

THURSDAY
March 26
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 44
Number 87

75 CENTS

Local chefs create Girl Scout Cookie delights - Food & Wine, B10

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

Songwriter
returns
with a bang
Filter, B9



AROUND TOWN

In concert

Merrill Osmond, the lead singer of the 1970s music group the Osmonds, will appear free for two local performances.

Osmond will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at the western campus of the Wayne County Community College District at 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville. He also will appear one day later at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the Westland Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 7575 N. Hix Road, east of Warren Road, according to a press release.



Merrill Osmond

Voices heard

A songwriter/folk singer and morning radio host will visit the William P. Faust Public Library next week as part of the 2009 Everyone's Reading, a community-wide reading program sponsored by public libraries in Oakland and Wayne counties.

Political activist, songwriter and folk singer Anne Fenney will be the guest speaker at 7 p.m. Monday, March 30.

Her appearance will be followed by a visit from Linda Yohn, WEMU-FM (89.1) musical director and morning show host who will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 31.

Fenney worked for more than a decade as a trial attorney and served as president of the Pittsburgh Musicians Union. These days she is "living my dream."

"It's my privilege to spend most of my waking hours with people who are trying to make a difference in this world — people on strike, or in a union or community organizing drive, or defending women's rights, the environment, human rights, working to end poverty and racism, teaching peace," she says on her Web site, www.annefenney.com.

Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary describes her as "a role model for us. She has lived her songs."

Yohn will discuss "Finding Your Voice in Radio." She will speak about her experiences in finding her own rhythm and style as one of the area's first female jazz hosts. Yohn's appearance is part of the library's participation in the Everyone's Reading project.

Both events are free and open to the public. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

Fire official suspended for hit and run

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Fire Marshal Chris Szpara has been suspended with pay following allegations he hit another vehicle while driving a city car and then fled the scene.

"He is currently suspended pending the outcome of the investigation," Fire Chief Michael Reddy said Wednesday.

The incident happened about 3 a.m. Tuesday when Szpara, driving a city-owned Dodge Charger,

was pulling away from a Taco Bell on Merriman south of Cherry Hill and hit the side of a Saturn traveling south on Merriman, Police Chief James Ridener said.

No one was injured, but Szpara fled the scene and was stopped by Wayne police near Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road, Ridener said. Wayne authorities turned Szpara over to Westland police.

"He admitted having a couple of beers" but didn't appear drunk and was not given a Breathalyzer test, Ridener said.

Szpara wasn't arrested and, instead, was taken by police to a family member's house, Ridener said.

Westland traffic officers are conducting a follow-up investigation and will turn their findings over to the city attorney's office "for any appropriate charges," the police chief said.

Ridener said three people were in the car that Szpara is accused of hitting. He said they left the scene but that two of them returned. He said it didn't appear they had been drinking.

A witness who saw the accident called police, Ridener said.

The right front area of Szpara's car was damaged along with the side of the other vehicle, police said.

Reddy indicated that Szpara has had a good record as a city official.

"He does an excellent job for the city," Reddy said, adding that he didn't know of any blemishes on Szpara's record.

Mayor William Wild refrained from making any comments until he sees what the city attorney's office decides in the case.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn High School senior Nicole Wiater gets help with her computer work from print technology/graphics teacher Shirley Byrd who has been named the Electronic Document Systems Foundation's 2008 Teacher of the Year.

Printing teacher honored for job she loves

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Shirley Byrd's life is filled with printing presses and computers. She works "day and night" at a job she says she "absolutely loves."

It's that commitment to teaching print technology that has garnered Byrd the Electronic Document Systems Foundation's 2008 Educator of the Year award.

"I'm flabbergasted, I'm very thrilled, very honored," said Byrd, who teaches at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland.

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to academic professionals dedicated to the advancement of the industry through education. The recipients also have made significant contributions in the classroom with their students.

Please see **TEACHER, A3**

Anderson: No to challenging McCotter for House seat

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a push from supporters who are trying to draft him for a U.S. House campaign, Democratic state Sen. Glenn Anderson strongly indicated Monday that he isn't interested.

"I'm really concentrating on what I'm doing for the 6th District in the state Senate and getting Michigan's economy turned around," the Westland Democrat said.

A grass-roots group claiming more than 200 supporters has launched an Internet campaign on the social networking site Facebook, amid hopes of



Anderson

convincing Anderson to challenge U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, in next year's 11th District election. Anderson described himself as "flattered," but indicated he will likely campaign next year for a second four-term state Senate term in a district that includes Westland, Livonia, Garden City and Redford Township. He claimed only a narrow victory in his first state Senate race against Republican incumbent

Laura Toy of Livonia.

In a statement issued this week, the Draft Glenn Anderson for Congress group cited his "deep commitment" to his constituents and his willingness to break from party ranks on certain issues. It also lauded his service on the Westland City Council and in the state House before he won a state Senate seat.

The group also is encouraging Anderson supporters to contact the national and state Democratic party organizations to indicate support for him as a U.S. House candidate.

Anderson acknowledged that he has seen the Facebook-based effort,

but hasn't given it his stamp of approval. However, he didn't unequivocally rule out a bid for Congress.

"I wouldn't rule it out," he said, "but I'm not encouraging it."

Anderson said he appreciates the confidence his supporters have in him, but he denied spearheading an effort to draft him for higher office.

"I have no control over it," he said. "My focus remains on my job in the state Senate that people graciously gave me an opportunity to serve in. I've got plenty to keep me busy right here."

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Salvation Army lands Target grant

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The recent news of a \$25,000 grant from Target Corp. for a media center was well received by the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

Capt. Derek Rose, corps commander with his wife, Capt. Joanna, said their headquarters recommended the corps on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland's Norway area.

"They look at us and said 'You're a perfect fit,'" he said. The grant is specifically for a media center/library component in a low-income area.

Salvation Army leaders hope to have the facility up and running by the start of June, with September of this year as the fallback date.

"We are actually a perfect fit for this program," said Rose, noting the money will buy 11 laptop computers, as well as books and magazines.

The facility will serve Westland, Wayne, Romulus and Inkster residents with regular hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will be open 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday for use by students in the Salvation Army's after-school and summer day camp programs.

The grant is for equipment and books, Rose said. Salvation Army staffers and volunteers will provide supervision during media center hours.

Rose is exploring partnerships with others who have expertise, including Michigan Works!, a state agency which

helps people find jobs.

Rose hopes the grant will cover a warranty of two-four years on equipment bought, with about four years of labor and maintenance costs.

"We wouldn't need a whole lot of funds to keep it going," he said of the media center.

Rose agreed literacy is important in a lower-income area for those of all ages "so they can better themselves and bring the skills to the local community."

The Rose children, a son, 5, and daughter, 2, love to read.

"They have a love of learning just by picking up a book," said Derek Rose, adding that books benefit children. Test scores in school go up when children read for pleasure.

"It affects all areas of school," he said.

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Charity gets boost from gaming group

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The conversation was as fast and furious as the hands holding the controllers, as a group of video gamers set out to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network.

Members of Project Playhem, Schoolcraft College's first and only club dedicated to video gaming, were at The Game Yard in Garden City last week, playing in a charity event called "The Gauntlet."

The gamers stayed awake and played for 48 hours straight, raising \$1,250 in donations, including \$164 donated by viewers who watched the event live online.

"It was a huge success and planning is already under way for another one in the coming semester," said Justin Slanec of Garden City who co-founded the club with Antonio Perez of Northville.

The gamers took five-minute breaks every hour and a half hour and food breaks four times during each 24-hour period.

They received donations from the Lucky Wok, Baja Fresh, Noodles and Company and Jets Pizza and On-Go Energy which provided energy shots "that gave us a boost," Perez said.

"This is an opportunity to show the value of the club," Perez said. "We get together all the time to play, so we decided to get together and help sick kids."

"All the members pulled together and went around



Austin Perez (left) of Northville and Justin Slanec of Garden City, founders of Project Playhem, play Rock Band 2 at The Game Yard in Garden City as part of the group's 48-hour fund-raiser for the Children's Miracle Network.

and got sponsors," added club member David Mayne of Redford who started out playing Star Ocean, a game in which humans turning to the stars for a new home following World War III. "It's a cool RPG — role playing game."

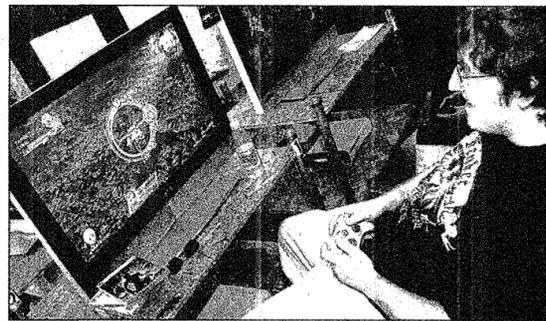
The club turned to Chris Allers, owner of The Game

Yard, to find a place for the event. Allers agreed.

"I thought it was a good idea, I did one last August similar to this for the (Garden City) Santaland Parade," he said. "It was a natural fit. They were very enthusiastic and we scheduled it for my not-so-busy times."

Project Playhem has a mission to put gaming in a different light. Perez and Slanec showed up with a table at the college's event for clubs and went from there.

"Schoolcraft never had a video gaming club," Slanec said. "Our basic goal is to change the face of gaming.



A member of Project Playhem, David Mayne of Redford plays Star Ocean at The Game Yard in Garden City.

We've sponsored events on campus to get people involved. This (The Gauntlet) represents gaming in a different light and we couldn't have done it without help from Chris."

Among the events the club has sponsored is a Battle of the Rock Band in which groups of three or four people played the Rock Band video game on stage. They were judged as if it were a real battle of the bands, Perez said. The club also hosted several other events showcasing popular game titles like Halo 3 and Gears of War 2.

"High on our priorities is to get people involved," Perez said. "Gaming is more inclusive and embodies the club as a community."

The club has been in existence for about a year and has around 50 members, including an online community. Mayne got involved after seeing the table at School Days.

"I let them know I've done

some semi-pro gaming and offered my services," he said. "They started with an idea. I was surprised no one had ever done it before."

Mayne has participated in a 300 LAN (Local Area Network) event staged by Gamers Outreach at Eastern Michigan University. He's working with the organization to start a chapter at Schoolcraft. There's also a plan to have a 100-man LAN at the college.

