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Our Views, A6



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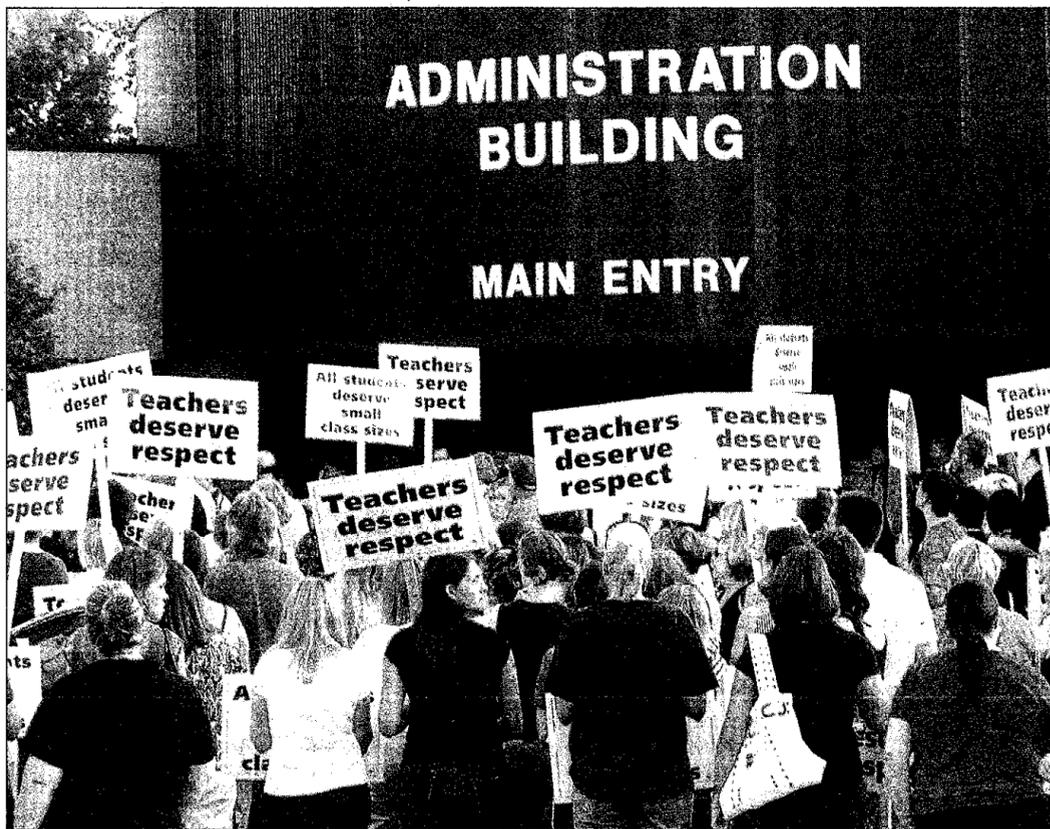
THURSDAY August 21, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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ROBERT SAYN

Wayne-Westland teachers let their displeasure with the Wayne-Westland Board of Education be known Monday before the board meeting.

Teachers strike may loom as negotiations stall

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the start of a new school year just around the corner, more than 150 Wayne-Westland teachers and their supporters showed up at the Board of Education meeting Monday to raise awareness to failed contract negotiations with the district.

In what could be a harbinger of a strike, the teachers carried picket signs that read "Teachers deserve respect" and "All students deserve small class sizes."

The district's contract with the 858-member Wayne-Westland Education Association is due to expire on Aug. 25, a week before students are set to report for the new school year.

As the teachers marched outside the district's Westland headquarters,

Ruth Beier, an economist with the Michigan Education Association, made a presentation to the board, in which she analyzed the district's annual budgets and audits dating back to the 2003-04 school year. Beier said the district had "manufactured" a budget deficit in three of the last four years by moving millions of dollars out of its operations budget to pay for capital improvements to district facilities.

"My analysis is the district doesn't have a deficit if it doesn't want a deficit," said Beier, who came at the request of the WWEA.

Beier said the district should be more concerned about having smaller class sizes and paying its teachers a good wage. She said Wayne-Westland ranks in the top third among Wayne County districts for number of pupils per teacher, but

ranks in the bottom third in teacher salary.

Beier said she hoped her presentation would provide the Board of Education with an objective look at the district's finances. She said Supt. Greg Baracy and the administration were giving them a "skewed" financial picture.

"The board doesn't get the whole picture. I came to give them the tools they need to see the whole picture. They'll see there's plenty of money to settle this contract," Beier said. "This is a political fight, not a monetary fight."

Baracy said his team and the board will "respectfully" examine Beier's report. However, he said the district and the teachers union are "light years apart" at the negotiation table, though he's hoping an agreement can be reached before the start of the school year on Sept. 2.

"I'm very hopeful that reasonable minds will prevail, and we'll get a contract that is satisfactory to both parties," said Baracy, who noted the district is anticipating a \$5 million budget deficit for the new year.

Evelyn Baran, the executive director of the WWEA, said the teachers haven't had raises in several years, class sizes are too large, and district wants to take away the union's ability to negotiate health care benefits. She said union members will meet Monday at Salem High School for an important vote to give the union's bargaining unit the authority to act on their behalf by whatever means necessary to get a contract resolution, which could include calling for a strike.

"There's nothing off the table at this point. If you don't stand up now, when do you?" Baran said.

Weaver steps down from Wayne-Westland school board

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After weeks of speculation, Fred Weaver resigned from the Wayne-Westland Schools Board of Education Monday.

Weaver made the announcement many were expecting from him at the school board meeting Monday evening. The trustee, who is a pastor, made some brief comments at the start of the meeting, and resigned his post effective immediately.

Weaver, who was first elect-



Weaver

Weaver to step down after it was learned that the former school board president had changed his primary residence to Midland earlier this year and was no longer a resident in the Wayne-Westland district.

Previously Weaver said it was a mix-up that he was going to rectify.

He had a change of heart and resigned Monday, however.

District leaders, including Supt. Greg Baracy, said Weaver's departure was significant.

"The district owes a deep sense of gratitude to Fred Weaver," Baracy said. "Over the years, we've gotten a chance to work closely with him. He always had the best interest of the students at heart. Every

decision he ever made, he had the best interest of the students at heart. This must have been a hard decision for him to make. He's an honorable man."

Board President Martha Pitsenbarger said she was "sorry" Weaver had to resign.

"He will be missed. I will miss him a lot," she said.

The Board of Education will select a replacement for Weaver to serve until the next board election in May 2009. According to Michigan law, the board has 30 days to find a replacement.

City leaders angry at Romulus police over shootout

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After hearing horrific accounts of a gunfight outside a Westland shopping center, city leaders indicated Monday they will formally condemn the way Romulus undercover police officers handled the Aug. 12 drug sting that captured four suspects and left one dead.

Pressed for answers by people who work at the Merri-Warren strip mall, Westland City Council President James Godbout said he and his colleagues will likely vote in early September on a resolution criticizing the effort.

Moreover, Godbout described himself Monday as "very disappointed" that

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert hadn't issued a public apology or expressed concern for innocent people affected by the gunfight near the busy Warren-Merriman intersection.

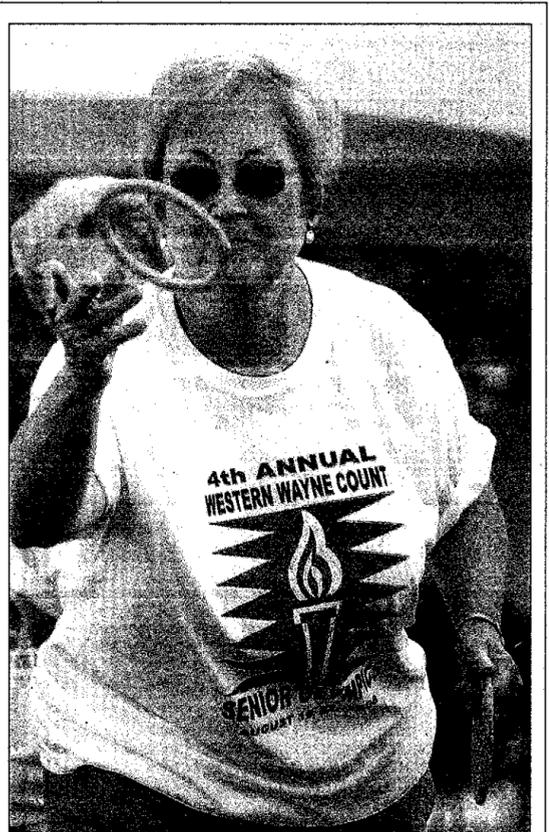
"When I see him, I will tell him that personally," Godbout said during a council session.

Lambert couldn't be reached at his office for a response.

Westland Police Chief James Ridener estimated that 30 rounds were fired when the 3:30 p.m. gun battle erupted. Police have accused five suspects of showing up to rob a drug informant rather than pay him \$60,000 for cocaine.

Some people have come to the defense of Romulus

Please see SHOOTOUT, A3



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Staying fit

Jane Carbone of Canton takes part in the ring toss event during Wayne County's Senior Olympics. For more on the Senior Olympics, see page A4.

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USA WEEKEND

Coming Sunday:
In a tough economy, you can still plan a family trip with these savvy budget travel ideas

Police beef up drunken driving enforcement

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police have started placing extra officers on local roads to watch for motorists who drive drunk, and Sgt. Ron Kroll said the initiative will continue through the Labor Day weekend.

It's all part of the national "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" crackdown, funded by the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

The measure is intended to make roads safer during the waning days of summer leading into the season's last holiday.

"Drunk driving is a serious crime and something we work to prevent all year long," Kroll said in a prepared statement. "During this crackdown, we're not going easy on anyone. If you're over the limit, you'll be under arrest."

The effort marks a citywide crackdown, unlike some initiatives that focus on certain intersections.

Federal grants will allow local police agencies to pay for costs to assign officers specifically to drunken driving details. In Michigan, motorists can be arrested for driving drunk if their blood alcohol content is .08 or higher.

A drunken driving conviction can bring a wide array of penalties including court costs and fines, higher car insurance rates, legal fees and \$2,000 in driver-responsibility fees, according to police.

"Drunk driving can cost more than just money," Kroll said. "Last year in Michigan, 382 people were killed in impaired driving crashes, and that is the ultimate price to pay for a bad decision."

Fourteen people died on Michigan roads last Labor Day weekend, and four of those fatalities involved alcohol.

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

Man, 73, struck by motorcycle

A 73-year-old Westland man remained hospitalized in serious condition Wednesday after he was struck Monday night by a motorcycle while walking across Wayne Road at Cowan, police Sgt. Ron Kroll said.

The incident happened about 9 p.m. Monday, prompting police to block off the north-

bound lanes of Wayne Road while the investigation was under way. Motorists were turning west onto Central City Parkway as a detour.

The investigation was continuing, but Kroll confirmed that the 73-year-old man was walking eastbound across Wayne Road in the pedestrian crosswalk when the accident

happened. He was struck by a motorcycle driven by a 27-year-old man, Kroll said.

Police hadn't released the identities of the men.

The motorcyclist was taken to a hospital for treatment for minor injuries but had been released.

"He's in good shape," Kroll said.

After-school tutoring offered at Salvation Army

If your child needs help with tutoring as school starts, the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army just may have the answer. Its after-school program will start again Monday, Sept. 15.

"It is a tutoring program which also includes recreation, arts and crafts, and computers," said Greg Barta, director of youth and community ministries for the corps on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland. Sessions will be 3-6:30 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (no Wednesday). They are open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Barta, a Garden City resident, said some 30-40 kids will participate, mostly from the neighborhood. Cost is \$20 per month per child.

"A hot dinner is provided in this program," he said, adding dinner is served for the students and their parents.

"Volunteer teachers are needed," said Barta, who's

looking for retired and substitute teachers who can give a little time. Even a few hours a week "would be a tremendous help. The more volunteer teachers we can get, the better it will be for the kids."

The Salvation Army does have a paid teacher for nine hours per week.

For registration information, call Barta at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 20. You need to sign up in advance.

There will be an orientation 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, although participants can sign up throughout the year, Barta added.

-By Julie Brown

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to State law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI, September 6, 2008 at 1:10 p.m.

#526 Todd J. Buchanan
#937 David L. Daillboust
#1232 Thomas E. Steel
#1251 Andrea Schneider
#1306 Denadi Fountian / Dennis DiLacovo

Units Contain: Misc. Household Items
Publish: August 21 & 28, 2008

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Notice Of Public Sale Of Personal Property
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 8/30/08 at 10:30am 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:

2075 RUTH WEST - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3010 ROBERT BRIAN JARVIS - TOYS, TOTES, VACUUM
3046 DEEANNA EIGHMEY - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3048 TANISHA HOLSTON - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3051 SHERYLETTE HUMPHREY - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3054 THOMAS HOOKER - MATTRESS, TABLES
3073 SARAH PHELAN - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3088 KIAUNA LEWIS - TABLE, BOXES, TOTES
3089 ANGELA MARTINEZ - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3091 MICHELLE MELCHERT - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
4017 SHARON SIMPSON - BOXES, TOTES, LIFEJACKET
4083 CLAUDE ROSS - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
5057 NENA GONZALEZ - BOXES, BAGS, MATTRESS
5061 ANGEL EVANS - MATTRESS, TOTES, TABLES
5064 DAWN BARNARD - TV, BAGS, BOXES
5070 STARLA BRIGGS - FRIDGE, TOYS, AIR CONDITIONER
5083 WILLIE MAE SADLER - BOXES, DRESSER, LUGGAGE
5089 SANDRA CHURCH - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
5093 DANIELLE CARNEY - CRIB, BAGS
6042 ASHLEY GALLAGHER-MOREY - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
6057 EDWIN OMEY - BOXES, TOTES, MICROWAVE
6059 JUDITH RYAN - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
6071 TONI KINCHEN - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
6080 DONALD DAIGLE - BED, MATTRESS, BOXES
6085 RON BEMBRY - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
6091 DONALD FAULKNER - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
6191 ROBERT HOWELL - BOXES, TV, LADDER
7017 VIKKI HOOD - BAGS, BOXES, TOTES
7019 TIFFANY SCOTT - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
7055 CRYSTAL ROWLAND - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
7108 DEONTE BARBER - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
7109 BRANDY WILLIAMS - SOFA, DRESSER, TOTES
7121 DANA COUNTS - BAG, WASHER, STOVE
7128 MEGAN HOWARD - BOX, BAG, TOYS

Publish: August 14 and 21, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to state law, a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, August 30, 2008 at 1:05 P.M.

#227 Donald Ferrell III, #302 Vanessa Smith, #331 Scott Bowles, #402 Doris Edwards, #446 Dottie Door, #718 Raquel Chantz, #623 Earl Hoffman, #1005 Patrick Welding, #1103 Patrick Snyder, #1414 Calvin Montgomery

Units contain: misc. household items - welding supplies.
Publish: August 14 and 21, 2008

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 8/29/08 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:

1134 - Dominique Gray - 2 TVs, 1 Tote, Suitcase
1288 - Gina Clark - 8 Boxes, Lamp, Kids Toys
2026 - Nedra Banks - TV, Microwave, Headboard
3038 - Terence Hunter Jr. - 2 Ladders, 20 Boxes, Misc Items
3180 - Marilyn Zachery - Aquarium, Tote, 6 Bags
4096 - Claudia E Barber-Martin - 10 Boxes, Suitcase, 3 Bags
4124 - Tameka Roberts - Headboard, 4 Chairs, Entertainment Center
4148 - James Tuttle Jr. - 4 TVs, Mattress, Dresser
5056 - Claire Joslin - Wardrobe, Speakers, Couch
5065 - Felicia Sadler - Washer, Dresser, Table
5094 - Barry Price Jr - Golf Clubs, 10 Boxes, Chair
5096 - Fayvian Watts - 10 Boxes, Table, 2 Totes
5102 - Marcus Mathis - 10 Boxes, 10 Chairs, Misc Items

Publish: August 14 & 21, 2008

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 located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 8/30/2008 at 11:30 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:

B022 ABBAWADA - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B054 GARY GERESY - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B069 BOSSIE ANDERSON - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B104 BURT MELLUM - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B150 GEORGE CHENE - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B152 ERIC NIXON - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B193 JOYCE MCBRIDE - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B247 ROBERT HANKINS - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B314 AMANDA WERSTEIN - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
D040 SHERRY LEWIS - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

Publish: August 14 & 21, 2008

AROUND WESTLAND

ON THE WEB
For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

Aug. 23. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Westland Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Health and Business Expo in the mall's east court. The event, which will feature both general business and health care providers, is co-sponsored by Westland Shopping Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, and Parkside Credit Union.

The Westland Shopping Center is at 35000 West Warren Road at Wayne Road. For more information, call the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222.

Comedy night

The Westland Rotary will present its "Comedy for a Cause" benefit 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Proceeds will support Rotary's charitable work.

Tickets for the comedy night are \$15 each and available through club members and at C&M Printing and Imaging, 5854 N. Wayne Road, north of Ford Road (east side) in Westland. Information is available from Mary at (734) 729-5401.

The event is suitable for adults only.

Outdoor concert

Operas are generally presented amid dim lighting indoors, but not so with the performance at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, in the Friendship Center's Coburn Park. The Mary Thompson Foundation is sponsoring a performance by two Michigan Opera Theatre singers with an accompanist and will include songs of George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and more.

Anyone interested is encouraged to sign up at the Friendship Center's front desk. The center is at 1119 N. Newburgh between Marquette and Ford.

Class reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Roma's of Garden City. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit jghs88reunion.com.

Open house

McKinley Cooperative Preschool will have an open house 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 23. The preschool is enrolling for the 2008-9 school year for children ages 2 to 5. It offers morning and afternoon classes, affordable tuition and a teacher with over 25 years of experience.

McKinley is located at 6500 N. Wayne Road, at the corner of Hunter. Mention this announcement and get \$10 off registration fee for registrations at or before the open house. For more information, call (734) 729-7222 or go online www.mckinleypreschool.org.

PATH program has been proven in studies to reduce symptoms and physician visits as well as increase self-management abilities and communication with doctors.

Pre-registration is necessary and enrollment is limited. To register, call the American House Senior Living Residence at (734)-326-7777.

Spaghetti dinner

The Ed Gucwa Memorial MDA Spaghetti Dinner will be held noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896, 28945 Joy, east Middlebelt, in Westland. The dinner costs \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. There also will be music, bake sales and raffles. For more information, call (734) 525-9454.

Fireside chat

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, invites residents to join him for refreshments and an informal Fireside Chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

"I know we all lead busy lives, but it's important to me to hear from Westland residents about the issues that matter most to them, and at a time convenient to them," LeBlanc said. "In addition to my regular monthly coffee hours in the morning, I've decided to start hosting additional hours so we can get together for an evening Fireside Chat."

"My hope is that the additional evening hours will allow residents another opportunity to keep up to date on developments in the Capitol, especially when it involves initiatives to turn our state's economy around and creating more good-paying jobs for our workers."

For more information, call LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or send an e-mail to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

Residents can also visit his Web site at www.leblanc.house.mds.com. LeBlanc's legislative home page, which is fully accessible to people with disabilities, is a portal for news, district information and video public service announcements on issues important to Westland residents.

Health Expo

Patrons at Westland Shopping Center will find an added benefit when they shop on Saturday,

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 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 8/30/2008 at 9:30 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:

1138 YANCY DAVIS - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
1160 ANISE BANKHEAD - BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
1333- OLIVE GARDEN- BOX, BAG, TOTES

Publish: August 14 and 21, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
On Thursday, September 4, 2008, various items of the City 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
4503764	1997	PONTIAC	GRAND AM	1G2NE52T3VC790884
4503777	1997	PONTIAC	GRAND AM	1G2NE52T5VM542212
4503793	1996	GMC	SIERRA	1GTEC14WXT2503293

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 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: August 21, 2008

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING September 8, 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed Special Land Use - 1333 Radcliff, T-Mobile, which is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of the City Clerk, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: August 21, 2008



Michael Tapper, 11, was proud of the balloon hat clowns had made for him to wear around at the Red Wagon Literacy Program end-of-year picnic at the Dorsey Center.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Picnic celebrates a summer of good books

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Good food, good books.

It may sound like the notation on a vacation postcard, but it's what the celebration was last week at the Dorsey Center in Westland.

Children and their families gathered for a picnic lunch and activities to celebrate another summer of reading with the help of the Red Wagon Literacy Program.

"It was a very good year. We had 16 teams that went out this year," said Joan Carr, who founded the program more than a decade ago.

Each summer, volunteers pull wagons through the neighborhoods of Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns and Taft-Galloway elementaries, distributing books to children who answer the call of the cow bell. The books are free and children don't need to return them to get more.

"I liked watching the older boys, the sixth- and seventh-graders, walking down the road with their nose in the books," volunteer Monica Packer said.

Packer got involved in Red Wagon when she and teacher Lisa Hodyas asked the principal at Dodson Elementary School in Canton what students could do to help others. The principal happened to be Carr's son, Dan, who brought his mother in to talk about the summer reading program.

As a result, Packer and Hodyas organized two teams to pull wagons through the neighborhoods.

"It was our first summer doing it. We really enjoyed it," Packer said.

The two women got donations of bubbles and bubble toys and bought other items to make 250 goodie bags that Packer's daughter Megan and friend Hannah Ekblad gave out at the picnic.

"It was a great experience,"



Angel Marcoux, 7, shows a page of her story to grandmother Sue Marcoux while they sit in the shade eating. At right is her sister Dora Marcoux, 4.

Megan said. "It was great to see the kids around the neighborhood, reading their books."

"I really liked it; it was really fun," Hannah said. "I liked seeing the looks on the kids' faces when we gave them their books. I'll definitely do it again."

The picnic serves as the period at the end of the Red Wagon Program. For picnickers, there were hot dogs, chips, water and ice cream bars. The Ushers Club at St. Simon and Jude Parish provided most of the food, while an anonymous donor paid for the ice cream bars.

Helping out was Sheryl Stanley of Choice Catering in Garden City, who used her oversized grill to cook the hot dogs, as well as members of the Westland Civitans Club, who served the food. According to Carr, donors also helped pay for prizes.

"We were setting up the picnic and a man came up and gave me \$5," Carr said. "He said, 'Here, this is for bringing so much good to the kids.' I have no idea who it was."

Figures aren't in for this year, but in 2007, the Red

Wagon program had 2,300 hits — that's how many times children came to the wagons, getting four or five books each time, Carr said.

Among the "hitters" this year were Emily Hill and her sister Tammy. As much as they are alike, the twins' taste in books were totally different.

"I'm into comics, so I got comics," Emily said.

"I liked the chapter books like *Black Beauty*," Tammy said.

The seventh-graders were making fortune catchers at the table manned by Lisa Rouse of Westland. Rouse was pulled into the program by a member of Divine Savior Church three years ago.

"It's very rewarding. There's such nice people in the neighborhoods," Rouse said. "Joan is wonderful, a great person and she had some beautiful books, some good donations this year."

