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February 26
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The Observer & Eccentric
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AROUND TOWN

In the news

The New York Times on Monday featured an article on U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and the impact of his vote against President Barack Obama's stimulus package on his 2010 election prospects. McCotter joined all Republican members of the House of Representatives in voting against the economic stimulus. On the other hand, McCotter has been a vocal supporter of government loans to General Motors and Chrysler.

Among those quoted in the article by Carl Hulse was Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, who is quoted as saying, "Since when do Republicans vote against tax cuts? They are betting the farm, because if this works, I think people will remember they were not on board."

The *Times* article notes that McCotter, chair of the Republican House Policy Committee, has broken ranks with his party on expanding health insurance for children and supporting a measure to ease union organizing.

On the stimulus, the *Times* quotes McCotter: "It won't work. If I thought it would work, I would have voted for it."

Blight buster

A sign of the housing markets woes is a pile of personal belongings dumped in the yard of a foreclosed home. That won't change under a new city ordinance that takes effect today (Feb. 26), but it does shorten how long those possessions can stay there.

The Westland City Council recently approved the ordinance, which limits leaving abandoned property outside of foreclosed home for longer than 72 hours. It comes on the heels of another previously adopted ordinance that deems high grass in excess of eight inches a problem and stipulates that it must be cut.

"While it is imperative we give occupants adequate time to secure their belongings, this ordinance will prevent the mortgage company from creating a blight nuisance," said Mayor William Wild. "Our goal is to protect property values and sustain the livability of the neighborhood."

In addition to imposing a time limit on how long the personal articles can remain outside the premises, the ordinance allows the city to remove and dispose of the property as well as recover removal and disposal costs.

Likewise, the cost the city incurs to cut the grass of foreclosed or abandoned properties is passed on to the property owner, and if the property owner fails to pay the cost, a 30 percent surcharge is added to the property's tax bill.

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to planning
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Special Section
inside today's
newspaper

Tax rates: Relief for some, not all

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's residential property assessments plunged 17 percent for 2009, fueled by a housing-market crash that will mean tax relief for many — but not all — local homeowners, city officials confirmed.

"I'm guessing the majority of people will see some sort of relief this

year. How much, I don't know," city Assessor James Elrod said.

Still, longtime residents could be shocked to learn that they will pay slightly higher property taxes this year — even though their home values dipped — due to quirks in a voter-approved law in 1994 that slowed tax hikes even as the housing market prospered.

The result, as unnerving as it might

seem, is that some homeowners will not see their taxes decline until the gap is closed between two key numbers — their assessed value and their taxable value.

While Elrod expects the gap to close for virtually all residents by 2010, the situation likely won't be well-received from struggling homeowners who thought they had tax relief coming this year.

"We are getting some calls," Elrod said.

It works like this. One longtime city homeowner saw her assessed value, or state equalized valuation, plummet from \$82,520 last year to \$66,400. The SEV represents half of a home's value.

However, her taxable value rose

Please see TAXES, A3

Kids lace up to learn how to skate

Amber Costigan's favorite movie is *Ice Princess*. According to her mother, Rhonda, she loves the movie and loves to watch. She estimates her daughter has viewed the film 500 times.

That movie, a new pair of skates and seeing the medals and newspaper clippings about her mother, who was a competitive skater, was enough to get the 6-year-old on the ice at Mike Modano Arena last week to learn to skate.

"She did a good job, she ice skates better than I thought," said Rhonda

Costigan. "She was shaking her butt so much to make herself move. She did the obstacle course. She skated better than I thought."

Open to boys and girls ages 6-15, the ice skating clinic was among several recreation programs offered to youngsters during the area school districts' mid-winter break. Ice skating instructors worked with new skaters, teaching them how to skate, how to stop and in the case of Amber do toe picks with figure skates.

Please see SKATE, A3



Youngsters use their arms to maintain their balance on ice skates during the learn to skate program at the Mike Modano Ice Arena.



Amber Costigan, 6, of Westland breaks into laughter after falling during her first time ice skating. Helping her up was her friend, Breanna Kolenc, 10.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Help needed with finishing touches on Octagon House

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's historic Octagon House, a mid-1800s home that has been restored and opened for public tours, still needs a few finishing touches.

The two-story house, situated in the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, needs volunteers for plaster work in a small, upstairs

bedroom where historians want to spruce it up with new wallpaper.

A carpenter also is being sought to build a bookcase and to finish "a little touch-up work" around the house, historian Jo Johnson said. To help, call (734) 326-1110 or (734) 522-3918.

Even now, Johnson described the house as "usable" and said a couple of small weddings are expected to occur there as early as this spring.

Local officials unveiled the

Octagon House to a large crowd during the 2007 holiday season. It also has been opened to the public 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, and Johnson said special tours may be arranged.

The opening of the eight-sided house, flanked by two additions built in the mid-1930s, capped a year-long restoration effort to protect one of the city's oldest houses. Johnson said historians still hope to add more period furniture to the beloved home.

Historians say the original two-

story house was built by the ancestors of Clyde Smith, who owned the former Clyde Smith & Sons Farm Market & Greenhouses on Newburgh Road.

The Octagon House once stood just south of the now-razed farm market, but it was moved to Warren Road near Hix before it was relocated a few years ago to its new spot in the historic village.

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Judge gives lengthy sentence in sex assault case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who sexually assaulted his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old daughter will spend much — if not all — of his life in prison.

Tadario Derwin Sims, 22, was sentenced Wednesday in Wayne County Circuit Court to 25-50 years for four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, and Judge Vonda Evans imposed an additional nine to 15 years for three counts of second-degree CSC.

Sims learned his fate after a Wayne County jury convicted him earlier this month following allegations he molested the girl, gave her alcohol and showed her pornographic movies while his pregnant girlfriend was receiving hospital care for a child he fathered.

'He's a threat and danger to the children of Westland and the state of Michigan, so he's where he belongs.'

DEBRA MATHEWS, Westland police sergeant

Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews commanded the sentence Evans imposed for sexual assaults that happened early last year in the city's Norwayne neighborhood.

"He sexually assaulted an 8-year-old child. It was very cold. It was very calculated," Mathews said. "It involved alcohol and pornography, and there's no doubt in my mind that if the girl hadn't told (her mother), it would have continued."

"He was only 22 years old, so he had a long life ahead of

him to molest young children," Mathews said. "He's a threat and danger to the children of Westland and the state of Michigan, so he's where he belongs."

Sims faced at least 25 years in prison for sexually assaulting a child under 13 years old, but Evans' court clerk said the sentences of 25-50 years and nine to 15 years will be served consecutively — not simultaneously.

Sims chose to go to trial even though he made two videotaped confessions admitting his crimes.

The girl's mother went to police after her daughter told her what had happened. The mother also has four sons, including the last-born boy fathered by Sims.

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ORDINANCE NO. 192-C-1**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WESTLAND CITY CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 83, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 83-1 THROUGH 83-6, REGULATING THE DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY OWNERS AND OTHER PARTIES**

WHEREAS the Westland City Council finds that abandoned personal property creates a traffic hazard, affects the fair market and taxable values of surrounding properties, creates a potential harborage for vermin, constitutes a nuisance, and often requires the expenditure of City and/or private resources to clean up. The City Council further finds that it is therefore necessary to regulate abandoned personal property to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WESTLAND HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-1, of the Westland City Code is hereby amended to add the following:

Definitions.

Abandoned Personal Property means personal property that has been deserted, relinquished, cast away, or left behind by an occupant of any premises who has voluntarily or otherwise surrendered or abandoned possession of real property or a premise, or is disposed of by Court order, order of a governmental agency, owner of the real property, or any person, firm or entity acting as agent for or on the owner's behalf.

Occupant means a person residing in, having resided in, in possession of, or having had possession of real property, the premises, or any building or structure located upon real property as an owner in possession, mortgagor, land contract purchaser, tenant, subtenant, or assignee successor in interest of any of the foregoing.

Owner means a person that owns, operates, holds a legal or equitable interest in, or is entitled to the control of real property, including a holder of legal title, land contract vendor, landlord, trustee, receiver, property manager, or an agent acting on behalf of any of the foregoing.

Personal Property means furniture, appliances, goods, belongings, effects, equipment and fixtures of an occupant that are found on real property, the premises, or within any other building or structure located upon real property.

Premises means a house, dwelling, shelter, mobile home, garage, shed, any building or structure, or any portion thereof situated upon real property.

Real property means any land, real estate, building, structure, mobile home, mobile home park, trailer park, tenement, leasehold, or any interest therein that is used, occupied, or offered for sale, purchase, rent, or occupancy.

Section 2. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-2, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

An owner or occupant shall not leave any abandoned personal property on real property for a period of time that is greater than seventy two (72) hours computed as commencing at 9:00 a.m. the morning after the personal property is removed from premises, and left or placed anywhere on the real property.

Section 3. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-3, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Nuisance Per Se.

Any condition on real property that violates the regulations of this Article constitutes a nuisance per se, which may be abated by a court of competent jurisdiction if the City elects to abate the nuisance by commencement of an action in said court.

Section 4. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-4, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Abatement Remedies.

(a) The City shall have the right to remove and dispose as refuse any abandoned personal property located upon real property that is not removed within the time frame set forth in Section 83-2.

(b) Enforcement of this Article by the City shall not prevent the City from enforcing any other nuisance violations arising on the real property, either by prosecution or other enforcement action.

Section 5. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-5, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Reimbursement for Expenses of Removal and Disposal.

Expenses incurred by the City in abating any violation of this Article, including but not limited to costs of removal and disposal, court costs and reasonable attorney fees, shall be paid by the owner or the owner's successor in interest within thirty (30) days of the date of a city invoice for such services. The city shall have a lien against the real property to secure payment of the obligation. If the invoice remains unpaid after thirty (30) days, the amount of the invoice shall be placed upon the tax roll as a special assessment, and shall be subject to the same penalties, interest, and collection procedures applicable to delinquent taxes.

Section 6. That Chapter 83, Article I, Section 83-6, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

Penalty for Violation of this Article.

Any person who violates a provision of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both. Each day that a violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a separate offense. A person who violates the provisions of this Article may also be responsible for violation of Article XIII of Chapter 22 of the Westland City Code.

Section 7. That all other provisions of Chapter 83 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 9. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 10. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted: 2-17-09

Published: 2-26-09

Effective: 2-26-09

Publish: February 26, 2009

LOCAL NEWS**March is the time to challenge your property assessment**

This time of year, most people are gathering income tax information getting ready to prepare their return or take it to a professional. Paying attention to income taxes is extremely important which is why I recommend keeping a tax file throughout the year.



Rick Bloom

to that statement, there is, particularly this year, an opportunity to petition your municipality to lower property taxes. Keep in mind, the right to appeal your property taxes happens only once a year and now is that time.

Cities and townships throughout Michigan are beginning to convene the local Board of Review. The local Board of Review meets in early to mid-March to resolve how property is assessed. If you believe your property is overassessed, particularly because of what has occurred in the real estate market, now is the time to contest your assessment at the Board of Review.

Unlike many tax procedures, particularly through the Internal Revenue Service or the Michigan Department of Treasury, a Board of Review, conducted by a local municipality, is informal. You do not need the assistance of a professional. I believe that most people can present their case. In fact, at many Boards of Review, you no longer have to appear in person, you can submit a written statement.

What do you need to provide the Board of Review in order

to be successful? It is important to recognize that when the municipality assesses the value of your house, they are basing it on fair market value (worth on the open market). The best documentation and evidence you can show the board is what similar houses in your neighborhood have sold for in the last year. In other words, if a house on your block which is similar to yours has sold for substantially less than your house has been appraised for, that is the type of information that you need to provide the Board of Review.

Once you have decided to appeal, it is important to make sure that the information they have regarding your home is accurate. You can visit your city assessor's office to ensure the information on your home is correct. For example, if they believe your house is 3,500 square feet when it's only 2,800 square feet, that error can make a substantial difference in your property taxes.

How much you can save with regards to your property taxes? I don't know, but in these difficult times, whenever you can lower your taxes, why not?

Many people are struggling

in these difficult economic times and do not have the time or the energy to prepare for the Board of Review. Unfortunately, this is the only time of year the Boards of Review convene. Unlike your income tax return where filing for an extension is an option, there is not an extension option when it comes to your Board of Review. Therefore, if you want to appeal your assessment now is the time to do it.

Don't be nervous to appear, the board is comprised of community residents. The key in presenting your case is to be organized and precise. In addition, the more documentation you can provide the better your case will be.

By spending a minimal amount of time, homeowners have an opportunity to potentially save a substantial amount of money, not only this year but for years to come.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m.

Contest winner gets yearlong movie pass for 2**CORRECTION**

A story about Slot Car Mania that appeared in the Sunday, Feb. 15, *Westland Observer* should have stated that there are two other slot car race tracks in western Wayne County - Lightning Speedway at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and TSS Hobbies and Slotcar Raceway in Belleville.

KNOW THE SCORE

Check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section

Dorothy Deitch of Southfield is the winner of the *Observer & Eccentric/Mirror/Hometown Weeklies* online Oscar contest.

Eight contestants picked the winners in six different categories and four tie-breaker questions (see below).

Deitch was selected in a random drawing. She won a yearlong movie pass for two to Emagine Theaters of Canton and Novi. Seven other win-

ners will receive a pass for two for a single showing at Emagine Theater. They are Bonnie Burkhardt of Canton Township, Jimmy Orsag of Rochester Hills, Brent Rau of Novi, Denise Burke of Livonia, Mayda Sagherian of West Bloomfield, Penelope Vert of Livonia and Margie Hengtgen of Dearborn.

The winners answered the following questions correctly: Best Picture, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Director, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Cinematography, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Documentary Feature, *Man on Wire*.

Actress, Kate Winslet in *The Reader*; Best Animated Feature Film, *Wall-E*; Best Supporting Actor, Heath Ledger in *The Dark Knight*; Best Supporting Actress, Penélope Cruz in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. Tie Breakers: Best Directing, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Musical Score, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Cinematography, *Slumdog Millionaire*; Best Documentary Feature, *Man on Wire*.