That dovetails with Perez's dream of ultimately making gaming an NCAA-style event where colleges and universities would compete against each other in games like Halo 3.

"The goal is to bring gaming to a level that it is as popular with kids as going to a baseball and football game," he said. "The club is community driven."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 27. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert for \$6 as well as entertainment. The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020. The center also has bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

Preschool signups

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. The preschool is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Spring Awards

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its Spring Awards Celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, west of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The celebration will honor the 2009 First Citizen and Business Person of the Year as well as its long-time members. The cost is \$35 per person

which includes a dinner buffet and open bar. Sponsors for this event include *The Westland Observer*, Parkside Credit Union and TDS Metrocom. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or go online to www.westland-chamber.com.

Marathon bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Sgt. Stanley Romanowski V.F.W. Post 6896 is sponsoring a Marathon Bingo 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the post home, 28945 Joy, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Westland. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. A concession will be available. For more information, call the post lounge at (734) 525-9454 or (313) 849-5283.

Showing support

Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan 6-9 p.m. Saturday April 18. Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5.

In an effort to reach out and help the struggling union families of Michigan, Skateland

West is offering an evening of entertainment and family fun at a premium discount. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed and many games and activities are planned for the special session.

For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or go online to www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

Bowling benefit

Westland's Mission: Green, an initiative which promotes environmental wellness practices throughout the City of Westland, is on a roll — literally. The group will host its first fund-raiser on Saturday, April 4, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh.

The cost is \$20 per person and includes three games of bowling, shoes, pizza, and soda. The proceeds will help to fund materials designed to promote environmental awareness and the importance of reducing your carbon footprint.

Registration for the event begins at 11:30 a.m., bowling starts at noon. For more information, call Lori Fodale at (734) 467-3264.

Pancake breakfast

International Order of Rainbow for Girls of Wayne Assembly No. 72 will have their monthly Pancake Breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112, 37137 Palmer, east

of Newburgh, Westland. The cost is \$5 per breakfast and feature the "best pancakes in the state," served to you by the Rainbow Girls. No reservations necessary. For more information, call (734) 721-7950.

Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial Baseball Booster Club is hosting a Scrapbooking fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Rudgate West Clubhouse, 7040 Shawnee Drive, Romulus. The registration fee of \$25 includes a light breakfast, lunch and door prizes. The deadline for registration is April 17. Checks and money orders can be made out to Wayne Memorial Baseball. Registrations can be mailed to Wayne Baseball c/o Deborah Gush, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, Mi. 48184. For more information, call (734) 260-9517.

Rotary auction

The annual fund-raiser, "Off to the Races" for Wayne Rotary and Wayne Recreation will be held Friday, April 24, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

Money raised will be divided between Wayne Rotary College and/or Technical School Scholarships for Wayne Memorial High School youth whose parents are currently unemployed; and Wayne Recreation's upgrade of the Walz Quadraplex playground. Live and silent auctions featuring items donated by Leo's Jewelry and Gifts, as well as

mock horse races will be part of the festivities. Food will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available from Wayne Rotarians or by calling Jeff Rutter at Wayne Recreation at (734) 721-7400, Ext 1304.

Ready to skate

Westland's Concrete Jungle Skate Park is now open for business. All skateboarders and inline skaters are welcome to enjoy the peaks and valleys of the 20,000-square-foot park, which is open weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dusk; and from noon to 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. until dusk on weekends.

The Concrete Jungle Skate Park is beside the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford Road, behind Westland City Hall. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination from 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

Prison families

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to? If you answered "yes" to any of these

questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at hope4healing@rocketmail.com. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

Meetings are free and held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Collins House, and the Westland Historic Society meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, also at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

Caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones.

Caregiver Support meetings offer valuable information and assistance to individuals caring for a loved one. They're held from 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of the month at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options are available. The morning group meets from 10 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of the month, while the evening group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

For more information on dates and times, or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

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LIKE NUMBERS? there are a pile of them in today's **SPORTS** section

TEACHER

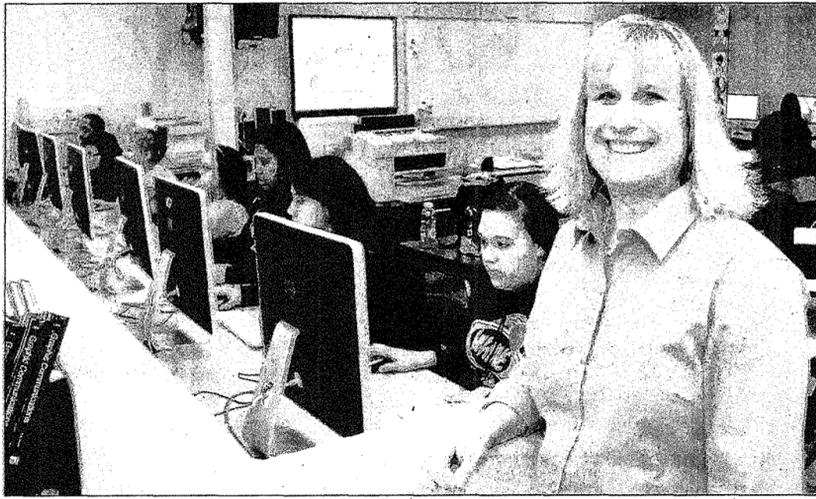
FROM PAGE A1

According to EDSF, "these individuals demonstrate leadership, and enthusiasm in their role as an educator."

Nominees are sought from throughout the world. Byrd was nominated in 2007 by Michael Stinnet, a printing instructor at Royal Oak High School who she knows through Skills USA.

"Shirley Byrd is a strong advocate of vocational/career education, as a graphics instructor, she has devoted herself to training students while assisting them in exploring their passion toward their future careers," Stinnet wrote in his nomination.

"She deserves this," said center Principal Ginny Kowalski. "She's here day and night. This is her life. She's huge in SkillsUSA and takes 37-40 students to the competition."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

According to William D. Ford Career Technical Center Principal Ginny Kowalski, teacher Shirley Byrd's "smile is ever present."

As a high school student, Byrd studied commercial art at the Traverse Bay Area Career Technical Center for two years. She was dual enrolled in commercial art at Northwestern Michigan College and graphics art at the career center. She parlayed that into an assistant

teacher job in the center's graphics department and used her experience to acquire her vocational certification.

She earned her bachelor of arts degree in graphics from Ferris State University when the Ford center principal called looking for a teach-

ing assistant. Byrd took the call from Superintendent Greg Baracy and relocated to southeast Michigan. She became the graphics/printing instructor in 1994.

"I used the money I saved for a house to get my teaching degree," Byrd said. "When I got down here, I went to

EMU (Eastern Michigan University) for my master's degree."

In addition to her classroom work, Byrd is the department chair, serves on the school improvement committee, is the SkillsUSA building coordinator and co-chairs the career awareness committee for North Central Accreditation.

"In any organization, there's always a 'go to' person, an individual who will give more than 100 percent to help the organization succeed," said Kowalski. "Shirley is that person for our school."

She has a mechanical aptitude that she credits to her father, who was a mechanic. She grew up fixing things and with a knowledge of mechanics. She uses that with her love of art in the classroom.

Her students learn how to design a layout on the computer and reproduce it on a printing press "whatever is needed by the customer." For her class, that customer is the Wayne-Westland school district. The students do business cards, stationery, prom and homecoming tickets, postcards, even detention

forms. For fun, they screen print T-shirts and create coffee mugs, mouse pads and key chains using dye sublimation printing.

There's also a copy center like what would be found at a business like Speedy Printing. The students learn to do estimating and billing, everything needed to run a business.

And while it doesn't happen everyday, students do get dirty working on the equipment.

"It's exciting for me to see students get this spark in their eye that they've got it and know I helped them," Byrd said.

According to former student Ripley Sambrone, Byrd is a great mentor and role model.

"She is always supportive, with a positive attitude and excellent in troubleshooting," he wrote in his letter to the award committee. "She is always pushing to have us do our best."

Byrd says she could retire at age 48 but said she won't.

"I absolutely love my job, it's just in my blood," said Byrd.

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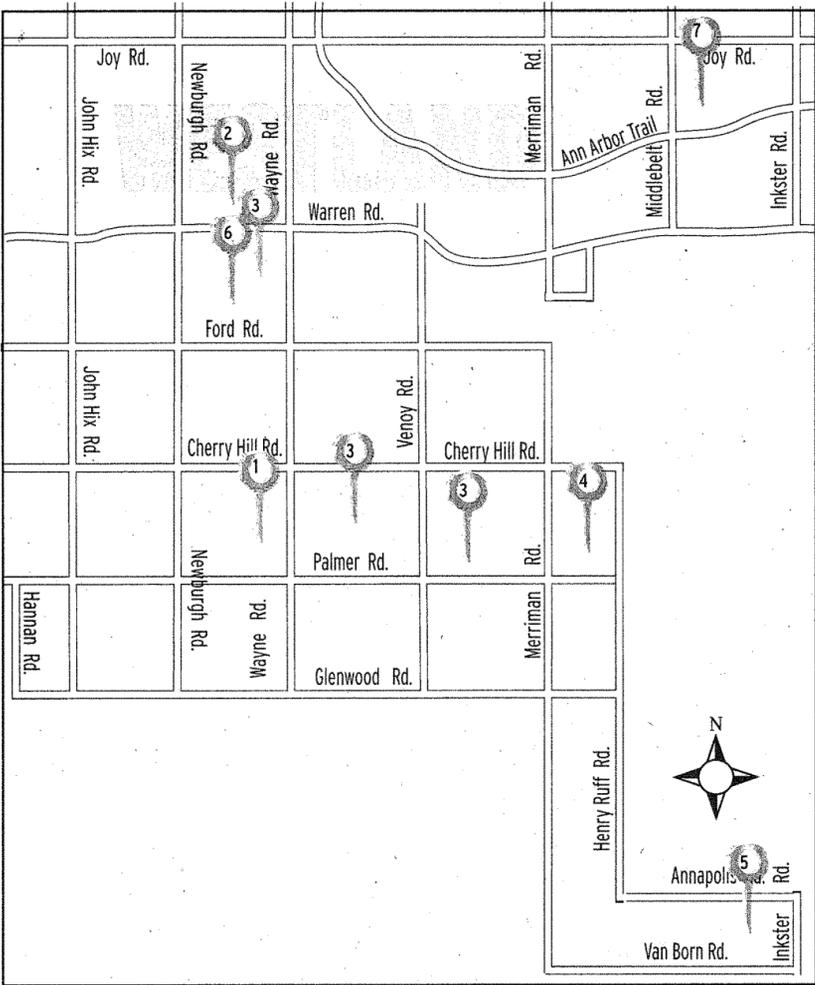
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Man loses money to mail fraud scheme



1 Westland police say that a 54-year-old man has been the victim of a mail fraud scheme.

The man told police that he received a check in the mail earlier this month from a bogus company that supposedly recruited him to do a "test money transfer." He was to cash the check, keep \$200 for himself and send the remaining \$2,095 by Western Union to another location.