The comments are music to Carr's ears.

"We've been doing this for 11 years," she said. "I didn't keep count because who would have known it would have gone on this long?"

GC dealership comes through for family with gun-damaged van

A local family received assistance Tuesday from Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury at 32000 Ford Road in Garden City after their vehicle was damaged during a gunfight between police and suspected criminals last week.

The family was unharmed despite bullets that pierced their windshield and punctured the body of their vehicle, creating significant damage. Apparently neither the owner's insurance coverage nor the police department's insurance covered the damage.

Dennis Garrett, a sales associate at Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, saw the story on the news and was moved to action. "When I saw this story it broke my heart," said Garrett.

"First, because it was a terrible experience for the family and second because they suddenly incurred expenses, by no fault

of their own, and they were being denied help. That's when you say to yourself, what can I do?"

Garrett decided to ask Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury management if they could help by using the dealership's body shop to repair the vehicle for free; without hesitation management agreed.

"At Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, we believe it's our responsibility to be supportive of the community we serve," said John Obeid, co-owner of Metropolitan. "When Dennis asked if we could help, we felt it was the right thing to do to assist the family and the police who help keep our communities safe."

"We called the Romulus Police Department and asked them to put us in contact with the family so we could repair their vehicle and get them back

on the road," said Obeid. "They were happy to work with us. We appreciate their efforts to work with us to assist the family."

"It's great to work for a company that believes in doing what's right, not just what makes money," said Garrett. "There are so many things we do to help our community that it really makes me proud."

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury has a history of community service. Along with their regular charitable giving, they annually partner with the American Red Cross to encourage blood donations that help save lives. "We believe in helping our local community," said Obeid. "We are proud to be a Garden City business and we encourage our employees to make us aware of needs and issues that we can help."

SHOOTOUT

FROM PAGE A1

authorities, who notified Westland police a half-hour before the incident but declined their help. In a letter to the *Observer*, Garden City resident Bill Shelton praised the officers and wrote that "in the midst of sharp criticism, I think it's about time that our police departments crack down on these drug-dealing thugs which travel our streets" routinely.

However, workers from the Merri-Warren strip mall addressed city leaders Monday and strongly condemned the police actions. Randy Hermiz, owner of the Fire on Ice Cafe, said a bullet shattered a large window and entered his restaurant while his customers included a mother with two children and a 17-year-old male who was sitting outside.

People fled to the rear exit,

Hermiz said, and outside they encountered a wounded suspect who could easily have taken hostages before he was captured.

"This is not a scene from a movie," Hermiz said. "This happened in our own backyard."

The gunfight left children fearful of returning to his restaurant and made employees afraid while they go about their jobs, he said. Hermiz called on Westland city leaders to seek an apology from Romulus officials for an incident that he said "could have cost us our lives."

Joni Young, a deli counter worker from the Bob's of Canton-Westland market and a 22-year Westland resident, described the terror of innocent people being ordered to put up their hands as local officers swarmed the scene looking for suspects. She said workers found a potato chip bag with a bullet hole and picked up spent casings from

the store floor. She also said two children, ages 8 and 10, escaped injury in the parking lot even though gunshots struck a van in which they sat.

Young questioned why Westland police didn't stop the undercover operation if they had a 30-minute notice from Romulus.

Chief Ridener responded that Westland police had no authority and "no ability to quash that deal." Still, he said authorities will try to learn how to better carry out such stings.

Westland Mayor William Wild called the situation "inexcusable" and said, "I thought it never should have happened."

Wild and others said they hope customers will realize the random nature of the incident and continue to support businesses at the Merri-Warren shopping center.

"They had nothing to do with this," Wild said.

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

Get on The Road to Recovery!

Chamber expo on tap Saturday at mall

Looking for something to do Saturday? The Westland Chamber of Commerce Health and Business Expo will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at Westland Shopping Center, Wayne and Warren roads.

"All the businesses will be there. We do have health participants," said Brookellen Swope, president and CEO of the chamber. Health screen-

ings are planned.

"It's intended for the residents. It's geared for residents and shoppers," she said.

Organizers have about 40 participants, who will set up in the East Court, by the Olga's entrance of the mall.

Westland Shopping Center is the major sponsor, St. Mary Mercy Hospital the health sponsor, and Parkside Credit Union the business sponsor.

"This'll be the sixth year. Each year we grow in vendors and participants," Swope said. Businesses like it because they get a lot of back to school shoppers: "Just generally an overall well-attended event," Swope said.

Call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 for additional information.

—By Julie Brown



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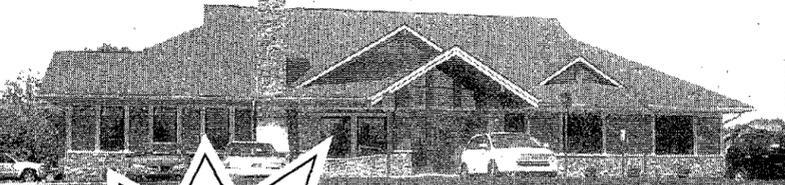
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Peace Camp for Kids

Kirk of Our Savior Peace Camp takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 (lunch will be served). The camp is open to children of all ages and religious backgrounds. Spend a few hours learning to work together in order to achieve success. Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jenny at 313-532-4310.

Fall enrollment

Registration is now being accepted for the fall for preschool 3-year-olds and kindergarten through eighth-grade at St. Damian School, 29891 Joy, Westland. Call parish office at (734) 421-6130 for more information.

Free workshop

The Foundation for Wellness Professionals is sponsoring a free health care workshop, "The Thyroid Gland and Your Health: How Does Your Thyroid Measure Up?" 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile east of Farmington Road. Dr. William H. Karl, a certified wellness doctor, will share his expertise about the thyroid gland and its function. For more information, go online to www.WellnessSpeakers.org and www.KarlHolisticHealthCare.com. Seating is limited, so call (734) 425-8588 to reserve a spot.

Remote-controlled race day

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church hosts "Remote-Controlled Race Day," 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. Racers can bring their R.C. vehicle and race it on the church's large oval track, complete with hill and jump ramp. Ribbons will be awarded to winners. No sign-up necessary. Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. If you need more information, contact Jenny at (313) 532-4310.

John Glenn reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20 year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Roma's of Garden City on Cherry Hill east of Venoy. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit the reunion Web site at jghs88reunion.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

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 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

CRAFT SHOWS

Sts. Peter & Paul

Crafters are wanted for the 20th annual arts and crafts show Saturday, Nov. 22, at Sts. Peter & Paul Church Hall, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn-Heights. For more information, call Deb at (248) 946-0173 or Virginia (734) 522-9653.

St. Theodore

The St. Theodore's CCW will hold its annual Fall Craft Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, in the parish social hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Admission is free, and table rental is available for \$25. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) for rental information.

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.

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.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

Counterpoint

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

Toughlove

A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads, Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Participants from Canton proudly display their community's banner as they take part in the parade of communities during the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics.

Torch lit for fun and fitness as Westland hosts Senior Olympics

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Charles Hamilton already survived cancer and triple bypass heart surgery, so he thought he'd try his luck at winning an Olympic medal.

Hamilton, a 71-year-old Inkster man, is among nearly 600 people competing this week in the 2008 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, which started Monday morning with opening ceremonies and a torch-lighting in Hines Park in Westland.

"I'm old, so I thought I'd do this because I get tired of sitting at home," Hamilton said, as the five-day event began.

Hamilton decided to enter bowling and horseshoe-pitching contests, two of dozens of events that will culminate Friday with a banquet and medals presentation inside the senior Friendship Center in Westland, this year's official host city. Contests will be scattered among the communities.

During opening ceremonies near the old Nankin Mill in Hines Park, seniors approached a main stage and proudly carried banners representing their 16 communities.



Plymouth seniors make their way through the crowd during the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics.

The procession began with Westland, followed by Redford, Belleville, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Sumpter, Van Buren and Wayne.

Westland Mayor William Wild lit the Olympic torch as Wayne County Senior Services Director Kevin Kelley wondered which local athlete might become the senior version of Beijing Olympic star Michael Phelps.

Long before Monday, seniors had been practicing for a 5K run, softball- and football-throwing, a ring and Frisbee toss, soccer kick, ball-room dancing, photography, baking, tennis, volleyball, creative writing, golf, swimming, a 10-mile bicycle race and numerous other events.

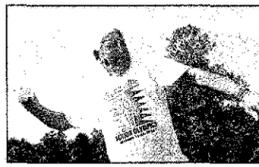
Wanda Altese, a 79-year-old Plymouth Township woman, is a bocce ball enthusiast.

"I'm trying to win a medal," she said, "but it's more for the fun of it than anything."

Mel Tochstein, 65, of Westland had previously won eight Senior Olympics medals in two years, including six gold for swimming, one gold for football-throwing, and one bronze for the softball toss. He planned to compete in events like the 10-mile bike race this year, but he had to scale back on some contests because of a pulled shoulder



Westland Mayor William Wild lights the torch opening the 2008 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics Monday morning in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park.



Frank Carmichael of Dearborn competes in the softball throw event as the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics began Monday.



John Treanor of Northville lets a Frisbee fly during the Frisbee throwing event Monday morning.

community and said, "It gives us a chance to showcase our city."

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McCotter: Bush reaction to Georgia invasion 'inexcusable'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Following a blistering e-mail message to fellow Republicans attacking President George Bush's plan to attend the Olympics in China, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said Monday it was "inexcusable" that the Bush administration was "surprised" by Russia's invasion of Georgia.

"The West has failed to understand the collapse of Communism, for 70 years an atheistic, socialistic philosophy that ravished that country," McCotter said. "When they put shock therapy in place, they equated the decline in productivity, the decline in life expectancy to democracy and allowed (Russian Prime Minister and former President Vladimir) Putin to do exactly what he is doing, turning down an authoritarian path modeled on China."



McCotter

McCotter said there is a link between the administration's "kid glove" policy toward China and the new aggression of Russia. On Aug. 6, McCotter sent an e-mail complaining about Bush's trip to China at a time when Congress was engaged in a battle over a controversial energy bill. The e-mail called the Republican president "wildly unpopular." McCotter also criticized Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats for adjourning the House session and not allowing an "up or down vote" on the energy bill, which he said has bipartisan support.

"On his part, perhaps our Compassionate Conservative-in-Chief will bring our absent Democrat Congress some

'Made in (communist) China' souvenir T-shirts: Bush went to Beijing and all I got was this lousy five-week, paid vacation," the e-mail read.

Republican House members have been taking turns meeting in the House chambers despite the adjournment.

BUSH SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

On Monday, McCotter said the Bush administration and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, an expert on the Soviet Union, should have known what was coming.

"I think their continuing emphasis on dialogue with Russia is exactly what Putin expected and is exactly what is helping them (the Russians) achieve their strategic objective which is to cow all the former Soviet republics and now democracies, not just Georgia but Ukraine," he said.

Russia has objected to plans to allow Georgia and Ukraine to become members

of NATO. McCotter said it was important to "get Georgia and Ukraine into NATO" and make sure they have weapons to defend themselves.

Joseph Larkin, the Democratic candidate running against McCotter in this fall's election, said he found it "ironic" that McCotter is critical of Bush's policies.

"I find it funny because he has been a foot soldier for George Bush," Larkin said Tuesday. "I saw the e-mail where he called George Bush wildly unpopular, but he has been wildly supportive."

Larkin said he has long considered Putin a problem that needed closer watching as he moves his country back to a more autocratic form of government.

"Now due to Iraq, we don't have the moral authority to act against Putin," he said.

MOVES BY CONGRESS

McCotter said there are

actions that Congress can and probably will take.

"The first step for Congress, and it should happen, is to invite the president of Georgia to speak to a joint session of Congress," he said. "It will show and affirm that at least the legislative branch is totally supportive of Georgian democracy."

McCotter said Bush's trip to China seems to lend support to the Chinese government and its repressive policies.

"The message he sent was exactly the opposite message he should have sent to the Chinese or the Russians,"

McCotter said. "I can't imagine Harry Truman in a time of war, or Eisenhower, going to watch beach volleyball."

McCotter said he didn't support boycotting the Olympics, citing Canton's Bronze medal swimmer Allison Schmidt as an example of an athlete who shouldn't be punished for political issues.

Larkin agreed that a boycott of the Olympics would have been a mistake. He said he didn't fault Bush for attending but for not returning immediately in the face of the situation in Georgia.

Learning about your charge card can save you money

Charge-card companies are notorious for changing the terms. Whether it is how interest is computed, the due date of payment, or the interest rate, charge-card companies are constantly changing their terms. And they do it in such a way that it is difficult for the average person to understand the changes.

In some situations, the changes are minor. In other situations, the changes are major and can cost a substantial amount of money.

If you have not looked at your charge card in a few years, it is probably time to spend a few minutes to make sure you are using the most effective charge card for your situation.

The issue for consumers to consider is when's the last time you decided the best charge card for you.

There is no one right answer.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

are not as important and so some of the reward programs become an important feature.

If you carry a balance, the interest rate is key and how it is calculated is extremely important.

The Internet makes it easier to compare cards. I use www.bankbreak.com to help analyze charge cards. Another Web site that is easy to use is

www.cardhub.com. On this site, you can compare a variety of reward programs based upon those you will actually use. The site also offers a wealth of information about charge cards.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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OUR VIEWS

Changes begin to raise scores

There's good news for incoming Wayne-Westland Community Schools seniors with regard to this year's Michigan Merit Exam scores: The number of students meeting or exceeding state standards was up in most of the subject areas and the increases were better than statewide averages.

The improvements highlight the efforts of school officials to re-align the high school curriculum to not only meet the more rigorous curriculum, but to better prepare students for the Michigan Merit Exam. How effective the changes are could take years to be fully realized, but they are first steps in a battle that is ever expanding to meet the rigorous state requirements.

Educators throughout the country often point out that standardized test scores aren't the only, and maybe not even the best, criteria to evaluate student performance. But the scores are more than just numbers on paper. Each figure tells a tale of students who are — or aren't — meeting the minimal standard for success in a standard subject area.

The battle to improve student performance must be expanded. It's time for everyone to step it up. It's time for school officials, already beset by declining enrollments and income, to rededicate themselves to remedial education at all grade levels. It's also time for parents to become more active in their students' education.

But it's also time for Lansing to come up with creative ways to help struggling school districts finance innovative remedial education programs. It's unacceptable that local students lag behind the minimum state achievement level. It's unacceptable more than 70 percent of all incoming local high school seniors, young men and women just a year away from college or the work force, lack adequate math skills and 49 percent lack adequate reading skills as well.

For that matter, it's also unacceptable that student performance throughout the state is so dismal.

In fact, there's only one way it is acceptable. That is if we as educators and parents, legislators and taxpayers, allow it to be so.

Growing diversity could help bridge racial gap

Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau earlier this month indicate there has been significant growth of ethnic populations in Detroit's suburbs. Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties have all seen increases in the number of ethnic minorities between 2000 and 2007, according to the Census Bureau.

Each of the counties has seen a surge of Asian and Hispanic populations. For example, the number of Hispanics in suburban Detroit grew by nearly 23,000 people, a 32-percent increase, with Wayne County (not including Detroit) seeing a 39-percent increase.

Of particular note, the figures show that the number of African Americans living in the suburbs has jumped, especially in Macomb and Oakland counties. In Macomb County, for example, the black population has increased 164 percent, or by nearly 35,000 individuals, since 2000. In Oakland, the increase wasn't as large, but there was still a 22-percent increase. Livingston County, at the northwest edge of suburban Detroit, experienced a 93-percent increase of black residents.

Although some people might disagree, this growing diversity is encouraging news for a region that has been plagued with racial strife for decades.

The fact is metro Detroit is one of the most racially segregated metropolitan areas in the nation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our area is ranked second in terms of racial segregation, behind only Gary, Ind. This segregation has played a major role in the lack of trust that exists between the city of Detroit, which is nearly all black, and its formerly lily-white suburbs. This lack of trust has always been a factor in derailing important regional issues, including improving our drinking water system, public transit or even getting a new Cobo Hall built.

But there is growing evidence that feelings are starting to change. First and foremost, the census figures show people of color are more open to moving into the suburbs, attracted by the same quality of life issues that brought (white) people to these towns in the first place.

Most people, regardless of the color of their skin, want the same things in life: safe neighborhoods, good schools, well-paying jobs, clean air to breathe, etc. And regardless whether one lives in Rochester, Canton, Southfield, Westland or Detroit, most of us also take pride in our region.

So it's time we start having frank discussions about race, what it means to our region and how to overcome the impediments it has caused. The best way to do that is to be in the same room with one another. And that's a lot easier to accomplish when people who look different happen to be neighbors.



Disagree with editorial

I must strongly disagree with your editorial of Aug. 7, "Recall: Not right answer to plan." You state that recalls should be a tool to remove officials for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office. While I do not always agree with recall campaigns, in this case, the targets of our recalls, we feel, are guilty of misfeasance in their office.

Webster's defines misfeasance as "the performance of a lawful action in an illegal or improper manner." We believe that the vote to rezone to allow this project was done in an improper manner. There was no consideration of residents' contentions of safety concerns because of increased traffic, loss of property values, or violations of the Westland master plan. The latter was pointed out in detailed measure to the council.

I do not know of any action that we, citizens of Westland, can take to try to stop this construction. I do not think it is improper to complain about the very characteristics of our homes and investments going down the drain with the construction of the overly large, overly tall senior building. There are many factors that will come up in the future, if this project is built in its present form. There is little that the developer can do to mollify the residents as long as this building looms in the middle of our area.

I suggest that the *Observer* look at our side of the matter, rather than look down its nose as something we should accept without a fight.

Curt Gottlieb
Westland

Writer lacks all of facts

I am responding to Mr. Poger's letter of Aug. 14 printed on the Opinion page. I feel that he does not have all of the information to make the statement opposing the recall movement.

The people on Gray and Ravine "do not" oppose the building of senior homes on the property, what is objectional is the three-story apartment building to be erected behind the back yards. Some existing homes are only 50 feet away.

Mr. Poger should also be aware that retirees do not give up driving until the state informs them or a family member takes the keys away. Also there will be delivery and employee traffic sharing a drive with the church.

I am very aware of the type of traffic on Joy during the school year and the fact that Joy is only a two-way road. That stretch of Joy Road will not be changed to accommodate traffic flow.

Unless you live in one of the apartment complexes on Newburgh where there would be no objection to another apartment building behind you, I can see why the residents of R-1 would not want an apartment building in the middle of their back yards.

The one thing I did agree with is "throwing the bums out of office." I do not know how long Mr. Poger has lived in Westland but I have been here too many years to count and perhaps if people like Mr. Poger and myself had become more involved in city politics, many of these problems would have not occurred and the city of Westland would be following their "master plan."

LETTERS

The city pension plan would not have been beefed up the way it was during the '60s and I for one never said a word as I was to busy. The pensions now are outrageous as they are in most other communities. Westland has many problems that need to be re-addressed and every voting citizen of Westland should begin to keep a watchful eye to see who is getting all of the perks.

One last thing, I do not call a three-story apartment building a "modest change."

Karol Hudson
Westland

A different location

With regard for the residents of Westland and Livonia who do not care to be rezoned, why not give serious consideration to the corner of Marquette and Newburgh, involving many acres, both on the north side of Marquette and the east side of Newburgh, both with long-standing "for sale" signs and standing idle.

That property has no homeowners and would save money by eliminating the need for building new roads, since it is close to Ford Road and would cost much less to upgrade and prepare.

Please consider that between Wayne Road and Newburgh on the north side of Marquette there are already two high-rise buildings and no single roadside residents. A three-story building would cause less disturbance during construction to the area and would bring in new tax dollars in place of overgrown, useless land, and since there is already a traffic light at the Marquette and Newburgh corner would make it convenient and safe for new residents to enjoy using the Friendship Center for companionship and/or lunch and adding additional revenue for Westland.

According to the July 31 *Westland Observer* article, the mayor stated two reasons for the project:

1. A better location.
 2. Expected \$250,000 in income.
- I expect a third reason is that it would make residents at the W/L location very happy.

Barbara Vilders
Westland

Process isn't right

Oops! It was made clear at the last Westland City Council meeting that the Aug. 7, 2008, meeting regarding the proposed Nankin Mills Village was a closed meeting, invitation only. Yet, the Aug. 10, 2008, *Observer* quotes attorney Bryan Amann stating that the meeting was open to the entire Gray/Ravine neighborhood.

Is this yet another misstep in this entire proposal? Knowing the high level of interest in this project, why did something as simple as the proposed meeting attendance get bungled up so badly? Then we wonder why this entire project is of such a concern to many residents. It's the process!

We took a ride along Joy Road just to get a feel for the area; not being experts, we immediately saw the traffic problem. How can that narrow street handle the high density that is proposed for this area? If this was our neighborhood, we, too, would be fighting against the project.

It appears that money continues to be the source of all evil. Of course, our city needs money. Up to this point, we admire all that

Mayor Wild has been able to do in such a short time amidst a worst possible economy. Yet, we do not support a project such as this because of the possible revenue.

The *process* should always include the welfare of the citizens. This appears as an example of a somewhat "eminent domain" process whereby the government can just come in and do whatever, without any regard to the citizenry. The citizens in the immediate area are definitely going to be adversely affected. Their best interest, and, only their interest should be front and center of this proposed project, and not the interest of the developer and/or the city.

We follow the city council meetings regularly and have followed this painful process from the first time the developer made the presentation. There was a bad feeling from the get-go. No city needs a developer, the developer needs the city. When the equation is changed, we end up with this kind of a situation. As stated earlier, the *process* should always include, when applicable, the residents who may be affected.

A good-will offer was made by changing the plans. That is good, however, the main objection to the three-story apartment building still exists. That is definitely not the way to go.

Then, the residents raised numerous unanswered questions about the project. Of course, the residents should know how far a new building will be from their home. That is a very pertinent question, and, in our view, was handled very badly. If the answer is not known, then find out. The resident has the right to know. What about the questions regarding the property possibly exchanging hands with the church? That needs to be answered, along with other questions that were raised.

We are very disappointed in the *process* that was used regarding this proposal. Why the rush into rezoning an established property according to the master plan of the city? Then, a very basic question: how will the two-lane road handle the high density of traffic? The *process* should have handled the issue right up front.

There just appears to us to be too many "iffy" conditions regarding this proposal. It was *not* ready for a vote. Why the rush? Who is applying pressure? If a vote was not possible at the time, it should not have taken place. The money will come, but not at the expense of the citizens.

James and Mary Murphy
Westland

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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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QUOTABLE

"We're pleased with the progress we've made, we're trending upward, our improvements were more significant than statewide."

— Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland Community Schools superintendent, on the results on the Michigan Merit Exam

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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.

Regional issues require creative, bipartisan leadership

I attended the Detroit Chamber of Commerce Policy Conference on Mackinac Island in the week following Memorial Day. This was the third year in a row I represented the City of Farmington Hills at the Mackinac Conference.