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CITY OF WESTLAND**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

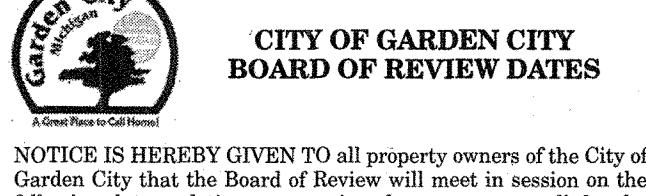
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Refill System

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office. Questions pertaining to the equipment should be directed to Scott Neal, Asst. Fire Chief at (734) 467-3182. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: February 26, 2009

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday March 3, 2009 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 9, 2009	9:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	March 10, 2009	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 11, 2009	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Thursday	March 12, 2009	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	March 13, 2009	9:00am - 5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 9, 2009.

Tentative ratios for the 2009 tax year are:

CLASS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO

Commercial	50.14%
Industrial	52.68%
Residential	58.42%
Personal Property	49.94%

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the **lesser** of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 4.1% for 2009. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 4.4% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2009 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 19, 22, & 26, 2009

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AROUND WESTLAND

Masonic dinner

Don't forget to get your reservation in for the Wayne Lodge No. 72 Master Mason Degree and Dinner Saturday, Feb. 28. Lodge will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be at 6 p.m. Chef George will provide entertainment for the ladies while members do the second section. Friends and family are welcome.

Make reservations by e-mailing Junior Warden Gil Albanice at gibalba@sbcglobal.net or calling (734) 425-2104.

Also, tune your palate up for pancakes on Sunday, March 1. The Rainbow Girls will have their Sunday breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children for pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. The lodge is located

on Palmer Road west of Wayne Road in Westland.

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is hosting an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Willow Creek is accepting enrollment into our Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3 year and 4 year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Nursery Olympics

Westland Parks and Recreation will present its Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, at the Bailey Recreational Center, behind City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road.

Bring your toddlers ages 18

ON THE WEB

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months to 5 years and cheer them on to victory as they compete in games especially designed for them. Each child will receive a certificate of participation.

Cost is \$4 per child/athlete, free for parents/spectators. Preregistration at (734) 722-7620 is encouraged but not required.

The event is presented by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department along with the Westland Civitans, Westland

Junior Civitans, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and Westland Jaycees.

Pancake breakfast

Canton Young Marines, a national non-profit youth service organization, will host its first annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 15, at the Wayne AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland.

Menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, assorted fruit, juice, coffee and milk for \$7.50 per person. Call ahead carryouts are available by calling (734) 729-8930. Donations are gladly accepted. For more information, call Sheryl Larmand at (734) 737-9748 and leave a message.

TAXES

FROM PAGE A1

from \$63,431 to \$66,221, meaning she will pay an additional \$105 in property taxes in 2009. Still, the gap between the SEV and the taxable value has almost closed, raising the likelihood of tax relief next year — barring a sudden uptick in the housing market.

Confused? So are many homeowners, and that's why city officials are bombarded with questions from sometimes-irate residents this time of year.

Residents who feel wronged may mount a challenge with the local Board of Review, which will hear appeals March 9-12 at Westland City Hall. The three-member panel will meet from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 9 and 11, and from 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. March 10 and 12.

"Those are the kinds of questions we're going to have to find some solutions for," Wild said.

Property taxes aside, Wild attributed the bulk of the projected general fund shortfall to a Westland 18th District Court deficit, a decline in revenues from interest, and a drop in certain city fees.

ing from the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Some 25,000 households, and nearly 2,000 commercial and industrial owners, should be receiving property assessments that the city has been mailing out. The numbers this year are "mostly flat" for the business sector, Elrod said.

Falling property values also will mean a loss of tax revenue for city officials who already had been bracing — and planning — for a difficult year of finances.

If nothing changes, Mayor William Wild said the city is expecting its general fund surplus to drop from just under \$2.2 million to a projected \$1.2 million by June 30. This Saturday, city leaders will wrap up the second of two strategic planning sessions partly aimed at seeking solutions.

"Those are the kinds of questions we're going to have to find some solutions for," Wild said.

Property taxes aside, Wild attributed the bulk of the projected general fund shortfall to a Westland 18th District Court deficit, a decline in revenues from interest, and a drop in certain city fees.

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AFSCME
members
honored

Larry Roman (middle), president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602, accepts honors on behalf of the 109-member union from Councilman Charles Pickering (left) and Mayor William Wild. Pickering and the mayor recently honored AFSCME Local 1602 during a council meeting.

COURTESY OF WLND

SKATE
FROM PAGE A1

was really cool, too, because it brought out a lot of kids."

The event not only lets youngsters try ice skating it also introduces them to skating lessons offered at the arena. Rhonda Costigan competed in a variety of ice skating competitions and also skated with

legendary skater Richard Dwyer who was known as Mr. Debonair in the Ice Follies and later in Ice Capades.

She trained at the Garden City Civic Arena, but has decided to enroll Amber in classes at Modano Arena for several reasons.

"I live in Westland and it's close to our house and the instructor Amber had was so nice," she said.

People interested in skating lessons at the arena can call (734) 729-4560.

- By Sue Mason

CITY OF WESTLAND
2009 ANIMAL LICENSES

Licenses must be obtained on or before Monday, March 2, 2009 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Starting March 3, 2009, a \$2.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:

WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36601 Ford Road

OR

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marquette

EILEEN DEHART, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

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Publish: February 12 & 26, 2009

**St. Michael's Parish presents
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GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
6000 MIDDLEBELT
GARDEN CITY, MI 48185

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please note: the bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

Year & Make	Style	VIN #
1997 Chevrolet	Blazer	1GNDT13W6V2153211
1992 Dodge	Dynasty	1B3XC4632ND854035
1996 Ford	Thunderbird	1FALP62W8TH101215
1995 Dodge	4 Door	2B3HD56F4SH5551824
1992 Mercury	Marquis	2MECM75WXNX689673
1994 Lincoln	2 Door	1LNLM91V3RY657868
1994 Pontiac	2 Door	2G2FS22S1R2236400

Publish: February 26, 2009

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FORECLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the military, please contact our office at the number listed below. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Lawrence E Cyr, A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as nominee for Creveco Mortgage Inc., Mortgagee, dated July 28, 2005 and recorded August 10, 2005 in Liber 43278 Page 1919 Wayne County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned to HSBC Mortgage Services Inc, by assignment dated March 26, 2007 and recorded March 30, 2007 in Liber 46130, Page 981, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Dollars and Eighty-Two Cents (\$170,044.82) including interest 9.99% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Wayne County at 1:00PM on March 19, 2009. Said premises are situated in City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 7 and 8, except the East 54 feet thereof, Westgate Courts Subdivision, as recorded in Liber 76, Page 72 of Plats, Wayne County Records. Commonly known as 31158 Windsor St, Westland MI 48185. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: FEBRUARY 11, 2009 HSBC Mortgage Services Inc Assignee of Mortgagee Attorneys: Pestevo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-05524 ASAP# 2995511 02/19/2009, 02/26/2009, 03/05/2009, 03/12/2009

Publish: February 26, 2009

An exceptional home-like setting for Active/Alert, Frail/Recovering, Memory Impaired and Alzheimer's residents.

Crystal Creek Assisted Living
STATE LICENSED

- 24 Hour Professional Staffing
- Private/Semi Private/Barrier Free
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- Daily Housekeeping & Laundry
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- Planned Activities
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- Medication Management
- Incontinence Management

CANTON
(734) 453-3203
Located at 8121 Lilley between Joy & Warren Roads

OE08644712-2x4.5

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 4 2/17/09

Presiding: Council President Godbout

Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehler, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemyer

29-Appr. minutes of 2/2/09.

-App. apply for 2 grants to MDNR.

-Adopt of Bud. Amend. 2009-09: Housing Rehab Fund \$2,061,722.00.

-App. 1 yr contract Excess Workers Comp. Ins. Agreement w/ Safety Nat'l Ins. Co.

-App. Land Div. Res. PD #2169, s.e. corner of Gray & Joy.

-Adopt Ord. #192-C-1, to amend the City Code by adding Ch. 893, Art. I, Sec. 83-1 thru 83-6 to reg. disposal of abandoned pers. prop.

30-Adopt. Ord. #167-A-5-1, to amend Ch. 18, Art. II, Sec. 18-42 & 18-43 to elim. breed spec. designations for vicious & dangerous dogs & allow microchipping.

33-Appr. Spec. Land Use, 8727 Middlebelt, Parcel #005-01-1257-000, s.w. corner of Middlebelt & Joy.

34-Appr. to hire Advanced Strategy Group as lobbyists for City.

35-Conf. re-app't. of C. Hierta to LOCC, for 6 yr. term to exp. 11/18/14.

36-Conf. re-app't. of J. Tillman to LDFA, for 4 yr term to exp. 1/18/13.

37-Conf. re-app't. of K. Pare to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr term to exp. 2/18/12.

38-Conf. re-app't. of J. Thor to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr. term to exp. 2/18/12.

39-Appr. Checklist: \$1,128,623.75 & Prepaid \$2,640,410.96.

Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout

Council President

Publish: February 26, 2009

Eileen DeHart, CMC

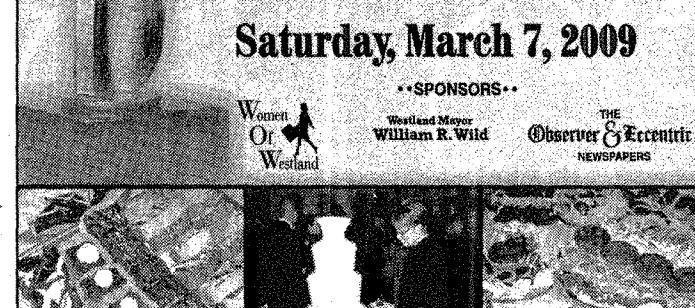
City Clerk

OE08645617-2x5

**THE WOMEN OF WESTLAND
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
WESTLAND'S 5TH ANNUAL
ATHENA AWARD CHOCOLATE FANTASY BALL**
Saturday, March 7, 2009

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Tickets are \$20.00 per person

The evening includes appetizers and desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Recognition of the nominees and the ATHENA Award presentation at 7:30 pm

The ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy extravaganza will dazzle your senses!

ELEGANT, SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE • CASH BAR
RAFFLES AND PRIZES • DANCING

OE08645099

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Report: Man has money taken during assault

1 A 54-year-old man told police he was assaulted and robbed of his money while he was walking on Grand Traverse near Kalamazoo Court, southeast of Palmer and Venoy, shortly after midnight last Friday. He was taken to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital by Westland paramedics.

The victim told police someone ran up behind him, punched him in the left eye and removed \$126 from his pants pocket. He said he didn't get a description of his assailant, who fled the scene. The man told authorities he ran for help and that a resident of nearby Manistee called for help.

Home broken into

2 A 37-year-old man told police that the rear patio doors of his home had been smashed and that a television had been taken between 7 p.m. and midnight Saturday while he was away from his home on Treadwell, southeast of Palmer and Newburgh. The man, who was away playing cards, told police that a couple of prescription drugs also had been taken.

Prescription drugs stolen

3 A manager of Maple Drugs, on Ford Road

taken from his Hampton Court apartment, north of Ford between Wayne and Wildwood, shortly after he left around 8:30 p.m. Saturday to walk to a local business. The victim told police he was only gone for 10 minutes but that the door of his apartment had been kicked in.

Gun found on sidewalk

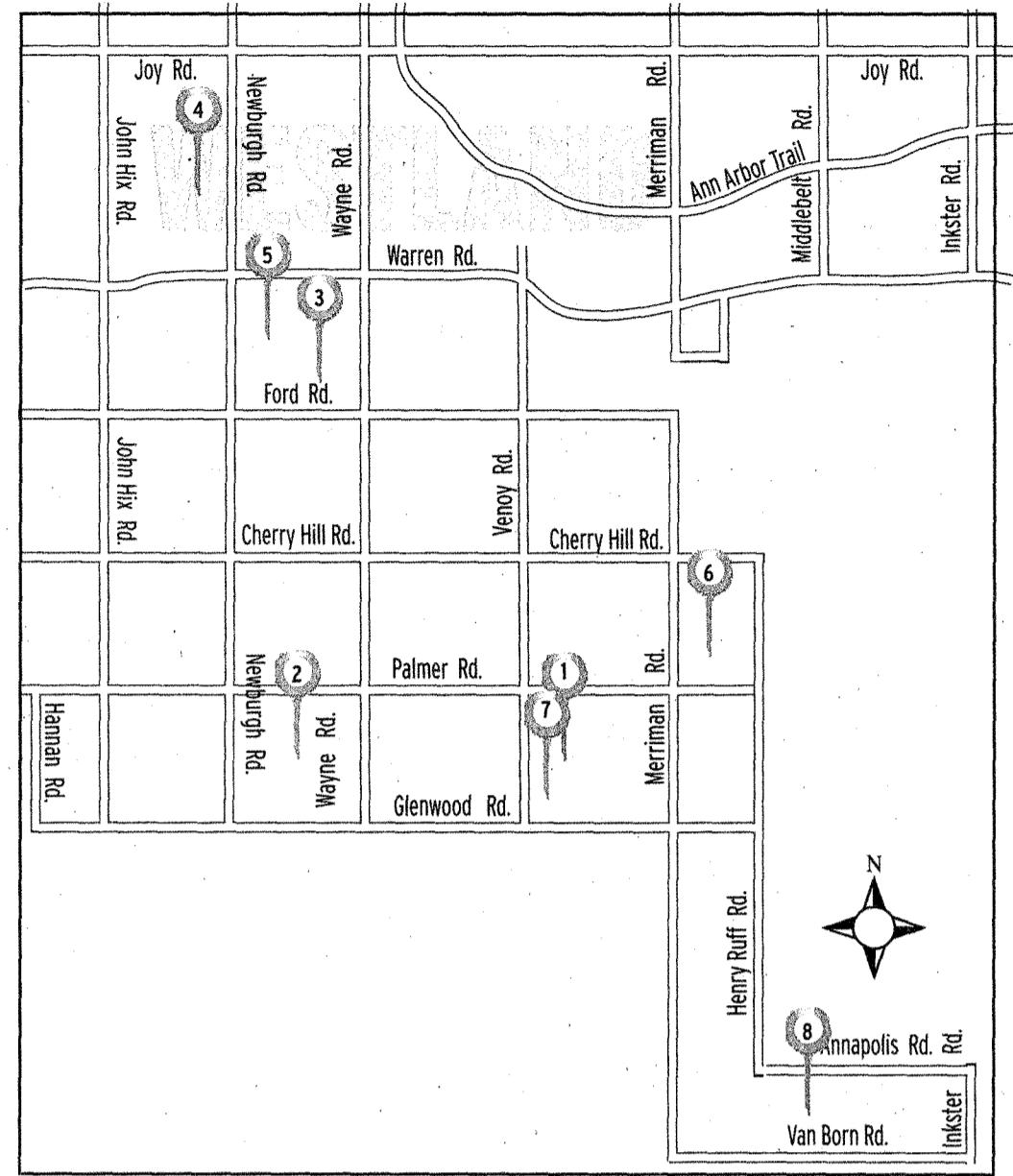
6 An employee of Regal Market, on Merriman north of Palmer, contacted to police to report that a customer found a gun, described as a 9mm Black Ruger, on a sidewalk near the location.