A short time later, the America bank branch on Wayne south of Cherry Hill notified him that the check he had cashed was fraudulent.

Apartments burglarized

2 A couple in their 20s told police that their residence at Wilderness Park Apartments, northwest of Warren and Central City Parkway, was broken into and ransacked between 7:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday. The door had been kicked in, and the couple reported missing items including a PlayStation 3, video game accessories, a wireless router, a box of comic books and collectible toy figures.

One resident reported seeing a black male, about 6 feet tall and in his 20s, pounding on the door of the apartment. The suspect had a goatee, and his clothing included a gray hat with a red stripe and a gray sweatshirt. A 59-year-old man reported

that someone entered his Wilderness Park apartment while he was sleeping between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. March 16. He said his television and his PlayStation 3 had been taken. Police said the deadbolt to the door had been broken and that the lock was missing.

Stolen vehicles

3 A 42-year-old man told police that a 2001 Ford Focus was stolen between 9 p.m. last Thursday and 9 a.m. Friday in front of his house on Parkwood, northeast of Palmer and Venoy. Inkster police later found the car, which had been abandoned after it was driven into a fence in that city.

A 61-year-old woman reported that her 1998 Plymouth Voyager was stolen sometime between 3 p.m. March 17 and 12:45 p.m. Saturday while it was parked at Hunters West Apartments, northwest of Yale and Hunter streets.

A 25-year-old man's 2000 Dodge Dakota pickup truck was reported stolen between 10:30 p.m. Sunday and 4 a.m. Monday while it was parked in a driveway on Van Lawn, southeast of Cherry Hill and Wildwood.

Purse taken from cart

4 A 42-year-old woman reported that someone took her purse while she left

it unattended in a cart inside the Dollar Goods store on the northeast corner of Palmer and Merriman roads. She said the incident happened around 6 p.m. March 16.

Dirt bikes stolen

5 A 34-year-old woman told police that two Yamaha dirt bikes were stolen from her garage on Annapolis west of Inkster between 10 p.m. March 15 and just after midnight March 16. She was at home at the time.

GPS unit taken

6 A 66-year-old man told police that a GPS unit was stolen from his 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis while it was parked, unlocked, in his driveway on Pheasant Lane, southwest of Hunter and Wayne roads.

Items taken from car

7 A 34-year-old man reported that a 2008 Ford Focus he was driving — which is owned by his employer — was ransacked between 5:30 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. March 18 while it was parked at Oak Lanes, on Middlebelt north of Ann Arbor Trail. He reported that vandals took such items as a license plate, assorted stereo equipment and a cell phone.

By Darrell Clem

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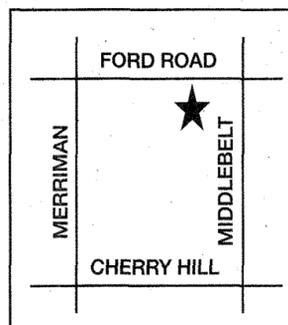
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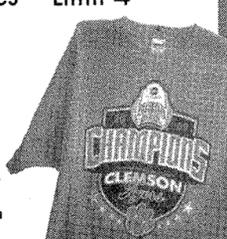
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<p>Assorted AWESOME CLEANER 32 oz. • Limit 4</p> <p>\$1 </p>	<p>ASSORTED T-SHIRTS All sizes • Limit 4</p> <p>\$1 </p>	<p>ALBERTO VO5 SHAMPOO Assorted 15-22 oz. • Limit 4</p> <p>\$1 </p>	<p>AIM TOOTH PASTE Assorted 6oz. • Limit 4</p> <p>\$1 </p>

ITEMS OVER \$1.00

<p>ARIZONA ICED TEA Assorted 1 gallon • Limit 4</p> <p>\$2 </p>	<p>FIESTA PAPER TOWELS Single Rolls • Limit 12</p> <p>3/\$1 </p>	<p>SPRING WATER by DANNON 24 pack, 16.9 oz. • Limit 4</p> <p>\$3 </p> <p>per case</p>
<p>PURE WESSON CANOLA OIL 1 Gallon • Limit 4</p> <p>\$8 </p>	<p>RAMEN NOODLES by the CASE 12-pack cup, 24-pac bag • Limit 4 cases</p> <p>\$3 </p> <p>per case</p>	<p>BIG CHIEF SUGAR 4 lb. bag • Limit 6</p> <p>3/\$5 </p>

We reserve the right to limit items, substitutions, while supplies last.

3 Mathison Hardwares: 1 gone, 1 going, 1 still open

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mathison Hardware, a fixture on Ford in Garden City for nearly 56 years, is expected to close for good next month. A second store that was an icon of sorts for 38 years among newer construction on Canton Center Road, has already closed its doors for good. While plans for a dry cleaning plant on the Garden City site fell through, the Canton property has been sold by the Mathison brothers and will soon be demolished in favor of a medical or office complex on the two-acre parcel. "The hardware store used to do everything," said Frank

Mathison. "Now, every department has turned into a business in itself ... glass, hardware, locksmiths." Mathison will soon be the only one of four brothers still in the business. With the Canton store closed, and the Garden City store set to close in the next month or so, the Livonia Mathison Hardware on Plymouth Road is all that will be left. "I pretty much started when I was 12 years old," said Mathison, 55, who adds he's not ready to retire quite yet. "My brothers and I built that store in Canton ourselves. There's a lot of sweat that went into that building." The Garden City store was the first to open in 1953

by Mathison's father, B.J. Mathison. "He was a captain for TWA and would fly over the corner of Ford and Merriman on his approach to the airport," said Mathison. "He saw the city growing out along Ford Road, bought a piece of property and opened the business." Mathison said despite having only one remaining store, he believes his business has a niche that will keep customers coming back. "The plumbing and bathroom materials we sell are mostly American made," he said. "We let customers know our cabinetry, tubs and other things are made in America and show them the difference."



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frank Mathison works with a customer on a busy Friday afternoon at the Livonia store, which will remain open.

Hertel shares message of mass transit viability

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In 1956, John Hertel's parents took him and his two brothers to Seven Mile and Gratiot. "We're going to go because today's the last day streetcars are running in Detroit," was the explanation. At that time, Hertel's grandmother told him of how as a young woman from a Thumb-area farm she took a seamstress job in Grosse Pointe. She could travel home weekends on an interurban train that took her to Port Huron or Flint as well as other cities like Ann Arbor. All that mass transit changed after World War II, said Hertel, now CEO of the Regional Transportation Coordinating Commission. "Everybody was buying a car and nobody really cared about that." In more recent years, offers came to Detroit to replace such conveyances as the streetcars sold to Mexico City. In the 1970s, President Gerald Ford offered \$600 million for area mass transit. "The regional leaders did not agree on how the money should be spent," said Hertel, speaking Thursday, March 19, to the Westland Rotary. A similar later offer from President Jimmy Carter also failed, as



Hertel

did other efforts. When Hertel was approached a few years ago about the mass transit job, he was skeptical. The former state senator, who has also chaired the Wayne and Macomb county commissions, had doubts. "I wasn't completely convinced. I actually told them no, I wouldn't do it." Hertel's also been general manager for the Michigan State Fair. He was convinced of the seriousness by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, then-Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara, former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Macomb County's Nancy White. Hertel noted the reality of \$4 a gallon gas as well as extensive use of SMART and D-DOT buses during the Super Bowl hosted by Detroit. "I was given a staff of two people." Their efforts are overseen by the federal transit authority and the state; Hertel's proud a firm won the bid at some \$400,000 less than anticipated for consulting. The (Big) Four have voted unanimously yes and that's absolutely a wonderful thing." He noted mass transit has regional cooperation that the Cobo situation has sorely lacked. He described the 406-mile, 25-year plan which includes more frequent buses and computers showing the next bus scheduled with information on connections.

Hertel described "rolling rapid transit" bus lines with a dedicated lane leading to larger stations with restrooms. Detroit's the only metro area of 30 nationwide without mass transit to speak of, he said. He's pleased with the Dec. 8 approval of the regional mass transit plan. Hertel has visited Denver, Colo., and praised that city's mass transit, including a five-mile rail line downtown. Roger Penske is heading a group of Detroit business leaders, also including Chris Ilitch, Quicken Loans' Dan Gilbert and Peter Karmanos, to run a line from the Detroit River to the city's New Center area. That "would mean you'd have a lot of riders right away," he said. That would link downtown Detroit to city museums, Wayne State University and Henry Ford Hospital. Of the \$102 million needed, \$70 million has been obtained, and right of way secured on each side of Woodward Avenue. Leaders hope to break ground next year and have the system up and running by 2012. It would qualify the Detroit-Ann Arbor rail line for funds at the same time, he said. Hertel noted such bus lines move quickly and have a lot of the benefits of light rail with lower cost. Hertel, speaking at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, cited a need for a regional transit authority and a local tax for mass transit as hurdles. Other cities pay four times what metro Detroiters

do for mass transit, he said. "In Denver, they went to a regional sales tax" of 1 percent. He noted in other cities a dollar spent on mass transit tax translates to \$8 from the private sector in economic development and jobs. "Show me anything else that you can come up with that will have that kind of development. We need something here very badly in terms of our economic development." He appreciates \$35 million from the Kresge Foundation in Detroit to the mass transit plan and the business leaders' private donations. "Unlike Cobo, the regional leaders have been very cooperative." He's eager to hear word from Washington, D.C., this week on stimulus money. Answering questions, Hertel noted mass transit has worked better because of funding in Macomb County. "Opting out of a bus system is like opting out of a freeway," he said, citing Livonia as a community that opted out of the SMART system. Washtenaw County isn't currently in the mass transit plan, although he's talking to leaders there. The only con of mass transit is cost, he said. "But it also creates a lot of money." Hertel was introduced by Dan Wilson, Rotary secretary. "Making things happen is his specialty," said Wilson, who runs his wife's law office and is a parental activist. "If someone is important in Washington, D.C., John has their ear."