The Mackinac Conference is billed as a retreat where business and political leaders from southeastern Michigan come together to discuss common issues, finding solutions. However, after attending for three years, I have yet to hear or see any issues upon which there is cooperation or agreement.

The legislators appear to talk at each other, not to each other. Each one intent on advancing their own agenda, which, of course, includes getting re-elected. The so-called big four — the Oakland County executive, the Wayne County executive, the chairman of the Macomb County commissioners, and the Detroit mayor — while all professing the need and desire to cooperate, spend most of their time bickering with each other.

The governor, again, gave a wonderful speech, asking for bipartisan support on three issues she believes are necessary to move Michigan forward. However, if past performance is any indication of future action, the governor's words fell on deaf ears and she will not exhibit the leadership skills necessary to get the bipartisan support she needs to get the job done.

If I seem skeptical that our state and regional leaders will put aside their political differences and find a common basis for solutions, it is because I am skeptical. Our state legislature is totally dysfunctional, and the leadership in the City of Detroit is too busy trying to stay out of jail to resolve city or regional problems.

For three years at the Mackinac Conference I have heard that Cobo Hall must be expanded, we need a regional transit system, and we have to retain our college graduates in the state if we are to grow our economy. None of these issues require rocket science for solutions; they do, however, require a little imagination and bipartisan cooperation from our state and regional leadership.

I have given some thought to these issues and would suggest the following as a basis to jump start the discussion to finding solutions.

First, I am advised that Cobo Hall must be expanded to retain the International Auto Show, which I am told creates 16,000 jobs and brings \$500 million of economic benefits to southeastern Michigan each year. The expansion may cost up to \$500 million. Cobo Hall is presently paid for by taxes on alcoholic beverages in restaurants and bars and by a hotel tax on rooms in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. This tax structure is so that visitors to the region pay a substantial portion of the taxes to support Cobo Hall.

I would suggest that the state legislature set

up a Cobo Hall Authority, with two representatives from each of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and three representatives from the City of Detroit. This nine member authority would be charged with the job of (a) seeing that the bar and hotel tax was extended as necessary to raise the funds required for the expansion of Cobo Hall; (b) holding the City of Detroit harmless on the existing debt on Cobo Hall; and (c) building and maintaining the expanded Cobo Hall. I would also suggest (although this will never happen) that all the members of the authority be apolitical.

Second, everyone seems to be in agreement that future economic growth in this region depends, in part, on installing a regional transit system in at least Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Currently, DDOT operates buses in Detroit, and SMART operates buses in all of Macomb and parts of Wayne and Oakland counties. There are a number of people currently advocating a light rail system, costing billions of dollars, as the panacea for a regional transit system.

Again, I would suggest that the state legislature take action to establish a Southeastern Michigan Regional Transportation Authority with two representatives from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and three representatives from the City of Detroit.

This nine member authority would have the responsibility of taking over and merging the DDOT and SMART operations; extending bus service throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties; and extending the current SMART millage throughout the service area.

Once having accomplished all of the foregoing, then look at expanding into light rail service.

Lastly, I would suggest that there is a way to encourage our young adults who are graduating from our Michigan colleges and universities to stay, work and live in Michigan. We can do this by giving them an incentive to stay.

If we reduce by \$2,500 per student, per year, the state provides to its colleges and universities, and allow the state colleges and universities to raise their tuition by \$2,500 per student, per year, and then loan each student, who so requests, the sum of \$2,500 per year.

At the end of four years, the students will each owe the state \$10,000. Then, if the college graduate stays and works in the state, their state income tax would be applied to reduce their student loan until it is paid in full. If the graduate stays and works in Michigan for four years, the loan will have cost them nothing. If they leave after graduation, they will be obligated to repay the loan, and will not have taken our tax dollars elsewhere.

I believe with a little bipartisan and regional cooperation, Michigan can accomplish all of the foregoing and more.

Jerry Ellis is mayor of Farmington Hills.



Jerry Ellis

AARP card arrival proves again what goes around, comes around

They found me.

Six months before I'm chronologically ready for them, they found me. Heck, I didn't even know they were looking for me and they found me anyway.

And, as they say, what goes around, comes around. Many years ago, I sat at my brother's house, chuckling heartily because my stepfather had just received his application to join what was then called the American Association of Retired Persons. It came in the mail smack-dab on his 50th birthday, and I (along with my brothers and sister) thought it was funny at the time.

I'm sure wherever he is (he died a couple of years ago) he was laughing out loud last week when my own application to join AARP (it's now known simply by the acronym) arrived in the mail.

When I opened it, my only thought was, "\$%@\$!"

OK, it wasn't my only thought, but it was my first thought. After that, I wondered this: "When did this happen? When did I get old?"

(Note to those approaching 50 and those already past it: Before you write to complain, I know it's not old. I'm just sayin'...)

I remember when I was 12 and baby-sitting for the older couple across the street. They were probably in their late 20s, maybe early 30s, but I still thought of them as "this older couple across the street."

When I was 25, I didn't want to turn 30 because it meant I was getting older. When I hit 35, I didn't want to see my 40th, for the same reason. Guess what I thought when I hit 45? If you guessed, "I don't want to turn 50 because I'll be old," you're pretty close.

I tossed the application aside, vowing not to give it another thought. Which is better than our all-world photographer, Bill Bresler, did when he got his a few years ago. Bill sent it back (and actually still remains deep in denial).

Age is only a number, although it seems to me I only hear people my age or older say that.

It's becoming more so as life goes on, with life expectancies creeping past 80 for women, beyond 75 for men. It's one of the reasons, I think, when you hear someone "died at the age of 58," you hear so many people say, "Wow, that's young!" I heard that a lot when Tim Russert died.

But even after I tossed the application aside, I was thinking about it. When I came to work, there was a copy of *AARP — the Magazine*, which claims in its masthead to be the world's largest-circulation magazine. On the cover was Jack Nicholson, who's always been one of my favorite actors. It was a good story about Jack cleaning up his act.

I paged through the magazine and found out Holly Hunter, also one of my favorites (loved her opposite Richard Dreyfuss in *Always*), is the same age. So are Patricia Heaton (*Everybody Loves Raymond*) and Andie MacDowell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*).

I also found all kinds of advertising, stories that show what older folks are doing with their lives, and even a crossword puzzle (which I couldn't finish).

Go to its Web site (www.aarp.org) and you find a ton more stuff, on money, leisure and health, all designed to help you not only survive into your Golden Years, but to thrive in them.

Unfortunately, even though I know age is only a number, although I'm sure there are people older than me who are in better shape physically, mentally and every other way, and even though I know aging is a natural part of life, there's still one thing the AARP hasn't helped teach me about turning 50.

How to avoid it.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer and actually looks forward to the Big Five-Oh. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2153, and his blog is available on the Observer's Web site, www.hometownlife.com.

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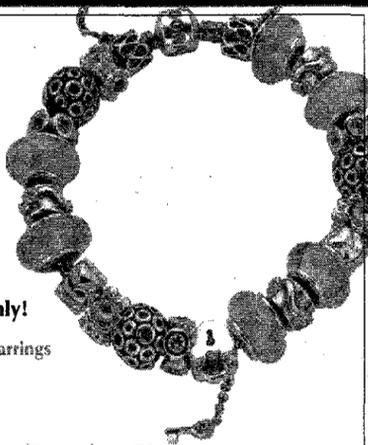
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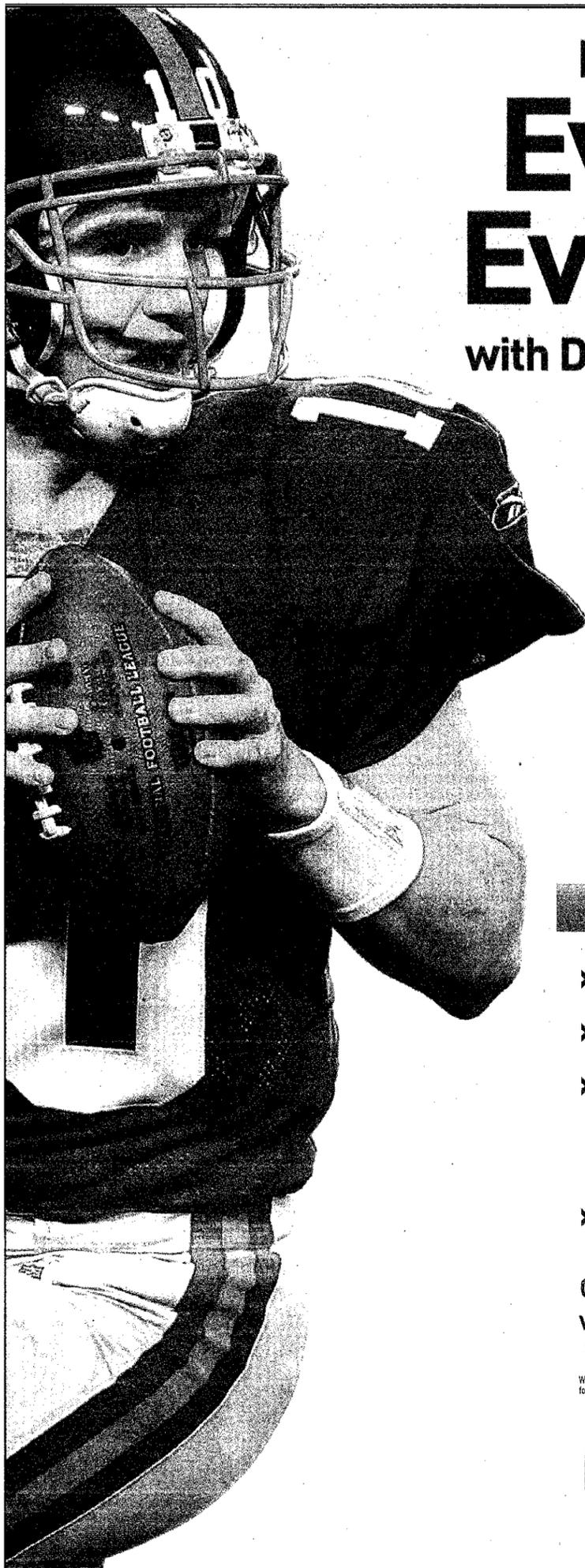


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SPORTS

B (LW)

Thursday, August 21, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Macinkowicz brings home another title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Susan Macinkowicz didn't have to venture over to Woodward Avenue to stage her own Dream Cruise during Saturday's Observer & Eccentric Women's Golf Tournament held at Livonia's Whispering Willows G.C.

The special education teacher from Woodhaven, who hails from Chesterfield Township, repeated as the winner of the championship flight with an 18-hole round of 83, four shots better than Livonian Nancy Rhatigan and five better than Sona Pysh-Dennison of Shelby Township.

A regular on the Michigan Women's Publix circuit, Macinkowicz survived a tough stretch on the 11th and 12th holes where she carded back-to-back 7s en route to a 43 on the back nine after shooting a 40 on the front side.

"I got the ball up into the woods and it got me," said the 47-year-old Macinkowicz. "But overall it was fun. It was good playing on a great municipal course. They have a real gem in Livonia."

Macinkowicz earned a first-place trophy and an \$80 golf shop gift certificate for her efforts.

"The key here is course management," said the two-time winner with an U.S.G.A. 8-handicap index. "You have to know where to put the ball. Tee shots are critical. The putts are true and Paul (Worley, the club pro) has the course and grounds in good shape."

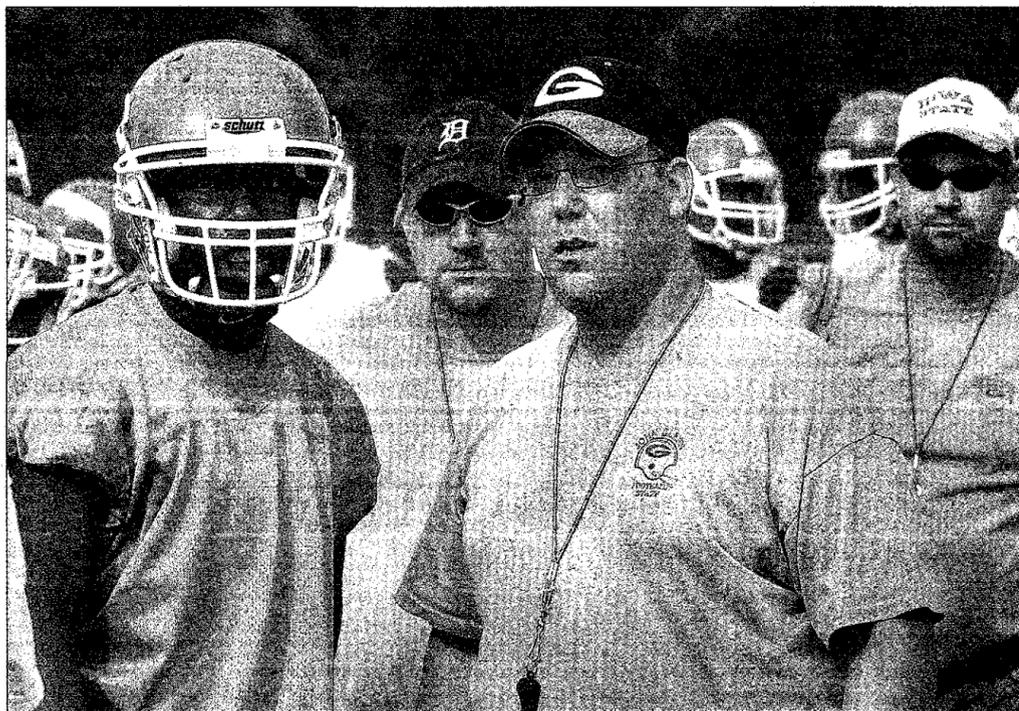
Rhatigan, who has an 17-handicap, carded 42-45-87, but was able to take low-net honors with a 70, earning a \$60 gift certificate.

Pysh-Dennison, who resides in Shelby Township, carded a gross total of 43-45-88 followed by Theresa McPherson (Royal Oak), 48-45-93; Pat Witek (Livonia), 51-44-95; and Debrah Pringle (Lake Orion), 49-49-98 to round out the championship flight.

Canton's Lu Stockton captured first flight honors with a 48-48-96, edging Detroit's Suzanne Madej, who shot 53-44-97, by a stroke.

And sporting a 25-handicap, Stockton also won low net honors with a 71 to take home a first-place trophy along with a \$70 gift certificate. She also won closest-to-the-pin on the 120-yard No. 7 hole.

Rounding out the first flight field was Kathy Brennan (Livonia), 54-57-101; Monica Oliver (Farmington Hills), 50-52-102; and Pat Shelton (Farmington), 59-52-111. Canton's Dorine Allen withdrew from the tournament.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quarterback Jerome Scales goes over a play with Westland John Glenn's new head coach Tim Hardin.

Fundamentals fuel new Rockets

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Following Monday's morning practice, new Westland John Glenn football coach Tim Hardin took his team immediately to the film room and broke out a 1996 state playoff game tape of the Rockets upsetting Redford-Detroit Catholic Central, 15-14.

"We're going to be very, very young," said Hardin, a longtime Glenn assistant who coached the Rockets' JV team to a 6-3 record last year. "And our goal is to get players to play the way they did in the old days — with great heart, discipline and toughness."

"We're not there yet and we have a long way to go, but we plan on getting there."

The Rockets return only three starters off last year's 5-4 squad. The two biggest losses include electrifying first-team All-Observer quarterback Keshawn Martin, who is expected to contribute right away at Michigan State as a freshman, and first-team All-Area running back C.J. Woodford (1,007 yards).

Jerome Scales, a 5-foot-11, 201-pound transfer from Canton (via Wayne Memorial) has been named the starting quarterback.

"We have three very talented quarterbacks," Hardin said. "Jerome has a strong arm, he's a good athlete with a great attitude and is a good leader on our team."

"We're still primarily a run football

FAST FACTS

School: Westland John Glenn.
Head coach: Tim Hardin (first season).
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (South Division).
2007 record: 5-4.
Key losses: Keshawn Martin (first-team All-Area); C.J. Woodford (first-team All-Area); Ryan Lopez (second-team All-Area); Greg Bevel, Adam Sonak, Victor Sanders, Zach Bozigian, John and James Abraham.
Returning starters: Jake Morris, Sr. OL (6-2, 267); Dazz Bragg, Sr. RB-DB (5-8, 160); Kyren Boyd, Sr. DB (5-10, 155).
Promising newcomers: Jerome Scales, Sr. QB-DB (5-11, 201; transfer from Canton); T.J. Arancibia, Sr. OT-DT (6-3, 301; transfer from Algonac); Jay Bloomer, Sr. OL (6-1, 205); Steve Smith, Sr. TE-DE (6-5, 218); Sheldon Hankins, Sr. LB-FB (6-0, 192); Josh Reed, Sr. DB-QB (5-11, 185).
Coach's quote: "We have to take care of all aspects of the game. The kicking game is a big part of being disciplined. That's a mark of a good team. I don't consider it a little thing."
Schedule (all 7 p.m. starts): Aug. 28 (Waterford Mott); Sept. 5 (at Pinckney); Sept. 12 (at Livonia Churchill); Sept. 19 (Canton); Sept. 26 (Livonia Franklin); Oct. 3 (at Plymouth); Oct. 10 (Wayne Memorial); Oct. 17 (at KLAAs crossover); Oct. 24 (at Walled Lake Western).

team, but with him at quarterback, and the others we have, we definitely have the ability to pass."

Meanwhile, 5-8, 160-pound senior Dazz Bragg returns to fill the void at running back.

"He's not the biggest guy and he doesn't know anything but to go at full speed," Hardin said. "He's very strong for his size, and he's a power back when he wants to be. He has good speed and he runs hard. He's one of our best practice players and leaders."

Bragg and senior Kyren Boyd (5-10, 155) return as the lone starters on defense, while senior Jake Morris (6-2, 267) anchors an inexperienced offensive line.

"We have a lot of new guys there," Hardin said of the offensive line. "They've been working hard and they have a long way to go. Defensively there won't be major changes. We just have to get better with the fundamentals — blocking and tackling, and we've got to get tougher."

Sidelines

Fox earns spot

Livonia's Megan Fox posted a personal best time of 2:17.92 en route to a fifth-place finish in the 200-meter freestyle during the final day of USA Swimming Junior National Championships held Aug. 4-8 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Fox, who bettered her previous best time by three seconds, also met the National Junior Team qualifying standard of 2:18.49 and has also qualified for the World Championship team trials next July.

The Stevenson High junior also took 21st in the 400 IM (4:57.7); 32nd in the 100 butterfly (1:02.98); 59th in the 200 butterfly (2:19.66); and 139th in the 200 backstroke (2:28.05).

MU spikers 10th

The Madonna University women's volleyball team is ranked 10th in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) preseason coaches' poll released earlier this week.

The Crusaders debut in the top-10 for the fourth straight season and will play nine teams who received votes in the poll, including five top-25 teams.

MU, coming off of a 35-12 season and its 11th straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) title, sits behind defending national champion Fresno Pacific (Calif.), which owns the top spot.

Joining the Sunbirds in the top-five are fellow GSAC members Cal Baptist, Concordia (Calif.), Biola and Azusa Pacific. In the six through nine spots are Columbia, Northwestern (Iowa), Point Loma Nazarene and the College of Idaho.

Punt, Pass & Kick

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage the 2008 Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick competition for ages 8-15 beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center soccer fields, located at Five Mile and Hubbard. Registration starts at 4:30 p.m. the day of the event, which is free.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Inline hockey

Tryouts for the Wayne-Westland combined JV inline hockey team will be from 6-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 at Skateland West, located at Newburgh and Cherry Hills Roads.

You must attend Wayne-Westland Schools and be entering grades 8-11 in Sept. 2008 to be eligible.

For more information, e-mail wwinline-hockey@hotmail.com.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Wayne Memorial place kicker Jesse Dorow hopes to give Zebras another offensive threat. C.J. Johnson (left) is the holder.

Gridiron options

New Zebras coach molds new philosophy

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kevin Weber has wasted little time in putting his own stamp on Wayne Memorial football.

The 26-year-old rookie coach, who takes over for Craig Hnatuk, has implemented a spread option attack with an emphasis on the kicking game.

"We'll use the whole football field, we'll throw a lot and run a lot of option," said the native of Charlotte who graduated from Western Michigan University. "We're going the full way, we'll be a complete spread team. It's a system of interchangeable parts."

"At our school we have such good athletes that we have to make the other teams responsible for them all."

Nick Kostora, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound senior, takes over at quarterback for the graduated D.J. Freeman.

"Nick's a very, very smart kid and a hard worker," Weber said. "He runs the show. He can change plays and call plays. He makes the decisions."

Seniors Ramsey Hart (6-2, 205) and Eric Story (6-4, 280) will anchor the offensive

FAST FACTS

School: Wayne Memorial.
Head coach: Kevin Weber, first year.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (South Division).
Last year's record: 4-5.
Graduation losses: D.J. Freeman (first-team All-Area); Mike Davis (first-team All-Area); Zak Kyle (second-team All-Area); Corey Campbell (second-team All-Area); Nate Mosely, Jordan Dottor.
Key returnees: C.J. Johnson, Sr. SB (5-9, 165); Alex Bledsoe, Sr. LB-FB (5-11, 205); Ramsey Hart, Sr. OL-DL (6-2, 205); Eric Story, Sr. OL-DL (6-4, 280); Dylan Korzetki, Jr. OL-DL (6-3, 250); Richard Haley, Sr. RB-LB (5-10, 190).
Promising newcomers: Keith Agee, Soph. LB-RB (5-9, 185); Nick Kostora, Sr. QB (5-10, 175); Mike Gallagher, Sr. LB (5-10, 190); Zach Hardyniec, Jr. SS (5-8, 175); Jess Dorow, Sr. K-WR (6-3, 210).
Coach's quote: "They know where they have to go and they know where they need to be, but they need a better understanding of how and when to come off the ball. We have to come off the ball without hesitation, do it confidently and mean business."
Schedule (all 7 p.m. starts): Aug. 28 (at Waterford Kettering); Sept. 5 (Waterford Mott); Sept. 12 (Livonia Franklin); Sept. 19 (at Plymouth); Sept. 26 (at Canton); Oct. 3 (Livonia Churchill); Oct. 10 (at Westland John Glenn); Oct. 17 (at KLAAs crossover); Oct. 24 (Walled Lake Central).

Please see **ZEBRAS, B4**

Girls golfers hope to link up to past

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

She loomed large over Observerland for four years – almost Tigress Woods-like.

Yes, two-time individual Division 1 state medalist Shannon Warner has finally graduated from Livonia Churchill High and is off to Michigan State.

As a senior last fall while juggling two sports (including volleyball), Warner averaged 36.5 per nine holes and 73.8 per 18 en route to a third straight regional title and a fifth-place finish in the state finals. Warner also set the women's course record with a blistering 67 in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament last May.

But not all is lost for Churchill, which placed 12th in the 2007 team state finals and finished 11-0 in the WLAA. The Chargers, under new coach

Paul Worley, return senior Lexi McFarlane, a player who earned All-Conference and first-team All-Observer honors in 2007 with a nine-hole average of 47 and an 18-hole scoring average of 95.

McFarlane should be one of the top players in the new Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division.

"Last season is going to be a tough act to follow, but the team is up to the challenge," said Worley, who is also the Churchill boys varsity coach and head pro at the Chargers home course (Whispering Willows).

Livonia Franklin also lost its top golfer to graduation – first-team All-Observer pick Paige Scarpace, who was medalist in eight of her 11 WLAA matches and just missed going to the state finals with an eighth-place at the regional.

But coach Brian McCalister is optimistic that his team can improve upon last year's 7-5 dual-match

record. "This team expects to be competitive because of the varsity experience we return," the third-year coach said. "We are returning eight letter winners and four players with varsity experience. The team was challenged at the end of the season and responded with a lot of hard work in the off-season."

Livonia Stevenson should also be much improved over last year's 5-6 mark despite the loss of co-captains Laura Sims and Elizabeth Grace.

All-Division honoree Gabrielle Sabatini returns for her senior year.

"We should be a better team than last year, but it may not show up in wins and losses this season," said fourth-year coach Jason Delo, whose team enters the formidable KLAAs Central Division which includes third-place state team finisher Northville along with Novi, Salem and the two South Lyon schools.

"Our new conference and division is extremely difficult and will be a chal-

lenge for our team." Another KLAAs-South Division team primed for improvement is Westland John Glenn, coming off a 4-7 dual-match season.

The Rockets are led by second-team All-Observer pick Heidi Irvine, who averaged 48.12 per nine and finished 18th at the Giant Oaks regional.

"Improvement continues to be the main focus of the John Glenn golf program," fifth-year coach Steve Pilon said. "Thus, the girls will be trying to lower their averages and win more matches than last year."

Wayne Memorial has only two currently practicing – both four-year players in second-team All-Observer pick Berlynn Beaver and Taylor Tuttle.

Dennis Chall, now in his third stint as the Zebras' coach and his 29th overall, has tried to beef up early attendance.

"We have three players right now and the maximum you need is four

for varsity," said Chall, who is the Zebras' co-coach along with Kathy Stella. "We'll be doing some recruiting and I'm confident we'll get enough bodies out by Sept. 12 in our division opener against Churchill."

Last year Livonia Ladywood won only one dual match in the Catholic League, but it was against champion Farmington Hills Mercy.

Ninth-year coach Kellianna Nagy will miss first-team All-Observer selection Erica Mazur (now at Albion College), but returns a quality player in second-team All-Area pick Val DiMilia, a hockey player who picked up the game of golf just two years ago.

"Erica Mazur will be truly missed, as she was our leader on-and-off the course," Nagy said. "But these are a good bunch of girls who have worked hard all summer, playing in tournaments and developing all aspects of their game. I look for them to lead us during what is our rebuilding year."

GIRLS GOLF CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Paul Worley, first season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (South Division).
Home course: Whispering Willows.
Last year's overall dual match record: 11-0 overall.
Titles won last year: Western Lakes Activities Association co-champions; WLAA-Lakes Division champs.
Notable losses to graduation: Shannon Warner (first-team All-Area); Amanda Dobos (first-team All-Area); Danielle Lesniak (second-team All-Area); Katie Worley.
Leading returnees: Lexi McFarlane, Sr. (first-team All-Area); Jessica Burdette, Sr.; Sarah Linder, Sr.; Samantha Proben, Sr.; Stephanie Panaretos, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Alex Harakas, Jr.; Shelby Longworth, Jr.; Jordyn Shepler, Fr.
Worley's 2008 outlook: "With the core of returnees, along with the newcomers, the early reviews look promising. The team needs to get a few rounds in, so they can have something to build on. They are working hard on their short game and working on making better decision on the course, which I hope will pay dividends as the season progresses."



Lexi McFarlane Churchill



Val DiMilia Ladywood



Berlynn Beaver Wayne Memorial

Kayla Buchanczenko, Fr.; Mackenzie Meyers, Fr.; Alexis Smith, Fr.; Haley Szpara, Fr.
McCalister's 2008 outlook: "Patrick, Porakowski, McAtee, Nesbitt and Beahon have really improved their games and I know they will offset the loss of Scarpace. However, our depth guarantees there will be a battle for spots in the varsity matches because of the underclassmen who have improved, especially Keeler and DeGuise, and a couple of talented freshmen who will see some time also. As we set our season goals, this Patriot team believes they can challenge for the KLAAs South Division title."

of our leading seniors have lots of experience playing in matches. Their dedication to improving their game by playing all summer long, attending camps and tournaments should provide us the edge we will need to win. A couple of newcomers to the team this year, coupled with some excellent improvement in a pair of sophomores should lead to an improved and fun season."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Brian McCalister, third season.
League affiliation: KLAAs (South Division).
Home course: Ivy Wild.
Last year's overall dual match record: 7-5.
Notable losses to graduation: Paige Scarpace (first-team All-Area); Heather Bacon.
Leading returnees: Georgia Patrick, Jr.; Natalie Polakowski, Sr.; Samantha McAtee, Sr.; Samantha Nesbitt, Sr.; Lauren Beahon, Soph.; Heather DeGuise, Jr.; Rebecca Keeler, Jr.; Courtney Tilhof, Sr.; Jennifer Rellingier, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Mariah Barcus, Soph.; Zoe Rippelle, Soph.; Jamie Buchanczenko, Fr.

Head coach: Jason Delo, fourth season.
League affiliation: KLAAs (Central Division).
Home course: Fox Creek.
Last year's overall dual match record: 5-6.
Notable losses to graduation: Laura Sims, Elizabeth Grace.
Leading returnees: Natalie Cicchelli, Sr.; Shelby Pichota, Sr.; Gabrielle Sabatini, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Brynn Cavanaugh, Soph.; Chelsea Phillips, Soph.; Kathleen Karczewski, Fr.; Alexis Soave, Fr.
Delo's 2008 outlook: "We will have strong, veteran players to lead our team as all three

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Steve Pilon, sixth season.
League affiliation: KLAAs (South Division).
Home course: The Woodlands (Van Buren).
Last year's overall dual match record: 4-7.
Notable losses to graduation: Jamie Young, Dakota Howell.
Leading returnees: Heidi Irvine, Jr. (second-team All-Area); Courtney McKinley, Sr.; Danielle Sulewski, Sr.; Samantha Baker, Jr.; Justine Woodard, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Michelle Bishop, Fr.; Chelsea Norwicki, Soph.; Arius Dobson, Fr.
Pilon's 2008 outlook: "The girls have been working hard in an effort to get ready for the upcoming season. Everyone who plays golf strives to lower their best round score and the Glenn girls have that on their list of goals for the season."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Co-coaches: Dennis Chall (fourth season; third stint); Kathy Stella (second season).
League affiliation: KLAAs (South Division).
Home course: The Woodlands (Van Buren).
Last year's overall dual match record: 1-10.
Notable losses to graduation: None.
Leading returnees: Berlynn Beaver, Sr.; Taylor Tuttle, Sr.

Head coach: Kellianna Nagy, ninth season.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Home course: St. John's.
Last year's overall dual match record: 1-7.
Notable losses to graduation: Erica Mazur (first-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Val DiMilia, Jr. (second-team All-Area); Marissa Briden, Sr.; Katelyn Papler, Sr.; Amanda Molin, Sr.; Marissa Ley, Jr.; Taylor Romano, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Lindsay Apple, Fr.; Kristina Briden, Fr.; Erin Beece, Fr.
Nagy's 2008 outlook: "I am very pleased with what I have seen thus far. We look to be a contender for the Catholic League title. The young ladies have a lot of heart and determination, and that goes a long way in winning matches and tournaments. I think we'll be in the middle of the pack in most tournaments, and you never know, we may win one."

HURON VALLEY INVITATIONAL GIRLS GOLF RESULTS
Aug. 18 at Prestwick Village G.C.
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. White Lake Lakeland, 365 strokes; 2. Milford (A), 388; 3. Novi, 409; 4. Dearborn, 418; 5. Hartland, 423; 6. (tie) Pinckney and Walled Lake Northern, 424 each; 8. Howell, 427; 9. South Lyon, 436; 10. Livonia Churchill, 438; 11. Milford (B), 454; 12. Milford (C), 516; 13. South Lyon (B), 541; 14. South Lyon (C), 596.
Churchill scorers: Lexi McFarlane, 97; Jessica Burdette, 108; Stephanie Panaretos, 116; Sarah Linder, 117; Shelby Longworth, 126; Jordyn Shepler, 129.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Aug. 23
South Lyon Invitational, 8 a.m.
Battle Creek Tournament, 8 a.m.
W. Bloomfield Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
Carleton Airport Tournament, 9 a.m.
PREP BOYS SOCCER
Thursday, Aug. 21
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Waterford Mott, 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 22
Ypsilanti at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
(Huron Valley Lutheran Tourney)
Taylor Baptist at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
St. Joe Mich. Luth. at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23
Huron Valley Tournament, 11 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday, Aug. 23
South Lyon Inv. at Island Lake, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING
Saturday, Aug. 23
John Glenn at Howell Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
BOYS TENNIS
Thursday, Aug. 21
Stevenson at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 22
John Glenn at South Lyon East, 4 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Aug. 23
Stevenson at Monroe Quad Meet, 9 a.m.
GIRLS GOLF
Thursday, Aug. 21
Seaholm Tourney at Hudson Mills, 8 a.m.
N. Farmington Inv. at Glen Oaks, 8 a.m.
Chelsea Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Friday, Aug. 22
(at Delta Community College)
Schoolcraft vs. Alpena CC, 6 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Delta CC, 8 p.m.
(U-M-Deerborn Early Bird Classic)
Madonna vs. Robert Morris (Ill.), 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23
(U-M-Deerborn Early Bird Classic)
Madonna vs. Point Park (Pa.), 9 a.m.
MU vs. Mt. Vernon Nazarene (Ohio), 1 p.m.
(at Delta Community College)
Schoolcraft vs. Alpena CC, noon.
Schoolcraft vs. Delta CC, 2 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Saturday, Aug. 23
Schoolcraft at Cincinnati State, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Friday, Aug. 22
Madonna at Trinity International (Ill.), 4 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23
Madonna at Illinois Tech, 1 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS RESULTS
SOUTH LYON EAST 6 WAYNE MEMORIAL 2
Aug. 18 at South Lyon East
No. 1 singles: Kevin Renehan (SLE) defeated David McCown, 6-1, 6-0; No. 2: Chris Kyanka (SLE) def. Jesse English, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Tudoi Bahmata (SLE) def. Kevin Sample, 6-1, 6-0; No. 4: Brandon Harnos (WM) won by default.
No. 1 doubles: Matt Stanulec-Evan Bischoff (SLE) def. Hui Li-Dan Wilson, 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3; No. 2: Ryan Dennison-Robert Romeo (SLE) def. Michael Gabriel-Zach Lanko, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; No. 3: Stephen Gush-Josh Estep (WM) def. David Dennison-Bobby Brothers, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5; No. 4: Jared Slawski-Nash Saravanan (SLE) def. Justin Miller-Jacob Bean, 6-1, 6-0.
Dual match records: South Lyon East, 1-0 overall; Wayne, 0-1 overall.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

HURON VALLEY INVITATIONAL GIRLS GOLF RESULTS
Aug. 18 at Prestwick Village G.C.
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. White Lake Lakeland, 365 strokes; 2. Milford (A), 388; 3. Novi, 409; 4. Dearborn, 418; 5. Hartland, 423; 6. (tie) Pinckney and Walled Lake Northern, 424 each; 8. Howell, 427; 9. South Lyon, 436; 10. Livonia Churchill, 438; 11. Milford (B), 454; 12. Milford (C), 516; 13. South Lyon (B), 541; 14. South Lyon (C), 596.
Churchill scorers: Lexi McFarlane, 97; Jessica Burdette, 108; Stephanie Panaretos, 116; Sarah Linder, 117; Shelby Longworth, 126; Jordyn Shepler, 129.

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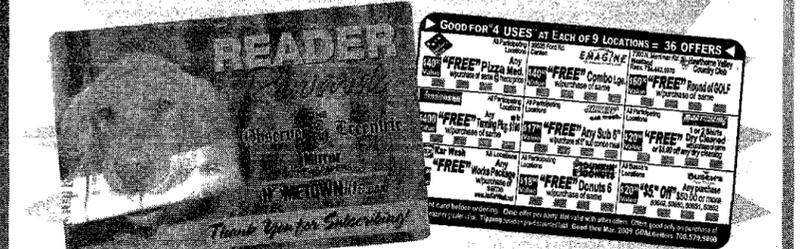
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Local talent continues to feed Lady Ocelots' soccer program

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Deepak Shivraman's first season as head coach of Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team was one to be proud of, as the Lady Ocelots finished 13-5 overall - capturing the NJCAA Division I regional and district titles in the process.

With many strong returnees as well as impressive freshman midfielder and Livonia Stevenson alum Stephanie Gutowski, Year 2 of Shivraman's regime could be just as successful if not more so.

Although 2007's inspirational leader and solid defender Margaret Mayer has moved on from Schoolcraft (she returned last year at age 30), tri-captains Clare Baptist (Plymouth), Samantha Harrington and Sally L'Esperance will.

And that has Shivraman more than thrilled.

"We have three captains who are leaders by example," he said.

Baptist and Harrington are forwards who will be counted on to fill the net. The coach

WOMEN'S SOCCER

described the latter as "a speed merchant that scored tons of goals but also set up others" and said Harrington will be the spark plug up front.

According to Shivraman, sophomore defender L'Esperance "will bring stability and skill in the back with her work ethic. She will do her best to fill the void left by (the graduation of) Margaret Mayer."

Another player with much expected of her is sophomore midfielder Aly King (Stevenson). King rejected several offers to play for D1 and D2 programs to come back to the Lady Ocelots.

"Aly is highly skilled and brings so much maturity and passion to our team," the coach said.

That nucleus of players isn't the only reason Shivraman feels good about the upcoming season. He has had a year to survey the landscape.

"I feel we have a strong team, we are quicker and technically stronger," Shivraman explained. "I think having the first year under my belt gave

me ideas on what we need." He recruited players with the combination of skill and "incredible work ethic," notably Gutowski.

"Steph is highly skilled and her work ethic is very blue collar and will add a lot to our team," he said.

Several other first-year players also bring that willingness to get their elbows and knees dirty, noted Shivraman in a prospectus of his squad.

Those include two recruits from Walled Lake Western, defenders Lindsey Lowe and Stacey Muktar and North Farmington's Dena Sana, a midfielder.

Also on board and ready to work are freshman midfielders Kristin DeClercq, Tara Pietila (Brighton) and defender Jessica Lusardi.

If there is a question mark, it could be in goal. Schoolcraft has two freshmen who could share the job.

Salem alum Kristin Dondzila could have the edge over Ashley Chandler.

"Kristin is a technically sound goalkeeper," Shivraman said. "Her no-fear attitude will only help our defense. She is very poised and composed in

the net."

The Lady Ocelots will have versatility on the roster, with players such as sophomores Katelyn Gilbert and Kayliegh Maurer. Both can play anywhere on the field, the coach emphasized.

Sophomore defender Emily Navas, an alum of North Farmington, could be an X-factor. She is returning from a serious knee injury but could "strengthen our defense with her experience and toughness."

Meanwhile, vying for playing time will be sophomore midfielder Meghan Horgan (Stevenson/Siena Heights), who brings the combination of speed and quickness to Schoolcraft.

Freshmen midfielders Katie Shull (Salem), Brittany Pickett, Andrea Polite (Oakland Christian), Nicole Trivax (Walled Lake Western) and freshman defenders Maggie Harris (Pinckney) and Jacqueline Patterson (Oxford) round out the roster.

Shull, a member of the State-Cup Championship Livonia United club team, "is a savvy, highly skilled player who will help us greatly," Shivraman said.

Deadlocked in openers

Wayne, Glenn and Stevenson all fashion 1-1 results

BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer season officially kicked off Monday with new Wayne Memorial coach Ashley Cooley still getting acquainted with her players.

Cooley had only been on the job a week after being named varsity coach a the host Zebras fought to a 1-1 draw against South Lyon East in a Kensington Lakes Activities Association crossover.

Both teams are 0-0-1 on the young season.

Cooley, who replaces Evan Baker, is a 2001 graduate of Novi High School who played two seasons at Eastern Michigan University. She was most recently the girls varsity coach at Boca Raton (Fla.) Olympic Heights High School and also served a stint as the Birmingham Marian JV coach.

Cooley singled out the play of goalkeeper Corey Taylor, who made 15 saves, but had his shutout bid was spoiled when East scored with only two minutes remaining.

"He had a phenomenal game," Cooley said of the senior.

Doug Malcolm tallied Wayne's only goal and senior stopper Zack Girouard also stood out.

"Right now we have 24 players, so we need to sort things out and we're in the process of making a JV team," said Cooley, who is assisted by Dave Daigneau.

JOHN GLENN 1, MOTT 1: In a KLAAC crossover Tuesday, host Westland John Glenn (0-0-1) settled for a draw against Waterford Mott (0-0-1) as Jimmy Mortada made his debut as the Rockets' varsity

coach. Khalid Sulieyman's goal early in the second half from Nelson Kenne staked the Rockets to a 1-0 lead before the Corsairs tied it late in the game.

Zach Redden was in goal for the Rockets, who outshot Mott 15-5.

STEVENSON 1, SALINE 1: In the season opener Tuesday, Livonia Stevenson (0-0-1) and the host Hornets (0-0-1) also wound up in a deadlock.

Nate Sergison's first-half goal from Brian Klemczak gave the Spartans a 1-0 lead, but Saline's Kyle Mattson tied it early in the second half.

Stevenson split its two goalkeepers - Conner Burton (first half) and Justin Collins (second half).

"Saline is always an aggressive and competitive group, they came ready to play," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "We had our share of (scoring chances), but we played too direct and were somewhat out of sync. And given that fact, it was probably a fair result."

CRESTWOOD 3, FRANKLIN 1: Adam Achkar scored a pair of goals and Armin Harba added another - all coming in the second half - as Dearborn Heights Crestwood (1-0-1) earned the non-league win Tuesday over host Livonia Franklin (0-1).

It was scoreless at halftime, but the Patriots gave up three unanswered goals before Sean Clark scored with 1:40 to go off an assist from Travis Matthey to spoil Crestwood goalkeeper Mo Hotait's shut-out bid.

"We had many opportunities, but Hotait did an outstanding job," said Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos, whose team outshot the Chargers, 12-7.

Meanwhile, Brad Mangune was in goal for the Patriots.

'Friendly' soccer match hopes to gain Guinness record

BY DAN STICKRAOT
O&E STAFF WRITER

A group of soccer enthusiasts are going to try to redefine the sport's term "friendly."

Two rival members of the men's soccer M.U.S.L., the UK Royals and Livonia Bullets, which are made up of players from around the Detroit metropolitan area, are going to host a fund-raiser this weekend at Oakland Yard Athletics' outdoor turf field in Waterford Aug. 23-24.

The event will help raise money for the University of Michigan-based C.S. Mott Children's Hospital to help kids with cancer and leuke-

mia, along with other severe health issues - all while trying to establish a new Guinness world record for the longest continuous soccer match ever played.

"We're going to go for it," said Simon Miners of St. Clair shores, the event organizer. "The main objective is to raise money. It started out as just a soccer game for cancer and leukemia research. But we're definitely going to try to set the record. We're shooting for 36 hours."

The old record was just 32 hours, 50 minutes, set in Australia back in February, but a pair of teams from Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, recently

played a match that lasted 33 hours and have sent in the official documentation to be the new record holder. That group raised more than \$26,000 for the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

The Royals-Bullets have set on topping even that by a couple of hours.

"We didn't even know about the Alberta game until after we set this up," said Miners. "We're still going to shoot for 36 hours."

That's a lot of soccer - and with strict guidelines.

The two sides can dress no more than 18 players per side and must have at least seven players active on the field at all times. Based on the number of

players for each team, the captains and coaches will decide if they will go 7v7 on up to 11v11.

The game will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday (Aug. 23) and hopefully will continue to around 8 p.m. (Aug. 23). Players will be allowed to play in long shifts.

"We'll make that decision before we start. We're not sure on how many players we'll have," added Miners. "We had a lot of guys signed up, but I've had some calls about a couple of guys having to drop out. There is a seven-player minimum and maximum. I originally planned for 100 people to come out and play, but that's not what the rules allow.

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ZEBRAS

FROM PAGE B1

line along with junior Dylan Korzetki (6-3, 250).

Seniors C.J. Johnson (5-9, 165) and Alex Bledsoe (5-11, 205) will step into the backfield along with sophomore Keith Agee (5-9, 185).

"We've been working really hard at several camps over the summer," Weber said. "We gone to Lansing and Flint to get everything up and running."

Wayne's wildcard could be newcomer Jesse Dorow, a refugee from the soccer team.

The 6-3, 210-pound senior will be the kicker and double as a wide receiver.

"Jesse's a really talented kicker, he has good leg strength and can go up to 50 yards," Weber said. "We should be able to score points. Inside 30 (yards) should be no problem. He's an athlete, and if he progresses, he could be a recruited college player."

Wayne's 4-2-5 defense will present multiple fronts, anywhere from a 4-4, to a 4-3, to a 5-2 look.

"You'll see five defensive backs on the field," Weber said. "We'll move and stunt."

Meanwhile, the defensive leader is Hart.

"It's his motor, he just keeps coming," the new Wayne coach said. "He's a great at pass rush. He reads the gap and pursues to the football. He'll smoke a guy and then come up smiling."



Junior Ethan Haller hits the blocking sled during a recent Lutheran High Westland football practice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warriors face numbers crunch entering 2008 grid campaign

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lutheran High Westland football coach Paul Guse' feels like an accountant these days.

He can't help but crunch the numbers entering the 2008 season.

Coming off a 5-4 year where the Warriors narrowly missed getting into the field of 256 for the state playoffs, Guse' currently has only 31 players in the program, including 12 freshmen and eight sophomores.

"We'll be starting from scratch in a lot of areas," Guse' said. "This is going to be a teachable year. We plan to play all eight sophomores. I hate to have JV and freshman players sit, but we have to field a varsity team first. What's killing us right now is that we only have four seniors. But if we keep the others out we'll be OK. The first

two weeks we won't have a JV team, then we'll see and send some of those guys down."

The Warriors return just three starters led by second-team All-Observer and first-team All-Metro Conference linebacker Sam Ahlersmeyer, a 6-foot-1, 210-pound senior who has led the team in tackles the past two years. He also starts at left guard.

"He played with one-arm several games last year," Guse' said. "He's our best blocker and hitter, we'll funnel things to him."

Also returning as a starters are senior fullback-defensive end Stephen Kemp (5-10, 152) and junior running back-strong safety Ethan Haller.

"Kemp has great hands and can run between the tackles," Guse' said. "Ethan had over 400 yards (rushing) for us the last three games because we ran things to fit him better. He gets to the hole quick and catches the ball."

The Warriors' schedule will be daunting with two Class B, six Class C and only one Class D squad on their schedule.

FAST FACTS

School: Lutheran High Westland.
Head coach: Paul Guse', seventh year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's record: 5-4.
Key losses: Dan Abbott (second-team All-Area); Billy Meier, Ryan Richter, Nate Bachert, Troy Goize, Jim Rockrohr, Frankie Cain.
Returning starters: Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. LB-OG (6-1, 210); Stephen Kemp, Sr. FB-DE (5-10, 152); Ethan Haller, Sr. RB-SS (5-8, 170).
Promising newcomers: Vince McRae, Jr. TE-CB (6-1, 174); Sean Rowe, Jr. QB-DB (5-8, 175); David Moldenhauer, Jr. QB-DB (5-11, 170); Gabe Paul, Jr. RB-OLB (6-0, 200); Derrick Mozham, Soph. RB (5-10, 175); Travis Domey, Soph. OL-DL (6-4, 225); Aaron Gartha, Soph. OL-DL (5-11, 200); Zack Musial, Soph. TE-DE (6-3, 180); Garrett Wilson, Sr. SE-CB (5-7, 133); Ryan Rakovalis, Sr. TE-DE (6-0, 180).
Coach's quote: "We had 15 seniors last year, and we don't have 15 seniors this year. We'll work with the sophomores to fill in the spots and we'll have a couple of freshmen who can play that have good size."
Schedule (all 1 p.m. unless noted): Aug. 28 (at Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 4:30 p.m.); Sept. 6 (at Harper Woods); Sept. 12 (at Hamtramck, 7 p.m.); Sept. 20 (at Macomb Lutheran North); Sept. 27 (at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook); Oct. 3 (Livonia Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.); Oct. 10 (at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, 7 p.m.); Oct. 17 (Detroit University Prep); Oct. 25 (Detroit Urban Lutheran, 2 p.m.).

"Instead of looking at the record, we have to get better each day and every game," said Guse', who is 21-33 in six years. "We're going to be behind in the playbook and

they won't be able to recognize some things that we're looking for. I think with our starting line we'll be OK - we have some size, but I still have no idea what our line is like."

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WYAA football signup

The Westland Youth Athletic Association, entering its 50th year, is seeking football players ages 12-13-14 interested in playing varsity-level for the Comets or Meteors. Openings remain for both squads.

The Comets play their home games at John Glenn High School and practice and Marshall Middle School, while the Meteors' home field is Wayne Memorial H.S. and practice at Voss Park in Westland.

For more information, call the WYAA Lange Compound Building at (734) 421-0640; Meteors unit director Galen Huren at (734) 716-6047; or Comets unit director Mark Simkow at (734) 732-1176.

Coaches wanted

■ Livonia Stevenson is seeking a varsity boys cross country coach for the fall season. For more information, call Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at (734) 744-2894.

■ Wayne Memorial High School is seeking a boys cross country coach in the fall and a girls varsity bowling coach for the winter.

Previous high school coaching experience is preferred.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resume to: Greg Ambrose, athletic director, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI 48184. Information can also be faxed to (734) 595-2227.

Youth baseball tryouts

■ Tryouts for the Westland

Warthogs, a 13-and-under travel baseball team will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23; Wednesday, Aug. 27; Friday, Sept. 5; and Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Wayne-Ford Civic League baseball fields, located at Wayne Road, just south of Ford.

For more information, call Keith Kiesznowski at (734) 846-3513.

■ Tryouts will be staged the next few weeks for the 2009 WaCo Wolves, a 14-and-under team which will play in the 15-and-under division of the Kensington Valley Baseball-Softball Association, along with regional events.

The Wolves will start play in early April and end in late July with close to an 80-game schedule which includes the Omaha (Neb.) Slump Buster held during the College World Series.

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820.

■ Tryouts for the 2009 Michigan Braves will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, at Henry Ford Community College. The Braves are coached by Henry Ford CC assistant Cris Hansen.

For more information, e-mail Coachhansen2003@yahoo.com.

Girls fastpitch tryouts

Tryouts for the Livonia Wild girls fastpitch softball team will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Aug. 23, at Livonia's Ford Field. The Wild will fled travel

teams for 10-, 12-, 14-, 16- and 18-and-under levels.

For more information, e-mail Paul Seewald at info@ljal.com.

Learn To Skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage a seven-week learn to skate (fall session 1) the week of Sept. 8 through the week of Oct. 23, at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile, just west of Farmington Road).

Classes include: Tot (3-year-olds) at 5 p.m. Mondays or Thursdays; ages 4-and-up, 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m. or 6 p.m. Mondays; 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:25 p.m. Thursdays; boys hockey skills, 6:25 p.m. Mondays or 5:25 p.m. Thursdays (no equipment is needed, no sticks or pucks used). Skate rental is available.

Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents), Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The fee is \$55 for residents and \$67 for non-residents.

Private lesson are also available for all levels. For more information, call (734) 466-2412.



Grand champs

The 2008 Livonia Franklin varsity squad recently earned Grand Champion distinction at the Mid America Pompon held at Northwood University in Midland. The Patriots earned first places in high kick, speed learning and original routine, along with the coveted Team Unity Award. Seniors Lindsay Brown, Kolee Gignac and Nikki Kingsbury also teamed up for a first in the Senior High Kick category with their Charlie's Angels routine. Other members of the Franklin varsity pom team include Alison Armstrong, Tori Barnes, Alanna Byrd, Madelyn Downs, Colby Gill, Brette Gurski, Callie Gurski, Stacey Kuehn, Jennifer Kuzara, Kristy Lindensmith, Stephanie Mastroianni, Shelby Mitchell, Jen Mueller, Melissa Mueller, Amber Prong, Brittany Schulte, Autumn Stahl, Hannah Urbanski, Nickie Walker and Keely Wilson. The Patriots are coached by Kyra Boprie, Amy Ring and Stephanie Kenney.

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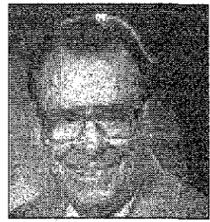
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CHARLES FRANKLIN ZEIGLER

Age 93, passed away Sunday, August 17, 2008 in Penny Farms, Florida. Charles was born in Beaver Falls, PA on November 6, 1914 the son of Frank F. Zeigler, and the former Clara E. Wahl. He was married in 1940 to Norah Patricia Ead, who after 52 years of marriage passed away May 16, 1992. He was a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology with a BS in Electrical Engineering. Additionally he attended both MIT, and Harvard University. Charles entered the US Army in 1941 and was a commissioned officer in the Army Signal Corps. He was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division under Major General Joseph Stilwell. He was honored and promoted from Captain to Major and served as 2nd in command of the 596 Signal Aircraft Warning Battalion, which was the pioneer force to formulate the use of radar by the United States Army. Major Zeigler remained in the Philippines until all his troops returned to the United States after WWII. After WWII, Charles was employed by Philco Corp. in Philadelphia, PA for three years, and the W. M. Chace Company, Detroit, MI for 35 years. He was active in Ham radio for over 75 years, his call letters were W8GLV. Charles was active in numerous civic and social organizations including, Kiwanis Club, Leland United Methodist Church, American Radio Relay League, Boy Scouts of America, and an associate member of the Penney Memorial Church. He moved to Penney Retirement Community in the fall of 1993 and on May 29, 1994 married his high school classmate Charlotte Burns. Charles is survived by his wife, Charlotte, two sons; Charles F. Zeigler Jr. of Irvine, CA; and Andrew J. Zeigler, of Cheesecake, MI; a sister, Inez Koozot, of Mechanicsburg, PA; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Norah, and his parents. Visitation will be held Saturday, Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay. A funeral procession will then proceed from the funeral home to Beechwood Cemetery for the 2 p.m. graveside service. Memorials may be directed to the Penney Retirement Community, Pavilion Expansion Fund, PO Box 555, Penny Farms, FL, 32079. Please share thoughts and memories with Charles' family on their online guestbook at: www.legacy.com/record-eagle/ Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay

EUGENE "GENE" PAUL NEPH

Of Livonia passed away on August 18th 2008 after a brief battle with bile duct cancer. Mr. Neph was born on September 9, 1929 in Detroit. He was a life long resident of Michigan. After attending the St. Rita High School in Detroit, he attended the University of Detroit, receiving a Masters of Business Administration degree. He also served a brief time in the army. After working for Michigan Bell, Mr. Neph founded his own medical billing company. An auto restoration hobbyist, Mr. Neph is remembered for his passion for restoring classic Ford Thunderbirds. He also loved opera and ballet. He was interested in paranormal psychology, politics, and criminal justice issues. He was a 50+ yr. member of St. Valentines Church, serving as a eucharistic minister. He was preceded in death by his wife, the late Ann Brylowski. He is survived by his wife, June "Cindy" Neph, daughters Julia Neph (Arthur Baker Jr.) and Paula (James) Cleaver; son William Neph; granddaughters Sheila Plein and Olivia Cleaver. He was preceded in death by brothers Robert (Jane) and Ronald (Millie) Neph. He is survived by brother Gerald (Loretta) Neph and sister Linda Lehto. A viewing is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20 from 3-9 pm at the Charles Step Funeral home on Beech Daly Road in Redford. In state on Thursday, August 21 from 12:30 pm, funeral mass at 1 pm at St Valentine Catholic Church, on Beech Daly Road, Redford. Burial at Great Lakes Cemetery.

IDA E. KOPICKO

Age 83, Farmington Hills, MI, passed away August 14, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

JACQUELINE B. TAYLOR

Passed away at her home in Bronston, Kentucky on August 15, 2008, at the age of 68. The family had resided in Plymouth until 1994 when she retired from the Plymouth-Canton School System as a Executive Secretary. She is survived by her husband Joe and son Barry. Their daughter Stephanie passed away in 1976. She is also survived by her father Herbert J. Mitchell, brothers Herbert J. (Ana) Mitchell and William K. (Rose Marie) Mitchell, nieces Kelly, Christine and Jodi and nephew Eric, along with many cousins and friends. Services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth on Wednesday with interment following at Lapham Cemetery. Contributions suggested to the American Cancer Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at: schrader-howell.com



In Loving Memory 8/28/29 - 8/22-03 NORMA McQUEEN

Five years have passed since we lost you. Even though we still grieve, there is always a sense that you are with us. When you lose someone you love so very much, their memory becomes a treasure that you hold deep in your heart. So we will think of you as living, in the hearts of those you touched. Nothing loved is ever lost, and you were loved so much. Our memories of you will never die. Your loving family and friends

JEAN C. (Smookler) FREITAG MD

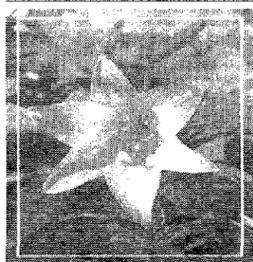
Plymouth, MI. Born on October 17, 1956 in Lansing, passed away on August 12, 2008 at the age of 51. Jean was a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, but what was most important to her was being a mother. She was preceded in death by her father, Dr. Bernard Smookler; mother, Judith Smookler and her sister, Ruth Smookler. Surviving are: son, Alex Freitag of Plymouth; daughter, Laura Freitag of Plymouth; brother, Alan (Karrie) Smookler of Evanston, IL; sister, Betty (David) Simon of East Lansing; and her former husband and good friend, Les Freitag of Plymouth. Graveside services were held on Friday, August 15, 2008 at Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing. Memorial contributions may be made to: Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 310, Churchton, MD 20733-0310, website: AAMDS.org, in memory of Jean C. Freitag.

PAUL P. PANOFF

Passed away August 16, 2008: L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton, MI griffinfuneralhome.com

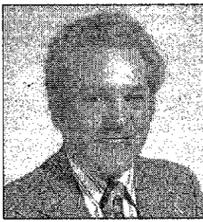
RUTH K. OJANEN

Age 79, Livonia, MI, passed away August 16, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



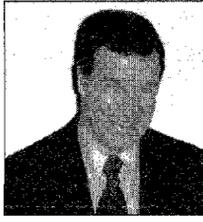
JEANNETTE RITA SCHROETER

Of Houston, Texas, formerly of Birmingham, Michigan and Sarasota, Florida died peacefully at age 91 in Houston, Texas on August 16, 2008. Mrs. Schroeter was born October 15, 1916 in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Monroe, Michigan and Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan. She married Richard Anthony Schroeter in 1942 at Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham, Michigan. Mr. Schroeter, a longtime executive at the J. L. Hudson Company, predeceased her in 1971. Mrs. Schroeter was a devoted wife and mother. That was her primary focus. Nevertheless she found time to contribute to her community. She was a lifetime member of the Christ Child Society. She was a member of the Oakland Hills Country Club in Birmingham, Michigan where she played golf. She also enjoyed playing bridge and was an avid gardener. She was never afraid to try new things, particularly later in life, including learning to ski in her fifties and traveling. Mrs. Schroeter is survived by her seven children: Ann (Robert) Mangone of Larchmont, New York, Jane of Lehigh Acres, Florida, Richard of Wayzata, Minnesota, Thomas (Karen) of Houston, Texas, David of Granger, Indiana, Peter (Kathy) of Plymouth, Michigan and Susan (Robert) Merz of Houston, Texas. Mrs. Schroeter is also survived by sixteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two nephews. Her sister, Gloria Koch Applegate predeceased her in 2006. A Funeral Mass will be held at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon Road, Birmingham on Friday, August 22, at 10am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30am. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Thursday, August 21, 4-9pm. Prayers Thursday 7pm. Interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be made in her name to National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Ste 300, Arlington, Virginia 22201.



KENNETH F. HILL

83 years old. Beloved and cherished Father. Husband to Agnes D. Hill. Born in Coventry England, Mr Hill was awarded the Key to the City of Coventry by her Majesty Queen of England. He was father to Janine Hill-Zubaidi (Abraham), Kenneth J. Hill (Diane), Karl E. Hill (Michelle), eight beautiful grandchildren, Alexandra Hussein, Michael Hussein, Chloe, Daphne Hill Sidney, Mikayla, Erica, Kylie Hill. Brother to Ron, Betty, Joyce. Predeceased by Vera, Derek & Bryan. Kenneth was an Aeronautical Engineer and developed the fuel cells for NASA for the first rocket to the moon. Ken started his career in Canada and his work took him all over the country, designing aircraft such as the 747, 727 and 707. Ken was a long-time resident of Livonia for 36 years. Many friends and relatives here and in England will miss him our dad!



THEODORE R. STAGGERS

Of Birmingham passed away peacefully on July 30, 2008. Ted was born February 10, 1921 to Harley and Mabel Stuart Stagers in Fairmont, West Virginia, the youngest child of eight. A state tennis champion by the age of 15, he married his high school sweetheart, Bette Lee Clark of Grafton, W. Va., on January 14, 1944. They were married 63 years, until her death last year. Shortly after his marriage, Ted completed his military training and was sent overseas. He attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, and later Captain, of the Army Air Corps in WWII. A daring P-51 fighter pilot, he flew many bombing escort missions over the English Channel with the 339th Fighter group based in Fowlmere, England. On September 11, 1944, Ted was shot down over Germany and served out the balance of the war in a POW camp. Upon the liberation of the camp in May 1945, U.S. Army personnel believed he had died from starvation, but Ted had other ideas in mind. Returning to his wife back home, Ted was transferred by the Army to Arizona, where he recuperated and spent the time teaching young officers the art of golf, a lifelong passion at which, together with his tennis, he truly excelled. After his discharge in 1947, Ted earned his BA at Ohio State University and went to work for the General Electric Company, where he stayed his entire career until retirement in 1983. He and Bette relocated to Birmingham in 1951. They adopted two children, Kimberly Ann and Stephen Stuart. Together with an amazing group of friends who stayed together over 50 years, Ted and Bette enjoyed dancing, entertaining, golf and travel for many happy years. Ted was predeceased by his wife and son. He is survived by his daughter and several grandchildren. A memorial service to celebrate his outstanding life and service will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at The First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to: AmeriCares, 88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902. Arrangements: A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-362-2500. Share memories at: obit.DesmondFuneralHome.com

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
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or fax to:
Attn: Obit's c/o Charolette Wilson
586-826-7318
For more information call:
Charolette Wilson
586-826-7082
or Liz Keiser
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or toll free
800-579-7355
ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION CALENDAR

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.

AUGUST

Rummage sale
Garden City Presbyterian Church will hold a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Aug. 21-22, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt. Lunch will be available each day. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Summer music ministry
Family Choir, all ages invited to sing at 9 a.m. rehearsal and then morning service Aug. 24, and Sept. 7. Hymn sings Sept. 7, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730. All are welcome.

Bethany Suburban West
Free concert featuring Air Margaritaville 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, during Lincoln Park Days, 3525 Dix Rd., Lincoln Park MI 48146. Bring a comfortable chair, your favorite drink and a laid back mood. Call Kathy M. for details, (734) 513-9479.

Picnic
All-church and neighborhood picnic follows festival worship and communion 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, on the lawn at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Meet new people and visit with long-time friends, get information on upcoming programs and how to grow closer to Christ, food, music, games, fellowship, moon walk, face painting, RSVP by Sunday, Aug. 24 by calling (734) 422-0149.

Prayer service
The Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black will hold an akathist prayer service honoring the saint 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 23300 W. Chicago, Redford. St. Moses the Black is the Orthodox Christian patron saint of African-Americans. He was a 4th-century Ethiopian slave and gang leader who repented his sinful life and became a monastic in the Egyptian desert, known for his humility, wisdom and power over demons. No charge, open to the public. There will be an informal discussion of the life of St. Moses following the service. For information, call Sharon Gomulkaat (248) 477-6411 or Robert Mitchell (313) 866-8630.

Mom's retreat
St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia invites all Catholic Moms in the area to take personal time for prayer and relaxation coupled with adult discussion of topics relevant to daily faith life 8:30-10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27. Children's Ministry offered while moms enjoy Mass, continental breakfast and discussion. Cost is \$8 per session, \$2 per child for Children's Ministry care. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Bethany together dance
8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 30, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Limited to the first 450 paid admissions. Please wear proper attire. Admission \$12. For details, call Loretta at (586) 264-0284. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit and provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Health program
U-Count Empowered to Get Health Family Edition is an eight-week, life-changing program that promotes complete health and family development. Biblically-based classes, workshops, exercise training, Breakout sessions for adults, youth (12-18), and kids (5-11). Informational meeting noon Saturday, Aug. 30, in R-201, at Detroit World Outreach Christian Center, 23800 W. Chicago, Redford. Opening Day 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, in R-201, cost \$75. For information, call (313) 255-2222, Ext. 359, or siedi@dwco.org.

Yard sale
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford. Bring your own table for \$10 or rent a church table for \$15. Food and drinks available. Call to reserve your space or table no later than Aug. 31. Cash Only. Call (313) 538-2660 or (313) 533-1646.

Outdoor worship
10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. A picnic will follow. Call (734) 464-0211.

Seekers of spiritual intelligence
Beacon Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) pastors show how injustices in the Bible are played out today and why God gave you a passion for justice, during the 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in August at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel,

7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through south double doors next to play area) For information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to beaconhillccdoc@aol.com.

UPCOMING

Bethany Suburban West
Deadline is Sept. 1 for head count for Detroit Princess Riverboat cruise featuring Air Margaritaville 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12. Cost is \$54.50 and includes cruise, meal, tax and gratuity. For details or reservations, call Kathy M. (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry and provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Exploring the Catholic faith
Starts 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, in Bixman Hall (church building) at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950.

Charity basketball game
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) and Wright & Filippis sponsor a charity basketball game 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy, Livonia, for the benefit of Children's Hospital of Michigan. Teams are the Amputee Spartans sponsored by Wright & Filippis and the Saints sponsored by the COCC. Halftime activities include a 50/50 drawing and silent auction. Suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and children ages 11-18, children 10 and under free. For tickets or information, contact Richard Shebib at (734) 422-0278 or paschnabooks@sbglobal.net, or Brad Shebib at (248) 829-8327 or bshebib@wright-filippis.com. The Spartans are a team of amputees sponsored by Wright & Filippis and coached by Brad Shebib, a physical therapist at the company and a member of the Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia. The Saints are volunteers from COCC member churches coached by Nisreen Fakhouri, a former member of Wayne State University's women's basketball team. COCC church members interested in playing for the team may contact her at (313) 770-3733 or fakhour@cooley.edu.

Kirby 5k run
10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Willow

Please see **CALENDAR, B7**

INSTANT CASH

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

Metro Park, Big Bend. For details go to www.kirby-church.com.

Mom to Mom Sale

Features 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, books/DVD's, baby equipment, etc., that their families have outgrown 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Connection Church, 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Ave., Canton. Admission \$1. Refreshments available. Strollers welcome. For information, visit mom2momlist.com.

Bethany Suburban West

Monthly dance 8 p.m. until midnight Saturday, Sept. 6, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. No dance lesson this month. Cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane K. for information, (734) 261-5716. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit and provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Dorje Chang is living in America

Presentation focusing on reincarnation of the highest leader of Buddhism, HH Dorje Chang Buddha III, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at 960 E. Jefferson, Detroit. For information, visit www.zhaxizhuoma.net/. Respected Zhaxi Zhuoma, a close disciple of HH Dorje Chang Buddha III will lead the congregation in Detroit.

Music at St. John's

Opens the 2008-2009 concert series with a performance by Scott Woolweaver, an internationally renowned violinist, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. No charge and open to the public. For more information, call (734) 453-0190.

Tent sale

Begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Prince of

Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Household item, specialties like Avon, candles, tools, houseplants, books and crafts. Also a used clothing sale inside the church for \$2 a plastic grocery bag. All proceeds donated to area organizations to help people in the community. Cost to participate is \$25 if you bring your own table, \$35 to use one of the church's 8-foot tables. For details, call (734) 722-1735 or (734) 722-4363.

Bethany Suburban West

Monthly breakfast meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd. next to Tim Horton's, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call, Kathy M. (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit and provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Celebration

This year, Israel celebrates a significant milestone that provides a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements and history of the Jewish State. In honor of this momentous occasion, The Russian Chapter of American Friends of Magen David Adom (Israel's equivalent to the Red Cross) will host a celebration 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, at Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills. The evening includes Russian-Jewish delicacies, entertainment by Ben Opengelm, door prizes and auction. Tickets \$90, with proceeds benefiting ARMDI. Friends and families of all faiths and backgrounds welcome, but space is limited. For details, visit www.lifetosave.org.

Organ recital

Robert Bates, associate professor of organ at University of Houston, performs 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, north of Grand Blvd., Detroit. \$10 per person at the door or call (313) 875-7407. Reception follows concert. Free supervised parking adjacent to church.

Sacred music concert

Let the Heavens Rejoice: Sacred Hymns of the Carpathian Mountains, the seminary choir of the Blessed Theodore Romzha Theological Academy of Uzhorod, Ukraine sing selections from liturgical services and religious hymns in Church Slavonic 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia. No charge, but free will offering requested to support the seminary. Open to the public. Several audio and video recordings will be available. For information, call (734) 522-3166 or visit www.seminaryconcerttour.com.

Mom-to-Mom sale

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Safety/health fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, physical fitness competitions for kids, bicycle safety, health screenings for adults, parent information on child safety and health, free car seat inspections by Canton police officers, child safety identification, at All Saints Catholic School parking lot and gym, 48735 Warren, between Beck and Ridge, Canton. For more information, call (734) 459-2490.

Bethany hay ride

Saturday, Sept. 27, for Bethany Suburban West and Bethany South in South Rockwood. Cost is \$20, includes hay ride, hot dogs with all the fixings plus beverages and a DJ. They have an indoor facility for dining and dancing. Call Kathy M. at (734) 513-9479 or Judy at (313) 389-4730 for tickets.

Spirit of Manresa

Dinner and auction begins with 5:30 p.m. Mass Saturday, Sept. 27, at The Marriott at Centerpoint, 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac. Cost \$150, \$250 patron, includes dinner, silent and live auctions, dancing. Call (248) 644-4933, Ext. 34 or visit www.manresa-sj.org. Manresa Jesuit Retreat House is a place of quiet, peace and prayer that seeks to help people grow in their spiritual life.

Deacon to be ordained

Vicki Jens Page will be ordained as a deacon of the Moravian Church, North America, at a special service on Sunday, Sept. 7, at Freedom Moravian Church in Appleton, Wis. Page began her ministry at Grace Moravian Church in Westland in early August.

The order of deacon, as stated in the Moravian Book of Order, admits an individual to the first order of Ministry within the Moravian denomination. As a deacon, an individual has authority to serve in the pastoral office and to administer the Sacraments.

Page, originally from Appleton, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

She was awarded her certificate in May 2008 from Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, Penn. after receiving her Master's of Divinity at United Theological Seminary in Brighton, Minn. in 2006.

She was a student pastor at West Side Moravian Church in Green Bay, Wis. and served at East Side Moravian Church (also in Green Bay) during her time at seminary. Moravians first came to North America in 1735. The 551-year-old Moravian Church is one of the oldest Protestant denominations dating back to 1457 in Europe.

With a strong tradition in ecumenical work, the Moravian Church is best known for its mis-



Vicki Jens Page will be ordained as a deacon of Moravian Church, North America on Sept. 7, in Wisconsin. Page began her ministry at Grace Moravian Church in Westland in early August.

sonary emphasis and its rich musical heritage. The Moravian Church in America is comprised of the Northern and Southern Provinces.

The Northern Province has about 28,000 members in 96 congregations in 13 states in the U.S. and two Canadian provinces. The Southern Province includes nearly 20,000 members in 57 congregations, which are located primarily in the southeastern United States. The worldwide Moravian Church consists of 19 provinces with nearly 789,000 members, half of which live in Africa.

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Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

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313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

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Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Traditional
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Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

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"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"
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734-422-0149
Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

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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 Liverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
Pastor - Reverend Paul Undlin
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.
Education Hour 10:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call 313-937-2233

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 2 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

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 Petrecca
Meetings on Saturdays for:
Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m.
Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.
Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays:
Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

NON DENOMINATIONAL

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!

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

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

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-75"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400
Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
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
Summer Worship 9:30 am
Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend
www.risenchrist.info

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1625
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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1190 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

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Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA
25350 West Six Mile Rd.
Redford (913) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat., 10am-2pm
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Rev. Michael D. Boster
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

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
Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

Beacon Hill Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
"Where Your Light Shines!"
Worship Service: 1 pm
St. Michael Lutheran Church - Chapel*
7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton, Michigan 48187-2753
*Enter through the south double doors next to the play area
Rev. Dr. Wayne Ten Roberts & Minister Dr. Carolyn Ann Roberts, Co-Pastors
313-402-6900 & 313-806-PRAY or beaconhillccdoc@aol.com

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For information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 313-222-2333 or e-mail: dhart@hometownlife.com

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HOMETOWNlife.com

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PRAYER Pray 9 hall Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted.

Announcements & Notices 6200

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Tickets 6380

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Merchandise

Auction Sales 7060

9 Crates Storage Saturday, Aug. 23, 11am auctionznp.com ID# 12801 for listing. 5089 Dixie Hwy, Waterford.

Auction Sales 7060

16th Annual CORNWELL POOL & PATIO FURNITURE AUCTION
Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 12:00 noon
3500 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor, MI

Take a "Stay-nation" and come to Cornwell's Annual Auction and enjoy the rest of the summer in your own backyard and save! This auction has the best selection ever!

Types of Furniture: Dining sets, Dining Tables, Chairs, End Tables, Coffee Tables, Tea Carts, Chaises, Umbrellas, Cushions, Outdoor Lamps, Much More.

Top Manufacturers: Brown Jordan, Winston, Meadow Craft, Lloyd Flanders, Agio, Glostar Woodard, KNE, Homecrest, Tyndal, Creek, Berkline, Weber and Many More!

Furniture Material: Teak Wood, Cherry Wood, Wrought Iron, Wicker, Rattan, Aluminum.

View our website: www.braunandhelmer.com

Braun & Helmer Auction Service, Inc.
Brian Braun 734-990-9135

7100 Estate Sales 7100

A Great Condo Estate Sale
By J. Beckwith Estate Sales
Fri-Sat., Aug. 22-23, 10-4
467 North Oak, Walled Lake 48390, Oakbrook Condos - West of Welch, South of Maple. Take Oakbrook to Mulberry right, to North Oak left. Henredon dining room set w/6 chairs & china cabinet, art work, sofa bed, cocktail table, lamps, Israeli artwork, Barbara Streisand memorabilia & collectibles, 3 TVs, silver plate items, small appliances, lots of kitchen items, decorative accessories, & much more! Any questions, please call Jason Beckwith: 248-459-0328

7100 Estate Sales 7100

ANOTHER 2 SALES!
By: Everything Goes
Fri-Sat., Aug. 22-23, 10-4
#1 2199 Century Oak Ln., W. Bloomfield, 48323-2-1
E. of Middlebelt, N. of Long E. take Long Lk. Shores. Large updated lake home to be sold in parts prior to demolition. All furniture includes Pella windows and door walls, carpet HVAC, lighting, 6 Kohler baths, high end furnishings, appliances, electronics, & more!

#2, 4231 Fox Pointe Dr., West Bloomfield, 48323
Fox Pointe Condos - W. off Orchard Lk. S. of Lone Pine. Complete estate goes: antiques, 50's furniture, designer and vintage women's clothing etc., jewelry, furs, silver, crystal, & fine china, & more. All must go! Info: 248-988-1077

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Auction Sales 7060

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ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS
Fri-Sat., Aug. 22-23

Private Sale. Call for Information. 248-217-7167 or 248-240-3269

Fabulous Stuff!

IRIS KAUFMAN
248-626-6335
248-240-3269

Appraisers & Liquidators for 45 Yrs in Metro Area.

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ANOTHER QUALITY ESTATE SALE!
FRI-SAT., AUG. 22-23, 10AM-4PM
16879 Georgina Beverly Hills

North of 13 Mile, btwn. Greenfield & Southfield. Take Pierce to Georgina.

55 Years of Continuous Residency. Collectors Home a Treasure's Trove
Grand Rapids mahogany dining set, excellent French carved display cabinet, beige Damask sofa, fireside chairs, antique mahogany side tables, crystal lamps, antique oil carved Louis XV bedroom, French bedroom, room's size oriental, excellent European art deco bedroom, antique chairs & tables, 30 Royal Doulton figurines, linens, china sets, crystal, costume jewelry, golf clubs, plus loads of antiques & collectibles. Everything in good condition! What a good sale!

See you there!
EDMUND FRANK AND ASSOCIATES
313-854-6000

7100 Estate Sales 7100

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY ENCORE
Aug. 22-23, Fri-Sat., 10-4
Dearborn Hts., 23433 Joy Rd., 5 blks. E. of Telegraph. Living room furniture, sofa & matching chair, light oak and tables, 2 bdrm sets, oak table w/4 chairs, Singer machine in cabinet, upright freezer, silver milk jacket, Craftsman leaf muller, 3 wheel bike, lots of misc. Our #'s at 9:30 on Fri.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

BIRMINGHAM 1433 Maryland, near 14 Mile & Southfield. Aug. 22 & 23, 9-5pm. (Branch bedroom, room's size oriental, excellent European art deco bedroom, antique chairs & tables, 30 Royal Doulton figurines, linens, china sets, crystal, costume jewelry, golf clubs, plus loads of antiques & collectibles. Everything in good condition! What a good sale!

See you there!
EDMUND FRANK AND ASSOCIATES
313-854-6000

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When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

7100 Estate Sales 7100

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
19956 Fairview Dr., W. off of Evergreen, S. of Ann Arbor Trail, N. of Ford Rd. Aug. 22-23 9:30am-4pm. Glassware, china, many art fair finds, 2 Craftmatic beds, washer & dryer, tools, garage is packed.

Estate Sale By Americana
Aug. 22-23, 10am-4pm. Original Art, Czech Crystal, Fab Inlaid Dining Set, Crystal Chandelier, Massage Tables, Exercise Equipment, Major Appliances, Pebble Creek Condos 7273 Creeks Bend Ct. West Bloomfield, 48322. Map at Gate. Free Consultations 248-739-4197. Full Details @ AmericanaEstateSales.com

ESTATE SALE Thurs-Sat. Aug. 21-23, 9am-5pm. 1306 Joy, 1 blk. E. of Locharon, off Coolway Lake Rd., Waterford.

FARMINGTON HILLS 22885 Walsingham, E. of Halstead, N. off 9 Mile. Fri-Sat, 9:30-4pm. Vintage Sunroom set, china; glassware, jewelry, office furniture, fishing & hunting collectibles, gardening misc. By Sunshine Sales.

FRANKLIN ESTATE SALE
Furniture, kool household, jewelry, E320 Mercedes, Sat. & Sun. only, 10am-4pm. 32714 Ravine Dr., off Franklin, S. of 14 Mile, behind Comeria Bank.

LIVONIA ESTATE SALE
Moving Sale! Premium Quality! Bedroom set, Grandfather clock, dining room set, 2 love seats-couch, 2 kitchen tables, 3 library tables, 2 desks. Call for Appt. Fri-Sun. 734-812-2012

LIVONIA - Smaller Sale
Some furniture, dishware, misc. decor, 317 Pinecroft, off Plymouth & Wayne Rd. Fri-Sat, 10-4pm.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

PLYMOUTH M & H ESTATE SALE
47046 Beechcrest, Aug 21-23, 10-4pm. Our numbers 9:30am Thurs. FULL HOUSE! Antiques, collectibles, furniture, etc. mhstateales.net

PLYMOUTH TWP 40628 Newport Dr., Ann Arbor Rd & Haggerty Rd area. Thur., Aug. 21, 9-5pm. Fri., Aug. 22 9-3pm. Furniture, ceramic molds, figurines, dolls & other household items.

PRESTIGE ESTATE SALE
Fri-Sat., Aug. 22-23, 10-4
1145 Lenox, Bloomfield Twp. off Adams Rd., turn west on Square Lake Rd. to first light turn south on Squirrel Rd., left on Lenox.) Art critics contemporary home! Grand piano, sofas, tables, TVs, paintings, African table & chairs, books, art, & office equip. Loads of hand & garden power tools, cameras, & much more! 248-642-4542

Southfield
Fri-Sat., 10am-4pm. 17197 Adrian - N. of 10 Mile, E. of Southfield Rd. Antiques, leaded windows, furniture, crystal. Great Sale!

SOUTHFIELD ESTATE SALE
Aug 22-23, 11-5pm 27325 Byron St. Grand River, btwn 8 & 9 Mile off Inkster.

WALLED LAKE
585 Winwood Cir., Pontiac Trl., and 14 Mile, Aug 22-23, 9am-4pm. Furniture, housewares, craft supplies, books, Christmas decor, every room in the house. EVERYTHING MUST GO!!

WEST BLOOMFIELD
7226 Arrowood Dr. near Commerce Lake Rd, follow signs. Thurs-Sat, Aug 21-23, 9-5pm. Tremendous sale with many pieces of Heywood Wakefield furniture, over 30 antique clocks, pottery, china, jewelry, furniture, appliances, hunting & fishing items, many tools including lawn mower, snow blower, table saw, drill press, too much more to list! www.bestantique.com (810) 459-4000

7100 Estate Sales 7100

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Everything must go! 4350 Knightsbridge, Orchard Lk, N. of Lone Pine. Fri-Sat, 10-3pm.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
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WESTLAND ESTATE GARAGE SALE
August 22 & 23, 8am-4pm. 3rd & final sale in our garage, large quantity of smalls (Detroit memorabilia, advertising items, paper goods, books, purses, compacts, Red Cross items, porcelain) vintage prints, wedding dresses, wide variety of elephant items, misc and household. Everything must go! No Early Birds. Westland Woods Sub 38791 Dover Drive, off Cherry Hill, East of Newburgh.

Household Goods 7160

Armoire - Solid Pine, \$400. Recliner - taupe, \$175. Two piece sectional floral couch, \$150. 734-542-0013

DINETTE SET - MODERN
Round, 42" glass & chrome table w/ six black leather & chrome chairs, like new. \$300. Call (313) 441-1815

MATTRESSES \$125 NEW
Queen Pillow Top, Mattress & Box, in plastic with warranty. Can Deliver. 734-326-2744

SOFA, LOVESEAT & CHAIR
3 piece leather, 3 tables \$850. Call: (248) 860-5076

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COOLER True Reach In, 3 door black w/waterproof alarm. \$1500 or best. Gas Burner Top, 5 burner, decor black, \$400 or best. 734-737-0086

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HERMAN MILLER 6 FT WORK-STATIONS Over \$20,000 invested. First \$1,000 takes all. 248-471-7398.

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Purebred, 5 males. All shots & dewormed. 3 mos. old. \$400. 734-748-9051 Neil

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AKC OFA quality bred Golden Retriever pups. \$900. 248-236-9414

Standard Poodle AKC, female
18mo., creme. Chihuahua, white w/red spots. 10mo. 313-565-7387 or 313-300-3108

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Lost - Pets 7890

LOST BIRD!
Yellow Cuckoo, Middlebelt & Lyndon area. Answers to Kayce. 734-425-1320

LOST GRAY COCKATIEL Main & Springwood in Northville. Named Coco. 248-374-1902

7890
Lost - Pets

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Garage Sales 7110

BEVERLY HILLS 30490 Vernon, S/13. Elahser 8/22-23, 9-5pm. Play structure, kids' clothes, toys and misc. items.

BIRMINGHAM HUGE YARD SALE
532 Brookside, N. of Maple, E. of Old Woodward. Aug 21-23, 9-4. Clothes, household items, DVD's, etc.

BIRMINGHAM
1461 Maryland, 3 blks E. of Southfield, S. of Lincoln. Aug 21-22, 9am-3pm. Furniture, household items, collectibles & accessories.

BIRMINGHAM 20 Family Team Fundraiser Garage Sale! Sports equipment, clothing, furniture, books, small appliances, household items, toys, etc. Fri. Aug. 22, 9:30am-7pm. Sat. Aug. 23, 9am-2pm. 1862 Withrop Lane, off Maple & Chesterfield.

BIRMINGHAM 5 family Sale! 580 Sufferd, off Maple or Quarton. Thurs-Sat, Aug. 21-23, 8:30am-6pm. Antique items, wicker, furniture, many household treasures, designer clothing, bedding, linens, child furniture, clothing, & toys, electronics, tools, exercise equipment.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Huge multi family sale. Antiques, collectibles, glassware, baby/children's clothes, toys, tools & lots more. 2014 Lakewood Ln, E. off Middlebelt, just S of Orchard Lk Rd. Thurs-Sat, 9-5.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS 245 E. Highlans, Squirrel Lake & Woodward. Aug 22-23, 11am-5pm. Clothes, leather furniture, misc. & washer/dryer.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS CHAPEL HILL ESTATES SUB SALE - Thurs, Fri. & Sat., 8/21-8/23, 9am-4pm. S. of South Blvd, btwn Adams and Squirrel Rd.

FIND IT ONLINE
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Multi-Family Sale, Woodedge Dr, off of Hickory Grove, btwn Woodward & Opdyke. Aug 23, 9-4. Kid's stuff & household.

Garage Sales 7110

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Toys, Toys, collectibles & holiday shopping. 1980's-2000, salesmen's inventory, new in box. S. off Quarton, W. of Franklin, 5528 Sutters Ln. Fri-Sat., 10-4.

BLOOMFIELD - Huge Garage Sale! S. of Square Lk. W. of Adams. Thurs & Friday 9-4. 1285 Robson Ln. Kids stuff, clothes, exercise equip, musical instruments, household goods, sporting goods, hockey equip.

CANTON 42221 Ashbury Dr. N. of Ford, E. of Lilley. Antiques, baby items, household items, books, some tools. 8/21-8/23, Thurs-Fri, 9-5; Sat 9-12noon.

CANTON August 22 & 23, 10-4pm. HUGE GARAGE SALE!! 885 Burlington (Off Twp, between Cherry Hill & Palmer). Crafts, jewelry, riding lawn mower, household

CANTON Garage/Moving Sale! Aug. 22-23, 8am-5pm. 2099 South Cavalier, Palmer & Sheldon. Furniture items available.

CANTON Huge Garage Sale Covington Square. Sub. (Lilley between Cherry Hill/Palmer). Cuddles of items! Something for everyone! Clothing, many children items, twin bed set, dining table. Fri., 22nd-Sun., 24th, 9-6pm

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CANTON Moving Sale! Furniture, toys, fish tank, & household items. Sat. 9am-1pm. 45120 Brunswick, N. of Warren, E. of Canton Center.

CANTON 46146 Overhill Ln. E. off Beck Rd. S. of Cherryhill. Pheasant View Sub. Thurs-Fri. Aug. 21-22, 9am-4pm. Sat. Aug. 23 9am-12:30pm

FARMINGTON ESTATE SALE
23164 Caffi, in downtown Farmington. Thurs-Sat. Aug 21-23, 9-5. Furniture, clothing, misc, household items.

FARMINGTON
23885 Colchester, Farmington MI 48336, Belaire su, west of Orchard Lake & south of 10 Mile. Friday thru Sunday, 10 to 5pm. Books, puzzles, VHS tapes, clothing, misc items.

FARMINGTON HILLS - YARD SALE. Furniture, clothes & misc. Thurs 8/21 - Sat 8/23, 9-4pm. 31188 Fink Ave, Grand River & Orchard Lake area.

FARMINGTON HILLS 28035 Farmington Rd., N. of 12 Mile. Aug 21-23, 10-6pm. Micro-cassett transcriber, toys, books, clothes & household items.

FARMINGTON HILLS 36336 Fredericksburg N off 12 Mile W of Drake Aug 22-23 9-4

FARMINGTON HILLS Garage Sale - Lathe, hand tools, drill press, 22761 Purdue, 9 Mile & Middlebelt. Aug. 23rd-24th, 10am-6pm.

FRANKLIN HUGE SALE!!
26296 Franklin Ct. off of Franklin Rd., 1 blk S. of 14 Mile. Aug 22-23, Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm.



PAGE D2



Nine Inch Nails still attracts the underground crowd

PAGE D3

www.hometownlife.com



UB40 has a fresh sound with new singers.

10 questions with UB40

Topics: The band's current state, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the hit song *Red, Red Wine* and the upcoming show.

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

UB40 comes to DTE on Friday, Aug. 22. We spoke with Robin Campbell, one of the band's founders.

Here's what he had to say about the band's current state, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the hit song *Red, Red Wine* and the upcoming show.

UB40 original members include Robin Campbell and his brother Ali. Ali Campbell left the band earlier this year, on bad terms. He has since been replaced by third brother Duncan Campbell. To get the personal questions out of the way, has there been any contact recently with Ali? He "would be disappointed but wouldn't object" to Duncan's place in the band...

No, Ali has not spoken to Duncan or me since Duncan joined us. I still don't understand why he was disappointed, unless he expected us to fold when he left. That was never going to be an option for us.

What kind of vibe is on stage now that Duncan is the new lead singer and sharing the stage with Maxi? Does it feel difficult? Fresh?

The "vibe" for us is very much better with Duncan on stage. We are fueled with a drive and enthusiasm that we haven't felt in a long while. Ali hadn't been happy in the band for a long time and that affected the atmosphere amongst the band especially on stage. He didn't want to be there and we knew it.

Maxi and his band have toured with us a lot in the past two years which led us to asking him to record with us. He has recorded two songs with us on the new album 24/7 so it was a natural thing to invite him to do a guest spot on tour.

UB40 TICKET WINNERS

The following *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror* Newspaper readers won free tickets to see UB40 at DTE Music Theatre tomorrow night:

FRONT ROW WINNERS:

Kim Naccashian of Livonia and Misty Nickerson of Troy each received two front-row tickets, and \$25 gift certificates to DTE.

RUNNERS-UP:

James Dominski of Shelby Township and Kristen Repasky of Clawson also each received two tickets to the show.

For more great ticket giveaways, visit www.hometownlife.com.

There has been no difficulty at all, in fact Maxi and his son Marvin are great fun and have made the transition from not having Ali all the more easy.

Nationwide in the U.S., does UB40 predominately play its reggae sound to white audiences? Are Jamaican-Americans supportive of the band?

Yes our audience is predominantly white but it depends where we are playing. We get a great mix of Hispanics, Native American, Black American (dreadlocked and not) and always some Jamaicans in the crowd, we also have a massive Hawaiian following. Will we get to hear Duncan play the spoons, please?

Please see **UB40, D3**

STATE FAIR OPENS WITH NEW ATTRACTIONS

DETROIT — The Michigan State Fair is gearing up for its best year ever, Aug. 22-Sept. 1, with new rides and attractions. The nation's largest portable roller coaster will make its first appearance in Michigan during the Fair. Other new exhibits include "Grow a Pizza," which shows how pizza is developed from the farm to the table, "Pure Michigan Wonders," showcasing native Michigan businesses and attractions, and a history of agriculture exhibit depicting the evolution of industry in the state.

These new attractions join long-time favorites such as the "Miracle of Life" exhibit, the "Bottomless Cup of Chocolate Milk," and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor Zone," which features a catch and release fishing pond in the shape of Michigan.

Entertainment includes High School Musical star Corbin Bleu in addition to Raven Symone, Alice Cooper, a Bull Riding Rodeo, and three shows by the world famous Lipizzaner Stallions.

All-day ride wristbands are \$15 weekdays; \$25 weekends and Labor Day. General Admission is \$10/13 and over; \$5/children 3-12; \$5/62 and over; free/children 2 and under. Parking is \$7.

The 2008 Michigan State Fair is located at the Michigan State Fairgrounds at Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile Road. Fair hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Call (313) 369-8231 or visit www.michiganstatefair.com.

By W. Von Buskirk

YOUTH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

DETROIT — "Youth Under Construction" members will reunite for their biggest performance ever during the Michigan State Fair at 7 p.m. Aug. 24. Founded by David "Mello-D" Sawicki of Royal Oak 15 years ago, joined by his wife Lisa Lapides-Sawicki, YUC is an award-winning organization that works with families, teachers and musicians to promote literacy, academic achievement and positive behavior in youth. Radio-friendly music and concert-style stage shows are used to spread a positive, character-building message to teens and pre-teens. At the State Fair, performers will play a full set of original music with clean lyrics, with a spotlight on performers that have experienced national success. The show is free with regular paid admission to the State Fair. For more information call (248) 545-4411 or visit www.youngpop.com.

By W. Von Buskirk

Pure Picks

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the weekend of Aug. 22-25

22 Tonight marks the last chance for music fans to experience *Rockin' on the Riverfront 2008* — and **Foreigner** will close out the series at 8 p.m. on the Riverwalk. The band, known for hits like *Cold as Ice* and *Waiting For a Girl Like You*, features a new lineup led by Mick Jones, keyboardist Jeff Jacobs, guitarist Tom Gimbel, with newly added singer Kelly Hansen, bassist Jeff Pilson and drummer Jason Bonham, son of Led Zeppelin's legendary drummer, the late John Bonham. Visit www.gmrenccn.com for details on this free show.



Foreigner



This work on paper, titled "A Jesuit", is attributed to Kesu Das and dates back to the late 1500s or early 1600s.

23 Today marks the start of a new exhibit that proves beautiful things come in small packages. *The Private World of India's Mughal Emperors: Albums of Painting and Calligraphy from the Chester Beatty Library* runs through Nov. 16 at the **Detroit Institute of Arts**. The exhibition features 86 miniature paintings, calligraphic works and albums from the libraries of the Great Mughals of India: Akbar (r.1556-1605), Jahangir (r. 1605-1627), and Shah Jahan (r. 1628-1666). These albums served as sources of entertainment and propaganda as the artists depicted rulers, exotic animals and events. The DIA is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Anna Faris is "The House Bunny."



25 Have a laugh at the movies with Columbia Pictures' new comedy *The House Bunny*. In it Anna Faris portrays Shelley Darlington, a **Playboy Bunny** who teaches a group of socially awkward sorority girls the rules of men and makeup, but manages to learn a few lessons of her own. The sweet comedy also stars Colin Hanks, Emma Stone, Katharine McPhee, Rumer Willis and Beverly D'Angelo. It is rated PG-13 and in area theaters now.

Compiled By Stephanie Angelyn Casola, O&E Staff Writer

24

Experience the vibrant colors and animated lines of **Brazilian painter Romero Britto's** works today when the **Janice Charach Gallery** hosts an opening reception for *JCG Goes Pop!* at 3 p.m. inside The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple Road in West Bloomfield. The event is free and the exhibit runs through Sept. 25.



The vibrant style of artist Romero Britto.

Now a resident of Florida, Britto might be best known for crafting a label for Absolut Vodka in 1989. Since then he's been commissioned by everyone from Apple Computers to Disney and Volvo, and has made portraits of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Jordan and Dustin Hoffman. Britto designed a piece for the JCC Maccabi Games, a Jewish teen event focused on sports and humanitarianism that will be held this month in Detroit. For more, call (248) 432-5579, or visit www.jccdet.org.

FREE SHOW IN FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS

— Jill Jack, the popular singer/songwriter who has built herself a following in her home state of Michigan and beyond, will perform in the "Stars in the Park" concert on Thursday, Aug. 28.

This last concert of the series starts at 7:30 p.m. and takes place at the new amphitheater in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, just south of Eleven Mile Road.

Jill has dominated Detroit's folk/rock scene for the past decade. She's won many Detroit Music Awards including Outstanding Songwriter, Vocalist, and Artist in the Folk Category. "She can create a musical tapestry," said All Music's Thom Jurek.

Families are invited to bring folding chairs or a blanket and a picnic (no alcoholic beverages please). The concert lasts about 90 minutes, with rainout site at the Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

By L. Mini

Bullfrog Bar rocks with indie punk bands

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

Maryz Eyez, a band that's rocked fans at Warped, hails from Detroit and now has set up camp in Los Angeles, is coming back to the Motor City to play the Bullfrog Bar in Redford.

Maryz Eyez has attracted such a crowd at Bullfrog that the foursome makes the trek back to Michigan six times a year to play there. "The Bullfrog has been really good to us and it's always a blast," Maryz Eyez bass player, percussionist and vocalist Eric Wagler said. "It's always the fourth weekend and always a blast. Good times, good people, good music and good friends."

Maryz Eyez is Wagler, plus his brother Ryan Wagler who also sings, plays guitar, drums and synth. The other members equally are guitarist/vocalist/percussionist Mike Nichols and Mike Burrett on drums, guitar and vocals.

The band members are all blood-related as cousins and half-brothers.

"We were all born in Hillsdale County which is out in the sticks just south of Jackson," Eric Wagler said. "We all went to the same high school, graduated and moved to Kalamazoo where we attended college together. After that Nichols and Burrett moved to Detroit and Ryan and I moved out to L.A. A few years later Ryan and I talked the other guys into ditching the snow so now we're all here, but we still consider ourselves now and always a band from Michigan, and we love giving props to Detroit."

Maryz Eyez describes its genre by describing music that influences them.

"Our sound has definitely evolved over the years and I believe it has done so due to the range of our musical influence and taste evolving as well. We grew up when '90s grunge was huge and we breathed Nirvana. It's still a huge influence in our songwriting, as is Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, Chili Peppers and the Offspring. You can for sure hear the influence on all our records especially the first, *Mary-go-round*."

From there they got into power pop punk like Green Day and Blink 182 and then grew into MXPX, NOFX and Lagwagon.

Later they discovered Social Distortion, Pennywise and Bad Religion.

The band's CD *For all the Haters* features the above influences.

Now with the release of *Memento*



Maryz Eyez rocks the Bullfrog Bar in Redford.



From Bad Religion to Johnny Cash, Maryz Eyez credits its raw sound to those that influence them.

Mori there's influence from grunge, punk plus The Beatles, Johnny Cash and the Beach Boys.

Maryz Eyez is a band name the boys invented in their high school years.

"I think it had some reference to Bloody Mary and the old myth that 'She could stare a man dead with her black eyes ...' something ridiculous like that," the band writes to explain the name.

"On interviews this question is always asked and we used to take turns making up a different story every time, but this

FOURTH FRIDAYS AT BULLFROG BAR

What: Maryz Eyez, Allyra, False City and others
When: 7 p.m., Friday Aug. 22
Where: Bullfrog Bar, 15414 Telegraph, Redford, (313) 533-4477
Cost: \$7
Hear them: Listen to the music by Maryz Eyez, a band that has played Warped, at www.maryzeyez.com

one is the truth. Ha ..."

When the band was asked to describe their shows Eric Wagler said:

"We like to have a good time, and we love to see our friends and fans have a good time. When we plan out a show we try and think what is going to make people want to come back and then we cater everything we do around that. Lots of crowd interaction and energy. If you want to go see Kenny G and sip on a spritzer you probably got the wrong place, but if you wanna come have a good time, sing along, and be entertained then come join us at the Bullfrog."

"We like to switch it up, I think I have A.D.D and even when I'm watching bands I love if they don't do things differently and change it up I get bored, so we try our best to switch it up with all four of us singing lead on different songs, switching from guitars to drums, switching the mics, and just trying to be different."

DANCE ENSEMBLE MOVES INTO NEW STUDIO

BIRMINGHAM — Eisenhower Dance Ensemble and the EDE Center for Dance will open a new dance studio in Birmingham's Rail District. The facility, at 2171 Cole St., is in the process of being refurbished inside and out to include two studios with sprung dance floors, a reception area, changing room and two restrooms. Large picture windows will let in light throughout. Offerings will include youth and adult classes in ballet, modern, jazz, tap, hip-hop, pointe, pre-pointe, creative movement, boy's classes, mom & tot, tone & stretch and social dance. An open house will be held 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 with a performance by EDE's professional dancers at 5 p.m. Classes at the new facility will start in September.

By W. Von Buskirk

MICHIGAN BALLET SEEKS BOARD

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — The Michigan Classic Ballet Company, a nonprofit pre-professional ballet company, is seeking board members for its upcoming 2008/09 season, which begins Sept. 5. The goal of the Board is to uphold and maintain the company's role in metropolitan Detroit as a provider of quality ballet productions (such as the full-length ballets *Coppelia*, *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Cinderella*), and to educate the public in the appreciation of the history and technique of classical ballet. Candidates should have experience with non-profit groups and will need to attend meetings and participate with productions, committees and fund-raising. For more information call (248) 334-1300 or visit www.michiganclassicalballet.com.

WESTLAND COMPANY DUBS ELVIS FILM

WESTLAND — Epic Translations of Westland has been selected to provide translation and voice over for the Japanese version of the documentary featuring the life story of Elvis. The voice over is a very technical undertaking that requires heavy duty audio equipment, world class software and intense coordination between talent and staying true to the script. Technical expertise and time are needed to make sure the voice over is as accurate as possible, and keeps pace with the fast moving video and audio of the original film. Six Japanese voices will be used, including a narrator for the documentary, and five people who were close to Elvis. Epic Translations is one of the premier language service providers in the Detroit area. Visit www.epictranslations.com.

By W. Von Buskirk

AFTER JAZZ JAM FEST

DETROIT — Jazz Cafe at Music Hall will be the hot spot to be — and play — after the lights go down at The Detroit Jazz Fest. Musicians are encouraged to bop on over to 350 Madison Ave., Detroit for The After Jazz Fest Jam Sessions, Aug. 29-31, and join fellow Jazz Fest performers as well as other local musicians for an inspired late night of improvisation creativity. Each night will have a designated ringleader — Friday, R.J. Spangler; Saturday, Carl Cafagna; and Sunday, Patrick Prouty. All genres and non-musicians are welcome. Sets start at 10 p.m. Admission is \$5. Call (313) 887-8532 or visit jazzcafe@musichall.org and myspace.com/jazzcafedetroit.

By W. Von Buskirk




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www.smoothjazzdetroit.com



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NIN's Trent Reznor gave his most recent CD to fans for free, just to say "thanks."



NIN still attracts the underground crowd

It was 19 years ago that I was browsing the aisles of Record Time in Roseville when I heard Nine Inch Nails for the first time:



Lana Mini

*God money I'll do anything for you.
God money just tell me what you want me to.
God money nail me up against the wall.
God money don't want everything he wants it all.*

I remember stopping my shopping, leaning against a record bin, and just

standing there listening to the song *Head Like A Hole* off the album *Pretty Hate Machine*.

*Head like a hole.
Black as your soul.
I'd rather die than give you control.
Head like a hole.
Black as your soul.
I'd rather die than give you control.*

I bought the CD and listened to it exclusively for weeks.

There's a handful of bands in my lifetime whose albums have actually stunned my movement: Led Zeppelin, Bauhaus, Bob Marley, Iggy Pop, The Sex Pistols, The Doors and absolutely Jane's Addiction. It almost happened with Nirvana, almost.

NIN, the alt-metal, industrial band, has released 13 albums — the latest one, *The Slip*, is free on www.nin.com. Trent Reznor, NIN's mastermind, thanks his audience and offered it on the house.

NIN is coming to the Palace on Aug. 23.

MORE ON MUSIC

Check out my blog. DTE is still one of summer's highlights. The Motorhead/Heaven and Hell/Judas Priest show was my proof. Visit www.hometownlife.com. Click on "Voices & Views" and then click on "Blogs"

Upcoming: See Nine Inch Nails at The Palace on Saturday, August 23. For tickets visit www.palacenet.com or call Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666 or at the box office.

I'll be there, my first NIN show in years. Strange things have happened during my love affair with NIN.

The warmest and most uncomfortable I've ever been in my life was in 1998 at the NIN show at St. Andrew's Hall for the *Pretty Hate Machine* tour. It was hotter than days spent in the Arizona desert. Hotter than brutal Lollapalooza 3 in 1993 at the Miland Dragway when people were passing out standing in line for water while listening to Rage Against the Machine. Hotter than the power outage in August four years ago.

At St. Andrew's it was humid and overly-crowded. Yet I wasn't about to miss a moment. Poured beer on my shoulders and neck cool off. This was a concert where you could feel the face of rock changing right in front of you.

Ironically, the coldest I've been in my life was standing in line to see NIN at the

old Latin Quarter on New Year's Eve in 1990.

Wearing a New Year's Eve black dress and dealing with workers who didn't care that we were lined up in freezing temperatures was miserable.

But, had to see Trent Reznor.

Reznor's career and personal life has been fascinating. This was a band that was truly underground, opening for Skinny Puppy back in 1988 at medium-size night-clubs.

Today he can sell out The Palace. Reznor has dated Courtney Love, purchased the house where Sharon Tate was murdered (used it as a studio space), feuded with Fred Durst, fought with the music industry that tried to control him, produced several Marilyn Manson CDs, was described by *Spin* magazine "as the most vital artist in music," played in the band Pigface, remade Queen's *Get Down, Make Love* and did a better job than Freddie Mercury, much respectively.

NIN has recorded 13 albums — all of them good and several of them great. The band is touring to support *The Slip*.

Yes, industrial music has come a long way.

NIN performs with special guest Does It Offend You, Yeah? at The Palace on Saturday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets at \$59.50 reserved and general admission floor and \$39.50 at The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations. Special Superfan seating is also available. Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard by calling (248) 645-6666.

UB40

FROM PAGE D1

No I don't think so. Like all good reggae artists, your music is very socially/politically conscious (thank you). Tell us how the current issues (Iraq war, Burma's oppression, global warming) affected your songwriting on 24/7.

Like all forms of music, reggae is not dependant on political or socially conscious lyrics to be good reggae. The reggae I grew up on in the late '60s & early '70s was predominantly love songs. Having said that when we write lyrics of course we write about issues that disturb us or fire us up. 24/7 covers such subjects as Iraq, Afghanistan, the Bush Administration, (or lack of it in New Orleans) inequality or injustice. There is also a song called *The Road* inspired by actor Don Cheadle's campaign for Darfur "The Road From Darfur Runs Red with Denial, Waterless Mile after Waterless Mile". But I'm not writing a book here, listen to the CD. Oh yeh, there are also some love songs.

20 years since "Red Red Wine!"— Who initially brought the song to the table to UB40? How did that come about?

Actually it's 25 years. We released *Red Red Wine* in '83, and it went to number one in 30 countries it just took five years longer to become a hit in the U.S. Contrary to an article I read the other day, we didn't discover it in the '80s, it's one of my favorite songs of my youth. I knew it by a guy called Tony Tribe who recorded it in 1969

and I still have the original 7-inch vinyl. There was also a version by Jimmy James and the Vagabonds. We had no idea it was a Neil Diamond track until we recorded it in '83.

I was also told by an American journalist that Neil Diamond did not write it but bought the rights to the song in the mid '60s. Have you ever shared the stage with Cher for "I Got You Babe?"

No. From what we've heard so far, your new sound has a wonderfully raw edge. While other bands that have existed for so long seem to lose their edge, you've seemed have gained it! How?

I think too much success, like we had in the '80s & '90s, breeds complacency. We started doing music on auto pilot in the late '90s, working in shifts. There was only one or two of us in the studio at one time; it kind of became music by numbers. We were lazy and it showed, but I think we rediscovered ourselves (and our edge) when we went back to composing and recording as a band, like we used to be. We regained our trust in each others' abilities and sound like UB40 again.

For people who have never seen UB40 live, what can they "expect" from a show?

Lots of dancing and singing (from the audience as well as us). Lots of hits and good reggae music from a band that's been playing live gigs for 30 years and still loves doing it. In fact as I said before we are enjoying ourselves more now than we have for a long time, and it shows. See you there, Big Love, Robin.

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New improv theater opens this fall in Ferndale

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Metro Detroiters get ready to Go Comedy.

The brainchild of partners-in-comedy PJ Jacokes of Ferndale, Gerald Knight of Ann Arbor, Tommy LeRoy of Ferndale and Chris DiAngelo of Waterford, Go Comedy! Improv Theater is poised to grant sketch comedy a shiny new home in Ferndale this fall.

The theater, located along Nine Mile east of Woodward, is undergoing extensive renovation which is expected to be finished this month. Formerly a Secretary of State office location, the red brick building holds 2,500 square feet, and will seat between 70 to 95 patrons once it's complete.

Drop ceilings have been removed to reveal an urban charm alongside exposed brick walls. The front lobby will give way to a bar and a walkway into the main theatre room. A low-set stage will likely be surrounded by tables to maintain

an intimate feel. Backstage space has been designated for an office and storage. And convenient parking is adjacent to the building.

Choosing Ferndale for the location was a no-brainer. "Oh Ferndale," said Jacokes, "there's an improviser on almost every block."

With more than 12 years of experience in improvisation and comedy, Jacokes is producer for the theater. Knight serves as president of Go Comedy!, while DiAngelo handles art direction and LeRoy is the building and stage manager.

When it opens, by early October, the theater will feature a variety of performances with three shows a night, Wednesday to Sunday.

Go Comedy! is currently casting three groups of performers who will make up a resident company and two house troupes. The laughs will be affordable, too. On Wednesday, Thursday and Sundays, admission costs \$5 and patrons are free to stay throughout the

GO COMEDY!

What: Sketch comedy and improv theater offers three performances nightly, Wednesday-Sunday, as well as classes, workshops and corporate performances.

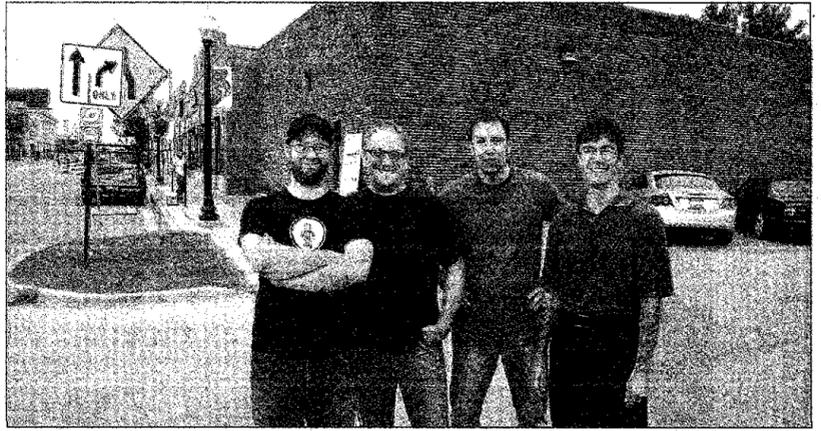
Opening: Late September, early October 2008

Where: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
More information: Visit www.gocomedy.net or call (248) 327-0575.

evening. Friday and Saturday shows will be closer to \$15 each.

Each night will feature its own brand of improv and comedy. Wednesday nights are reserved for a launch troupe, newcomers to improvisation. Look out for local celebrities on Thursday nights, as they share tales of life experience while The House Team performs scenes inspired by those stories.

Friday and Saturday nights will feature the Go Comedy! Resident Company, "the



Tommy LeRoy (from left), P.J. Jacokes, Chris DiAngelo and Gerald Knight have something to smile about. They are about to open the GoComedy Theatre in downtown Ferndale this Fall.

best we have," according to Jacokes. That's when audiences can catch the *Super Happy Funtime Show!*, an improvised game show peppered with plenty of audience interaction. Sundays offer a chance to step out of the improv world and offer up a full production, beginning with *Timeless: The Danceical*, a musical comedy showcasing songs from the 1980s. "It's a musical but they'll break into dance, not song," said Jacokes.

The theater will also host its own take on a late night talk show, *Ferndale Tonight*, which is poised for broadcast on public access television. Everything

from open mic stand up to rock band karaoke is in the planning stages.

Alongside the performances, Go Comedy! is setting up a training center, Go U: The Improv Academy, with classes at varying levels. And Go Corp will be booking corporate shows to inspire team-building. Clients have included Google and Horiba.

Jacokes, who headed up the training center at Second City and taught at the Improv Inferno in Ann Arbor, looks forward to offering improvisation classes and workshops. He said it's "amazing to watch" students as they find their way

on stage.

"At no point in my life did I think I would run a theater," said Jacokes, who grew up in Farmington Hills. "But I fell so in love with (improv). It's so much fun. It's so freeing."

He took his first improv class as a way to become more comfortable while playing onstage with his band at the time. "I kind of found my voice through it," he said. "It's so based on trust."

Jacokes still remembers what it was like to take the stage the first time, and inspire laughter. "It's such an amazing feeling."

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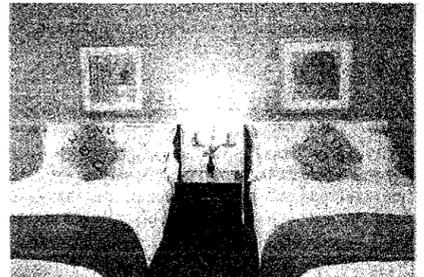
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- 12th-9 pm-1 am** Bomb Squad
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- 13th-6:30- 8:30 pm** Just Sinatra-Name Says It All
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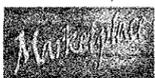


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Tasting Tours in metro Detroit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Some regions are simply known for certain foods — the Chicago hot dog, New York style cheesecake or North Carolina barbecue. Now Farmington Hills' own Ann Wilson plans to put the tastes of the Motor City on the map.

She has founded Culinary Escapes, a company that organizes both public and customized private tasting tours focusing on local flavor. Wilson recently returned to the metro Detroit area from Illinois and was interested in starting her own business. She noticed the communities she knew had grown and changed for the better, she said. Add to that the onset of higher gas and airline prices, Wilson noted, the concept of "stay-cationing" has become increasingly popular.

So she's crafted culinary tours to increase visibility of walkable metro area neighborhoods and, in particular, to highlight independent businesses.

The concept came together rather quickly, thanks in part to her event planning and fund-raising experience with the American Heart Association. "I didn't know anyone had a food tour," said Wilson. With a little online detective work she found culinary tours in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. The Chicago tour proved worthy of research and Wilson found she enjoyed the variety of eateries on the list, as well as the cultural and historical components.

She's combined both of those elements into her first walking and tasting tour in Royal Oak, which has run every other Saturday since July 5.

The city was an instant draw, said Wilson, because it hosts its own Farmer's Market featuring produce grown only in Michigan. Tours begin there and continue on to include Royal Oak staples like Holiday Market, Memphis Smoke, Superior Fish Company, and smaller hot spots like Zumba Mexican Grille and Goldfish Tea, where owners Jim and Janice Girling are on hand to teach patrons about the traditions of tea, and offer tastes of Chinese imported varieties.

"We were extremely pleased to be selected as one of the Royal Oak 'Cutting Edge Cuisine' tour stops," said Janice Girling. "The tours are a wonderful opportunity for us to provide a quick introduction of our tea shop to potential new customers who might not have otherwise discovered us."

"The tours will also benefit the Royal Oak community as a whole by drawing in consumers from outside the community and highlighting the city's many wonderful destination places."

Tim Castaneda, owner of Zumba Mexican Grille, said every tour-goer so far was new to his restaurant. He also said he was glad Zumba was chosen to represent the variety of food choices in the area. "It definitely reminds people that Royal Oak is the dining and entertainment spot in the Detroit area," he said.

Wilson will expand Culinary Escapes tours to focus on Ferndale, Birmingham, Eastern Market and Ann Arbor. She even has plans to offer a bus tour of various culinary communities in around the city of Detroit - from Mexican Town to Hamtramck to Dearborn.

In every case, Wilson said, "you'll have 10 food stops to sample varieties from independently-owned eateries and you'll get to know the personal history from the actual owners."



Culinary Escapes tours began last month — with stops around Royal Oak including the sweet tooth haven Gayle's Chocolates.

She hopes tour-goers learn something about the communities — whether they are residents of the city, state or just visiting from out of town. Either way, they'll be likely to return, she said. Tour patrons are given maps of the area denoted with tour stops.

In addition to the twice-monthly tours which will run from April to September, Culinary Escapes offers private tours customized for patrons. Choose the eateries, the time and day, and the tour length. It's a great option for informal get-togethers, bridal parties, business, or senior outings, Wilson said.

As the tours grow or new businesses come into communities, Wilson may consider adding legs onto the already established tours. For now, the tasting tour includes about 10 to 15 minutes in each establishment. Because of the schedule, Wilson said, tour-goers are asked not to shop during the tour but they may return afterward to make purchases.

"This is a way to get people to find places where they'll love to eat," said Wilson. Due to the slumping economy, independently-owned businesses stand to benefit from being a stop on the Culinary Escapes tours.

There are only three more Royal Oak tours left this summer, though private tours may be scheduled year-round. Look for additional organized tasting tours in Wayne and Oakland county communities to rev up again beginning in April 2009. Tours are held rain or shine. "Come hungry," said Wilson. "Come prepared to walk. It's a two-mile walk. You eat a lot but you exercise too. That's a great benefit."

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Michigan's best wines not stuck in a rut

Recently, *New York Times* wine critic Eric Asimov wrote, "It's so easy to fall into a wine drinking rut."

That was not the case for 23 wine judges at the 31st annual Michigan Wine & Spirits Competition, held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on Aug. 5. Evidence is clear in their choice of Best of Class wines from 346 entered this year.



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

■ Best of Class Dry White — 2007 Chateau Fontaine Dry White Riesling.

■ Best of Class Semi-Dry White — 2007 St. Julian Braganini Reserve Traminette. Not a grape variety on your radar screen? The grape index on AppellationAmerica.com describes traminette as the "spicy bad girl of the royal vinifera clan, gewurztraminer ... a perfect spring garden of floral scents whipped by the winds of enchantment." Indeed, it's a lot like gewurztraminer, but not as aggressively aromatic. Description continues, "there is a fire that longs to seduce all who venture to know you." It surely was that way with the judges.

■ Best of Class Dry Red — 2007 Longview Rustic Red, a 100 percent estate-grown frontenac made by owner winemaker Alan Eaker with consulting winemaker Shawn Walters of the new Forty-Five North winery in Leelanau County.

AppellationAmerica.com says frontenac is "part of a band of Native and French-Americans that could easily be called the 'Polar Bear Gang,' due to its birth in Minnesota. It comes across as Bordeaux-like, yet a lot softer.

■ Best of Class Fruit — Mackinaw Trail Winery Razzberry.

■ Best of Class Dessert — 2007

WINE PICKS

Some "Double Gold" medal winners in the 2008 Michigan Wine & Spirits Competition are as impressive as Best of Class wines. Double Gold is a unanimous "gold" opinion by every judge in the panel. Our favorites are:

- Bel Lago NV Leelanau Peninsula Brillante sparkling wine
- Black Star Farms 2006 Arcturos Merlot
- Chateau Fontaine 2006 Pinot Gris
- Left Foot Charley 2007 Riesling
- Peninsula Cellars 2007 Kroupa Estates Pinot Blanc and 2005 Hogs Back Vineyard Merlot

A complete list of all medal winners can be found on www.michiganwines.com.

Brys Estate Vineyard and Winery Dry, 100 percent riesling with a residual sugar of 6.8 percent that will be released in October.

Judges' Merit Award — 2007 Bowers Harbor Vineyards Pinot Noir Rose.

We asked fellow judge Ann Littlefield, a wine marketing consultant from Napa, Calif., what she thought of the entries she judged. "WOW," she said. "I am blown away by the quality level across the board. These are deliciously impressive cool climate wines. It's such a pleasure to taste wines that are not over-the-top as some being produced in other regions."

Joe Borello, President of Taster's Guild International said, "I'm impressed with the advancement in Michigan's dry red wines, especially merlot and cabernet franc. Among white wines, I'm impressed with dry style rieslings, such as the 2007 Chateau Fontaine Dry White Riesling. For years, this wine is what I've been looking for in this category."

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focuswine@aol.com.

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Chili, veggie burgers, German wine, s'mores...

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mark your calendars for chili The 13th Annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off and Motorcycle Bike Show return to downtown Plymouth, Sunday Oct. 5.

The cook-off features traditional Red Chili, Green Chili, Restaurant Chili, and Salsa competitions. The winners in each category will advance to the 2009 World Championship Chili cook-off next fall. There's also a Peoples Choice Chili sampling.

The GLR Chili Bike Show is a ride-in show with 17 different bike categories including Harley and non Harley classes. And, there will be a "Chili Ride" beginning at MotorCity Harley Davidson in Farmington Hills and ending up at the Chili Cook-off. Another ride is planned to begin at the BMW dealership on Ford Road in Canton for all BMW bikers.

There's also dog costume contests, dance teams and live music.

The Restaurant Chili Challenge will take place 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Penniman Ave. Visit www.greatlakeschili.com and if you want to ride visit www.motorcityharley.com. www.bmwmcsem.com.

GERMAN WINE FESTIVAL IN TWO LOCATIONS

Continental Services, Michigan's largest independent food management company, hosts the German Wine & Food Fest at two golf clubs through Aug. 31.

German culinary selections and wines are offered at the Stonebridge Grille at the Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club in Oakland Township and at the Grill at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton Township.

"Germany is noted for producing outstanding wines, and we will offer a good sample for sale during this promotion, along with special German menu items," said Chuck Sansone, corporate executive chef for Continental.

Sansone said four separate German wines are available,

ranging from \$3 per glass to \$25 per bottle. Menu items include "Raucherlachs und Lauch Flammkuchen," a German pizza which substitutes sour cream for tomato sauce.

Twin Lakes is located at 455 Twin Lakes Dr., just off Rochester Road. Pheasant Run is located at 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton Township.

STATE FAIR HAS A VEGGIE BURGER CONTEST SPONSORED BY LOCAL STORES

This year a Healthy Vegetarian Burger contest will be held at the Michigan State Fair.

The vegetarian burger contest is Sunday, Aug. 31, at noon in the Community Arts Building on the grounds. Any Michigan resident can enter at www.michiganstatefair.com. Click on Community Arts and then Daily Contests, or call (313) 369-8260 for more information.

Each of the three winners for the contest will receive gift cards and gift baskets.

Businesses contributing include Whole Foods Market, Zerbo's Health Foods (in Livonia), Zaccaro's Market (in Detroit), Good Food Co. (in Troy), Eden Foods (based in Clinton, Mich.), Amy's Kitchen, and Pacific Natural Foods. The total amount of gift cards and baskets is over \$500.

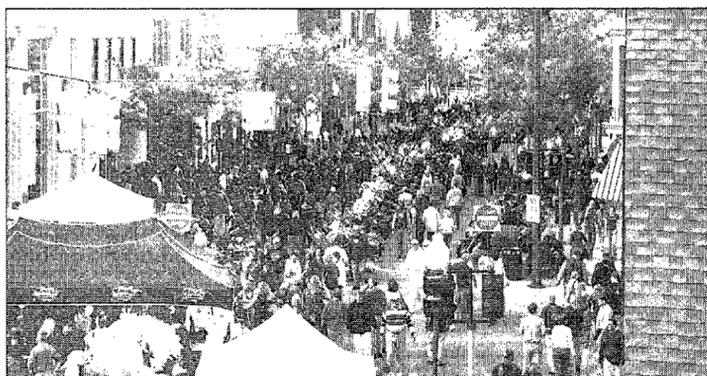
INDOOR S'MORES

You don't need a campfire for these S'mores, just the secret ingredient: Blue Bunny 100 Calorie Vanilla Fudge Bars. Check out BlueBunny.com

- Ingredients:
- 4 BLUE BUNNY 100 Calorie Vanilla Fudge Bars, slightly softened
 - 4 graham crackers
 - 1 cup chocolate
 - 1/2 cup mallow cream
 - 4 large marshmallows (if you're seeking a fat-free marshmallow visit <http://www.veganesentials.com>)
 - 1 tablespoon chocolate sauce

Break graham crackers in half. Spread mallow cream on

one side of four cracker halves. Layer in sandwiches from bottom to top: graham cracker, softened Vanilla Fudge Bar, and top with the mallow-spread graham cracker. Gently squeeze both graham crackers and slide stick out of Vanilla Fudge Bar. Arrange on plate and place in freezer for 10 minutes. Skewer and toast four large marshmallows to garnish; drizzle with chocolate sauce. Serves four. Prep time: 15 minutes.



The chili cook-off in Plymouth attracts crowds from throughout the state.

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MOVIE Guide

Where available by deadline, features are listed.

Call your local theatre for showings for this week.

Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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<p>AMC LIVONIA 20 Haggerty & 7 Mile 734-542-9909 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>CALL FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p>	<p>FARMINGTON CIVIC 33332 Grand River Farmington 248-474-1951 8/15/08-8/21/08 SEX & THE CITY [R] YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN [PG13] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>	<p>THE DARK KNIGHT [PG13] STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS [PG] THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR [PG13] HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY [PG13] www.fordwyomingdrivein.com</p>	<p>NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS SHOWCASE CINEMAS SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR 1-20 4100 Carpenter Rd. I-94 & US 23 734-973-8424 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows Until 6PM. *Late Shows Fri. & Sat.*</p>	<p>STATE WAYNE THEATRE 35310 Michigan Ave. • Wayne 734-326-4600 THURSDAYS • ALL SEATS 99¢ 8/15/08-8/21/08 SEX & THE CITY [R] MEET DAVE [PG] THE INCREDIBLE HULK [PG13] IRON MAN [PG13] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>
<p>AMC STAR FAIRLANE 18900 Michigan Ave. Dearborn 313-240-6389 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>EMAGINE THEATERS ONLINE TICKETS www.emagine-entertainment.com CALL 888-319-3456 VOTED BEST MOVIE THEATRE 2006 BY THE DETROIT NEWS! GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE! EMAGINE THAT! Make Your Phone Your Movie Ticket at www.mbo.com</p>	<p>FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN THEATRE Ford Rd. & Wyoming • Dearborn 313-846-6910 TWO GREAT MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!! [1-5] 8/15/08-8/21/08 MIRRORS [R] THE HAPPENING [R] TROPIC THUNDER [R] THE LOVE GURU [PG13]</p>	<p>MAIN ART THEATRE III 118 N. Main at 11 Mile • Royal Oak 248-542-0180 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-263-2111 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180</p>	<p>NOVI TOWN CENTER 8 Grand River at Novi Rd. 248-465-SHOW 248-465-7469 www.novitowncenter8.com</p>	<p>UNITED ARTISTS COMMERCE-14 3330 Springvale Drive Adjacent to Home Depot N. of the Intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty 248-960-5801 Bargain Matinees Daily For All Shows Starting Before 6PM Same Day Advance Tickets Available</p>
<p>AMC STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING I-75 at Baldwin Rd. Great Lakes Shopping Center 248-454-0366 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>NO COMMERCIALS ONCE THE PREVIEWS BEGIN! Digital Projection On All Screens "A Perfect Picture Every Time!" DP-Digital Presentation **"Luxury" Seating OPEN AT 11:30 AM</p>	<p>FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN THEATRE Ford Rd. & Wyoming • Dearborn 313-846-6910 TWO GREAT MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!! [1-5] 8/15/08-8/21/08 MIRRORS [R] THE HAPPENING [R] TROPIC THUNDER [R] THE LOVE GURU [PG13]</p>	<p>MAPLE ART THEATRE III 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Township 248-855-9091 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-263-2111 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY</p>	<p>OXFORD 7 CINEMAS 48 S. Washington St. Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) 248-969-7469</p>	<p>UPDOWN 12 THEATRE 250 N. Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.palladium12.com Visit The PEA - Uptown Palladium Hosts the Exclusive Dinner and a Movie Package at the Premiere Entertainment Auditorium. You Can Experience the Best Movie-Going Experience Tonight!</p>
<p>AMC STAR SOUTHFIELD 20 12 Mile Between Telegraph & Northwestern 248-372-2222 FOR SHOWTIMES & TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE CALL 248-368-1802 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>EMAGINE CANTON 39535 Ford Road Canton Twp. (East of I-275, South Side of Ford Road) COCKTAILS SERVED! 888-319-3456 8/14/08 TROPIC THUNDER [R] PINEAPPLE EXPRESS [R] SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 [PG13] THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR [PG13] SWING VOTE [PG13] STEP BROTHERS [R] THE DARK KNIGHT [PG13] MAMMA MIA [PG13] JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3-D [PG] WALL-E [G]</p>	<p>FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN THEATRE Ford Rd. & Wyoming • Dearborn 313-846-6910 TWO GREAT MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!! [1-5] 8/15/08-8/21/08 MIRRORS [R] THE HAPPENING [R] TROPIC THUNDER [R] THE LOVE GURU [PG13]</p>	<p>MICHIGAN THEATER 603 E. Liberty • Ann Arbor 734-668-TIME 734-668-8463 www.michtheater.org \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12</p>	<p>PHOENIX THEATRES AT BEL-AIR CENTRE Detroit's Neighborhood Theatre 10100 E. Eight Mile Rd. E. of Van Dyke 313-438-3494 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785</p>	<p>UPDOWN 12 THEATRE 250 N. Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.palladium12.com Visit The PEA - Uptown Palladium Hosts the Exclusive Dinner and a Movie Package at the Premiere Entertainment Auditorium. You Can Experience the Best Movie-Going Experience Tonight!</p>
<p>BIRMINGHAM 8 211 S. Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.birmingham8.com</p>	<p>EMAGINE CANTON 39535 Ford Road Canton Twp. (East of I-275, South Side of Ford Road) COCKTAILS SERVED! 888-319-3456 8/14/08 TROPIC THUNDER [R] PINEAPPLE EXPRESS [R] SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 [PG13] THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR [PG13] SWING VOTE [PG13] STEP BROTHERS [R] THE DARK KNIGHT [PG13] MAMMA MIA [PG13] JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3-D [PG] WALL-E [G]</p>	<p>FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN THEATRE Ford Rd. & Wyoming • Dearborn 313-846-6910 TWO GREAT MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!! [1-5] 8/15/08-8/21/08 MIRRORS [R] THE HAPPENING [R] TROPIC THUNDER [R] THE LOVE GURU [PG13]</p>	<p>MICHIGAN THEATER 603 E. Liberty • Ann Arbor 734-668-TIME 734-668-8463 www.michtheater.org \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12</p>	<p>PHOENIX THEATRES AT BEL-AIR CENTRE Detroit's Neighborhood Theatre 10100 E. Eight Mile Rd. E. of Van Dyke 313-438-3494 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785</p>	<p>UPDOWN 12 THEATRE 250 N. Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.palladium12.com Visit The PEA - Uptown Palladium Hosts the Exclusive Dinner and a Movie Package at the Premiere Entertainment Auditorium. You Can Experience the Best Movie-Going Experience Tonight!</p>

pink

Wendy Von Buskirk . Features Editor (734) 953-2019 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

Pink Picks

Wear It!
William Rast jeans
by Justin Timberlake

Kick It!
Converse All Stars

tote It!
Gabriella Giovanni handbags
(read next week's PINK to find out more)



Face It!
Dr. Wexler's skin care line at Bath & Body Works (try the Serum!)

Hear It!
I Want You To Know That There is Always Hope
by English duo
I Was A Cub Scout

Click It!
www.Jezebel.com

TV It!
Mad Men Season Two

Drink It!
Cobras at La Marsa, Farmington Hills

Eat It!
Garden Fresh Gourmet Tigers Tortilla Chips

DVD It!
The Counterfeiters

Read It!
Alfred & Emily
by Doris Lessing

Vote It!
David Babaii for WildAid (cruelty-free products developed in conjunction with Kate Hudson) at davidbabaiiforwildaid.com

Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for Malls & Mainstreets, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

Christian Dior Expert Visits

TROY - Christian Dior's Global Medical Advisor, Dr. Neil Sadick, will offer personal consultations at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset, 1-4 p.m. today, Aug. 21. Sadick's pioneering research was involved in the first radiofrequency skin tightening technology, the first use of lasers for treating varicose veins, the first use of ultrasound and radiofrequency liposuction, and the first use of Myobloc (Botox B). Call (248) 614-3363 for an appointment.

Gift Shop Offers Free Gas

PLYMOUTH - Gabriela's home accent and gift shop in downtown Plymouth is giving away \$1,000 in free gas. Through Aug. 23, Gabriela's will give one customer a \$50 gas card every day. Daily winners will have a second chance to win a grand prize gas card for \$250. No purchase is necessary to enter your name into the drawing, but for every \$10 customers spend, they'll receive an additional entry. Gabriela's is located at 322 S. Main Street (at the corner of Main & Penniman) in Plymouth. Call (734) 455-8884.

Summit Sports Freeze

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Summit Sports, Inc., a Bloomfield Hills-based leader in high quality sporting goods and equipment, will host "Summer Freeze" sales at Don Thomas Sporthaus today through Aug. 24; and at its Summit Sports shop, Aug. 28-Sept. 1. The outdoor tented sales will feature ski and snowboard gear and apparel marked up to 90 percent off. The first 50

customers each day will receive free gloves, no purchase necessary. Don Thomas Sporthaus is located at 690 S. Old Woodward in Birmingham. Summit Sports is located at 28942 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Visit www.donthomassporthaus.com or www.summitsportsinc.com.

Late Nite Thursdays

ROCHESTER - Through Aug. 28, Downtown Rochester will host "Late Nite Thursdays." Merchants will stay open until 9 p.m. or later, and shoppers can enjoy street entertainment and a chance to participate in the "Summer in the City" scavenger hunt, with prizes valued at nearly \$2,000. Call (248) 656-0060 or visit www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.

Bag Up Pet Supplies

METRO DETROIT - Shoppers at Pet Supplies Plus stores in Bloomfield Hills, White Lake Township and Canton will get 20 percent off their pet supplies when they buy a new canvas tote. The totes (\$10) were designed by Nooters Club of Bloomfield, and feature a clever reminder to shoppers to be kind to the environment and to get their pets spayed or neutered. One dollar from each bag will benefit the Oakland Pet Fund Spay/Neuter Fund. For more information, visit www.petsuppliesplus.com or www.nootersclub.org.

Favorite Bead Show

NOVI - My Favorite Bead Show, at Rock Financial Showplace Aug. 29-31, will feature a large selection of beads and supplies, new and unique styles, and demonstrations by professionals. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. No strollers. Visit www.InterGem.com.



It can take more than a week to make a very intricate scarf - or as little as six hours.



Wool & Water in Royal Oak offers classes to make scarves such as this one.

Fiber artist offers Nunofelt classes for kids and adults

BY LANA MINI
OSE STAFF WRITER

Yvonne Stefani, of Ferndale, is a Buddhist who likes to make scarves. She likes it so much, she has taken a break from her successful career as a chef to open Wool & Water, a fiber art studio in Royal Oak where she teaches workshops on various methods of felting. Felting is a little-known yet fast growing art form in the U.S., Stefani said. Stefani learned about the procedure called "Nuno Felt making" through fellow mothers whose children attend Waldorf school in Rochester. There are many students from Germany at the school, and Nuno Felt is popular in Germany, Stefani said. "I fell in love with it," she said. The process of making intricate, wearable art pieces through Nuno Felt consists of wool, water and friction. Artists rub the

fibers to create the felt. There is not any knitting or sewing involved. "Felt-making is one of the oldest known forms of textile craft," Stefani said. "Archeological finds date skillful application of this technology to at least 6500 B.C." Nuno Felt is a specialized application of feltwork made by arranging open weave fabric, such as silk, with loose wool fiber in an alkaline liquid environment, and then rubbing the materials using only your own two hands. Wool & Water opened in April and this summer Stefani has been busy hosting classes for youth where they made all types of items - from hats to scarves. Once kids go back to school, Stefani's world of art shifts into higher

gear as she displays her work at local fall art festivals. Also in the fall, Wool & Water will be geared more to adults. Stefani plans to host events like "Girls Nights Out" and birthday parties as meeting places for women to gather. Bring your lunch, register with some friends, and sit at the long harvest-style tables while making personalized, unique scarves, shawls or other items in the six-hour classes. "By opening my studio, I wanted to create a space and "community" for textile artists in and around the Royal Oak area," Stefani said. Scarves are the highest-demand item. But Nuno Felt is also made into Nordic hats and boots, Tyrolean jackets and vests, handbags and magnificent rugs, she said.

Madonna at 50: She still dresses to her own beat

No matter what your taste, there's probably a Madonna for you. The pop star, who is turning 50 Saturday, is one of fashion's great chameleons. She's been a punk princess and lady of the manor. She has channeled Marilyn Monroe, Eva Peron and a geisha. The whole underwear-as-outerwear trend? That came from Madonna. Not to mention those '80s blondes who proudly showed their roots while wearing lace gloves and lots of chains. And would Kabbalah and yoga as lifestyle trends be where they are today without her? "She's become an adjective. Friends will go shopping with each other and say, 'It's so Madonna.' That's what you want in

fashion," says stylist and TV commentator Robert Verdi. Lately Madonna has mostly been spotted in workout gear, perhaps in preparation for her "Sticky & Sweet" world tour that will be partially outfitted by Givenchy. Designer Riccardo Tisci has worked up two outfits: a frock coat in black stretch satin and a long cape worn over a black dress embellished with colored ribbons - for a Gypsy-inspired outfit. It's hard to say if the Gypsy look will start another trend. The cone-front corset Jean Paul Gaultier created for her Blond Ambition tour in 1990 didn't fully catch on with the masses.

But whether her looks are influential or merely memorable, Madonna always finds a way to connect with people and she never wears a look long enough for it to become stale, observes Verdi. If the disco-revival look of her "Hung Up" era in 2005 clicked with him, her cowgirl-hat days in 2000 spoke to someone else. "I don't love all her looks but can appreciate them all," he says. "She's always operated from a position that's a good hybrid of contemporary pop culture - the psyche of the nation - but also an artistic slant and art always pushes the envelope."

Associated Press

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