The gun was inside a Meijer shopping bag. Police also found a loaded magazine next to the gun, but no rounds had been loaded into the chamber. Police confiscated the items during the incident that happened about 11:15 a.m. Feb. 13.

Computer, TV stolen

7 A 53-year-old man told police that his home on Mackinac Court, southeast of Palmer and Venoy, was broken into sometime between 3 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, and that a new television and computer were stolen.

The man told police the incident happened when he



had gone to the Westland Kmart store to look for partially smoked cigarettes from an outdoor ash tray. When he returned home, he said, the side door was open.

When asked why he would look for used cigarettes after having spent \$250 on a new television, the victim couldn't

answer, according to police.

Lock cut off storage unit

8 A 31-year-old man reported that some of his personal belongings had been stolen when a lock had been cut off a storage shed at Storage Pros, near the northeast corner of Van Born and Middlebelt,

sometime on Wednesday, Feb. 18. A maintenance man told police that it appeared there may have been damage to other locks, which had been replaced with cheaper padlocks, possibly in an attempt to conceal the crimes.

- By Darrell Clem

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Oakland University Department of Music Hosts
A PIANO LIQUIDATION**

This unique opportunity is your chance to purchase a quality piano for a fraction of the price you would normally pay!

During the past academic year, the Department of Music has been using new pianos through an ongoing loan arrangement with the Yamaha Piano Company. The selection includes grand, player grand, vertical and digital pianos. This special event will also feature a limited number of new and used pianos from Kawai, Steinway, Baldwin, and more.

To Secure the Best Price & Selection A Preview Appointment Prior to Sunday is Recommended by Calling 248-370-2917

Sales, service and delivery conducted by Evola Music Institutional Division.

PUBLIC SALE HOURS: Sunday, March 1st from 11 am - 5 pm

**Spring Celebration
ARTS & CRAFT SHOW**

**Saturday, March 7th
9:00am - 4:00pm**

**\$2.00 Admission
(under 12 free)**

**Large Juried Show of Handcrafted Items Only
Lunch • Bake Sale • Kids Craft Corner
Hourly Door Prize Drawings
Strollers Welcome**

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL WESTLAND

33300 Cowan Rd. (1/2 Mile East of Westland Mall)
For more information call (734)422-2090

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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Look who's 10

Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness in Garden City recently reached a milestone - its 10th anniversary. That's how long the martial arts and fitness studio at 30942 Ford Road, has been offering American Kenpo, STOTT PILATES, Kickboxing and Tai Chi to the community. Owners Kelly and Shelby Perkins opened he studio in a 1,200-square-foot building in 1998 and moved one door east to its current location in 2002, giving them more room to offer additional classes. In 2007, it added Pole Dance Fitness classes to its curriculum and beginning March 7, GMA will add CCW classes. Coming up in late spring, Guardian will add, "Kids Get Growing." Also on tap are Humane Pressure Point Tactic classes. Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness also has a satellite school, located inside Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton. For more information, call (734) 266-0565.

Copper Country treat

Mention pasties and you auto-

matically think of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. You can get one of those Copper Country favorites at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe at 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The pasties are made from an old family recipe that's been passed down for generations.

They made with ground sirloin, potatoes, rutabaga, onions and carrots. They are old fashioned and made fresh in the bakery by Baker Charlie. Stop by and try one. Also available are chicken pot pies and pizza rolls. Call (734) 261-3680 or (888) 715-4479 at least an hour before and Charlie will bake them for you. You can pick them up hot and ready for lunch or dinner.

It's Blizzard time

We're not talking about the weather, we're talking about the Dairy Queen Blizzard ice cream treat.

If you've got a craving for one, you can satisfy it at the Dairy Queen of Garden City. Hey, it may be chilly, but you can get your Blizzard fix at the ice cream stand that's now open for the season. Hours currently are noon to 8:30 p.m. until

the weather warms up. Stop by and go green by ordering a Mint Oreo Blizzard, the flavor of the month for March, or have your favorite sundae or cone. You'll find the Dairy Queen of Michigan at 28825 Ford, east of Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 427-7850.

For your princess

To celebrate the introduction of the new line of Disney youth bedroom furniture, Art Van Furniture is hosting a special Princess event at its Westland store at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Little girls will be treated like a princess for a morning - complete with gowns and tiaras! The morning will feature breakfast, story telling and party favors. Tickets are \$5. Seating is limited, so to reserve a spot call (888) 619-2199. The Westland store is on Wayne Road, north of Warren Road.

Breaking the Boundaries

Members from 16 Chambers of Commerce from the western suburbs, including Westland and Garden City, will have an After-Hours 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, all under the roof of Burton Manor on Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, in Livonia, to "Break the Boundaries"

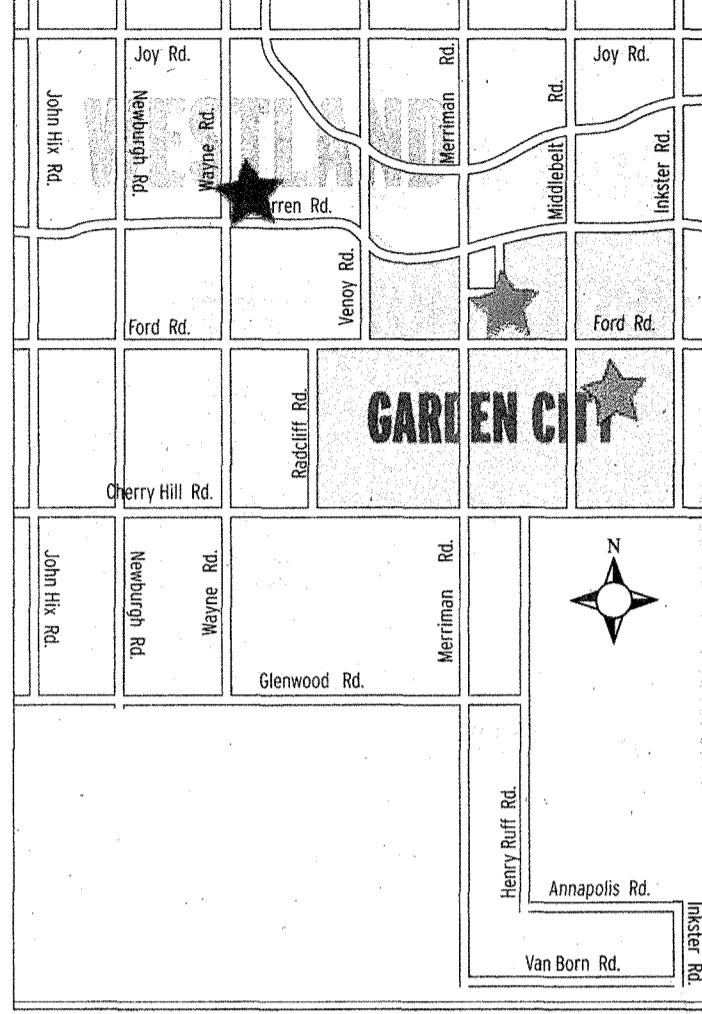
and do some serious networking. Cost is \$10 per person and \$25 for an expo table. Call the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-2222 or the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448 for more information.

GET IN THE RACE

Slot Car Mania at 6527 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland will run a "Run What You Brung" slot car drag race night Saturday, Feb. 28. Qualifying begins at 2 p.m., with races starting at the end of qualifying. For more information, call Slot Car Mania at (734) 469-7087.

SEND IT

Get in on the Strictly Business Page of the Westland and Garden City Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Sue Mason, editor, at smason@hometownlife.com and she'll take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Westland and Garden City Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We look forward to hearing from you.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jocelyn and Jim Kollar of Alleycat Designs offer embroidery and Direct to Garment printing at their store on Wayne Road in Westland.

Alleycat puts its mark on clothing

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of service and/or products you feature.

We provide embroidery, screen printing, airbrushing, and Direct to Garment printing services, ranging from polo shirts for corporate and local businesses to T-shirts for clubs and organizations. We have a variety of wearables at our fingertips including jackets, hats, sweats, T-shirts, polos, uniforms, and more. We service a wide range of customers and a wide range of locations from a fire department in Connecticut to a Parks and Recreation department in West Palm, Florida. Our focus, however, is here locally and in the state of Michigan.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

What makes our business unique is probably our Direct to Garment printer. We invested in this machine for a particular reason. People would come to our store and have this elaborate design they wanted on shirts. When you do screen printing, the price of the item is basically driven by the number of colors in the design. The more colors, the higher the price. With the Direct to Garment printer we can take the design, no matter how many

ALLEYCAT DESIGNS INC.

Business Name: Alleycat Designs Inc.

Business Address: 6647 Wayne Road, Westland

Name and Title: Jim and Jocelyn Kollar, owners

Hometown: Westland for 15 years

Business opened when? March 2000

Number of employees:

Including us, 3

Your business specialty: Embroidery, Direct to Garment printing

Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday

Business phone and Web: (734) 728-7867 and www.alleycatdesigns.com

Observer: How did you decide to open your first business?

In 1997, Jim worked in the automotive industry as a quality assurance manager. He injured his back and it was apparent he would not be able to return. At the same time, Jocelyn managed an airbrush store, Abba Airbrush, in Wonderland Mall. After a little more than a year on worker's compensation and not being able to find a job we met someone who set up a kiosk outside of the airbrush store who was selling embroidered goods. After talking with him several times, he helped us by steering us in the right direction to get started on our own. Jim started the business in the garage at our home. We wanted to be home for our kids as they were young at the time. After six years and the kids getting older and with no room left in the garage, we moved to the store front where we are today.

How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?

We wanted to stay in Westland, close to home. We weren't really sure it would happen. Didn't know if we could financially, but we met the nicest guy that worked for the management company of our current location and they really helped us out a lot. They made it very easy.

colors, and print it directly to the shirt. No setups (unless art work is needed) no minimums, no transfers, no problems. Whether you need 1 or 100, we can do it. This print is nice because you can't feel the ink on the shirt and it washes well. So, if you have a custom design or just want you kids picture on a T-shirt we can do it.

Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?

We really don't have any funny tidbits or stories about being business owners. It's hard work, fun at times. We meet different people. We made some jackets for some Red Wing Alumni once and had to make two for Gordie Howe. That was fun.

Starfish Family Services, a nonprofit agency serving children and families in southeastern Michigan, has received a \$1 million grant from the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation and a \$200,000 grant from the McGregor Fund to support its Family Success Program.

The Family Success Program is designed to help families with young children transition from the daily struggles of poverty to independence and sustainable family success through activities related to community engagement around challenges of poverty through training, mentoring, conferences, and poverty simulations.

The Family Success Model was developed in 2005 and piloted successfully by Starfish founder the late Ouida Cash. The current program will serve more than 60 families in Inkster and surrounding communities over the next three years. Each family assesses its current resources and strengths, sets long-term goals, and works towards those goals with support from Starfish and the community. Graduates of the program are engaged with Starfish staff as co-facilitators and mentors to families new in the program.

"We are humbled and grateful for the generosity from both the Fisher Foundation and the McGregor Fund to help families and children in our community realize their full potential by empowering them with skills, resources, and confidence to move from poverty to sustainable success," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "Through our funding partnerships, we continue on our path to develop a highly effective and replicable poverty program based on a family-centered and respectful approach."

Starfish Family Services offers programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in western Wayne County. They include free early childhood programs, a crisis shelter for teens, after-school and summer programming, an organic children's garden and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services. More information can be found online at www.starfishonline.org.

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One Mile West of Twelve Oaks Mall

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THURSDAY
February 26
2009

Page A6 (W)

Sue Mason, editor
(313) 222-6751
smason@hometownlife.com

LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com

 GANNETT

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.

OUR VIEWS Court deficit merits close look

Westland's 18th District Court is facing a deficit, and in some ways, it's a sign of the times. When things get bad economically, crime increases. You need only look at back issues of your Observer to note the increase in break-ins, assaults and robberies around the city.

According to Police Chief James Ridener, calls for help rose from 43,000 two years ago to 55,000 in 2008.

That kind of an increase pulls police officers off more routine matters like dealing with speeders, drunken drivers, the kinds of offenses that can generate money for 18th District Court through fines.

Last week, Chief Judge Sandra Cicirelli and Ridener met with the City Council to discuss that revenue shortfall, which if not reversed, could eat away at the city's budget surplus. Cicirelli told the council that the economy and a 2,000 drop in traffic tickets last year is part of the \$659,000 revenue drop. Local officials attributed the latter to police officers who wrote less tickets in response to a labor dispute that's since been resolved.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the police department and the court. The former does its job and creates work for the latter. The more work there is, the more opportunity to collect fines. But in these difficult times, major crime takes precedence over minor infractions.

Yes, it is important to get the drunks off the road, slow down the speeders and get the guy who doesn't know how to use a turn signal, but residents want to feel safe in their homes and their businesses. People may remark about where a police officer is when they see a driver blow through a stop sign, but when it comes to crime, they want to know the police will come in a timely fashion. And there is no doubt that Westland police officers will be there.

Residents also have expectations of their court and judges. They want to be heard and expect to be treated fairly and that's just what happens in district court day in and day out. The court and its employees do their job and as a result, have made money for the city in the past years. But these are very lean times.

Pointing fingers will not erase the court's red ink. It has to look at how it does business and find ways to trim expenses and increase revenues. The only question is can it be done with only four months left in this budget year.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

■ Don't blame the police

"Chief Judge Sandra Cicirelli attributed the revenue shortfall largely to a collective decision by Westland police to curb their ticket-writing efforts last summer. Officials said the slowdown was in response to a now-resolved labor dispute with the city administration."

Don't forget the collective decision by the City and City Officials to make sure that police overtime details, such as Drunk Driving and Selective Enforcement (Ticket Writing) were cut in half. No longer is there two officers working such details to help the court generate money. How quick everyone is to judge the police officers when they have no clue the amount of work each officer does with no resources. For a city this size, there should be at least 10 more officers. We all suffer, but let's blame the cops who are out there putting their lives on the line to keep the city safe.

ServingCitizens

Join the discussion

What do you think about ...?

Have you damaged your car, tires, or rims by hitting a pothole in the past year?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

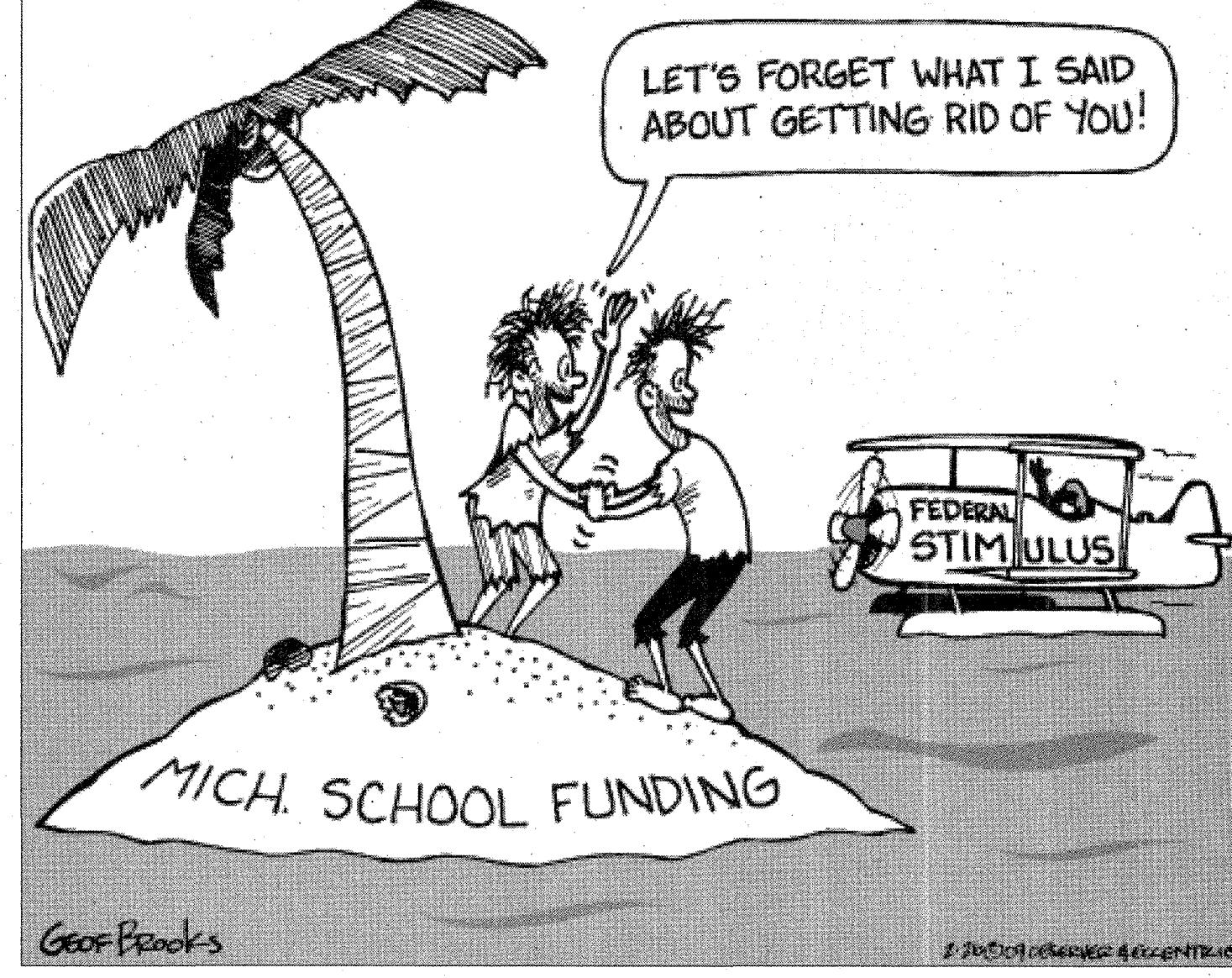
 GANNETT

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Executive Editor



LETTERS

Time for a change

Congress was out of control with all the spending they did over the last eight years. The Republicans were much to blame for the first six of those years, but the Democrats had control over the spending the last two years.

Spending helped put us in this situation, so why does Congress think that more spending can get us out? This stimulus bill is filled with outrageous spending, most of which has nothing to do with stimulating the economy. The bill will create 600,000 new jobs, but they are all government jobs, which will require ongoing taxpayer money to fund them.

Also included in this spending package is: \$30 million for the harvest mouse, \$8 billion for rail train, \$5.5 billion for "green" federal buildings, \$300 million for "green" cars for federal employees. Congress needs to stop spending money that does not belong to them and get off the public free ride. They should be on the same plans we are expected to live with, such as, Medicare and Social Security.

And who decided that Congress should vote on whether or not congressmen get a raise? They should have NO say in whether they get a raise or not. My boss does not give me that option, why should they? Raises should be approved by a public vote.

For that matter, all spending should be approved by public vote. Online voting is a viable option. The Department of Defense has hundreds of programmers and analysts on the payroll doing security scans and checks constantly to make sure no one infiltrates the system.

Congress will tell us that there's "just

What do you think?

Mail comments to the Westland Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

too much for us to vote on," well, in therein lies the problem. We don't need a new law every day to take away more of our money and more of our freedoms. We need less government and more prosperity.

Why pay a congressman \$180,000 a year in salary alone to do what can be done online in a matter of minutes. This would save taxpayers about \$110,000,000 in salaries alone, not to mention, the money spent on offices, staff, health care, travel, etc.

It's time for a change WE can believe in, not the rhetoric of the same old "tax and spend" that Washington has been feeding us forever and a day.

Phil Solarz
Westland

GOP is bankrupt of ideas

It appears that the Republican Party, including all seven of Michigan's GOP members of Congress, has settled on a consistent strategy for obstructing President Obama's efforts to restore an American economy already ruined by Republican stupidity. Utterly bankrupt of ideas and still parroting their same tired and failed conservative economic nonsense, the GOP has also resurrected a long-discredited bogeyman in

the form of phony claims about alleged "socialism." In the Republican mindset, economic and tax policies that put more money into the pockets of working-class Americans are the quintessence of evil, a devious Marxist plot to redistribute income from the persecuted elites downward to the unwashed masses, meaning American working families.

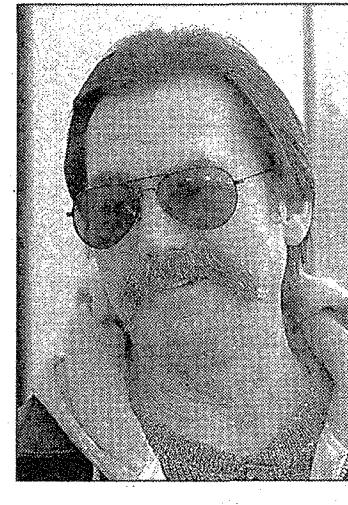
Meanwhile, in a sick and pathetic affront to patriotism, Republicans and their anointed leader Rush Limbaugh are also openly hoping and even cheering for the American economy to further fail, hoping this ultimately helps them politically no matter what the consequences are for American families. This treasonous conduct exposes the GOP once and for all as devoid of integrity and a political party whose appeal is primarily to ignorance, bigotry and hatemongering. How ironic it is that these are the same Republicans that previously questioned the patriotism of those who had correctly challenged the Bush's administration's lies that led to the invasion of Iraq.

The hypocrisy of the current Republican whining about alleged socialism is all the more absurd following more than 30 years of fraudulent conservative economic policies in America. These policies resulted in a massive upward redistribution of income from the poor and middle classes and into the pockets to those already possessing great wealth. As the inevitable failure of an unregulated market economy now unfolds with catastrophic results, President Barack Obama's responses are a long overdue return to intelligence and common sense.

Joe Golonka
Westland

COMMUNITY VOICE

With gas prices low, have you changed your driving habits?
We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Garden City post office.



"No, I've been retired for about a year and a half and I pretty much do what I want to do."

Skip Sikora
Westland



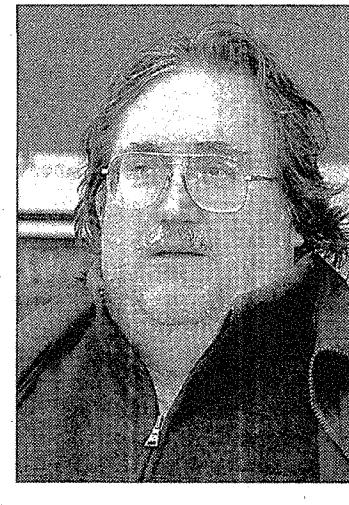
"Yes, I'm driving more. I went hunting a lot more this year. I think we're all worrying about it going up again."

Jon Ferrell
Westland



"No, I combine trips and I'm not going to my daughter's as much. When you're on a limited income, it's hard."

Anne Wallen
Canton

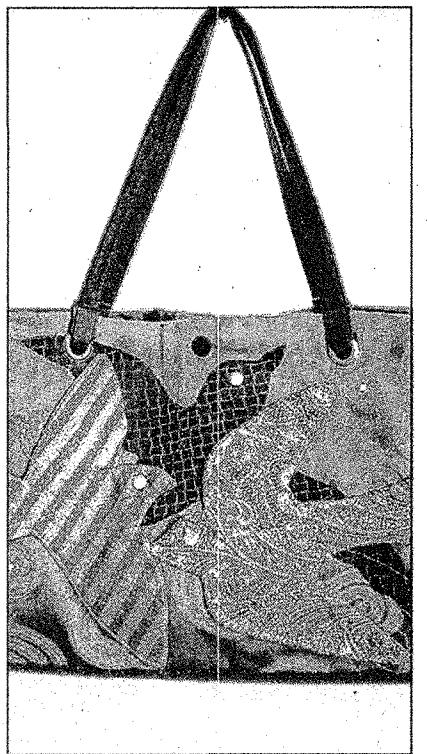


"No, because I'm as frugal as I was before. I try to get two-three errands done in one shot."

John Davidson
Westland

MALLS & MAINSTREETS**Magic Bag purse show**

Canton handbag designer Michele Kramp will preview her Spring 2009 Magic Bag Lady line, made from recycled fabrics and findings, during a trunk show at Heavenly Metal in Ann Arbor 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 6. Shop for handbags and browse the store's clothing, jewelry and artwork while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres at the shop, located at 207 E. Ann St. Call (734) 663-4247, visit www.heavenlymetal.com, or RSVP at themagicbaglady@yahoo.com.



E-mail items for consideration in Malls & Main Streets at least two weeks in advance to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wwonb@hometownlife.com.

NEIMAN MARCUS BEAUTY EVENT

TROY — Purchase \$100 or more in cosmetics or fragrance and receive an NM Exclusive tote in pink, turquoise or orange filled with nine colorful treats during The Beauty Event, through March 8. Spend \$1,000 in cosmetics or fragrance and get \$100 off your total purchase on the spot. Visit Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy or online at www.neimannmarcus.com.

ADELE WECHSLER APPEARANCE

TROY — The Bridal Salon at Macy's Somerset will host couture wedding gown designer Adele Wechsler as she takes appointments during her trunk show, Feb. 27-March 1. Wechsler is known for timeless gowns, emphasized by sheer overlays which flirt with light and movement. Call (248) 816-4270 or visit the store, 2752 West Big Beaver Road, Troy.

PAMPER THE BRIDE AND BEYOND

SOUTHFIELD — Silver Garden of Southfield will host the third annual "Pamper the Bride & Beyond" Bridal Expo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at Silver Garden in Southfield.

This event will feature interactive workshops, live music, exclusive exhibitors, giveaways, pamper services, a Spotlight Fashion Showcase and a "Grooms Lounge." Call (248) 809-2117 or visit www.pamperthebrideexpo.com.

PARISIAN HOSTS COMMUNITY DAY

LIVONIA — Shop for a cause as Parisian hosts Community Day Feb. 28. Purchase a \$5 booklet stocked full of discounts good for that day only, and proceeds from the sale of the coupon books will benefit various local charities. The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. recently announced over \$10 million was raised for local non-profit organizations and agencies through its 2008 semi-annual Community Day events. Parisian is located at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Village of Rochester Hills.

BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT

ROYAL OAK — The Relationship Institute will stage "Beauty From the Inside Out," a women's workshop on using food, meditation and mind/body integration to enhance natural beauty, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 28. It's three hours with three dynamic women — Kelly Hale, founder/director of Inspired Wellness in Birmingham and Brain Gym instructor; Andrea McNinch, culinary arts educator specializing in raw/vegan foods and founder of Regeneration Raw; and Shirley Bavone, social worker and founder of the Relationship Institute. Cost is \$45 per person or \$75 for two people attending together. The Relationship Institute is located at 27172 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Call (248) 546-0407 or visit www.relationship-institute.com.

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Spring fashion is unleashed at benefit for BBYO

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Times may be tough, but it's still easy to be fashionable.

Just take some cues from Fashion Unleashed, 8:30-10:30 p.m. March 7 at Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield. The annual runway event benefits Michigan Region B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, and BBYO teens model the clothes each year.

This year, they'll be wearing the latest looks from The Shirt Box, Guys 'N Gals and Moosejaw.

Lois Levenson, owner of Guys 'N Gals at the Orchard Mall, will act as emcee.

Levenson has been in business for 33 years, and has lent clothing from her trendy shop to Fashion Unleashed since it began.

Her daughter, Julie Feldman, served as president and treasurer for BBYO as a teen. Now, as co-owner of Guys 'N Gals, she helps to organize the fashion show.

"It's a great organization," said Feldman, who graduated from West Bloomfield High School. "It keeps kids busy and involved in their community, it promotes community service and lets them meet different kids from all over."

Feldman said the outfits she's sending down the catwalk will reflect the bright colors, ruffles and dresses that are in vogue.

"It's all spring and light and fun and airy," she said. "Dresses are huge, so I'll definitely be doing a segment with dresses."

The bohemian look is also hot, Feldman said, and there are many ways to wear it.

"It's 'hippie chic,'" she said. "Maxi dresses, loose fitting tops, maybe with embroidery, little hippie headbands with feathers at the end, long beaded earrings. How cute will all that look on the runway?"

But if a gal can only buy one

FASHION UNLEASHED

What: Runway show featuring clothes from The Shirt Box, Guys 'N Gals and Moosejaw

When: 8:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Where: Orchard Mall, Orchard Lake Road north of Maple, West Bloomfield

Tickets: \$15; \$10 students; \$250 pre-glow; proceeds benefit Michigan Region B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

item for spring it should be a scarf, Feldman said. Look for lightweight, colorful scarves, with or without fringe.

"That's a great way to update your wardrobe. Throw it on with a dress, or with tank tops and jeans or shorts," Feldman said.

Tickets to Fashion Unleashed are \$10 for students; \$15 for general admission; and \$250 for a pre-glow at Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry with wine and hors d'oeuvres, along with prime seats at the show.

All proceeds benefit Michigan Region BBYO, a non-profit organization that provides leadership training, educational, social, athletic and community service programs for Jewish teenagers from all backgrounds.



Stephanie Horwitz of West Bloomfield, regional president for B'nai B'rith Girls, models clothing from Guys 'N Gals at last year's Fashion Unleashed.

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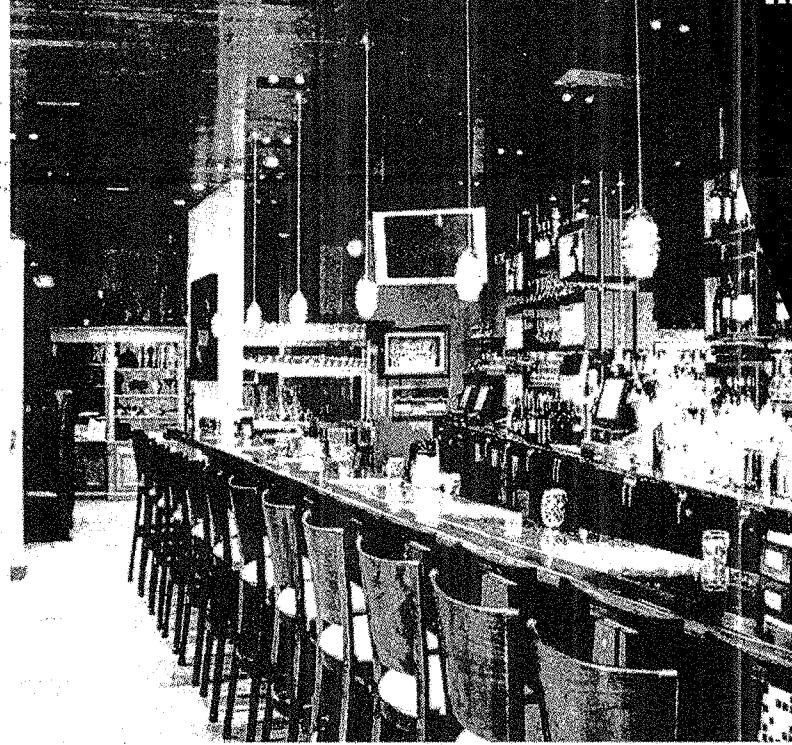
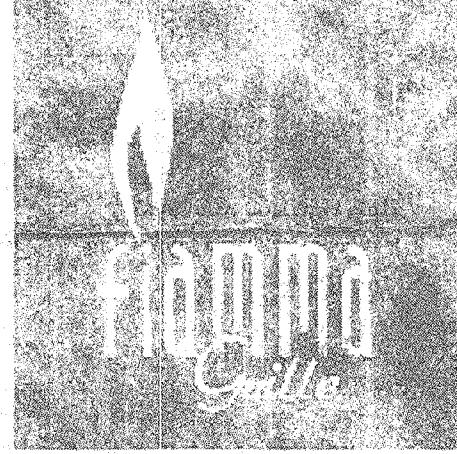
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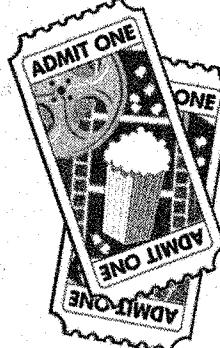
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February 26
2009

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(LW)

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HOMETOWN LIFE



Girl Scout Cookie Gala challenge

- Food & Wine, B8

Rocks crush Franklin's conference title dreams

Hot shooting sparks 50-39 triumph

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early this season, when his 1-6 team was performing as poorly as the economy, Salem girls basketball coach Fred Thomann offered the following stimulus plan to his out-of-sync squad: Let's start playing together.

The Rocks not only bought into the plan, they've executed it to near-perfection.

The ensuing dividends have included 11 wins in 12 games — the latest Tuesday night's 50-39 victory over Livonia Franklin in the KLAA's Kensington Conference title game.

Salem will take its 12-7 record into Friday night's KLAA Association championship contest against White Lake Lakeland. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m. at Salem.

"When we were 1-6, this group of players said, 'Hey, let's change this thing around,'" said Thomann. "They said, 'Let's come together. Let's play as a group. Let's make sure that we don't go out of here leaving something behind.'

"And, at this point of time, they haven't left anything behind."

Salem rocked at both ends of the court, shooting 51.5

percent (17-for-33) from the field while forcing the Patriots into a 15-for-48 (31.2 percent) shooting night.

Senior post players Chelsea Davis (17 points and nine rebounds) and Tracy Whalen (12 points and 12 boards) led the winners' onslaught. Junior guards Sara Stone and Brett de Bear added 11 and five points, respectively.

"When we were 1-6, I'm not sure we expected things to turn out like this," admitted a smiling Whalen, a transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy, just a few seconds after admiring her team's newest trophy.

"But we did know that we'd come together eventually."

Thomann called it Whalen's best game of the year.

"She rebounded, defended and scored," the Salem coach said. "She was awesome tonight. I thought Chelsea did a fabulous job, too, and our three perimeter players (Stone, de Bear and Victoria Brotz), did a nice job of helping on the twins."

The twins Thomann made reference to were Franklin senior dynamos Briauna and Brittany Taylor, who scored 13 and 10 points, respectively. Sophomore guard Chelsea Williams also played well, scoring eight.

The Patriots' biggest downfall was their performance at the free-throw line, where they connected on just 8-of-19 attempts (42 percent).

"It was a hard-fought basketball game," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We've been a good free-throw shooting team this season, but that's what let us down tonight. We missed our free throws and they made theirs."

"Plus, Salem made fewer mental errors than we did. That's what it boiled down to."

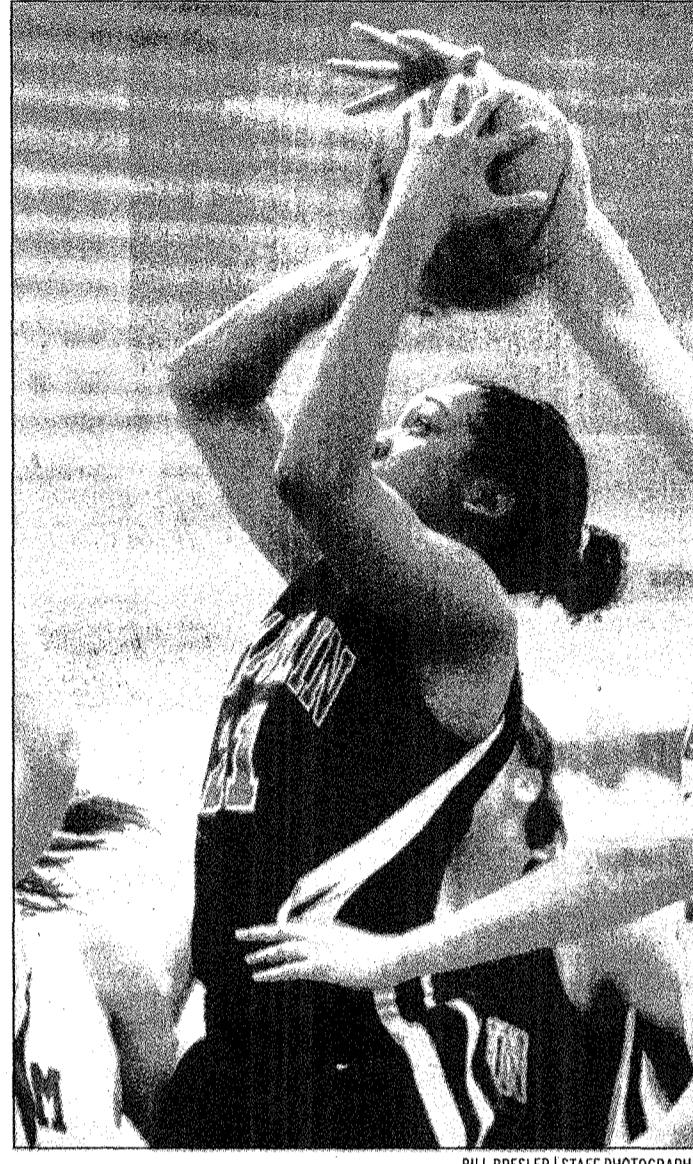
The game was knotted at 18-all at the half before Salem reeled off an 11-4 run to start the third and seize a short-lived 29-22 advantage.

Sparked by an inspired defensive effort, the Patriots closed their deficit to 33-32 with 5:31 to play on a steal-and-layup sequence by Briauna Taylor.

However, Brotz drained a pair of free throws with 4:47 left, Whalen hit a jumper 37 seconds later and Davis drilled two freebies on the Rocks' next possession and, just like that, Salem's lead had expanded to 39-32.

The Rocks knocked down seven free throws during the final 94 seconds to seal the win.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Briauna Taylor gets her shot blocked from behind in Tuesday's Kensington Conference championship game.

Crusaders head south with potent offensive attack

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



MADONNA UNIVERSITY BASEBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

Head coach: Greg Haeger (13th season).

League affiliation: Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Last year's overall record: 37-14.

Titles won last year: WHAC regular season and playoff champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Levi Cheshire (All-NAIA Region VIII); Will Kennedy (All-NAIA Region VIII); John McCracken (All-NAIA VIII).

Leading returnees: Kevin Zerbo, Sr. Inf. (.377, 9 homers, 46 RBI; WHAC Co-Player of Year); Jeff Sonnenberg, Sr. RHP (3-2, 2.50 ERA);

Ryan Morrow, Sr. Inf.; Aaron Hacias, Sr. 3B; Shawn Little, Sr. OF; Tarik Khasawneh, Soph. C; Scott Boyer, Sr. OF; Dominic Benevidas, Soph. SS; Mike Gansser, Soph. SS; Keegan Beaton, Jr. RHP.

Promising newcomers: Kyle Bolton, Jr. RHP; Drew Adamiec, Soph. C; Zach Flavin, Jr. DH; Tom Hansen, Fr. LHP; Robert Fraser, Fr. RHP; Trent Pohl, Soph. RHP; Andy Omilian, Fr. RHP; Chris Kangas, Fr. LHP.

be considered," Haeger said of Pohl.

Who takes the mound after that is anybody's guess with two freshman, right-hander Robert Fraser (John Glenn) and Tom Hansen (Rochester Adams) showing early promise.

Meanwhile, the closer's role could go to another freshman — Andy Omilian (Novi Detroit Catholic Central).

"He's tough to hit, a sub-

mariner with a good arm," Haeger said.

Although there are more questions than answers on the mound, the Crusaders will more than live up to their No. 26 NAIA preseason ranking because of their ability to put runs on the board.

The offensive attack is led by WHAC Co-Player of the Year Kevin Zerbo, a senior infielder from Farmington

Hills Harrison who hit .377 last year with nine homers, 13 doubles and 46 RBI.

Third baseman Aaron Hacias, another senior, also adds punch to the already potent lineup.

"Those two guys are one-two in the conference in offensive numbers," Haeger said. "We also have a lot of team speed and a lot of power. It's a good offensive team, maybe the best I've ever had one-through-nine."

The Crusaders swing into their 21st season Saturday in a double-header against St. Xavier (Ill.) as part of the RussMatt Invitational in Winter Haven, Fla.

MU opens its home slate March 29 against Davenport University at Ilitch Ballpark.

"With so many new arms it's tough to tell," Haeger said. "But if we pitch well we'll be OK."

Haeger can only hope his pitching staff performs, and the defense, performs much better than Leyland's Tigers did in 2008.

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Patriots, John Glenn both excel at wrestling district

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Both Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn will be sending large contingents to Saturday's upcoming Division 1 individual wrestling regional at Brownstown-Woodhaven.

Franklin earned pair individual district crowns and five runner-up finishes at Saturday at Livonia Stevenson.

The Patriots, who advanced eight, received individual titles from seniors Don Strat (160 pounds) and Cody Hay (211).

Runner-up finishers included senior Mike Modes (285), junior Paul Hanni (103), sophomore Steve Tuyo (112), senior Elvin Ferreira (145) and senior Brandon Billiou (152), while senior Garrett Hay (171) added a third.

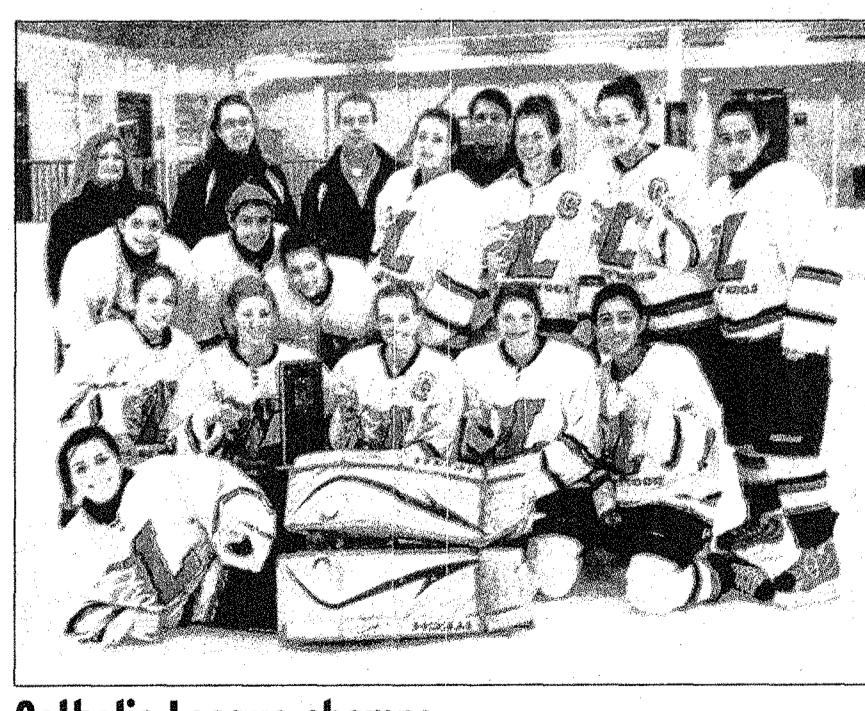
"Overall I was pleased with getting eight out, plus it's the most finalists

we've ever had (seven)," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "I knew going in we might get 10 out we might get two. I think the same thing for this weekend. We might get them all through to 'state,' but nobody is a sure thing."

Stratz, who defeated Dearborn Fordson's Lawrence Zeidan with a technical fall in 4:48, is now 48-4 overall.

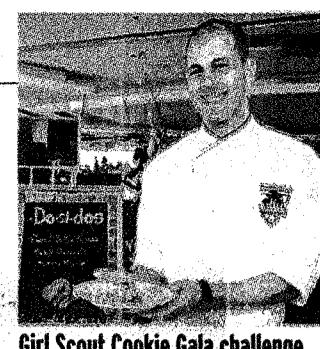
Hay, who upended University of Detroit Jesuit's Will Lamping, 10-8, in the final, is 45-10 overall. "Right now (Don) Stratz is wrestling great and Cody Hay had the tournament of his life," Chiola said. "Going into (this) Saturday it's going to be more about mental toughness than anything physical. There's going to be a lot of matches that come down to a last-second takedown or overtime, and when it's a senior who loses it's that much harder to take. I

Please see WRESTLING, B2



Catholic League champs

Jessica Pavela turned away 20 shots for the shutout as Livonia Ladywood captured its fifth consecutive Catholic League girls hockey championship Saturday with a 4-0 win over Farmington Hills Mercy at Orchard Lake St. Mary's rink. Shelby Kucharski notched her 42nd and 43rd goals of the season in the first period (from Katie Folk) second period (from Julie Bushart). In the third period, Erin Doyle added a pair of goals with Kucharski and Eman Freij assisting on the first, while the other was unassisted as the Blazers improved to 10-9-1 overall. Mercy netminder Alessi Nehr made 28 saves as the Marlins fall to 14-6 overall.



Girl Scout Cookie Gala challenge

- Food & Wine, B8

GAME WRAPS

KLAA girls basketball

STEVENSON 52, JOHN GLENN 34:

Kaylee McGrath returned to the lineup Tuesday from a sprained ankle to score 13 points and grab 10 rebounds to lead host Livonia Stevenson (7-12) to a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover win over Westland John Glenn (7-12).

Eleven of 13 Spartans scored as McGrath, a senior center, hit 7-of-8 free throws while Stevenson was 17-of-22 overall as a team.

Sophomore Kristen Balhorn grabbed 11 rebounds and sophomore Tasi Newton added seven points for the victorious Spartans, who trailed 11-5 after one quarter before outscoring the Rockets 20-8 in the second period to take command.

Chanel Payne led Glenn with 14 points, while Brandi Holbrook added six. Senior center Brittany Holbrook went down with a sprained ankle in the first quarter and did not return.

NORTHLAKE 41, CHURCHILL 33:

Julia Ramey tallied 12 points and Chelsea Atzinger added 10 Tuesday as the host Mustangs (11-8) turned back Livonia Churchill (9-10) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Northville trailed 28-24 after three quarters before going on a 17-5 fourth-period run. The Mustangs made 16-of-18 free throws.

Senior Alysa Boldizar led the Chargers with 10 points.

S. LYON EAST 46, WAYNE 35:

Three players scored in double figures Tuesday as host South Lyon East (2-17) earned the Kensington Conference crossover win over Wayne Memorial (2-17).

Freshman Taylor Jones led the way with 12 points, while juniors Kate Grunwald and Courtney Emery contributed 11 each to avenge a 39-35 setback to the Zebras on Jan. 13.

Senior center Samantha Dye led Wayne with 11 points and 15 rebounds, while junior guard Allie Coleman scored 10 points.

Other girls games

LUTH. WESTLAND 37,

CLARENCEVILLE 27: In Tuesday's Metro Conference fifth-place consolation game, host Lutheran High Westland (9-8) used defensive trap to stymie Clarenceville (4-15).

Senior guard Allyson Yankee led the victorious Warriors with 14 points, while senior forward Katelyn Ramthun added eight points and six rebounds. Junior forward Rachel Stork also scored eight points and grabbed five boards.

Jenna Burgess scored eight points for the Trojans.

Warriors' coach Bill Strang credited Clarenceville for playing hard and mixing up defenses to try and bother the Warriors.

"We were constantly adjusting our offenses," he said. "They made us work hard for the victory."

LUTH. SOUTH 55, HURON VALLEY 38:

On Tuesday, juniors Hannah Nielson and April Broska scored 21 and 20 points, respectively, leading Newport Lutheran South (12-5) to the nonleague win over host Westland Huron Valley (3-15).

Junior Claire Wood and sophomore Katie Nell each scored eight for the Hawks, who led 14-9 after one quarter before being outscored 25-10 in the second period.

"We came out strong in the first quarter, but then turnovers killed us in the second quarter," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said. "We let them have too many easy layups. Nielson and Broska are nice ballplayer. They do a great job of attacking the basket."

LADYWOOD 60, SHRINE 36:

Livonia Ladywood (9-10) tuned up for next week's Class A district with a win Monday night at home over Royal Oak Shrine (8-10).

The Blazers led by only five at intermission, 28-23, before going on a 17-4 third-quarter run.

Senior forward Caitlin Szczypka led the victorious Blazers with 13 points. Teammate Molly Gacioch added nine, while Sarah Jury contributed seven.

Shrine (8-10) stayed close in the first half by making 15-of-17 free throws.

Matti Baltrusaitis and Halley Wangler led Shrine with 12 points apiece.

Naubert's night

Stevenson guard nets 26 points in surprise victory over Wayne

Bobby Naubert went off in the final quarter, scoring 13 of his game-high 26 points Monday night to give Livonia Stevenson an upset 60-58 boys basketball win over host Wayne Memorial.

The junior guard, who also dished out six assists, ignited a 27-16 fourth-quarter run as the Spartans improved to 10-6 overall and upended the South Division champions in a KLAAs crossover.

Jordan El-Sabeh, a junior forward, chipped in with 17 points, including eight in the final period. He nailed 4-of-4 free throws.

"This is a great win for our program and should give the kids some confidence going into district play," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "Wayne was undefeated at home this season, but our kids proved to be resilient battling back from a double-digit deficit in the fourth and leaving their gym victorious."

"Naubert was spectacular once again, but the hero of tonight's game was El-Sabeh

KLAAs BOYS BASKETBALL

making two clutch shots down the stretch to keep us in the game. Bobby and Jordan both grew up a little bit tonight."

Ricky Chrzasz (seven points) Mark Grisa (six points, four blocks) also made key baskets in the late-going for the Spartans.

"We've been struggling with illness and injuries for the past couple weeks so it was nice to come away with a quality win on the road," Allie said. "Nick Tomasi received his first start of the season and played with tremendous poise. It is important that the team remains even-keeled as we approach playoff time."

Robert Woodson paced the Zebras (12-5) with 16 points, while Jimmell Bennett and Daniel Hill added 14 and 12, respectively.

It was 25-all at halftime before the Zebras seemingly took control with a 17-8 surge in the third quarter. Wayne led

by as many as 13 in the fourth quarter before the Spartans stormed back.

"The fourth quarter we did not take care of the basketball," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "And we did not make free throws (3-of-9) where they (Stevenson) made 7-of-8. It's really disappointing. And we got off to a slow start."

SOUTH LYON 56, CHURCHILL 38: Poor shooting cost Livonia Churchill (7-10) dearly Monday in a KLAAs crossover setback to the Central Division champion Lions (13-4).

The Chargers made only 14-of-46 from the floor (30.4 percent), including only 4-of-18 from three-point range.

Senior forward Justin Hartman led a balanced South Lyon scoring attack with 12 points. Senior point-guard Jordan Short added 11, including 7-of-8 from the foul stripe. Mike Fenner added 10.

"We had trouble scoring and they (South Lyon) played well defensively," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They also rebound well. And they forced us into some tough shots. We just have to learn from it and play better."

Senior guard Ryan Woods led

the Chargers with 12 points, while senior guard Scott Senczyszyn added nine. Junior forward Adam Bedell had 10 rebounds.

KETTERING 49, JOHN GLENN 46: Mark Woodset's two free throws with only 32 seconds left gave Detroit Kettering (7-6) the lead for keeps en route to a non-league win Tuesday at Westland John Glenn (9-6).

Tyrone Pride led the victorious Pioneers with 18 points, including four 3-pointers. Kettering made only 9-of-17 foul shots on the night, but hit 7-of-9 in the final period.

Senior guard Austin Anderson led the Rockets with 19 points, while senior forward Dorian Prather added 11. Glenn was 8-of-13 from the foul line.

SALEM 58, FRANKLIN 53: Senior guard Joe Posler scored 20 of his game-high 24 points in the first half Monday as the visiting Rocks (7-10) held off a late Livonia Franklin (6-11) rally for a KLAAs crossover title.

Salem led 35-23 at intermission before the Patriots made a game of it in the second half.

Junior guard Charles Williams added 11 points for Salem.

Connor Leidal, a senior forward, tallied 15 for the Patriots, while Jeff Poole, Jack Chinivare and Andy McCaffery added nine apiece.

The host Spartans were led by senior 140-pounder Raz Markosian, who notched his 50th win of the season when he avenged an Observerland Invitational loss to Redford Union's Dwuan Burris in the district final, 7-6.

Stevenson also got a second from senior Mitch Gonzales (135), and fourths from both junior Josh Seibert (160) and junior Andrew Schramm (189).

Churchill, meanwhile, received fourth places from sophomore John Bannoura (130), senior Bryan Fortney (135), senior Grant Morgan (152) and junior Curtis Castleberry (171).

Mann propels Rockets

Glenn senior Jimmy Mann raised his overall record to 37-3 by winning the 160-pound individual district title Saturday at 140 pounds with a 7-5 decision over Billy Osborne of host Temperance Bedford.

The Rockets also gained runner-up finishes from junior Steve Wakeford (103), senior Anthony Pavlich (125), senior Jared Stephens (135), senior Zaid Ammar (152) and junior Dustin Gajowiak (285).

Also qualifying for Glenn was third-place finisher Joshua Austin, a junior at 119; and fourth-place finisher Zach Redden, a junior at 160.

Wayne Memorial senior Tevin Hines (135) also placed third to raise his overall record to 45-11.

C'ville qualifies pair

Seniors Jake Ruth (125) and Derek Robbins (171) earned spots in Saturday's Division 3 individual regional at Williamston after both placed fourth last weekend at Richmond.

Ruth, 27-9 overall, has bounced back from a month-long illness.

"He willed himself back to health, he was the eighth seed and I don't know how he made it to regional," Clarenceville coach Anthony Saliccioli said.

Warriors' trio advance

Lutheran High Westland's Stephen Kemp ran his overall record to 38-3 by winning the 160-pound weight class with a 12-7 decision over Clinton's Drew Porter in the Division 4 individual district Saturday at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

The Warriors' Brad LaRose (119) and Laith Francis (125) also advanced this weekend to Manchester with runner-up finishes at the district.

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Trojans roll into Metro tourney semifinals

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ten different players found the score sheet Monday night for host Livonia Clarenceville in a 77-43 boys basketball win over Macomb Lutheran North in the opening round of the Metro Conference playoffs.

Setting the tone was senior swingman Jamie Stewart, who tallied nine of his game-high 21 points.

Clarenceville, now 11-7 overall, advances to the semifinals to play 7 p.m. Friday at home against Lutheran Westland, a 67-59 winner Monday over Hamtramck.

Lady Ocelots (25-2) set conference mark

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Trojans jumped out to a 42-25 halftime lead and were never headed.

Keeping the ball rolling in the second half were senior guards Corey Reynolds (12 points, 12 rebounds), Darryl Whitaker (13 points, five steals) and senior forward Jeremy Gainer (10 points, eight rebounds).

Senior forward Kevin Geisler led the Mustangs (3-14) with 11 points.

HURON VALLEY 62, LUTH. SOUTH 56: On Tuesday, visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (9-5) erupted for 27

points in the third quarter to build a 55-34 edge and then hung on for dear life in the fourth to hold off a late rally by Newport Lutheran South (7-8).

Bryan Gruenewald had another stellar game for the Hawks with a game-high 22 points, including five treys as well as seven rebounds.

Aaron Howell added 12 points, while Chad Fielek contributed 10 points and seven rebounds.

Jacob Diroff scored 18 for the Saints.

U-D JESUIT 72, CLARENCEVILLE 56: On Saturday, Livonia Clarenceville (10-7) suffered a nonconference setback to University of Detroit-Jesuit (12-4) at U-D Mercy's Calihan Hall.

Difficulty trying to keep UD's 6-8 senior center Jordan Morgan

in check hampered Clarenceville. Morgan, who is headed for University of Michigan, led all players with 23 points.

Clarenceville trailed by just four points early in the fourth before "massive foul trouble" helped the home team build a commanding lead down the stretch.

"Eventually their size and strength wore us down," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said. "Jalen (Reynolds), Jamie and Jeremy were all in foul trouble pretty much from the start trying to guard their big fellas (Morgan)."

Stewart and Clark paced the Trojans with 17 and 14 points, respectively. Chipping in with eight points and eight rebounds in just 12 minutes of play was Reynolds (Morgan).

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KLAA championship goes to Livonia Blue

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Blue needed an all-time high scoring effort Saturday to win the inaugural Kensington Lakes Activities Association girls gymnastics meet held at Walled Lake Central.

Blue finished with a team total of 148.325 to hold off a stiff challenge by Northville, which scored 147.15. Howell was a distant third with 140.000, while Livonia Red took seventh with a 136.35.

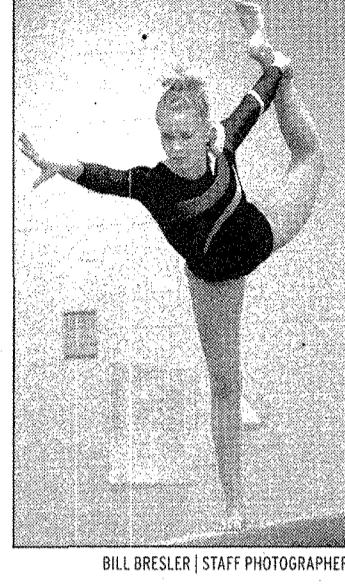
Blue, undefeated during the dual meet season at 7-0, got a first place all-around performance in Division 2 by senior Laura Nomura (36.075), along with a runner-up finish in Division 1 from junior Emily Quint (37.475).

Nomura won the vault (9.7), while teammate Alex Kitz captured the uneven bars (88.875).

Also in the Division 1 all-around, Blue's Meghan Powers placed fourth (36.975) and Brittany Janis added a fifth (36.825).

Powers was able to bounce back from a nasty fall on the balance beam last Thursday during the final dual meet of the season against Northville.

"Meghan had a strong meet, she came back and really stepped it up," Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "She also had her high score of the year on floor exercise with a 9.5 (third). She had an 8.9 on beam (eighth). I'm happy with her and she's



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Blue's Emily Quint, doing her routine on the balance beam, was runner-up in the Division 2 all-around at last Saturday's KLAA meet held at Walled Lake Central.

happy she was able to compete in the all-around."

Livonia Blue now has two weeks off until returning to action Saturday, March 7 for the regional at Plymouth High where it should be another tight duel between Livonia Blue and Northville.

"These two weeks we'll work on some new things as well as cleaning up our old skills and stay on top of everything," Fierk said. "Northville has a very strong skill set on beam. That's something we'll work on. We hope to stay in the competition spirit."

PREP GYMNASTICS

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GIRLS GYMNASTICS MEET
Feb. 21 at Walled Lake Central

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Blue, 148.325

points; 2. Northville, 147.15; 3. Howell, 140.00; 4. Canton, 139.00; 5. Brighton, 138.35; 6. Walled Lake Maroon, 136.675; 7. Livonia Red, 136.35; 8. Salem, 135.10; 9. Walled Lake Gold, 132.125; 10. Plymouth, 119.05; 11. Hartland, 32.00.

DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Janis (Blue), 9.05; 8. Powers (Blue), 8.9.

Floor exercise: 1. Presley (N'Ville), 9.7; 2. Quint (Blue), 9.65; 3. Powers (Blue), 9.5; 8. Janis (Blue), 9.2; 10. (tie) Charniga (Blue) and DiMaura (Red), 9.05 each.

All-around: 1. Presley (N'Ville), 37.65; 2. Quint (Blue), 37.475; 4. Powers (Blue), 36.975; 5. Janis (Blue), 36.825.

DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Vault: 1. Laura Nomura (Blue), 9.7; 4. Alex Kitz (Blue), 9.0.

Uneven bars: 1. Kitz (Blue), 8.875; 4. Katina St. Pierre (Red), 8.5; 6. Sarah Bridges (Blue), 8.45.

Balance beam: 1. Amanda Rohkoh (Howell), 9.4;

5. Nomura (Blue), 9.1; 9. Sally Osenoski (Red), 8.9.

Floor exercise: 1. Nicole Jacobs (Salem), 9.35;

2. Nomura (Blue), 9.25; 8. St. Pierre (Red), 8.85.

All-around: 1. Nomura (Blue), 36.075; 10. St. Pierre (Red), 34.20.

Division 3 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Lauren Kitz (Blue), 9.1; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.05; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 8.975;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 8.925; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 8.85.

Floor exercise: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 4 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 5 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 6 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 7 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 8 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 9 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 10 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 11 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 12 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Quint (Blue), 9.575; 3. Brittanly Janis (Blue), 9.475;

6. Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.275; 8. Meghan Powers (Blue), 9.2.

Uneven bars: 1. Chloe Presley (N'Ville), 9.65;

3. Powers (Blue), 9.375; 7. Janis (Blue), 9.1; 9. Dalia Shafie (Blue), 8.9; 10. Quint (Blue), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Monica Cauley (Howell), 9.75;

3. Quint (Blue), 9.4; 4. Alicia DiMaura (Red), 9.35; 7.

Division 13 Individual Results

Vault: 1. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6; 2. Emily

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

2/26/09

1-800-579-7355 • fax 586-826-7318
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

THERESA M. ANTICZAK
Age 85. Of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away February 8, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.



PENELOPE S. AVESIAN
February 24, 2009. Age 61. Beloved wife of Paul. Dear mother of Berger, Rachel Rabidoux (Jason) and Katie. Sister of Sam Halkias (Carol). Memorial service Friday 11 a.m. at Highland Park Baptist Church, 28600 Lahser Rd. (south of Twelve Mile), Southfield. Memorial tributes to the LUNGevity Foundation, Penelope Avesian Memorial Fund, 435 N. LaSalle St., Ste 310, Chicago, IL 60654 or Detroit Country Day Friends of the Arts Association, 22305 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Beverly Hills, MI 48025. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



CHERYL A. BELL

February 22, 2009. Beloved wife of Robert. Dear mother of Robert (Jennifer), Chris (Elaine), Heather Tuggle, Sean (Brandy). Daughter of the late Michael and Pauline Jarvis. Loving grandmother of Bobby, Katie, Allie, Evan, Emily, Trysten, Lydia, Skylar, Megan, Shelby, Alexis, Erik, Ryan and Alicia. Sister of Paul, Sue, Jeanne, Pam, Michael, Patrick and the late Lanny. Visitation was at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Novi Tuesday 2-9 pm. Funeral was Wednesday 2:00 pm. On-line sympathy message www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

WILLIAM P. BENTON

Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills. Died Feb 19, 2009 of cancer. He was born Nov 4, 1923 in Laurinburg, NC. He is survived by his wife Blanche, daughters Barbara Benton, Roxanne Darling & her partner Shane Robinson, Judy Dennis & her husband Mike Dennis, Nancy Lievois & her husband Jim Lievois, and grandchildren Carlie, Annie, and Christina Dennis, and Jordan and Tyler Lievois. The funeral service will be at St. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI on Sat., Mar. 21, 2009 at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Henry Ford Hospital, Schepens Eye Clinic, Hospice of Palm Beach County or the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mr. Benton was a well-known and loved automotive executive. For more information please visit www.williampbenton.com.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

CAROLINE M. DeBRINCAT

Age 91. Of Farmington, MI. February 21, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

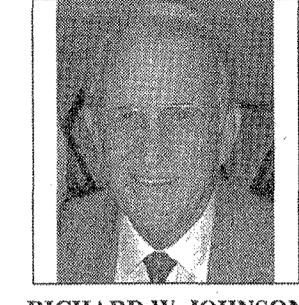
ELIZABETH DELANEY

Age 86, of Ann Arbor. Passed away February 21, 2009. She is survived by her children, Cornelia (Phil) Johnson, Stuart (Beth), and Barbara Delaney; her grandchildren, J.C. and William Johnson, and Sean and Cara Delaney; her sisters, Janet Phife and Barbara Hart; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial service at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St., Plymouth, Saturday, February 28, 11 am. Memorial visitation at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Friday 3-9 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Plymouth Community Band or the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.

MAJOR LAWRENCE EDWARD HOPP

Age 86. Passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Indian Creek Healthcare Center in Croydon, IN. He was born in Rochester, MI on January 2, 1923. The son of Albert and Viola Demming Hopp. He was a retired Air Force Veteran and he served during the WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras. He is survived by two sons, Thomas Hopp of Greenville, IN and Lawrence Edward Hopp, Jr. of Trenton, MI; one daughter, Marilyn Muth of Hanover, Ontario, CA; a brother, Richard Albert Hopp of Venice, FL; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A Memorial will be held at the Gehlbach & Royse Funeral Home in Croydon, IN on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

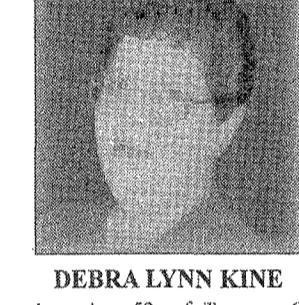
BERTHA ELAINE "SWEETIE" DANAJ (nee McDONOUGH)



RICHARD W. JOHNSON

February 23, 2009. Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills. Proud veteran US Army WWII. Retired design engineer, Ford Motor Co. Beloved husband of the late Ruthann. Dear father of Alan Johnson (Patricia), Susan Johnson, James (Deborah), Carol Burke (Terry) Judy Johnson (Bruce Weigman) and Melinda Smith (Robert). He was devoted to his 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), Thursday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. until funeral service 11:30a.m. Memorial tributes to New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, 1814 Pond Run, Auburn Hills, MI 48326. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS



DONALD A. SARCHBURG

Age 101, February 21, 2009. Beloved husband of Eleanor for 69 years. Loving father of Martha (Bruce Beyer) Sarchburg. Dear grandfather of Cameron. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com.

EVA SPANN (STOOPS)

Age 78, passed away Feb. 17, 2009. Loving mother of four daughters and three sons. She leaves four sisters, a brother and 22 grandchildren.



MARY CATHERINE "KITTY" STOREN (nee COONEY)

February 20, 2009, of Bloomfield Hills. Director of Development, Loyola High School, Detroit. Beloved wife of Bob. Dear mother of Tricia Van Fausser (Mark), Katie Shafer (Tim), Meghan Carter (the late Rich), Elizabeth Kent (Jason), Stephanie Jett (Randy), and Julie Lupo (Scott).

Grandmother of Hannah, Bobby, Zachary, Henry, Joe, Charlie, Mackenzie, Richie, Maggie, Mary Kate, Jack, and Alex. Sister of Bill Cooney, Pat Hathaway, Margaret Casey, Ann Nordloh, Henry Cooney, Eileen Finney, Julia Cooney, and Michael Cooney. Services and Burial have taken place. A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-362-2500. Memorials to Kitty Storen Memorial Fund at Loyola High School, 15325 Pinehurst, Detroit, MI 48238. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

DEBRA LYNN KINE

Age 52, of Traverse City. Died Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Bortz Heath Care following a lengthy battle with multiple melanoma. Born on Sunday, April 22, 1956 in Plymouth, Deb was the daughter of Robert and Shirley Gayle (Thompson) Kine. The family resided in Dearborn and later moved to Traverse City where Deb graduated from Traverse City Central in 1973. Known to her family and many friends as Deb, she had been employed for 13 years at Munson Medical Center as a CSR for the laboratory send out department. She loved to sail, and loved the color purple. She loved her dog Jazmine, but the joy of her life was her son and grandchildren. Deb is survived by her son, Nathan (Sarah Hansen) Kine of Buckley, her grandchildren, Logan and Nolan Hansen and Allanah and Ashlynn Kine; her father, Robert Kine of Traverse City, her sister, Sheryl (Mark) Irving of Maple City, her brothers, Dale W. (Carol) Kine of Traverse City and Jon (Wendy Matthews) Kine of Interlochen. Many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends also survive. Deb was preceded in death by her mom, Gayle and sister Paula. Visitation will take place at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, on Thursday, February 26 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A celebration of Deb's life will take place on Friday, February 27 at 1 p.m. also at the funeral home, with Pastor Ted Smith officiating. For those desiring to remember Deb through a memorial contribution, the family suggests Hospice of Michigan or the American Cancer Society. You may share your condolences and memories of Deb with her family at her on line guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

SHARON LEE WALK

February 24, 2009, after surviving cancer for 23 years. Age 66, of Livonia. Loving wife of James. Beloved mother of Keith (Kimberly) and Kevin (Jennifer). Proud grandma of Makenna, Brendan, Cristian and Kyle. Dear sister of Dottie Smith and daughter of Eve Hutchings. Visitation Thursday 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (between Sheldon and Beck). In state Friday 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Funeral Service at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Entombment Cadillac Memorial Gardens-West. Memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 65030 Dallas, TX 75265. To leave a message of condolence please log on to vermeulenfuneralhome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

EVELYN JEAN KINNEY (RYSKA)

Age 77. Of Sedona, Arizona. Died suddenly February 19, 2009 after a brief illness.

Born in Brownsville, PA February 13, 1932 to John and Julia (Thomas) Ryska. Evelyn resided in Michigan prior to retiring to Sedona in 2003. She was actively engaged as a court reporter for over 50 years. Evelyn enjoyed skiing, travelling, and was a talented designer and decorator. She leaves her devoted and loving husband of 25 years, Bruce M. Kinney of Sedona, a sister Patricia Boczenowski (Ryska) and her husband John Boczenowski of Framingham, Massachusetts, and nephews Derek, David, and Brian Boczenowski. Funeral arrangements were conducted by Greer's Mortuary of Sedona. Funeral Service was conducted at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sedona. Burial was at Green Acres in Scottsdale, AZ. Donations in Evelyn's memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

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MARJORIE A. MILLER (nee BROWN)

Age 82, February 21, 2009. Of Beverly Hills, MI.

Beloved wife of 58 years of George L. Miller. Loving mother of Laura L. Miller and son, Lindsay B. (Elaine) Miller of Dallas, TX. Marjorie was born June 19, 1926, to Harold M. Brown Sr. and Gladys (Baldwin) in Royal Oak, MI.

Proud grandmother of Brian Miller, Sister of Harold M. (Betty) Brown of Rockville Hills, MI. Also survived by many loving family and friends. A Memorial Service will be held in March at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile Rd. (east of Lahser), Bloomfield Twp., MI.

Please sign Marjorie's online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com.

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Church services a time to paws for reflection

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Beginning Sunday, March 1, customers coming into Dunk N Dogs Spa in Livonia can not only wash their dog but pray. The Rev. Claudia Barber says as long as pets are under control and not trying to eat their neighbors, they're welcome to attend All Creatures Universal Life Church. The service allows humans to worship with their pets.

"I think it's a really good idea," said Sharon Robinet, spa owner. "People like me who are single and have a lot of animals do almost everything with their animals. They go almost everywhere with me. Now I can incorporate them into my spiritual life."

Robinet likes the idea so much she's renting space to Barber at a reduced rate. As a business owner, the Redford woman spends long hours away from home so it was only natural that when Barber approached her with the idea of holding services at the shop, she was all ears.

For many church-goers, Sundays usually mean leaving their pets behind to attend to spiritual needs. Not anymore. Beginning March 1 and every Sunday thereafter, Barber will be holding regular services for pets of all kinds and their owners in the 1,000-square-foot indoor

ALL CREATURES WORSHIP

What: Church services for pets of all kinds and their owners
When: Begins 1 p.m. Sunday, March 1, and continues every Sunday
Where: Dunk N Dogs Spa, 27911 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads, Livonia. For information, call the spa at (734) 422-WASH or Rev. Claudia Barber at (313) 563-0162

dog park at the spa which usually functions as a self serve pet wash and doggie day-care, grooming and obedience training facility as well as a cat rescue.

"What's nice is we're all animal people. We've all been to church where you line up in the parking lot for a blessing but it's only once a year and never inside. Why not have a weekly service where people can come with their animals?" said Robinet. "We have no idea how many people will be there or what kind of animals they're bringing so we decided everybody has to be on a leash or in a crate or carrier. We don't want birds or cats to set off the dogs."

Barber says pets must be up-to-date on vaccinations and friendly to people and other pets. She plans to bring her four dogs and six birds to

the hour-long services which will be very informal and centered around pets.

"My pets have done so much to help me spiritually as well as emotionally to connect more to God that it's a shame I have to leave them home. I want them to share this part of my life with me. We say our prayers in the mornings and they're always peaceful during that time," said Barber, who was ordained in the nondenominational church based in Modesto, Calif. in 2003. In addition to leading the services she provides Christian counseling for owners whose pets are ill or have died.

"It's not a fancy church atmosphere. I didn't approach any churches but wanted to have a place where there wouldn't be a problem if a dog has an accident," said Barber, of Dearborn Heights. "I've already had several people respond to the flyers I've been putting out. I've sent e-mails to all the rescues trying to get the word out and put ads on Craig's List."

"I believe what the bible says that God created all the creatures, human and otherwise. Jesus said when the smallest sparrow falls God knows. I believe they will be in heaven, that all creatures go back to God."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241



The Rev. Claudia Barber leads worship services for all creatures at Dunk N Dog Spa in Livonia every Sunday beginning March 1. Here she's pictured with Muffin, one of her four dogs.

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FILTER

Local 'Foes' join 199 other bands at Blowout



CelloBella! is Mike Wilhelm, of Dearborn Heights, on guitar and vocals, and Alison Donahue of Royal Oak on cello and vocals.

Blowout Family Hootenanny set

This year, Metro Times Blowout will include an afternoon of shows for parents and children. The Blowout Family Hootenanny, featuring the Mydols, CelloBella! and Danny Kroha, will take place 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at Cafe 1923, 2287 Holbrook, Hamtramck. Parents who buy \$20 wristbands for the Blowout can bring their children to the Hootenanny for free.

"I think this is the first time we've had a family-friendly show at the Blowout," said Maria Stella, promotions manager for Metro Times. "We really wanted to open up the event more and draw some people to Hamtramck during the day to benefit the businesses."

Call Cafe 1923 at (313) 319-8766 or visit www.metrotimes.com/blowout.



The Friendly Foes will take the stage at 1 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at The Belmont during Metro Times Blowout 12. They are (from left) Liz Wittman (bass and vocals), Ryan Allen (guitar, lead vocals), and Brad Elliott (drums).

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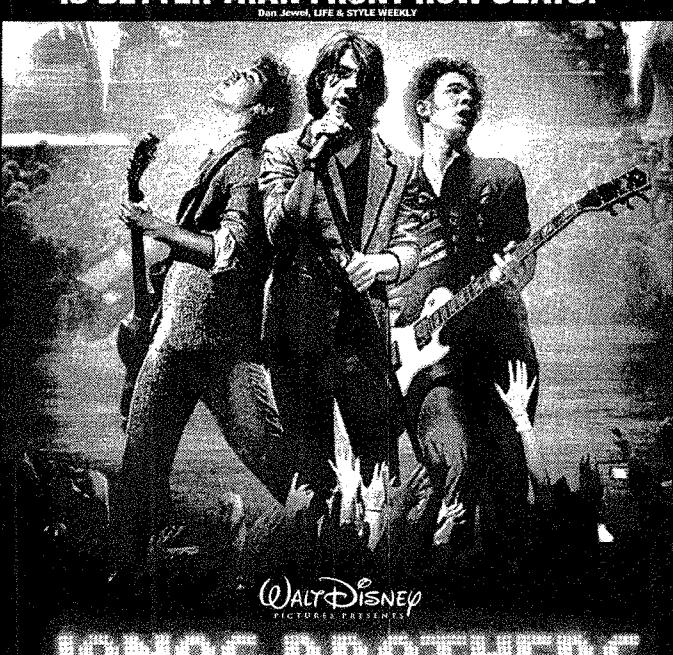
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Dan Jervis, LIFE & STYLE WEEKLY



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BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
STAFF WRITER

The Friendly Foes, fronted by Livonia native Ryan Allen, will be among 200 bands playing at this year's Metro Times Blowout 12.

Set for March 5-7, the annual music festival is designed to celebrate homegrown bands and spans 15 venues throughout Hamtramck. It also includes a pre-party at the Majestic Theater Complex in Detroit on Wednesday, March 4.

Friendly Foes will headline Saturday night at The Belmont, 10215 Jos Campau. The music starts at 10 p.m. with Leaf Erikson followed by Lightening Love and Midnight Smoke.

Friendly Foes are expected to go on at 1 a.m.

The band consists of Allen on guitar and vocals; Liz Wittman, of Oak Park, on bass and vocals; and Brad Elliott, formerly of Plymouth, on drums. Both Allen and Elliott currently live in Ferndale.

It's the second Blowout for the Friendly Foes, who have been together a little more than a year, but Allen has played many more with other lineups.

"I think this will be my sixth or seventh Blowout total, and I've played it with many other bands that I've been in in the past, including Red Shirt Brigade, Tiny Steps, Scott Allen & the Breakdance, and the Sharp Hearts, none of which exist anymore," Allen said.

Concurrently, Allen played Blowouts with Thunderbirds are Now!, a successful post-

Please see **BLOWOUT, B7**

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2009 BLOWOUT SCHEDULE

What: 200 bands

Where: 15 venues throughout Hamtramck

When: March 5-7

Tickets: \$20 for Metro Times Blowout 12 and Pre-Party

PRE-PARTY

When: 9 p.m. March 4

Where: Majestic Theatre Complex, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Entertainment: Mustache in Your Face at the Garden Bowl; Silverghost, The Octopus, Child Bite, and Electric Fire Babies at the Magic Stick; The Meatmen, Outrageous Cherry, The Wrong Numbers, Punk Fitness Interlude, Gepetto Files and Fluent at the Majestic Theatre

Contact: (313) 833-9700, www.metrotimes.com/blowout

GET OUT

E-mail items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvbuskirk@hometownlife.com.

ART

555: A Good Bye to the 555 "The 5 Senses," 8 p.m.-midnight Feb. 21, 4884 Grand River, Detroit, \$15 will call at www.55arts.org, \$20 at the door, proceeds benefit new location for 555, masquerade after.

Art in Market: Grand re-opening wine and cheese reception, 3-9 p.m. March 7, new location in Laurel Park Place, 37642 Six Mile Road, Livonia. <http://artsinmarket.blogspot.com>.

Cpop Gallery: "Conformity Exhibition: Live Conformists/Dead Troublemakers," through March, opening reception, 7-11 p.m. March 7, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9901, wcop.com.

DIA Art Studio: Painting classes for all ages, free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 2869 N. Lille, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.diamrtstudio.com.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Local Artist Exhibit, March 3-26, artists reception, 6-9 p.m. March 6; Palette and Brush Club Exhibit, March 31-April 5, artist reception April 4; Kathleen Graf Exhibit, May 1-27, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4447, www.lotusartsallery.com.

Northville Art House: First Friday Art Receptions, 6-9 p.m. first Friday of each month; DIA Lecture Series, Art of Norman Rockwell, March 4, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.

Plymouth's Annual Art Feast: May 16, Downtown Plymouth.

Plymouth Art in the Park: July 10-12, Kellogg Park.

Plymouth Community Arts Council: Winter Break Art Camp for Kids, Feb. 23-27, \$50 a day per child, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.

AUDITION

Music Hall Diddy/MTV show, "Making His Band," 10 a.m. March 21, Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8500, www.musicall.org, www.makinghisband.mtv.com.

BENEFITS

Detroit Hard Rock Cafe: Rockers Brandon Calhoun, Frankie D'Angelo and Robin Horlock, acoustic performance to benefit "Musicians on Call," March 5, doors 8 p.m., \$5, 45 Monroe St., Detroit, (313) 964-7625.

The RoosterBall: Cirque de Monaco Masked Ball, 7 p.m.-midnight, Feb. 28, 60s chic attire with masks, \$75-\$150, benefiting FJC, Detroit Institute of Arts, (313) 833-4005, www.foundationsjuncouncil.org.

Emerald Theatre: St. Judes' Concert for the Children with JoCaine, March 21, Mount Clemens, 6 p.m., 18 and older, \$10, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com.

BOOKS/LITERATURE

PICK OF THE WEEK

Free family matinee series hits Canton

Just because you're pinching pennies doesn't mean you have to miss out on family fun. Goodrich Quality Theaters will launch its Free Spring Matinee Series at Canton Cinema this weekend with "Are We Done Yet?," showing Feb. 28-March 1.

In the 2007 film, rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube reprises his role as everyman-sports-fanatic Nick Persons from "Are We There Yet?" (2005). Watch the slapstick ensue as Persons evolves from bachelorhood to domestic life. Rated PG.

Dossin Great Lakes Museum: Author Paul Kaviff discusses "Detroit's Infamous Purple Gang," 6-9 p.m. March 3, \$10, free for members, 100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit, (313) 833-1801, www.detroithistorical.org.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 4 p.m. March 1, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

CHORAL

Rackham Choir: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CLASSICAL

Max M. Fisher Music Center: Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22; The Music of Billy Joel & More by Michael Cavanaugh, April 16-19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

CONCERTS

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org.

The free film series continues with "Space Chimps," March 7-8; "Madagascar 2," March 14-15; "Igor," March 21-22; "Kung Fu Panda," March 28-29; "Horton Hears a Who," April 4-5; "Tale of Despereaux," April 11-12; "Open Season," April 18-19; and "Hotel for Dogs," April 25-26.

Showtimes are 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Canton Cinema is located at 43555 Ford Road. Call (734) 844-3456 or visit www.GQTI.com.

Schoolcraft College: Avalon String Quartet, March 20; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15, \$10, students, \$20 adults; Presentation Room in the VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.

COMEDY

Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14; Spring Comedy Jam with Mike Epps, Teddy Carpenter, Dominique Witten, March 21, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

JO'S House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 25333 W. 12 Mile, Inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Joe's Comedy Club of Livonia: Allyn Ball, through Feb. 28; Brad Williams, March 4-7; Tracy Smith, March 11-14, 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com.

The Second City: "Kwame A River: The Chronicles of Detroit's Hip Hop Mayor," through May, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.

The Fox Theatre: Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12; Flight of the Conchords

"I worked at Larry's Foodland when I was 15, have eaten at Daly Burger millions of times, and am probably the only indie rocker to ever come out of playing LJFL sports," he said.

For the complete Metro Times Blowout 12 schedule and to purchase tickets, visit www.metrotimes.com/blowout. To hear the Friendly Foes, visit www.myspace.com/friendlyfoes.

The band's debut album, "Born Radical," was released late last year to critical praise.

Allen graduated from Franklin High School in 1998 and is proud of his Livonia roots.

These days, Allen said the Friendly Foes occupy much of his time.

I'd say we're a pop band, taking cues from Elvis Costello and the Beatles, as well as '70s punk like the Buzzcocks and '90s indie rock like Superchunk," Allen said.

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