Weigh the pros and cons of being a landlord

I have received a letter recently from individuals asking if it's a good idea to rent their home. My answer is: "Do you have what it takes to be a landlord?" One of the toughest jobs is being a landlord. When you only have one house to rent it's not economical to hire a management company. I always ask people who are considering being a landlord if they would evict a tenant for non-payment of rent. If the answer is no, they should not be a landlord. Being a landlord is a business and should be treated as such. I always tell investors they should invest without emotion. The same applies to being a landlord. You cannot let emotions dictate your decisions. Those thinking about renting their home should talk to a landlord to get a feel for what is involved. There are many books on the topic and resources on the Internet. If you have made the decision to become a landlord, there are legal and tax issues you need to be aware of before you allow anyone to move into your home. The first issue is the lease. It is imperative you have a written lease. Although you can buy a fill-in-the-blank lease, it may not fit the situation. Even if you use a prototype lease, have an attorney, who is familiar with real estate law, review the document. Issues that need to be addressed in a lease are security deposits, length of the lease, amount of rent charged, late payments and whether to allow pets and smoking. It's important to remember when problems arise, they are



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

generally construed against the landlord so it is important that terms are clearly laid out in the lease. When renting your home, make sure the tenant is responsible and trustworthy. Every successful landlord requires tenants to complete an application which contains a variety of information. It is important that the application complies with the law. For example, many landlords today will run some sort of credit check on the tenant. Typically, you need the applicant's permission to access this information. Therefore, make sure they sign the appropriate document to obtain the necessary information. A landlord has to keep separate records for tax purposes. Items that were not deductible when you owned a home may be deductible when you treat it as rental property. An example may be condo association dues that become deductible when it's a rental property but are not deductible if it is your personal residence. As a landlord, there are different options available when it comes to accounting for taxes on your rental property. Sit down with an accountant who is familiar with rental property so you can use the tax laws to your benefit. In today's economy, it does make economic sense to rent out property vs. selling it in a down market. However, in making that decision consider the ramifications of becoming a landlord. Carefully weigh the pros and cons including whether you want the responsibility that comes with being a landlord. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at monematters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, various items of the City of Westland, Special Investigations Unit will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
5229570	1992	Cadillac	Seville	1G6KY53B0NU826099

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: March 26, 2009

**CAVALIER PROPERTIES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI. April 11, 2009 at 1:05 PM.

#231	Patricia M. Sczech	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#232	Patricia M. Sczech	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#330	Patricia M. Sczech	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#450	Kevin E. Tyler	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#505	Melvin Turner	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#506	Afro Sol/Melvin Turner	Units contain: Misc Household Items
#1126	Mellisa L. Sheehan	Units contain: Misc Household Items

Publish: March 19 and 26, 2009

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN FOR THE MAY 5, 2009 LIVONIA AND WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Please take Notice that the Wayne-Westland School Board Election in parts of the Township of Canton and parts of the Cities of Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the Livonia School Board Election in parts of the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the Wayne-Westland and Livonia School Board Elections to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, is Monday, April 6, 2009. Persons registering after 4:00 p.m. in the evening on Monday, April 6, 2009 are not eligible to vote at the Wayne-Westland and/or Livonia School Board Elections.

You may register at the Clerk's office within your respective municipality of residence listed below or at any Secretary of State Office.

TERRI BENNETT, CMC JUDY DUDZINSKI VELIDA SMITH
Canton Township Clerk Dearborn Heights Clerk Inkster City Clerk

LINDA CHOATE MARY CARNEY EILEEN DeHART, CMC
Romulus City Clerk Wayne City Clerk Westland City Clerk

Publish: March 26, 2009

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, various items of the City of Westland, Department of Public Works will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
5348284	1998	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAPP71W5WX147349
5176944	1998	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAPP71W8WX147345
5176999	2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W35X114003
5192764	1995	Ford	Taurus	1FALP52U5SG261307
5192786	2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W45X114009
5192779	2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W15X114002
5177022	2005	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W55X114004

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: March 26, 2009

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold three Public Hearings on Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to solicit public comments on the following proposed text amendments to the zoning ordinance:

- 09-002, Section 154.037, subsection (D):** to allow in a residential district a fence four feet in height from the rear line of the building, not to extend past the front wall of the building.
- 09-005, New Section 154.164:** to set standards for home occupations, what is permitted, what is not permitted for the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts.
- 09-006, Section 154.403:** to eliminate the term "workshop" meeting and allow the Planning Commission to act on business items at any meeting of the Planning Commission.

The proposed text amendments are available to be viewed during normal business hours and all written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

David L. Harvey
City Manager

Publish: March 26, 2009

Churchill students hold peace conference for teenagers

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some students at Churchill High School in Livonia want teens to know they don't have to wait to become adults to make a difference.

The students, members of the World Focus group at Churchill, are putting on a peace conference for 13- to 19-year-olds in the metro Detroit and Windsor area from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Madonna University, Livonia.

The event is "organized by teens for teens to see what teens are capable of doing," said Ryan Stevenson, 18, co-president of World Focus. "We are embracing peace, but we are also actively trying to work toward it."

Tickets to "Youth Peace Conference: Voices for Tomorrow" are \$20 each, include breakfast and lunch, and are available at the door.

A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit an African village that was raided and burned to the ground in March 2007 by a neighboring agricultural group during a land dispute.

Conference speakers include Jeffrey Zaslow, *Wall Street Journal* columnist and co-author with Randy Pausch of the *The Last Lecture*, and John Titus, whose daughter was a flight attendant on one of the

planes hijacked by terrorists and flown into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

All five speakers are donating all or a portion of their fees to World Focus to help the African village, Stevenson said.

The World Focus group has already raised more than \$3,000 to rebuild the medical clinic and build a new maternity clinic in Bawock, Cameroon, said Bob Carris, president of the Livonia A.M. Rotary Club.

The students learned of the

VOICES FOR TOMORROW

What: Peace conference for teens
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
Where: Madonna University, Livonia
Who: Speakers include Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author with Randy Pausch of the *The Last Lecture*, and John Titus, whose stewardess

daughter died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

If you go: Cost of \$20 includes breakfast and lunch with a portion benefitting rebuilding efforts in Cameroon, Africa. Tickets are available at the door.

plight of the Bawock residents from Dr. Stanley-Pierre Ngeyi, a Rotarian and chemistry pro-

fessor at Madonna. Ngeyi grew up in Bawock.

An adviser at their school

put them in touch with Ngeyi after they expressed an interest in doing international charity work.

The World Focus group has since become a high school Rotary club in order to better help the Bawock residents. Stevenson said if people have the basic needs to live, there's no need for them to act in violence to take what they need from others.

Carris said he is impressed with the students in the World

Focus club. "I've not seen a group of kids do this on their own," he said. "They're the most motivated group of kids. They do fund-raisers about once a month; they're seriously interested in this."

He said the Bawock chief has sent them thank-you letters, adding that the village received little help from the government. "They cannot believe that kids in the United States would do this for them."

Late property taxes subject to penalties and interest

Each week, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will be using this column as a regular forum to inform you about the tax

process and to answer the questions most frequently asked about property taxes.

Always remember that your property is your most precious asset. Do not risk losing it for nonpayment of property taxes.

On March 1 all unpaid taxes are placed on the Wayne County Delinquent Tax Roll with additional penalties and interest. Once this takes place payments must be made to the Wayne County Treasurer ONLY (payments may not be made to the city any longer).

If you cannot pay all of your taxes, you should pay as much as you are able so that you only pay interest and penalties on the unpaid portion.

On March 1, by law, delinquent taxes are sent to Wayne County Treasurer for billing and collection. After 1 year, if taxes remain unpaid, a Certificate of Forfeiture will be recorded with Wayne County Register of Deeds.

After 2 years, properties with delinquent taxes remaining unpaid will be foreclosed and a Notice of Foreclosure is recorded with Wayne County Register of Deeds.

If you have any questions or issues related to delinquent property taxes in Wayne County, please call our Taxpayer Assistance Department at 313-224-6105. You may also find further information about delinquent taxes on the Wayne County Web site www.treasurer.waynecounty.com.

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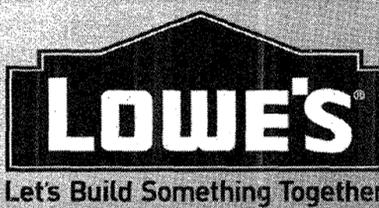
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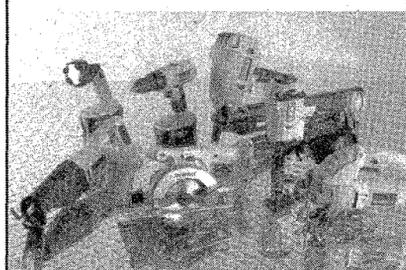
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14 SELECT DEWALT® TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

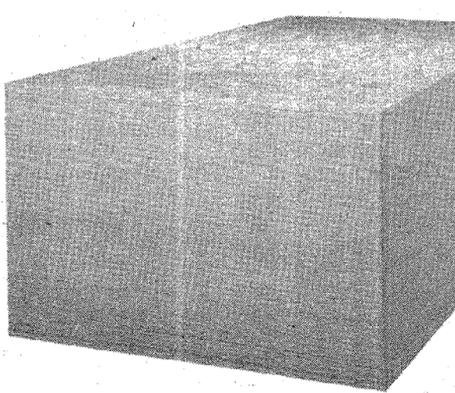
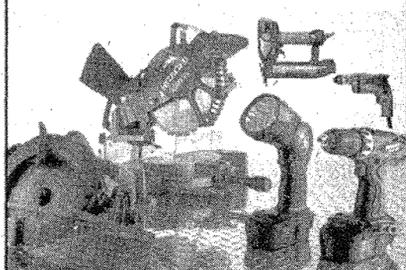
Offer valid 3/1/09 - 3/31/09. Discount taken at register. See store for details.



20% off

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now **\$562** was \$626 each

7/16" x 4' x 8' OSB Sheathing

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25% off

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NEW LOWER PRICE!

now **\$45** was \$53

Any Size, In-Stock Pre-Hung 6-Panel Molded Hollow-Core Interior Door

Locksets sold separately.

20% off BASIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER INSTALLATION LABOR

Discount taken at time of order. Offer valid 3/25/09 - 4/5/09.

NEW LOWER PRICE!

now **\$155** was \$168

3/4-HP Garage Door Opener

•Strong and reliable chain drive to lift the heaviest garage door #248735

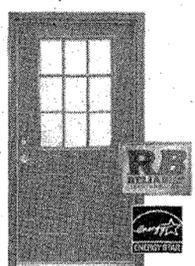


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32" or 36" 9-Lite Steel Entry Door Unit

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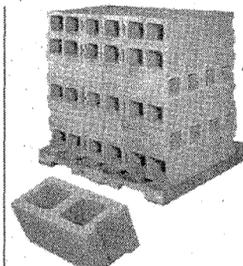


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now **87¢** was 98¢ each

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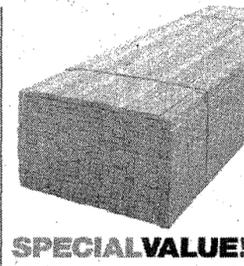


SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$167** was \$177 each

2" x 4" x 96" Kiln-Dried Whitewood Select Stud #6005

Pricing for commodity items may vary due to market conditions - we reserve the right to limit quantities.

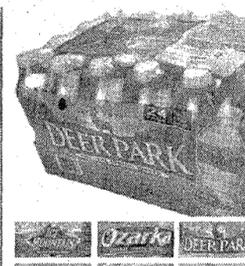


NEW LOWER PRICE!

now **\$397** was \$498

24-Pack Bottled Water #46256/45072/57282/3,4,5

Brands may vary by market.



TOP CHOICE LUMBER PRODUCTS

\$264 each

2" x 4" x 8' Top Choice Treated Lumber #46905

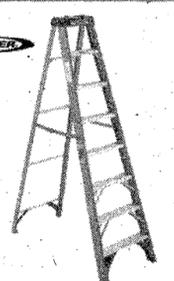
Pricing for commodity items may vary due to market conditions - we reserve the right to limit quantities.



WERNER

\$82

Werner 8' Fiberglass Stepladder •250 lb. load capacity #98195



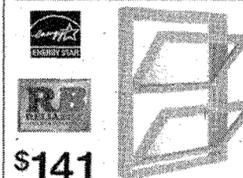
free low-E & argon gas upgrade

with purchase of any Reliabl Special Order vinyl window. Discount taken at time of order. Offer valid 3/26/09 - 4/5/09. See store for details.

\$141

28"W x 38"H 3201 Series Double-Hung Vinyl Replacement Window

•Limited lifetime warranty
•Available by Special Order



PORTER CABLE

\$109

2-Piece 18-Volt NiCad Cordless Combo Kit

•Includes 1/2" drill/driver, 6-1/2" circular saw, 1-hour charger and 2 batteries #37894



YELLOW JACKET

SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$35** was \$39.78

50' 12/3 Contractor Cord

•Heavy-duty PowerLite™ plug lights up when power is on
•Lifetime warranty #242027



For the Lowe's nearest you, call 1-800-993-4416 or visit us online at Lowe's.com

Prices may vary after 3/30/09 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 3/19/09 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Ask for 10% Off your first single-receipt in-store purchase charged to your new Lowe's Accounts Receivable or Lowe's Business Account when you open your new account in any Lowe's store and make your first purchase between 3/24/09 - 3/30/09. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or discount. This coupon is good for a single receipt purchase of any in-stock or Special Order merchandise only up to \$5000 (Maximum discount \$500). Coupon is not redeemable for cash, is nontransferable and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen. Void if altered, copied, transferred, or sold through any on-line auction. Limit one coupon per household or business. Not valid on sales via Lowe's.com, previous sales, purchase of services or gift cards. Offer must be requested at the time of purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval. Coupon valid for one time use only. Offer is not valid for accounts opened prior to 3/24/09. Excludes Lowe's® Consumer Credit Accounts, Lowe's® Project Card® Accounts, Lowe's® VISA® Accounts, and all Lowe's® Canada Credit products. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only. ©2009 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LL LFC. (090391) 001/090391/062

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LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

Sonic's coming is good news

We need only look at our Web site, www.hometownlife.com, to see the excitement that's been created by the announcement that Sonic is coming to Westland. It's been quite awhile since there was something positive to report about business in southeast Michigan. Most of the news has been gloomy with this store or that store closing their doors.

The restaurant will be the fourth to open in Michigan and will bring life back to a key corner in Westland's main shopping district. The boarded-up Denny's will be leveled to make way for Sonic and its 1950s-style drive-in.

Yes, we know the company's franchise development official for Wayne County is saying that it's "99 percent sure" the project will happen and won't give an opening date, but when city officials use words like "Tremendous addition," we suspect that it's a sure bet.

Westland has been lucky to maintain a vibrant restaurant row in and around Westland Shopping Center, but north of the mall, along Cowan, has been plagued with big box buildings like Sam's Club and the old Best Buy standing vacant. The boarded-up Denny's was a major poster child for lost businesses along that stretch of the road.

While Sonic is on the northern edge of the restaurant row, it has potential to attract people to the area that could provide the impetus for other businesses to locate in the vacant buildings or redevelop the property to suit their needs.

We also believe Economic Development Director Lori Fodale is correct in surmising the restaurant will attract people from within and outside the city. One visitor to our Web site lives in Livonia and has "been waiting for one to be located closer to us." We'd bet that diner will stop by the mall while in the area.

We applauded the efforts of city officials like Fodale who have pressed on regardless to start rebuilding the city.

In these economic times, any reason to do a happy dance is welcomed, and we believe this the fact Sonic has picked Westland for its next store deserves such a dance. Sonic is coming and it's good news. It may be retro, but it's just what this city needs right now to revive spirits.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Thanks from crime report

Thanks for publishing some of the crime that is happening in Westland. If all the residents watch out for each other we can bring the crime rate down in our town. We need to send a message to these criminals that we're not going to stand by and let you ruin our city.

tck1980

3 cheers for Sonic

Yay! Its about time someone built a Sonic around here! That place always has crazy business and Lord knows we have plenty of empty business lots around here to fill.

jd81107

Waiting for Sonic

SWEET! A few years ago, we visited my in-laws in Texas. I had my first exposure to Sonic and really liked it. Since the Sonic downriver was built, I have been waiting for one to be located closer to us.

liiveinlivonia

COMMUNITY VOICE

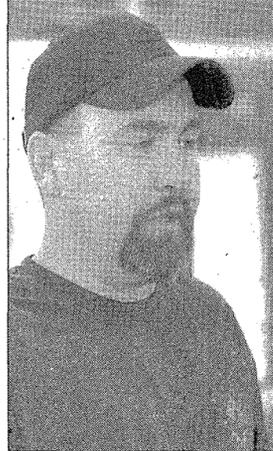
Do you think the stimulus package will help the economy?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"No, I don't think it's been thought out well enough. It was done too fast. We're handing out money and not knowing what will be done with it."

Marilyn DeVore
Garden City



"I doubt it. We're just adding more debt than what we're saving. It's gone pretty deep. I think it's going to get worse before it gets better."

Todd Rupe
Westland



"I don't know if it'll work. We're so far in the hole already, this could just put us deeper in the hole."

Ruth Short
Garden City



"Yes, I believe so. I think it'll help people who are in foreclosure by giving them money and things."

Charles Stewart
Westland

LETTERS

Appalled by vote

I was appalled, but not surprised, that our congressman, Thaddeus McCotter, was the only Michigan member of the House of Representatives to vote against the bill to heavily tax billions of dollars in bonuses paid to executive employees of giant financial firms out of federal bailout funds.

There are some legal and technical arguments against the bill that McCotter may argue, but this is no time to be picky. This was a WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON type vote which every Michigan congressman except McCotter understood. I mean, this is like choosing between the bad guys and your mother.

Please, congressman, this time it's OK to vote for a tax increase on the very rich, even if it makes you uncomfortable.

Dick McKnight
Westland

A complete farce

This whole AIG fiasco, where all these politicians are suddenly screaming over bonuses paid to the traders and execs at AIG's financial-products division, is just a complete farce. What it really shows is how the government has completely screwed up the AIG takeover.

Blame the Bush administration and the Obama administration. In addition, it also shows, once again, why the government shouldn't run anything, because it cannot run anything.

AIG should have been placed in bankruptcy last fall under with government oversight. While in bankruptcy, all the salary contracts (and all other AIG contracts) would have been canceled. This would have led the way to an orderly liquidation and sale of AIG's assets.

And as for the \$165 million or so in AIG bonus payments, the Obama administra-

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

tion, including the president, "Turbo Tax Cheat" Timothy Geithner and economic adviser Larry Summers knew all about them many months ago

No big surprise here and nobody should be shocked. But President Obama is doing an Oscar-winning performance. His only concern at this moment is he knows his poll numbers are dying from the nationwide outcry over all these federal bailouts and massive spending. If he doesn't put on this act, he won't be able to push his socialist agenda any longer and so there go the pet projects and the Democratic wish list of pork.

Why has no one asked Team Obama why it is more than willing to break mortgage contracts using a judge to make the decision on what the mortgage company will ultimately get from the borrower, but won't do the same for AIG, despite the fact that the U.S. government owns the company? Kind of odd, don't you think?

And what is Treasury man "Turbo Tax Cheat" Timothy Geithner's role in all this? He appears to be the biggest bungler in what has become a massive bungling. I'm pretty sure he will not survive this mess

Add to this, the ridiculous government policy, "if your house is worth more than government regulations say it can be, you are automatically unqualified to apply for refinancing." Nothing else matters. You're just S-O-L.

I can't understand for the life of me why a motley crew of members of Congress and Obama administration officials are not behind bars instead of dictating the

kind of regulatory madness stated above.

Among those who should be wearing prison pinstripes are Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd and his House colleague, Rep. Barney Frank of the socialist republic of Massachusetts.

Chris Dodd, head of the Senate Banking Committee, he gets a nice little mortgage from a now-defunct lender, and took enormous contributions from AIG, which has given him \$280,000 in political fund raising. He also got the most from Fannie and Freddie's Political Action Committees (PAC) and employees, a healthy \$133,900 since 1989.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Massachusetts, got more than \$40,000 in campaign donations from Fannie since 1989. When questioned (many times) about Freddie/Fannie, Frank told all that "Freddie and Fannie are fine, nothing to worry about."

Dodd and Frank were in the pockets Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac during Fannie's most fraudulent business practices, but we were sold out, the media let them off the hook. When the House pushed for reform of Fannie/Freddie when Republicans were in control of Congress, Chris Dodd killed it in the Senate Banking Committee. Dodd was also responsible for writing in the stipulation that AIG must make the bonus payments.

Karl Rove stated, "All of this bad stuff on Wall Street happened because people got greedy and the greed started at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac."

As I have stated over and over again, government caused this problem. If we don't want it to happen again, we need to ensure that government stays out of private businesses and out of our lives. Government's role is to provide infrastructure and to protect us from enemies foreign and domestic, period!

Phil Solarz
Westland

State's incarceration rate is not out of line

It is repeatedly stated in the media that Michigan incarcerates at a rate higher than our Great Lakes neighbors. This does not tell the full story. Now, the governor and Legislature will be making critical decisions about our corrections system, which will impact the safety of our citizens for years to come. The tri-county prosecutors, who represent the majority of this state's urban population, want the discussion about these critical decisions to be factual and complete.

Michigan has a crime problem. When comparing our state to our neighbors, we should begin by recognizing that our crime rate is higher than theirs. However, according to the underlying data of the Justice Center study, which was commissioned by the governor and state lawmakers, we arrest only one-quarter of the perpetrators of violent crimes in our community — roughly half the rate of the rest of the country.

This horrendous statistic is driven in part by the fact that Michigan has the fewest police officers per capita in the

Midwest. While our violent crime rate has increased, the actual numbers of police on the street in Michigan have declined extraordinarily in the past decade. In fact, many urban police forces have been decimated. At the same time, there is a critical lack of scientific investigative resources which delays analysis of evidence, stalls investigations, and allows perpetrators to avoid apprehension.

Michigan's rate of incarcerating criminals is not out of step with prudent and necessary practices. According to the same Justice Center study, only one in 10 convicted felons is initially sentenced to prison. This 10 percent represents the most violent, habitual criminals that plague our communities. The other 90 percent of convicted felons are initially sentenced to local jails, probation, community programs or diversion. Of these 90 percent, some violate the terms of their probations and are then resented to prison. But even adding those violators to those initially sentenced to prison, less than 22 percent of Michigan's felons are ever committed to prison.

Nationally, the commitment rate is 40 percent. So, to suggest that Michigan's criminal justice system is not attempting

to utilize the varied and expanding pool of community sanctions and treatment for convicted felons is totally wrong, and wholly unproductive to a reasoned, effective discussion of the issues and what we need to do about them.

Our citizens deserve a safe Michigan, to live, work and raise their children. Public safety is the first obligation of government, and our leaders need to keep that priority when making difficult budget choices. Releasing high-risk prisoners before adding police officers, expanding crime lab resources, and investing in the "front end" of a young man or woman's life, is quite simply putting the cart before the horse. And it is a dangerous answer to our budgetary crisis.

We simply cannot reduce the costs of government by accelerating the release into the community of repeat offenders and high-risk individuals. Government must be fiscally responsible. But it cannot be so by sacrificing the safety of its citizens.

Jessica R. Cooper is Oakland County prosecutor. This column also was endorsed by Kym L. Worthy, Wayne County prosecutor, and Eric J. Smith, Macomb County prosecutor.

Join the discussion
If you had \$10,000 to invest in one of the Big Three auto companies, which one would you pick?
Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

WESTLAND OBSERVER
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MALLS & MAIN STREETS

EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES METRO DETROIT — The Easter Bunny will hop into several local malls this weekend and stay through Easter Sunday. He has already arrived at Twelve Oaks in Novi, Westland Center in Westland, Oakland Mall in Troy, and Laurel Park Place in Livonia. The Village of Rochester Hills will welcome the Easter Bunny March 28 with a Kids Spring Scavenger Hunt noon-3 p.m. starting in Festival Park. Somerset's bunny, Hester Fairweather, will arrive April 2 at the North Grand Court amidst whimsical pop-up book decor and a labyrinth carpet. All locations offer photo packages. Check online for times.

BALLROOM BLISS AT ROYAL PARK

ROCHESTER — The Royal Park Hotel will host the third annual Ballroom Bliss Event March 28. Named "Best Industry Event" by the National Association of Catering Executives-Michigan Chapter, the event offers a night of inspiration for clients hosting upcoming events at the Royal Park Hotel, including industry trends, creative cuisine, glam tabletops, stylish sips and tips. Call (248) 453-8709.

SHIRT BOX COLLECTS CLOTHES FARMINGTON HILLS — The Shirt Box continues to collect gently used men's professional clothing through "The Shirts Off Our Back: From Our Closet to Yours," in partnership with Detroit's Neighborhood Service Organization. Drop off dress shirts, slacks, ties and sports coats at The Shirt Box, 32500 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. The clothing will help NSO's clients dress for success when applying for new jobs and making the transition back into the workforce. Call (248) 851-6770.

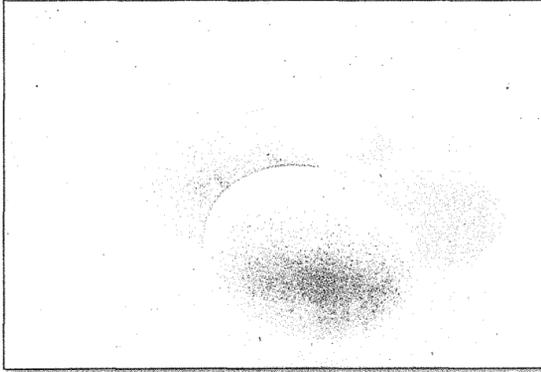
VINTAGE CLOTHING SHOW SOUTHFIELD — The Midwest Vintage Clothing, Jewelry and Textile Show and Sale will be held April 3-4 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. Show hours are 5-10 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

PAMPER FOR A CAUSE TROY — Queen for a Day and Heroes, a nonprofit organization designed to raise the self-esteem and the self-confidence of children coping with cancer, will sponsor Beauty Bash VI, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. April 7 at the Excel Academies of Cosmetology, on Rochester Road south of M-59. Choose from a custom facial, paraffin dip, conditioning treatment, manicure, pedicure, make-up application or a hairstyle and cut; \$20 for one service, \$35 for two. The event also includes a silent auction, craft show, mini-massages, raffle and light refreshments. Call (248) 828-9972 to book your appointment.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN ROCHESTER — Grace Centers of Hope presents the 11th annual Women Helping Women Luncheon and Fashion Show 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2 at the Royal Park Hotel. Tickets, \$85, benefit GCH's Women's Program, the only shelter in southeastern Michigan where mothers and their children can stay together longer than two weeks for Life Skills programming. The shelter provides services without government funding. Ruth Spencer, WDIV Channel 4; Teresa Tomeo, 990 Catholic Radio; and Doris Biscoe, Biscoe Communications, return as emcees. Call (248) 334-2187 or visit www.gracecentersofhope.org.

PENDLETON WELCOMES SPRING NORTHVILLE — Pendleton, 117 N. Center St. in downtown Northville, will welcome the season with a Spring Celebration March 26-28. View new spring merchandise for men and women, and get up to 40 percent off spring suiting for women in 100 percent lightweight wool woven in the U.S.A. With a purchase of \$250 or more, get a Lovey Lamb; and enter to win a "Sir Wooliam" cuddly life-size sheep mascot. For a free gift, R.S.V.P. at (248) 596-9820.

FOOD, FASHION AND FUN TROY — Saks Fifth Avenue, Inforum, Michigan Financial Companies and Styleline Magazine will present "Food,



Fashion, Fun & How to Finance It All, 11:30 a.m. March 27 at The Somerset Inn, 2601 W. Big Beaver Road. The event includes a Spring 2009 "Want It" trend show, luncheon, and presentation "Financial Success in a Turbulent Market," by Dawn Impellizzeri. Tickets, \$40 for Inforum members; \$45 for non-members, include a \$25 S5A Gift Card. Call (313) 578-3230 or visit www.inforum-michigan.org.

STYLESWAP CREATES COMMUNITY

SOUTHFIELD — Kara Laramie, owner of Live Wire Bead Company in Royal Oak, will launch her new venture StyleDirective with a "StyleSwap" event 7-9:30 p.m. April 3 at Tapestry catering on Evergreen Road in Southfield. Purchase a ticket, \$35, and contribute at least five items to swap in exchange for credits that you can use

pick up other items, ranging from clothing in junior and women's sizes, outerwear and accessories including shoes, jewelry, belts, hats, scarves, wraps, purses and sunglasses. The event also includes appetizers, beverages and a free gift. Call (248) 396-2067 or e-mail kara@styledirective.com.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS EVENT

TROY — Donate a gently worn St. John suit to the Dress for Success drive at Saks Fifth Avenue through March 22, and receive \$200 off any full-price St. John purchase of \$1,000 or more. Dress for Success promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, support and career development tools. Saks is located at 2901 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call (248) 614-3317.

TIFFANY AWARDS OPEN CALL FARMINGTON HILLS — Hairdressers and colorists are

invited to enter the 7th Annual Tiffany Michigan Hairdresser of the Year Awards through 5 p.m. May 29. Contestants compete in four categories: Formal, Women's Editorial, Color and Avant Garde. First, second and third place winners in each category are presented with a crystal trophy from Tiffany & Co.

Contestants who enter in each of the three categories of Formal, Women's Editorial and Color are eligible to compete live for the title of Michigan Hairdresser of the Year at DREAMS, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, on Sept. 26 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. For information or to enter, visit www.thetiffanyawards.com or call (248) 347-7700 x2922.

WEDDING FOR BRIDES-TO-BE PLYMOUTH

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth DDA will stage its 2nd annual Plymouth Bridal Stroll April 25. The event starts at noon in Kellogg Park at with a mock wedding party, head table, and live music from members of the Erickson Flute Ensemble. From there, brides will follow their Bridal Stroll program on a matrimonial adventure through 35 downtown businesses offering locally-owned, personal wedding services, refreshments, discounts and drawings. Call (734) 455-1453 or e-mail dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS, SISTERS

TROY — Saks Fifth Avenue presents the "Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Friends" Patron Party April 1. The event includes strolling brunch and a "Want It" trend show to benefit the Francee & Benson Ford, Jr. Breast Care & Wellness Center at Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield. Sponsorships begin at \$600. Call (248) 853-3637.

EARTH DAY EXPO

ROCHESTER — Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center will present the fourth annual Earth Day Expo, Michigan's largest Earth Day event, in Downtown Rochester Saturday, April 18-19. The Expo, moving to Downtown Rochester at Third and Water streets and expanding to two full days, is free and open to the public. It will offer more than 150 green and wellness exhibits, presentations and films, alternative vehicle and energy displays, organic food service, farmers' market and petting farm, kids corner, hands-on demonstrations, music and entertainment, prizes drawings, free massage and wellness activities, sustainable project and green business tours, as well as a community-building Connections Cafe. A Welcome Reception will be held 7-9 p.m. April 15 at Mind, Body & Spirits restaurant. Visit www.earthdayexpo.org or e-mail earthdayexpo@uheac.org.

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Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29th

1:00 p.m. - Ages 3 & Under and Ages 4-6
1:30 p.m. - Ages 7-9 and Ages 10-12

Livonia Branch • 37401 Plymouth Road (SW Corner of Newburgh & Plymouth)

Mark your calendar to join in the fun at the Community Alliance Credit Union Easter Egg Hunt for kids age 12 and under. Everyone is welcome — so bring your family, friends and neighbors, too!

• Eggs are filled with candy or tags for special prizes — Easter baskets, toys, and more

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Dearborn, MI 48126
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800.287.0046
communityalliancecu.org

Livonia Branch
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Livonia, MI 48150
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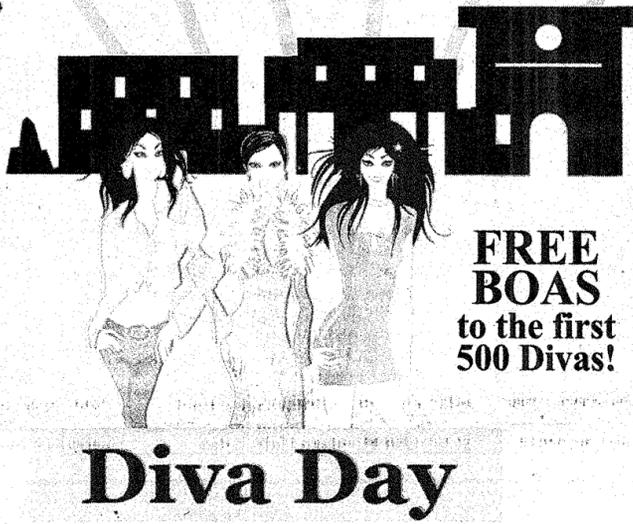
322 S. Main St. • Downtown Plymouth • 734-455-8884
 (across from Kellogg Park)

mon-wed 10am-6pm • thurs & fri 10am-8pm • sat 10am-6pm • sun 12pm-5pm

First Annual Diva Day In Downtown Plymouth Saturday, March 28 • 10am-6pm

Come to this FREE EVENT and bring your daughter, mother, sister, aunt or friend!

Just come and enjoy shopping, pampering and FUN!!!



FREE BOAS to the first 500 Divas!

Diva Day

Sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority

Over 30 shops and boutiques will present special offers and unique refreshments. Enter for a chance to win Diva Day Gift Baskets.

Maps of participating merchants are available at any of the merchants on this page.

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Saturday, March 28th thru Saturday, April 11th
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 March 28th 12 pm-2 pm
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Enjoy a snack fit for a princess! Take away a Princess Goody Bag!

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THURSDAY
March 26
2009

Madonna women's soccer coach steps down, B3

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

SECTION B
(LW)

HOMETOWN LIFE

Brad Emmons, editor (313) 222-6851
bemons@hometownlife.com

Runner-up NJCAA crown eludes Ocelots

Eleven different players scored as Kirkwood (Iowa) Community College held seed Saturday night, capturing its third consecutive NJCAA Division II women's basketball national championship with a convincing 62-38 triumph over Schoolcraft College in a game played at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Ill.

Schoolcraft ends its best season in school history at 32-3 overall, while Kirkwood winds up with a 35-1 mark.

MyKenya Johnson led Kirkwood with a game-high 16 points, while tournament MVP El Sara Greer added 15 rebounds.

The Lady Ocelots trailed 31-21 at halftime, shooting 9-of-26 from the floor (34.6 percent). They shot 15-of-50 overall for the game (30 percent) and were outrebounded 42-31 for the game.

Sheryl Brown led Schoolcraft, which had its 23-game winning streak halted, with 12 points and eight rebounds. Meanwhile, leading scorers April Goins and Taylor Langham (Salem) were held to eight and five points, respectively.

Goins and point guard Brittany Collins were named to the All-Tournament team along with Kalamazoo Valley CC's Ja'nae Morton (Canton).

Langham and Collins both made the All-Region 12, All-Michigan Community College Athletic Association and All-MCCAA Eastern Conference teams.

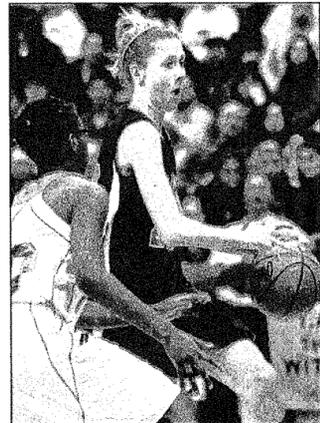
Other All-Eastern Conference picks from Schoolcraft included Goins (second team) and Brown (honorable mention).

Collins earned Eastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors, while Goins made the All-Conference Freshman team.

Schoolcraft coach Karen Lafata was also named MCCAA Coach of the Year.



Franklin players (from left) Brittany Taylor, Briauna Taylor and Nicole Emery try to wrestle the ball away from Benton Harbor's Destiny Williams (24), who had 31 points and 21 rebounds in Saturday's 60-46 Class A state championship win over the Patriots at EMU's Convocation Center.



Franklin sophomore Chelsea Williams, who had 13 points, helped orchestrate a third-quarter comeback, but it wasn't enough as Benton Harbor beat the Patriots for the state Class A title, 60-46.

Destiny's time Benton Harbor denies Franklin in finals

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After Friday's thrilling and emotional overtime win over Detroit Renaissance, it appeared Livonia Franklin was destined to win the Class A girls basketball state championship.

But Benton Harbor's 6-foot-2 do-it-all forward Destiny Williams had other ideas in Saturday's noon final at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center.

The senior forward, committed to the University of Illinois, scored a game-

high 31 points and grabbed 21 rebounds to lead the Tigers to their first-ever girls state title, 60-46, over the Patriots.

Franklin, which picked up the state runner-up trophy, ends its most glorious season in school history at 24-4 overall.

Less than 24 hours after Briauna Taylor's dramatic three-point play with no time left had given Franklin an upset 55-54 OT win over the Detroit Public School League champions, the Patriots had to recharge their batteries for another talented foe.

Please see **FRANKLIN, B4**

Fit for the course

Training Station regimen aids Madonna men's golfers

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato attended a seminar over the winter at the Titleist Performance Institute in Chicago, he was looking for ideas to jump-start his spring season.

And because of the long and often cruel Michigan winters, Mato was seeking an off-season program tailored to incorporate golf and fitness.

It was time to come out of hibernation and, only a few miles away from campus, Mato got his answer — a new facility called the Training Station, located on 495 Amelia, just a chip shot away from the Cultural Center in Plymouth.

"Part of it was out of necessity, and I was looking for something we could do on our own," Mato said. "Nothing replaces hitting the ball on the course, but we're in Michigan. This is exactly what we need. I've gotten a lot of positive comments. And even though they're sore and tired, they see the benefits."

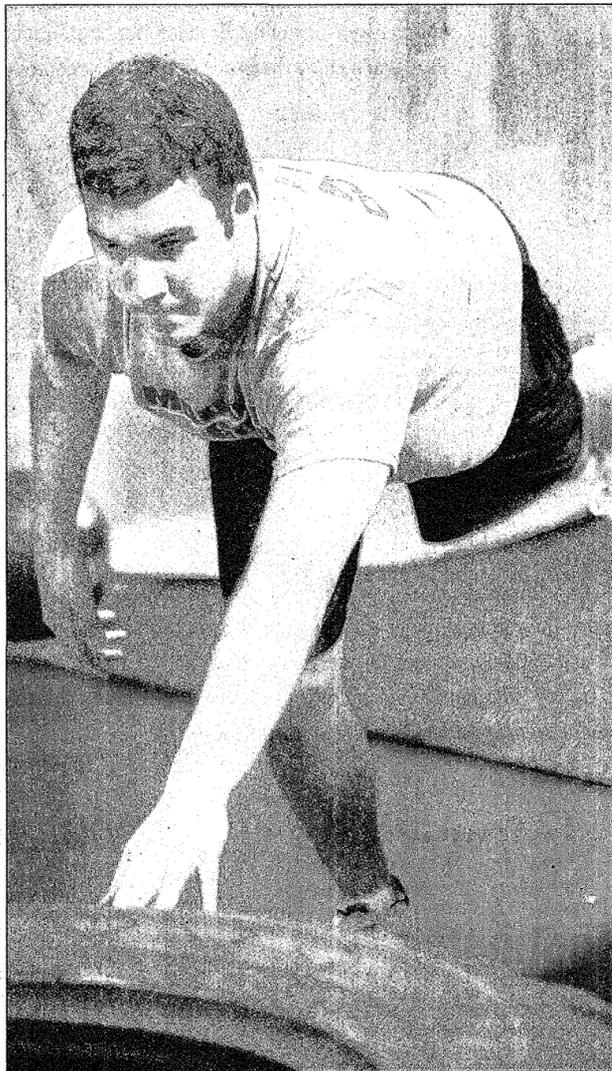
As part of an eight-week session, the MU men's team meets twice a week for an hour doing circuit training. The Crusaders can be seen doing bar rotations and tire flips and lifting kettle bells.

The program stresses strength, stability, flexibility, mobility and cardio work under the direction of Dave Finlay, a certified personal trainer, strength and conditioning specialist. Also assisting the MU golfers during their off-season program is Tami Bealert, a local PGA professional and fitness instructor.

"If you do nothing all winter, then you wonder why you're hurt after that first swing," said Finlay, who holds a B.S. in physical education from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. "Chiropractors will tell you golf and gardening are their biggest money-makers. If you have no practice, warmup training or flexibility, that's when you get hurt."

"If your hamstrings are too tight, you use your spine as a torque instead of your hips."

Finlay also works with area youth and high school hockey teams during the off-season. Ironically, many of MU's players have hockey backgrounds.



MU men's golfer Brett Quitiquit works on his reach and keeping his balance during a recent off-season workout at the Training Station in Plymouth.

Please see **GOLFERS, B4**

GAME WRAPS

College softball

The Madonna University women's softball team now stands 18-6 overall after splitting four games last weekend in the Campbellsville/Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) Classic.

Here is a weekend roundup for MU games.

CAMPBELLVILLE (KY.) 2, MADONNA 1: In the first game, Jennifer Englands belted a leadoff homer in the bottom of the seventh inning to give host Campbellsville (13-4) to a victory win over the Crusaders.

Katie Daniel also went 2-for-2 with an RBI, while winning pitcher Allison Horton held the Crusaders in check on a five-hitter. Horton struck out six and walked four.

Jess Irwin (9-5), recently named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week for the second time this season, suffered the loss. She allowed just four hits while striking out 12 in 6²/₃ innings.

Tedi Johnston homered and Ashley Shay went 2-for-4 for the Crusaders.

MADONNA 1, VIRGINIA-WISE 0: In the second game, freshman Hallie Minch (Garden City), with relief help from Irwin in the seventh, raised her record to 9-1 in a 1-0 triumph over the University of Virginia-Wise (12-10).

Minch scattered five hits and fanned nine. Irwin earned her first save by fanning the final UVA-Wise batter.

MU scored the game-winning run in the seventh when Shay led off with a single. Pinch runner Tori Turner moved up on a passed ball and scored on Mary Kate Setta's game-winning RBI single.

Tina Vaughan collected two hits and Brittany Lawson tripled for UVA-Wise.

Losing pitcher Megan McCoy (4-6) had her no-hitter broken up in the seventh. She struck out eight and walked two.

MADONNA 4, UNION (KY.) 1: On Saturday, Ashley Shay knocked in two runs and Jess Irwin came on to pitch 3²/₃ innings of scoreless relief to lead the Crusaders (17-5) to the victory over Union (Ky.) College in the Campbellsville/Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) Classic.

Irwin struck out six and did not allow a walk in taking over for starter Hallie Minch.

MARTIN METHODIST (TENN.) 7, MADONNA 0: Pitcher Sally Gale tossed a two-hit shut-out Saturday to lead No. 13-ranked Martin Methodist (Tenn.) College (12-8) past the Crusaders (16-5) at Campbellsville University (Ky.) Stadium.

Nicole Velex and Nicole McWhorter each knocked in two runs for the Red Hawks.

Losing pitcher Jess Irwin gave up four earned runs on six hits and six walks. She struck out 10.

Churchill spring tryouts

Livonia Churchill High has announced its tryout schedule for 2009 spring season. All athletes must have a valid physical on file (conducted after April 15, 2008) in order to tryout, in addition to the Livonia Public Schools \$200 participation fee.

Girls pompon tryouts will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 4 at the gymnasium (e-mail Vicki Middleton at mru-mice@cs.com).

Competitive cheerleading will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 11 at the gymnasium (e-mail Heidi Barrow at hbarrow@livonia.k12.mi.us).



Stefanie Turner Churchill



Bailey Brandon Churchill

Chargers plug into new KLAA

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There are three area girls soccer teams you may want to keep an eye on this spring.

But the one expected to get the most attention is Livonia Churchill, which returns three first-team All-Observer players from a squad that finished 14-3-2 overall.

The Chargers are led by senior goalkeeper Stefanie Turner, who posted nine shutouts last season (27.5 for her career) before going down late last season because of an illness.

She is joined by fellow senior captain Bailey Brandon (16 goals, 11 assists) and senior midfielder Kayla Johnston (10 goals, 12 assists) — both of whom made first-team All-Observer along with Turner.

"This year is extremely different than any of the other 11 that I have been associated with this program," Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit said. "With 13 seniors, a new conference alignment (the KLAA), and close to a month of preparation for our first real match, this season is unique in many ways."

Also back in the fold is senior forward Hannah Otto, who made second team All-Observer; senior

Please see **CHARGERS, B2**

Rochester boots Stevenson, 4-1

CHARGERS

FROM PAGE B1

BY DAN STICKRAT
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Scoring goals has not been a problem for Rochester this decade.

The Falcons made a statement on Tuesday in their season opener that they will again be an offensive juggernaut.

Rochester scored two goals

in each half and cruised top a 4-1 victory at home over Livonia Stevenson, a perennial powerhouse coming off an uncharacteristic 9-9-8 season.

"We haven't had problem scoring goals the last few years," Rochester coach Todd Heugh said. "I thought we looked very good offensively in this one. I don't know if it

was a three-goal game. We had chances and they had chances. But we were able to finish."

Sarah Dzuris scored off an Amanda Anton pass and Lauren Fant finished off a cross from Dzuris to give Rochester (1-0-0) a 2-0 half-time advantage.

In the second half, Halie

Bertraw scored off a Fant pass and Fant capped the scoring with the final assist going to Anton on the fourth goal.

Renee Boudreau scored late in the game for Stevenson (0-1-0).

Sophomore Laura Ivezaj made seven saves in her varsity debut for Rochester.

midfielder Alyssa Mira (signed with Grand Valley State) and senior forward Callie Mack (10 goals).

"While I am optimistic about the season, I know, as always, we will face adversity at some points," Hebestreit said.

"Hopefully, the strong character that these girls possess will help us over the hurdles. If we can remain healthy, and stay interested, we will be a dangerous team late in the season.

"This is one of our goals, as in recent seasons, I think we may have peaked at too early a moment."

Livonia Stevenson finished 9-9-3 overall, but went 1-0-1 against Churchill a year ago.

The Spartans will be led by first-team All-Observer defender Taleen Mergian and second-team All-Observer midfielder Kayla Kimble, a junior.

The Spartans, who lost their season opener Tuesday at home to Rochester, 4-1, will also get scoring from junior forward Renee Boudreau as they embark in Kensington Conference's tough Central Division, which also includes Northville, Novi, Salem, South Lyon and South Lyon East.

"I expect to compete in what

is definitely the toughest of the four divisions in the KLA.A," Stevenson's Chris Pinta said of the Central. "Much of how successful we are will depend on our team unity, how well we can accept mistakes, learn from them, and move on, and of course health. If we can stay healthy, continue to learn and improve, I'm optimistic towards this season and the potential of this team."

Livonia Ladywood (10-6-4) could make noise under second-year coach Ken Shingledecker, who guided the Blazers to the Division 2 district final (4-2 loss to Dexter) and the Catholic League final (4-2 loss to Birmingham Marian).

First-team All-Observer goalkeeper Michele Ring returns along with second-team senior midfielder Alessia Vagnini.

"I would be lying if I said the expectations weren't very high for this team," said Shingledecker, whose team is off to a 1-0 start. "We want to build off the experience we gained from last year's Catholic League finals appearance. As a team we have set our goals very high, but with the understanding that we need to improve every day in order to achieve those goals."

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GIRLS SOCCER CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Dave Hebestreit, eighth year.
League affiliation: KLA.A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 14-3-2.
Titles won last year: WLA.A Lakes Division championships.

Notable losses to graduation: Lindsay Marlow (second-team All-Area); Julianne Puroll (second-team All-Area); Jenny Jackson, Alisha Lussiez.

Leading returnees: Stefanie Turner, Sr. captain, GK (first-team All-Area; nine shutouts in 2008/27.5 overall); Alyssa Mira, Sr. MF; Hannah Otto, Sr. F (second-team All-Area); Callie Mack, Sr. F (10 goals; one assist); Darcy DeRoo, Jr. Def.; Lindsay McMullen, Sr. Def.; Shari Zakalowski, Sr. F; Kelsey Rothermel, Soph. Def.; Tessa Allen, Sr. Def.; Sam Meeker, Sr. MF; Julie Greco, Sr. F; Megan Bauman, Sr. GK.

Promising newcomers: Andrea Lopez, Sr. Def.; Megan McDonald, Soph. Def.; Nicole Marlow, Jr. MF; Sarah Bauman, Soph. MF; Rachel Staff, Jr. MF; Amy Perez, Jr. Def.; Kayla Munroe, Jr. F; Melissa Roe, Jr. F.
Hebestreit's 2009 outlook: "The senior leadership extends beyond our captains, as we have seven players who have played all 4 years on the varsity squad. We have looked good in the pre-season, with old and new players impressing me. We have already dealt with some early injuries, as we have worked hard in the first two weeks. Really the only thing left to figure out at this point is who is going to consistently put the ball in the net. I know those players will surface in time... it's just a matter of who and when."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Jen Barker, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLA.A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 2-17-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Kelly Powers (second-team All-Area); Molly Perkins.

Leading returnees: Courtney Smith, Sr., Def.; Renee Berger, Sr. Def.; Brooke Nilsen, Sr. MF; Sara Ramseyer, Sr. F; Kelsey Lank, Jr. MF; Ally Mesa, Soph. F; Erin Roulier, Jr. Def.; Ally Trosell, Jr. MF; Stephanie Agius, Jr. F.

Promising newcomers: Colleen Anthony, Soph. F; Liz Elliott, Soph. MF; Emily McCullen, Fr. F; Lexi Smith, Fr. GK; Kenzie Meyers, Fr. F; Lauren Zentz, Fr. MF.

Barker's 2009 outlook: "We have a strong returning class that will help give us some stability, experience and leadership. My backline will be a nice anchor of experience in front of our young goalkeeping. The kids are eager to improve as a team and take on the challenge of the new division. We're looking for both our newcomers and our veterans to be impacting right away in a variety of places



Kayla Johnston Churchill

on the field. The group is versatile and we're hoping to use that to our advantage."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Chris Pinta, eighth year.
League affiliation: KLA.A Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 9-9-3.

Notable losses to graduation: Rachel Stevens (first-team All-Area); Jennifer Gately; Stephanie Gutkowski; Julia Schroeder.

Leading returnees: Taleen Mergian, Sr. Def. (first-team All-Area); Kayla Kimble, Jr. MF (second-team All-Area); Renee Boudreau, Jr. F (All-District); Alex Harbowy Sr. MF; Joelle Williamson, Sr. F; Samantha Kliman, Sr. Def.; Molly McConnell, Jr. MF; Brittany Hoots, