service leaders as well as local and state officials. CLEG serves in an advisory capacity for Gov. Granholm and the director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth to continuously improve the Statewide Workforce Investment System. Sorge is a Livonia resident.



Marge Sorge

Judge nixes Dem/GOP plan reminiscent of Orwell

What would you say if the Michigan Legislature passed and Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed into law a measure that:

■ Authorized the state to pay up to \$10 million to hold Republican and Democratic primary elections in January.

■ Ordered the Michigan Secretary of State to use this primary to develop — again, at public expense — a list of voters' party preferences, including names and addresses.

■ Require this list to be kept secret — except that the taxpayers would turn it over for free only to the chairs of the Democratic and Republican parties for use in "supporting political party activities."

■ Further, provided that any other use of these records — political, commercial, journalistic, academic, historical or scientific — by anyone else other than the two major political parties is a criminal violation of the law, subject to a \$1,000 fine and up to 93 days in jail?

Naturally — after got your breath back — you'd say this was a plot right out of George Orwell's famous and terrifying novel, *1984*, which described political tyranny and the ultimate destruction of democracy. Then you'd ask — or hopefully, scream — "Who in their right mind would ever imagine such a thing?"

Surprise — all that really happened ... and this year!

Turns out (and I'm not making this up) this was exactly what was dreamed up by Mark Brewer, chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, and Saulius "Saul" Anuzis, his GOP counterpart. Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Traverse City, introduced the deal July 6.

Her bill was speedily passed by both houses of the Legislature (yes, the same folks that take a year to balance the budget) and signed into law by the governor.

You might fairly call that "politburo politics." And it was concocted by Michigan's hyper-partisan political parties in order to hold primary elections in January 2008 to pick their respective nominees for president. It's a perfect example of the kind of unthinking partisan arrogance that's been going on in Lansing over the last several tumultuous and embarrassing months.

The result has, once again, ignored — or, frankly, shafted — the interests of 10 million Michigan citizens, and instead attempted to sacrifice them to the partisan agendas of both political parties.

This time, however, they didn't quite get away with it. Fortunately, a group of citizens sued. They were led by Mark Grebner, a very competent East Lansing political consultant who uses public records to compile and sell detailed voter lists.

The plaintiffs argued that the law meant publicly-funded resources would be given away for free exclusively to the political parties for their private

use and profit. That, they argued, was a violation of the Michigan Constitution.

Last Wednesday, Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette agreed, striking down the law because it made publicly-gathered voter lists the secret and exclusive possession of both political parties. Collette ruled there was "clear injury" to the public and that turning over the voter lists to the parties was unconstitutional.

Nor was this unthinking partisan arrogance confined to drafting and passing the offending law. Eric Doster, a lawyer for the state Republican Party, argued in open court that primary elections are essentially private events, even if paid for by public money.

Presidential primary voter records are "not the state of Michigan's property. This is the party's property. These are our members," Doster said. Right. You get it. Public voter records are the party's property. Our voters, our votes, our members, our elections.

Certainly not the people's.

Somewhere, Orwell's Big Brother is smiling.

No doubt Judge Collette's decision will be appealed, maybe all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court. GOP chair Anuzis called the ruling a "hiccup" and said he didn't think it would affect the primary.

But at least he talked to the press. Repeated calls to Democratic chair Brewer and Sen. McManus were unanswered.

All that was a perfect demonstration of how much contempt the major parties have for the general public in contempt.

Though you may not immediately realize it, there's an issue at stake here that means a lot to ordinary folks: Suppose you see yourself as a determinedly independent crossover voter, sometimes voting for the Democrat, sometimes for the Republican. Under the new law, you'd be labeled as one or the other depending on which primary you voted in. Your vote would be accessible only to the political parties, who could then target or ignore you at their leisure — without you being able to do anything about it.

Or suppose you want to run for the Legislature, but you're independent-minded, not always in lock-step with your party. If you want to reach the voters, the voter lists are a very useful tool.

But under the law just struck down, you'd never get to use them if the parties decided you were too much of a troublemaker.

If you are concerned about losing your rights, or if you care about the impact of belligerent and self-absorbed political partisanship on Lansing's ability to lead Michigan out of the mess we're in, I'd urge you to watch this case closely.

And maybe raise holy hell.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here do not represent the official views of The Center. Power welcomes comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.



Phil Power

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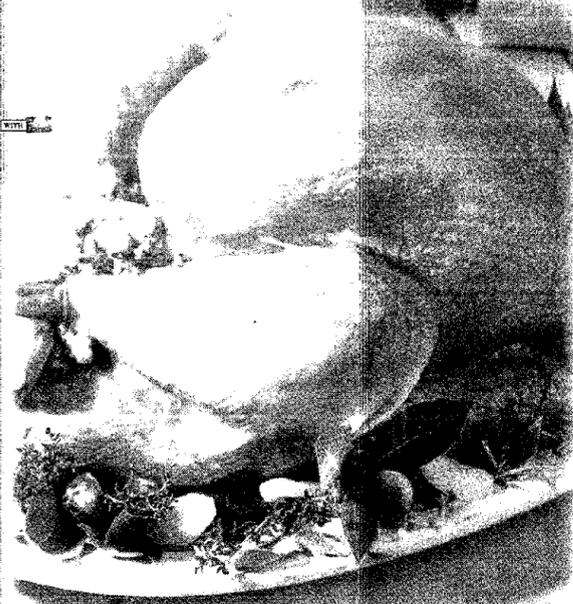
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Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16.

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of All Class Transportation, make-over by Utopia Salon & Spa on Main Street in Northville (hair by Sebastian and makeup by ILSE), a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top "fan" letters. The star featured for the month makes the final selection.

Key winners named; read stories online

Eight people who shared their stories of courage, strength, faith and hope will receive an autographed copy of Linda Solomon's new book, *The Key: Celebrated People Unlock the Secrets to Life*.

A Bloomfield Hills-based author and award-winning photojournalist, Solomon writes about the turning point in people's lives.

The winners in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers contest "The Key to Courage, Strength, Faith and Hope" are Lucille Smilgis of Farmington Hills, Bart Berman of Bloomfield Hills, Karen Schoonover of Troy, Janet Kerns of Bloomfield Hills, Elizabeth Herczak of Livonia, Cindy Stewart of Troy, Mary Ann Blessing and Florence Rappaport of Nevada.

The winning entries can be read online at www.hometownlife.com. Click on the Key logo.

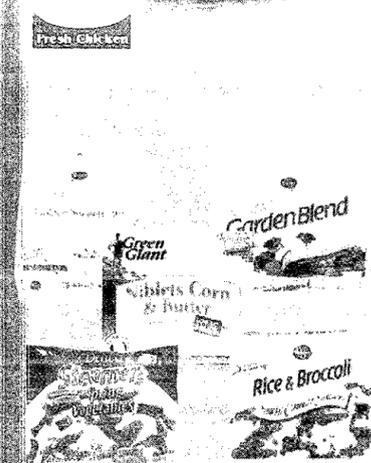
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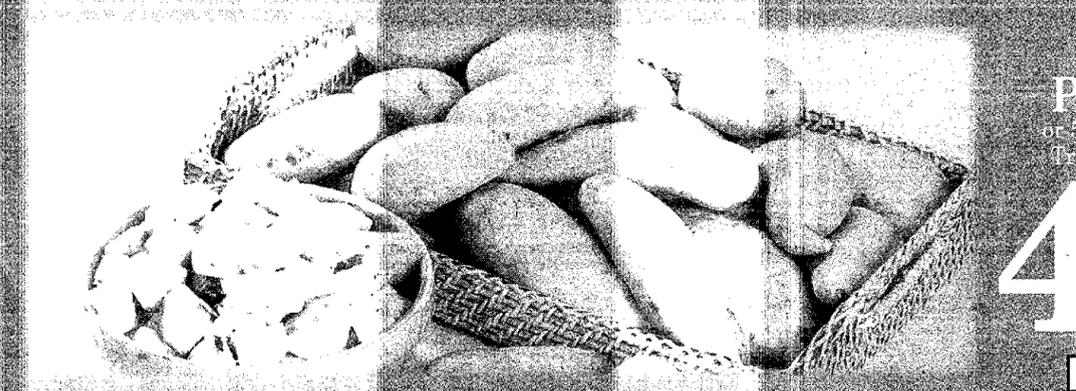
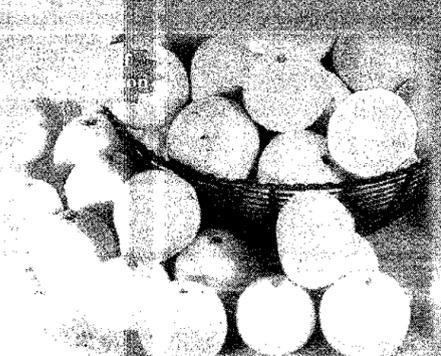
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Spartans' scout team thrives during playoff run

Sidelines

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

PREP FOOTBALL

Their numbers — 85, 45, 59, 50, 8, 13, 73, 83, 46 — never get called in a game.

Attach some of the names like Mark Marchelleta, Tommy Jenkins, Kenny Foisy, James Bowlby, Osama al-Hakimi, Bryan Wilkie, Tommy Strobl, Keith Reid and Ben Beaman, and it's a sure bet they've never been mentioned in the newspaper either.

But for the Stevenson coaching staff, the scout team this season has proven to be a

valuable commodity in the Spartans' 12-0 football run. And they're one of the reasons why Stevenson is only a victory away from the Division 1 state championship game Nov. 24 at Detroit's Ford Field.

"We see a lot of different offenses — the spread, Wing-T, I-formation, option — it doesn't take long for them to call out the formations in the huddle," Stevenson head coach Tim Gabel said. "We really do have good scout players. They just

kill themselves for the team."

Gabel's assistant, Matt Fielder, preps the scout team defense each and every week.

"He'll use stunts, blitzes, throw everything but the kitchen sink at us," Gabel said. "And the kids revel in it. The kids really understand their roles and they've done a great job. It really frustrates the offense. They take their job seriously in practice."

Gabel, meanwhile, runs the scout team offense and admits: "It's become an exceedingly frustrating job."

And this week the scout team

will pose as state semifinal opponent is Troy (9-2), which Gabel admits will be another challenging task.

The Colts, coming off an impressive 34-0 win last Friday over previously unbeaten Warren Cousino, features a three-headed monster in the backfield.

Quarterback Branko Hamilton, a 6-foot, 180-pound senior, has thrown for 1,243 yards and run for 976.

He is joined by 5-9, 195-pound senior Brandon Pardun, who has rushed for a team-best 1,136. Also in the mix is 5-8,

160-pound senior Nick Gallina, who has caught 35 passes for 549 yards and rushed for another 1,045 yards.

"Anyone of those guys can hurt you in a hurry," Gabel said. "They're three very good players. They're slashing, fast and twisting players, always moving forward."

"Our scout team will have to simulate it to the best of their ability."

Gabel said the Colts are a cross between Stevenson's regular season opponents Walled

Please see **SPARTANS, B3**

No peers

Chargers' Abron is Miss Volleyball

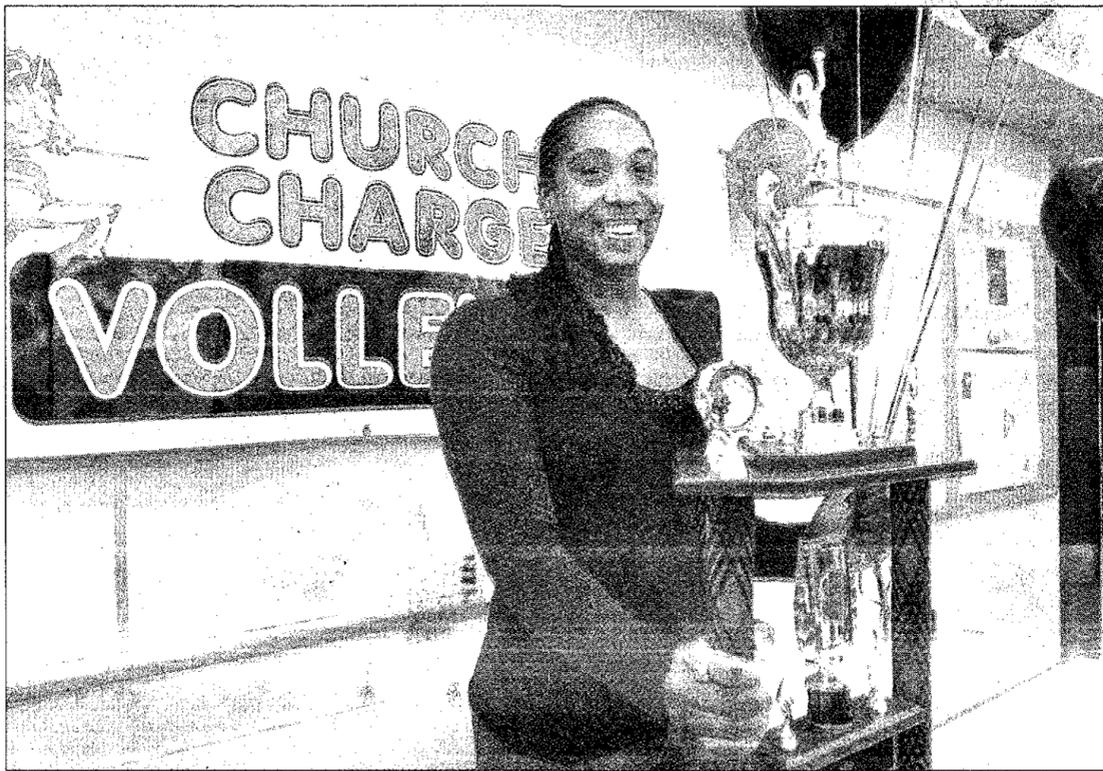
BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Churchill library appeared to be an appropriate venue to announce the latest Miss Volleyball.

That's because one could certainly write a book on Kyndra Abron's rapid ascent from a curious novice player to the state's premier hitting talent.

Maybe it was only appropriate that the 6-foot-2 Abron was a bit tongue-tied after accepting the award from Jenni Thunberg, president and chair of the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association.

"I'd like to thank all my teammates, friends, family, coaches — this is special to me," said Abron, who edged out



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Please see **ABRON, B2**

Churchill's 6-foot-2 Kyndra Abron is all smiles while holding the 2007 (fall) Miss Volleyball Award, which was announced Monday in the school library.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Katie Matz (left) and Jackie Grillbeck (right) can't quite stop a shot over the net during Saturday's Class A regional semifinal loss to Milford at Novi.

Champs dethroned

Milford ousts Churchill in regional semifinal

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill ran into a hot team Saturday in its bid to defend its Class A girls volleyball title and the result was an unexpected and quick exit.

The Chargers' season ended abruptly Saturday in regional semifinals at Novi as upstart Milford, runner-up in the Kensington Valley Conference, pulled out a victory in five games, 13-25, 25-21, 27-25, 24-26, 15-13.

Churchill ends its 2007 fall campaign with an overall record of 45-3-3.

KVC champion Novi (37-3-3) went on to beat Milford (37-6-3) in four games for the regional crown and advanced Tuesday night in its quarterfinal matchup beating Wyandotte in four games.

Against Churchill, Milford started slowly and had no answers for the Chargers' newly named Miss Volleyball Kyndra Abron, who had a total of 37 kills and four blocks.

"The first game — things were going so well — we got lucky bounces and we got some calls, so I guess it could only go down from there," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said.

Milford got some momentum going in the second and third games as Churchill struggled with both serve-receive and passing.

Senior middle hitter Sarah Gordon recorded eight of her 16 kills in the second game, while 6-foot-4 Kaitlyn Schultz, headed to Central Michigan University, added eight of her team-high 22 kills in the third game.

"When you don't have ball control, you can't do the things you want to do," Grenier said. "In the second and third games we broke down and Milford took advantage. Their game plan right away was to keep the ball away from Graciak and (Jordan) Kerr."

The Chargers, however, rallied to win Game 4 thanks to a key block by Jessica Stroud to break a 24-all deadlock.

But in the fifth and deciding game, Milford took command and held off a late Churchill run to pull out the victory.

"They forced us to do other things," Grenier said. "We had opportunities and chances over and over again, but did not finish. And that's the story of the day."

Graciak, a junior, finished with a team-high 36 digs, while junior setter Kayla Johnston added nine digs and 61 assist-to-kills. Junior outside hitter Kristen Nalezek finished with 14 kills and nine digs.

"We saw them at a tourney and we scouted them," Milford coach Jim Marszalek said of the Chargers. "And we felt if we passed well and served the ball away from No. 1 (Shannon Warner) and No. 2 (Lindsey Graciak), we could go after some other players and take our medicine. We wanted to get them out of their system and our girls played great."

Please see **CHURCHILL, B2**

Mott Trot for Toys

The Livonia Ladywood cross country team will stage a 5-kilometer run-walk beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 with the start and finish at George Murphy's at The Creek, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

The 5K run-walk will benefit the Pediatric Oncology Unit at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Participants are urged to bring an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl up to age 15.

The \$25 early registration fee (by Nov. 25) includes a Brooks Technical running shirt and goodie bag, along with a holiday party featuring pizza, pasta, salad and fresh fruit. There will also be music, refreshments, door prizes and a drawing for prizes from sponsors. (The holiday party only is \$10.)

For more information, call (734) 642-6664.

Collegiate notes

■ Grand Valley State University freshman Jeff Pauza (Livonia Stevenson) won the 1,000-yard freestyle (9:57.74) in the Lakers' double-dual meet victory Saturday over Calvin College and Wheaton (Ill.) College.

■ Albion College sophomore Erica Hope (Livonia Churchill) recently earned her first-year certificate in women's cross country.

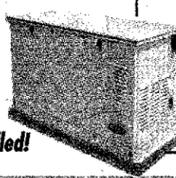
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ABRON

FROM PAGE B1

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep's Molly Coldren in the final point tally, 173-142. "This team was special to me and I'd like to thank the teams in prior years. I really feel honored and ..."

Many others can finish the sentence for Abron, who took up the sport of volleyball as a mere curiosity and was cut from her Riley Middle School team before she even arrived at Churchill as a raw ninth-grader.

Four years later, Abron racked up 2,020 total kills, including 800 this season (6.4 per game with a .560 hitting percentage), not to mention a phenomenal effort in last spring's Class A state championship run.

Churchill coach Mark Grenier, who helped polish the proverbial diamond in the rough, predicts even greater things for Abron as she embarks on her next destination — Michigan State.

"Her ceiling is so high, she's not come close to seeing what the finished product will be," Grenier said. "She's really grown and matured over the years. She's driven to be a leader and improve her game. This year she was a different player because of her past experiences. She's been pretty dominant, but this year we moved her from the middle more to the outside where she could see the ball more. It was a big transition, but she became more of a consistent player. She hit at a different tempo with the ball and played more of a complete game."

Abron recorded 37 kills in her final high school match, a five-game setback to Milford in the regional semifinals at Novi.

Churchill won't be defending its state title.

"I'm not thinking about it, I've accepted hit because I played as good as I can and gave it my all," Abron said. "I played my best game and I can't beat myself up. Usually when I lose, I'm upset. But I can't be upset because I did all I could have done."

Later that evening Abron shuttled up to Michigan State to watch the Spartans take on top-ranked Penn State. She's

MISS VOLLEYBALL RESULTS

(2007 MIVCA FALL VOTING)

1. Kyndra Abron (Churchill) 173
2. Molly Coldren (N.D. Prep) 142
3. Brittany McGinnis (Fraser) 108
4. Kim Stewart (E. Kentwood) 88
5. Sara Skornia (Bay City Cent.) 62
6. Alex DelPombo (Monroe CC) 59
7. Kristin Zull (B.C. St. Phillip) 35
8. Ashlee Crowder (Jenison) 34
8. Kaitlyn Schultz (Milford) 34
10. Lindsey Rees (Bronson) 18

Past winners

- 2007 — Lauren Jones (E. Kentwood)
- 2006 — Alisha Glass (Leland)
- 2005 — Stephanie Booms (Marysville)
- 2004 — Angie McGinnis (Fraser)
- 2003 — Lindsey Jaatjes (For. Hills No.)

already scouting out her future competition.

"She has our TV programmed to the Big Ten Network," said Abron's mother, Cassandra. "She loves playing against great competition and the Big Ten is arguably one of the best in the nation. She's really excited to play them. She wants to watch her new opponents and she has to see how they play."

Grenier saw an unpolished gem in his summer camp when Abron came aboard as a freshman. He immediately placed her on the JV team and let her learn the hard way — by playing, practicing and drilling daily.

When the 2005 state tournament came around, Grenier elevated the freshman to the varsity. And in the regional, Grenier needed somebody to go up and block 6-5 All-Stater Lauren Paolini of Saline, now a junior standout for the nationally-ranked Texas Longhorns.

"Coach 'G' (Grenier) thought I could stop her," Abron recalls. "She (Paolini) was so big. When I looked at her I was amazed. I did not know what to do. I was not ready to do that because I had only been playing a few months. I could not stop her or get a touch. I tried laughing it off. It was an eye opener."

Abron didn't let the regional setback affect her. She got right back into the gym.

"We spent a lot of time in the early days, I don't know the count, just hours and hours," Grenier said. "We hit against the wall, worked on transition. But the thing is that she always

showed up. She never said 'no.' She was always willing to put the time in."

Although both Cassandra and James Abron knew little about the club volleyball scene, they embraced it and provided the funding.

"My parents have been extremely supportive," Kyndra Abron said. "They had to drive me around, but they knew this is what love to do and it was important to me. They figured I had the talent and wanted me to pursue it."

Added Cassandra: "Mr. (Marc) Hage (Churchill's athletic director) would say 'one in 10,000' are going to get a full-ride scholarship, but I guess she (Kyndra) was going to be one of those ones. It's been worth the time and the effort for one. Most kids would have the remote in their hands or play video games, but she was always gone at 7 in the morning and wouldn't come home until 9 or 10 at night, whether it was track or volleyball. I never heard complaints."

Kyndra, an accomplished high jumper, along with being a state-ranked shot put and discus thrower, is unsure whether she'll return to Churchill's track team next spring.

She will definitely play for Madonna University assistant coach Ed Tolentino on the M Juniors team out of Ann Arbor beginning in November.

"Track is hard for me to do," Abron said. "Doing the club travel might be easier this year. Right now I'm not sure."

Abron might have planted a seed in the MIVCA voters' eyes last March with her dominant performance against top-ranked East Kentwood (21 kills) in the semifinals and North Branch (35 kills, the MHSAA's second all-time) in the finals.

And before the East Kentwood match even started, the Western Michigan University Arena crowd buzzed over Abron's hitting exhibition during the warm-ups.

"I don't want to stand in front of that, and I was a defensive player," said Thunberg of Abron's monstrous attacks. "I knew she was the front-runner after watching her last year and I saw her at a tournament again this year. I think they picked the right Miss Volleyball."

Hillsdale Academy survives stiff 5-game test by Warriors

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Before the afternoon was done Saturday, Lutheran High Westland coach Kevin Wade was thinking about the future and next volleyball season.

After losing a five-game match with Hillsdale Academy in a Class D regional final at Lutheran High, Wade surveyed the prospects for another tournament run in 2008.

"We only lose three players, and we had a great jayvee," he said. "There's no reason we can't be even better next year. We have to get over the hump. We lost in four last year in the regional final (to Oakland Christian), and this year we lost in five."

"A lot of girls have been in the regional final, and we hope the experience helps us in the future."

In a battle between state-ranked powers, the No. 6 Warriors went the distance with No. 2 Hillsdale Academy before losing in five, 25-17, 18-25, 25-17, 22-25, 15-8.

Lutheran High (28-5-5) caught a break and didn't have to play a semifinal match after No. 1-rated Adrian Lenawee Christian was forced to withdraw from the tournament for using an ineligible player in the district.

The Warriors watched as the Colts (40-8-5) defeated Plymouth Christian Academy in a preliminary match Saturday, 28-26, 25-13, 21-25, 25-15.

"If we had played Lenawee and Hillsdale, we would've had to expend a lot of energy, and it would have been a difficult thing," Wade said. "It helped us to go straight to the final. It was a gift we got. It was unfortunate what happened, but we

PREP VOLLEYBALL

knew we could compete with them.

"The big talk was Lenawee didn't get to play Hillsdale. Now that they saw what we're capable of, hopefully, they didn't leave here disappointed. We played the No. 2 team in the state tough."

Six-foot middle hitter Clara Leutheuser, who led the Colts with 29 kills in the championship match, was a dominating presence in the first game.

After a timeout, the Warriors closed to 20-17 with four straight points, but the Colts won the serve with a Leutheuser kill and scored five unanswered points.

In the second game, Leutheuser wasn't involved as much in the action, and Lutheran High junior middle Becca Refenes began to assert herself as the Warriors showed some fight.

"We haven't see a big middle like that all year," Wade said. "We didn't know anything about them. We had to adjust to what (Leutheuser) could do. Once we did that, we were okay. As much as you try to simulate that in practice, you can't do that."

Hillsdale gained the lead early in the third game and held it, but Lutheran High battled back in the fourth and closest game.

Wade used a timeout with the Colts leading, 22-20, and halted their momentum. The Warriors won it with a Hillsdale error and four serves by Julie Jongsma — the final point being a kill by Refenes.

"We could have folded and cashed it in, being down two games to one, but we came back and got to the deciding

game," Wade said. "It was two great teams going at it. (The Colts) made the plays when they needed them; they definitely earned it. We have nothing to hang our heads about."

The fifth game was close early, but Lutheran High missed two straight serves. With a 9-8 lead, Leutheuser and the Colts finished strong, scoring the final six points despite two timeouts by the Warriors.

"We had some letdowns here and there," Hillsdale coach Matt Miller said. "All in all, the girls played tough and did what they needed to do to get the victory."

"We've played better, but this (Lutheran High) team was tough, scrappy on defense. The kids adjusted well to the team they were playing and found a way to win."

"In Game 4, we gave away a lot of points on our errors. It wasn't that we got outplayed. If we got rid of the errors on our side of the net, I thought we would be fine in Game 5."

"It comes down to who can make less errors," Wade said. "In the games we lost, we made more errors than they did. When two teams are real even like that, it comes down to who makes the fewer mistakes."

BY THE NUMBERS: Lutheran High's Becca Refenes had 15 kills in the final, seven solo blocks and 31 touches to keep the ball in play. Junior Chelsea Kyles had nine kills, one solo and six touches; junior Allyson Yankee had eight kills; junior Katy Ramthun had seven kills, one solo and 12 touches; senior Myrian Storck had two solos and 10 touches; senior Julie Jongsma had 16 assists and junior Lauren Gieschen 14. Yankee had 24 digs, Refenes 22, Ranthum 15, Storck 13 and junior Abi Gieschen 10. Jongsma and Ranthum served three aces apiece.

Madonna brings home WHAC volleyball crown

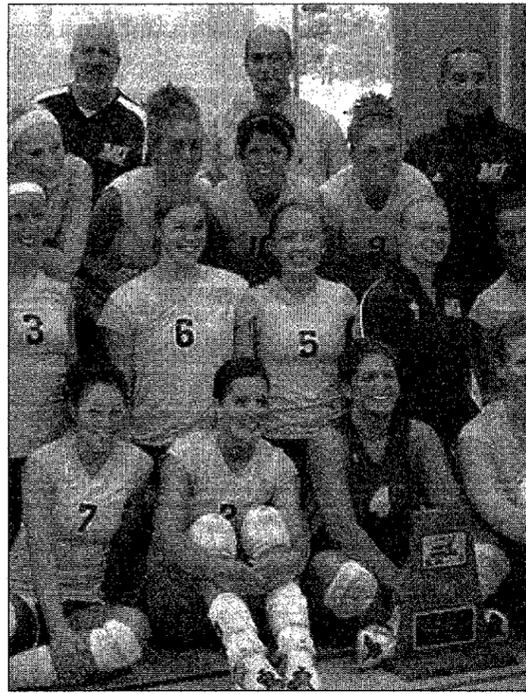
Behind 26 kills from All-American Lubovj Tihomirova and a team .324 hitting percentage, the Madonna University women's volleyball team downed Cornerstone, 30-18, 30-27, 30-22, to win the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title in a match played at Henry Ford Community College.

With the victory, MU earns the right to host the NAIA Region VIII Tournament Friday and Saturday in the Activities Center. The Crusaders (31-10) will be the top-seeded WHAC team in the six-team field on its newly refurbished floor. At 10 a.m. Saturday, they play Friday's first-round match between Indiana Tech and Taylor (Ind.) with No. 2 seed Indiana Wesleyan taking on Friday's Cornerstone-Bethel (Ind.) winner. The championship match is slated for 5 p.m. Saturday at MU.

Tihomirova led the Crusaders with her 26 kills and was joined in double figures by Whitney Fuelling and Mary McGinnis, who had 14 and 13, respectively. Setter Inta Grinvalds handed out 54 assists while Jacqui Gatt (Livonia Churchill) posted 25 digs.

Holly Cousins and Rebecca Baker had 12 kills each for Cornerstone (38-5).

Prior to the match, the WHAC awards were handed out and MU took home a truck-load of hardware as Fuelling, Gatt, Grinvalds and Tihomirova were all named to



The Madonna University women's volleyball team celebrates after winning last weekend's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

the first-team, while McGinnis and Stephanie Parslow were selected honorable mention.

Tihomirova and Gatt took home the big awards — Player of the Year and Libero of the Year, respectively. Meanwhile,

Parslow was also selected as the Crusaders' representative on the WHAC Champion of Characters team as the student-athlete who best represents the NAIA's five core values.

Gatt, Fuelling, Szymanski and Tihomirova were named to the WHAC's All-Academic Team as well.

CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

The Mavericks were also able to overcome Abron's towering presence in the front row.

"We wanted to get as

many touches against her as we could, but she's so good because she still hit over us and around us — just amazing," Marszalek said of the 6-2 Michigan State recruit.

Milford came into the match ranked No. 8, while Churchill was No. 5.

"The last month and a half

we found a lineup that jelled on both ends, offensively and defensively," Marszalek said. "And it's all because of serve reception. We were around 68 percent most of the season, but the last month we're up to around 80 percent."

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Blazers grounded at Airport

Livonia Ladywood's volleyball team traveled Saturday to Carleton Airport and never got off the runway in its Class B regional semifinal.

The Blazers suffered Jet-lag as Airport won in three games, 25-15, 25-23, 25-4.

Only the second game was close as Ladywood bowed out with a 17-17-5 overall record.

The Jets' Kathy Stewart, a sophomore outside hitter,

notched back-to-back kills to break a 23-all deadlock.

It was the second straight year Airport had ousted Ladywood in the regional.

Airport, a state semifinalist a year ago, went on to defeat 10th-ranked Dearborn Divine Child for the regional championship, 27-25, 23-25, 25-17, 25-21.

Jessica Nagy was the Jets' top hitter on the day, while

Alicia Hooten paced the defense. Setter Nicole Olson also stood out.

On Tuesday, the Jets (50-7) defeated host Richland Gull Lake in the quarterfinals in five games, 26-24, 22-25, 25-19, 26-28, 15-6, and will face Holland Christian (43-7) in 7:15 p.m. Friday state semifinal at Battle Creek's Kellogg Center.

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Churchill icers reload for 2007-08

SPARTANS

FROM PAGE B1

Lake Western and Brighton.

"Scheme-wise, they're a lot like Western, only they don't want to throw it as much," Gabel said. "But they can keep you honest. They also run a lot of shotgun spread like Brighton."

Defensively, the Colts run a 5-2 (alignment) according to Gabel.

"They move around a lot and pursue relentlessly," he said. "They worked Cousino's offense over. Troy is very good, very impressive."

As far as the status Saturday of starting center Ricky Bell (6-0, 248), who suffered a knee injury in last Friday's 10-7 Region 4 win over rival Livonia Franklin, Gabel said the senior captain was scheduled to be re-evaluated on Tuesday. If Bell is not cleared to play, he'll be replaced by 6-foot, 175-pound junior Kyle

Hobbins.

"It might be an MCL sprain, we'll hold out hope for Ricky's sake that he can play," Gabel said. "But we have confidence in Kyle. He'll be just fine."

Presale semifinal tickets

Game time for Saturday's Stevenson-Troy semifinal is 1 p.m. at Southfield-Lathrup, which is located at 19301 W. 12 Mile, Lathrup Village.

The winner will play either Macomb Dakota (12-0) or Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (10-2) for the state championship, 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, at Detroit's Ford Field.

Stevenson has been allotted 1,500 pre-sale state semifinal tickets, according to Spartans' athletic director Lori Hyman, which will be sold during all three lunch periods from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday and Friday. The Lathrup ticket booths will be open at 11 a.m. Ticket prices are \$6, along with a \$2 parking fee.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The success enjoyed by last year's Livonia Churchill boys hockey team may be a tough act to follow.

The Chargers went 23-3-2 overall, were ranked No. 1 and captured the Western Lakes Activities Association crown, only to be derailed in the Division 1 state quarterfinals by Grosse Pointe North, 3-2.

Three first-team All-Staters graduated including defenseman Phil Wendecker, now playing for Traverse City of the North American Hockey League; goaltender Scott Lewan, who plays for Capital District of the EJHL; and defenseman Jason Proctor.

Yet, Chargers' eighth-year coach Mazzoni continues to reload and this year should be no different with the return of seniors Nathan Milam, Keith Yackley and Garrett Miencier, who form one of the state's most potent production lines.

"I'm really excited about the young kids we brought in this year," Mazzoni said. "Obviously, losing three big defensemen is huge, but I like the kids that we have on the blue line. We also graduate a three-year starter in goal - so we'll be playing someone without high school experience."

"We're quicker, smarter and more physical than last year. I think we'll score more goals than we did last year. This group of seniors wants to continue the tradition of Churchill hockey."

Livonia Stevenson, 17-7-2 a year ago and a member of the WLA's Lakes Division, could make things interesting in the WLA as Dave Mitchell, Mazzoni's former assistant at Churchill, takes over for the departed Mike Humitz.

The Spartans lost first-team All-Area forward Marcus Voran, who scored 29 goals and added 17 assists, but his replacement will be younger brother Michael Voran, a



Stevenson's Joseph Byrne (left) and Churchill's Nate Milam both return as key players this season for their respective boys hockey team.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOCKEY PREVIEW

senior who played as a freshman and sophomore for the Spartans before opting to play travel hockey last year.

Another new talented player is Windsor Spitfires' seventh-round draft pick Ryan Baraton, a senior forward. Senior goaltender Pat McHugh also played four years in the Compuware program.

"With so many new faces throughout the whole program, it may make take us awhile out of gate," Mitchell said. "One of our goals to get better every day. There's no doubt that we have some players that have been successful at high school and other levels. We have potential to be good, but how good? That remains to be seen. It's a long road and journey. We want to have a purpose in everything we do."

Livonia Franklin (3-21), certainly took its lumps during Terry Jobbitt's 25th and final season as the Patriots' head coach.

Jobbitt's replacement Franklin grad Scott Wirgau, who returns 16 of 18 players,

including third-team All-Observer goaltender Austin Mesler, who missed two weeks of practice because of his commitment to the Patriots' football team. Senior defenseman Jordan Short and junior defense Ron Perian also just returned following the 12-game grid campaign.

"We have a lot of maturity on the team," Wirgau said. "Honestly, we're real confident we'll do well this year. We took the off-season to focus on fundamentals like strength training and flexibility. We're looking at taking the accomplishments presented, as opportunities for us."

While Franklin returns a veteran squad, Livonia Ladywood (17-3-1) was probably the hardest hit by graduation losses and defections following a run to the semifinals of the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League playoffs.

Gone to Utica College (N.Y.), along with her 40 goals and 18 assists, is Miss Hockey Laura Szwed. Second-team All-Observer pick Prenella Semma, who added 35 goals and six assists in just 17

games, also opted to play travel hockey her junior year with Honeybaked.

The Blazers, however, will put a strong front line out on the ice with the return of seniors Heather Sartorius, Abby Kienbaum and Ashley Ballarin. Goaltender Michelle Wyniemko and defenseman Maria Rotondo are also back for another season.

"We have a good group of returning players," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We're teaching them and they're getting better each day. It will be interesting. We're a work in progress."

All four teams will be in action this weekend with Churchill and Stevenson competing in the Metro Invitational beginning Friday and Saturday at the Novi Ice Arena. Also on Friday, Franklin plays host to non-conference foe Pinckney at Edgar Arena.

Ladywood, meanwhile, opens its season 6 p.m. Saturday at home against Northville at the Arctic Pond in Plymouth.

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PREP HOCKEY CAPSULE OUTLOOKS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Pete Mazzoni, eighth year. **League affiliation:** Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).

Last year's overall record: 23-3-2. **Titles won last year:** WLA, Lakes Division and Division 1 regional champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Phil Wendecker (first-team All-Area); Scott Lewan (first-team All-Area); Jason Proctor (third-team All-Area); Andy LaBerge, Tony Ross, Dustin Wismeyer, Steve Greco.

Leading returnees: Garrett Miencier, Sr. F. (first-team All-Area, 16 goals, 15 assists); Nathan Milam, Sr. F. (second-team All-Area, 18 goals, 15 assists); Keith Yackley, Sr. F. (third-team All-Area); Kyle Burke, Sr. F.; Tyler Cotter, Sr. F.; Josh Proben, Sr. F.; Kody Strong, Jr. F.; Mitch Carpenter, Sr. Def.; Nick Harakas, Sr. Def.; Dan Bostick, Jr. Def.; Scott Sundberg, Sr. Def.; Aaron Crouse, Sr. Def.; Greg Wirick, Sr. G.

Promising newcomers: Cody Atkins, Sr. F.; Travis Satkowiak, Sr. F.; Derrick Daigneau, Sr. F.; Ken Masierczyk, Jr. Def.; Rick Stack, Jr. Def.; Adam Weigand, Jr. Def.; Stefan Kubus, Jr. F.; Christo Papanicolaou, Sr. F.; Scott Hamill, Sr. F.; Mike Woynick, Sr. F.

Mazzoni's 2007-08 outlook: "We graduated some pretty good kids who were in the program awhile. But we return quite a few of the same, or even more experience. Our top

two lines are back including Miencier, Yackley and Milam - three All-Staters - intact - and they will continue to carry the scoring load. We return some kids who will complement them and bring energy every night."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Scott Wirgau, first year. **League affiliation:** WLA (Western Division). **Last year's overall record:** 3-21.

Notable losses to graduation: Derek Cripe (third-team All-Area). **Leading returnees:** Austin Mesler, Sr. G. (third-team All-Area); Jordan Chisholm, Jr. F.; Jordan Short, Sr. Def.; Dan Ostrosky, Sr. F.; Alex Wypych, Sr. F.; Brandon Pump, Sr. F.; Dave Muller, Sr. F.; Tyler Barnes, Jr. F.; Devon Bower, Sr. F.; Carson Gurski, Jr. F.; Ryan Hudie, Jr. Def.; Ben Kubiak, Jr. F.; Ron Perian, Jr. Def.; Nicholas Brooks, Sr. Def.; Robbie Ringe, Sr. F.; Cameron Wludyska, Jr. Def.

Promising newcomers: Eric Volt, Sr. F.; Robbie Beattie, Sr. Def.; Dalton Pennington, Sr. Def.; Jacob Wirgau, Sr. F.; Derek Davis, Sr. F.; Tyler Miller, Sr. F.; Douglas Nagy, Jr. G.; Travis Ferrier, Jr. G.

Wirgau's 2007-08 outlook: "We're working hard and we're not taking any excuses. The season will be a culmination of the work we've put into it. And we've done a ton of work. We're going back to basics. The outcome of the game will be a by-product of our work. We're having

fun every day. The kids can't wait to get to practice."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Dave Mitchell, first year. **League affiliation:** WLA (Lakes Division).

Last year's overall record: 17-7-2. **Notable losses to graduation:** Marcus Voran (first-team All-Area); Dan Barrow (second-team All-Area); Mike Jahn (second-team All-Area); Drew MacEachern (third-team All-Area); Steve Soave, Chris Rapp.

Leading returnees: Sean Lerg, Sr. F.; Jacob Harbowy, Sr. Def.; Mark Bekkala, Sr. Def.; Joe Byrne, Sr. F.; R.J. Kierdorf, Jr. F.; John Yella, Jr. F.; Ian Curran, Sr. F.; Zach Roberts, Sr. F.; Jacob Wilson, Jr. Def.

Promising newcomers: Mike Voran, Sr. F.; Ryan Baraton, Sr. F.; Pat McHugh, Sr. G.; Nolan Wilson, Jr. Def.

Mitchell's 2007-08 outlook: "We're bringing in a pretty experienced club and we're counting on the newcomers. Baraton was a Windsor Spitfires draft pick. He was taken in the seventh round. Having Michael (Voran) come back to high school will add leadership and experience. He played as a freshman and sophomore and he definitely will be asset to our lineup. Pat (McHugh) comes in as our number one goalie. He had some success in the travel leagues and we're happy to have that in that position."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Bruce Peck, sixth year. **League affiliation:** Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League.

Last year's overall record: 17-3-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Laura Szwed (first-team All-Area, Miss Hockey); Brittney Holtz, Sr. Def. (first-team All-Area); Rachel Killian, Angie Iafano.

Leading returnees: Heather Sartorius, Sr. F. (captain); Maria Rotondo, Sr. Def. (captain); Abby Kienbaum, Sr. F. (captain); Ashley Ballarin, Sr. F. (captain); Michelle Wyniemko, Sr. G.; Elise Sarwarski, Sr. Def.; Kaitlin Gaule, Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Shelby Kucharski, Jr. F.; Courtney McCauley, Sr. Def. (transfer from Howell, eligible second semester); Jessica Pavela, Sr. F.; Julie Bushart, Sr. Def.; Jennifer Davis, Sr. F.; Veronica Fradette, Sr. F.; Emann Freij, Sr. F.; Niki Jacobs, Sr. F.

Peck's 2007-08 outlook: "We lost Miss Hockey (Szwed), a first-team All-Stater (Holtz) and another All-Stater (Prenella Semma) to travel hockey. We can still put a line on the ice at one time that will match up with anybody in the league, but the rest is inexperienced. We'll have to go with two lines and four defensemen. (Michelle) Wyniemko is looking good in goal. She's playing well in practice and we'll rely on her. (Heather) Sartorius is a player who can do it all."

Poor foul shooting costs MU dearly

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The first game played on the brand new basketball floor at Madonna University's athletics center didn't exactly go the way Crusaders men's head coach Chuck Henry envisioned.

Madonna players Tuesday night had trouble reacquainting themselves with the new surface, particularly the bucket at the Rochester College end, and suffered an 81-80 overtime setback on a double put-back high-glasser by 6-foot-8 center Andrew Clark.

The Crusaders (1-3) had practiced just one time on the floor prior to the non-conference contest, but Henry said that was no excuse for missing 11-of-24 free-throw tries in the second half and OT - not to mention going just 3-for-14 from behind the three-point arc over the last 25 minutes.

"We had just gotten back from a trip to California where we shot 12-of-30 (free throws) in a game," Henry said. "We thought it was one of those things. But here in our own gym we shot under 60 percent (18-of-31, .581). That's a killer."

Henry added that although Rochester played his team tough, "you have to be smart when you have a lead, and protect the ball."

Also troubling was a handful of careless-looking field-goal attempts, which never came close.

"We executed poorly on offense and resorted to poor shot selection," Henry continued. "They (Warriors) took advantage."

Madonna did lead virtually all night, building a 36-29 halftime margin thanks to nine points each from senior point guard Charlie Henry (Plymouth Agape Christian) and senior forward and Canton product D. J. Bridges (12 points, 10 rebounds).

That lead grew to double digits early in the second half, but MU turned the ball over three times in a row and the Warriors (4-1) took advantage as junior guard and Birmingham Brother Rice alum John Djurovski (15 points) buried back-to-back treys to cut the Crusaders advantage to 47-43 with about 15 minutes remaining.

MU senior guard Keith Hearn (Livonia Stevenson) helped build the lead back up to 59-53 with a triple from the right wing with 8:20 to go, but Rochester would not wilt.

The Warriors sliced the gap to 63-62 with 4:15 on the clock thanks to a three-ball from

beyond the arc from senior guard Tyler Leipprandt, who made four of 10 trey attempts and finished with 20 points.

Leipprandt struck again with a triple to tie the game at 65-65 with just under three minutes left, but junior guard Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) drove through the paint to score a layup and 6-8 freshman center Geoff Gaylor rejected consecutive shots around the Madonna basket to keep the Crusaders on top.

Madonna went up 69-65 on two free throws by Sims (21 points, five assists), and had an opportunity to put the game out of reach when senior guard Jon Battle (12 points) stepped up to the free-throw line. But Battle missed both shots and Djurovski connected with yet another trey to make it 69-68 with 33 seconds to go in regulation.

Battle couldn't hit the target on two more foul shots and junior guard Robert Frago (13 points) evened the score (69-all) when he split two free throws with 4.7 seconds remaining.

Bridges tried to win at the horn with a desperation shot from his own end of the court, but it clanked off the rim.

In overtime, Rochester did not trail until Madonna freshman forward Ryan Waidmann (Canton) calmly drained two free throws to give the

Crusaders a brief 79-77 lead with 1:28 left.

It was 79-79 in the final minute, when Waidmann wrestled a rebound away from a Rochester player under the MU basket to give the home team another chance to go ahead for good. Charlie Henry (18 points) split two free throws at the other end, putting the Crusaders up 80-79. Despite defensive hustle by Sims, who knocked the ball out of bounds near mid-court, the Crusaders could not defend Clark's ultimate winning shot from short range.

Henry said the fact his team has been practicing for several weeks off-campus while the spiffy-looking new floor was installed was no excuse for Tuesday's showing. "But it will be nice to get into a practice groove here on our floor."

He did tout the play of Sims and freshmen Gaylor (four points, six boards, three blocks) and Waidmann (four points, three boards).

"We're really happy with the development of those two freshmen," Henry said. "They are our two biggest players at 6-8 and 6-7 and we really needed them. And Cedric had 21 points, five assists and came up with a couple steals. He and the two freshmen probably played the best for us."

Crusaders split out West

On Saturday, a 29-point performance by Jon Battle helped Madonna University nip host San Diego Christian, 74-72.

Battle, a transfer from Indiana Tech, hit 12-of-20 from the field as the Crusaders won their first game in three attempts. Augmenting his offense were D. J. Bridges (20 points) and Charlie Henry (15 points).

MU held off San Diego Christian (2-2), despite a 25-

point, 19-rebound outing by Bayo Arigbon.

That victory helped take the sting out of Friday's lackluster 98-70 defeat to host Point Loma Nazarene (3-0), a game where Madonna made good on just 40 percent (12-30) of free-throw attempts.

Battle, named WHAC Player of the Week, led all scorers with 23 points, while Henry and Bridges contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively.

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Lady Ocelots rout Alpena in conference opener, 87-41

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

For a game played at the Lumberjack Dome, it was fitting that Schoolcraft College's offensive power brought down host Alpena, 87-41 in Saturday's MCCA-East women's basketball opener for both teams.

Starting with a 41-13 edge in the first half, the visiting Lady Ocelots had a grip on the game from the opening tip. To further illustrate their superiority in the contest, they out-

rebounded the Lumberjacks by a 61-32 margin and forced 37 turnovers.

Four Schoolcraft players scored 10 or more points as the Lady Ocelots improved to 3-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference.

Leading the way with 15 points and eight rebounds was sophomore forward Janelle Harris, while sophomore forward Antoinette Brown tallied 14 points.

Also in double figures were fresh-

man center Shannon Collins (12 points) and freshman forward and Plymouth Salem alum Taylor Langham (10 points, six rebounds).

Other Schoolcraft contributors included sophomore forward Erica Ott (eight points, seven rebounds), sophomore guard Heidi Warczynsky (six points, seven assists), sophomore guard and Wayne Memorial product LaDwan Jones (five points, three assists, three steals) and freshman forward Japera English (five points, eight boards). For Alpena (0-2, 0-1), Jacquelyn

Burzynski scored nine points with Deb Sjoquist and Lauren Smith each registering eight.

Crusaders drop pair

The Madonna University women's basketball team wasn't signing "My Old Kentucky Home" after losing twice last weekend in the Campbellsville (Ky.) University Tournament.

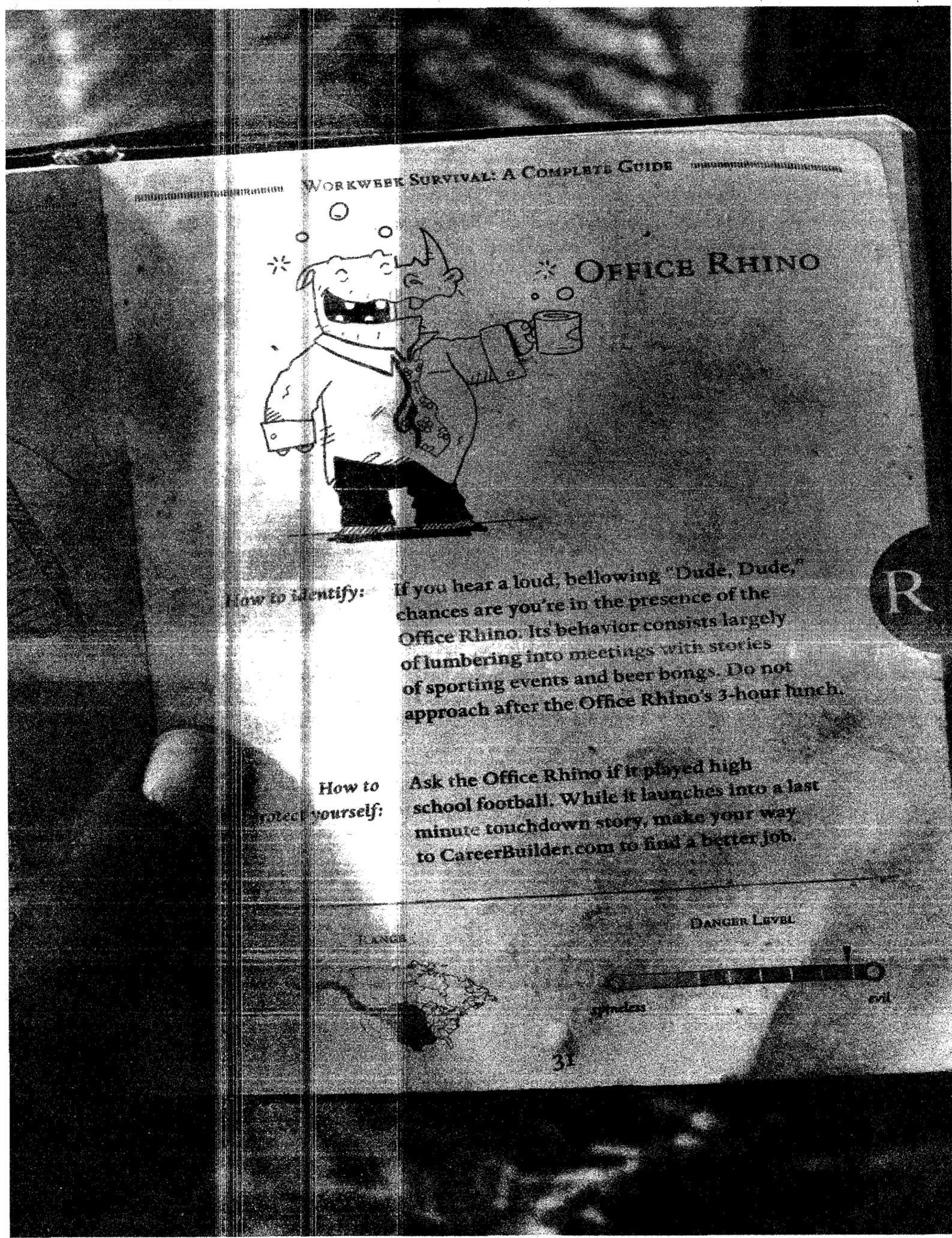
On Friday, Terran Duncan scored 17 points and Beonka Weems came off the bench to score 10 as Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) College improved to 2-1 overall by

downing the Crusaders, 78-68.

Caryn Inman scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for MU (1-1), which trailed 41-21 at halftime.

Christie Carrico added 12 points and four assists. Cali Crawford also netted 10 points and dished out six assists. Alyssa Guerin (Salem) also scored 10.

On Saturday, Courtney Dannis and Wendi Messer each tallied 13 points to lead the host Fighting Tigers (2-0) doubled up on the Crusaders (1-2) by an 81-41 count.



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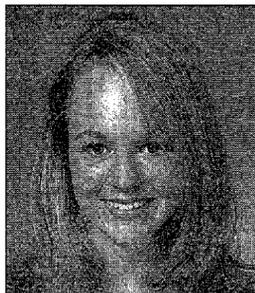
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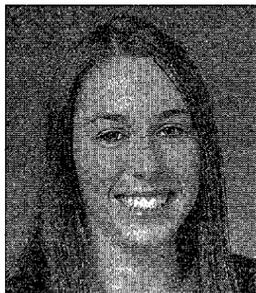
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Shannon Warner Churchill



Erica Mazur Ladywood



Lexi McFarlane Churchill



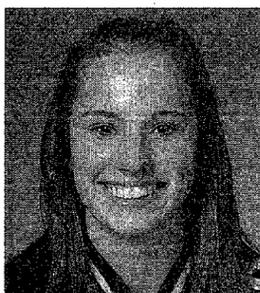
Paige Scarpace Franklin



Amanda Dobos Churchill



Chelsea Osburn Canton



Adrienne Jones Thurston



Heidi Irvine John Glenn



Val DiMilia Ladywood



Kara Gregory Canton



Danielle Lesniak Churchill



Berlynn Beaver Wayne Memorial

Churchill ace Warner captains All-Area golf team

FIRST TEAM
SHANNON WARNER, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The two-time state medalist earned All-State Dream Team honors after finishing tied for fifth in the Division 1 fall state finals.

Warner averaged 36.5 per nine and 73.8 per 18 during her senior year and was medalist in all 10 dual matches and four of six tournaments.

The Michigan State signee also broke the women's course scoring record in the WLAA Tournament at Pheasant Run in Canton with a 67. Warner also won the regional for the third straight year.

She was also a member of Churchill's 2007 (spring) Class A state champion volleyball team.

ERICA MAZUR, SR., LIV. LADYWOOD: The senior captain was medalist in each of her dual meets, averaging 41 per nine.

Mazur also captured the Catholic League Tournament with an 87 and finished fourth in the Division 2 Regional at Pontiac Country Club with a 92. She went on to place 22nd in the state finals at MSU's Forest Akers (West Course) with a 93-96-189.

"Erica has worked very hard the past four years being named most improved on the team last two years to becoming the leader of this team," Ladywood coach KelliAnne Nagy said. "I'm really proud of her and the fact that her hard work and dedication paid off this year. It

2007 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM

Shannon Warner, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 Erica Mazur, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
 Lexi McFarlane, Jr., Liv. Churchill
 Paige Scarpace, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 Amanda Dobos, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 Chelsea Osburn, Jr., Canton

SECOND TEAM

Adrienne Jones, Soph., Red. Thurston
 Heidi Irvine, Soph., Westland Glenn
 Val DiMilia, Soph., Liv. Ladywood
 Kara Gregory, Jr., Canton
 Danielle Lesniak, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 Berlynn Beaver, Jr., Wayne

COACH OF THE YEAR

Gary Harper, Liv. Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Jessica Burdette, Katie Worley.
 Ladywood: Marissa Ley.
 Franklin: Georgia Patrick, Heather Bacon, Natalie Polakowski.
 Stevenson: Gabrielle Sabatini, Laura Sims, Elizabeth Grace, Shelby Plichota, Natalie Cicchelli, Claire Massman.
 John Glenn: Jamie Young, Dakota Howell.
 Wayne: Taylor Tuttle.
 Plymouth: Patricia Burns, Missy Gosbee.
 Canton: Alexandria Wee.
 Salem: Jamie Bricker.
 Thurston: Aislin Jackson, Darcy Kemter-Munson, Melanie Hutchings.

shows what determination can do."

LEXI MCFARLANE, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The junior earned All-WLAA honors by shooting an 84 and helped the Chargers qualify for the state tourney by scoring 97 at the regional.

She averaged 47 per nine and 95 for 18. McFarlane also earned All-Division honors for the second year

in a row. "She emerged this year through hard work as one of the league's top players," Churchill coach Gary Harper said.

PAIGE SCARPACE, SR., LIV. FRANKLIN: The senior averaged 43 per nine with a low of 35. She was medalist in eight of 11 WLAA dual matches and earned All-Division honors with a 96.

Scarpace just missed qualifying for the Division 1 state finals with an 87, good enough for eighth place at the Giant Oaks Regional.

"Paige is a talented player who could compete with anyone," Franklin coach Brian McCalister said. "She has made our program better and will be tough to replace."

AMANDA DOBOS, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: A four-year letter winner, Dobos finished her career with a nine-hole scoring average of 49 and an 18-hole average of 97. Her score counted in every match this season for the Chargers.

Dobos also earned All-Division honors for the second straight season with a 99 and capped off her career with a personal-best 93 at the state finals held at The Meadows in Allendale.

CHELSEA OSBURN, JR., CANTON: The junior made All-Division in the Western Lakes by firing a 91 and added a 98 at the regional, good enough for 23rd overall. Osburn's stroke average was 47.0 and was a five-time medalist in dual meets.

"Chelsea has a great work ethic;

she practices very hard and it shows in her game," said Canton coach Dan Riggs. "She has a lot of potential to have an outstanding senior season."

SECOND TEAM

ADRIENNE JONES, SOPH., RED. THURSTON: The sophomore was the Mega Conference's White Division medalist at Riverview Highlands and led the Eagles with a nine-hole average of 48.1.

She placed 22nd at the Division 2 Regional at Pontiac Country Club. "Adrienne is always competitive and always works very hard on her game," said Thurston coach Brian Gulick.

HEIDI IRVINE, SOPH., WESTLAND GLENN: The sophomore averaged 48.1 per nine to lead the Rockets and was medalist three times.

At the regional, Irvine fired a 97, good enough for 18th place. She led Glenn at the WLAA Tourney with a 103.

"Heidi was helpful in Glenn winning six of its matches," coach Steve Pilon said. "Next year she will step up and be one of the co-captains for the Lady Rockets. Remember her name because she is only going to get better."

VAL DIMILIA, SOPH., LIV. LADYWOOD: The sophomore averaged 52 per nine and finished in the top four in five of seven matches to become the Blazers' No. 2 player.

"Val played JV last year and was our surprise right out of the gate

this year," Nagy said. "Val has only played golf for a couple of years. She's a hockey player who picked up golf. We have been very pleased with Val's progress and look for her to be one of our leaders next year."

KARA GREGORY, JR., CANTON: The junior carded a 94 at the Western Lakes Tournament to earn All-Division accolades and followed up with a 105 at the Giant Oaks Regional (30th overall). Gregory's stroke average was 48.0 and she was the medalist in two dual meets.

"Kara is very powerful off the team; she was our longest hitter," said Riggs. "She received our 'Coach's Award' at our banquet. The award goes to the player we feel is the most reliable. She's like a second coach out there."

DANIELLE LESNIAK, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The senior had another solid year for the Chargers as she averaged 51 per nine and 106 for 18.

A consistent scorer the past two seasons, Lesniak helped the Chargers reach the state finals with a round of 103 at the Giant Oak Regional hosted by Temperance Bedford.

BERLYNN BEAVER, JR., WAYNE: The junior averaged 50 per nine with her best match coming against Walled Lake Western when she fired a 44, including a pair of birdies.

The Wayne MVP led her team with the low score in each match. "She is looking forward to her senior year and improving her golf

score even more," Wayne coach Kathy Stella said.

COACH OF THE YEAR

GARY HARPER, LIV. CHURCHILL: The fifth-year coach guided the Chargers to an 11-0 record in the Western Lakes Activities Association and a co-championship with Northville after a runner-up finish in the conference tourney.

The Chargers also finished in the top 10 in all four regular season tournaments they entered.

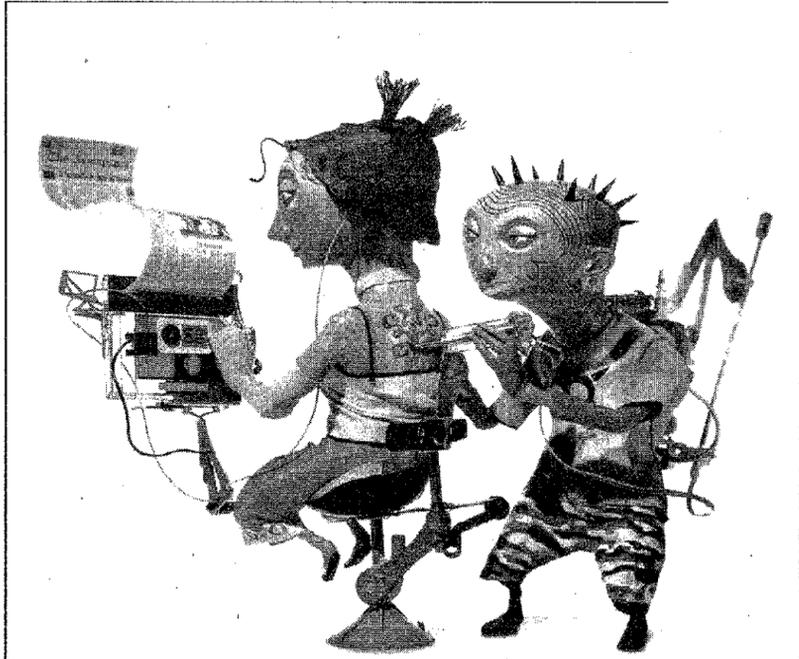
Churchill also earned its first trip to the state finals since 2002 by finishing third at the Giant Oaks

Regional hosted by Temperance Bedford. The Chargers wound up 12th overall in Division 1.

Harper is a graduate of Northville High School with an undergraduate degree at Central Michigan University with a Masters from Wayne State. He teaches business education at Churchill.

"I was very proud of the effort and results of this season," Harper said. "We accomplished all of our team goals that we set at the beginning of the year. Our team was made up of a great collection of young ladies and we had a lot of fun this year."

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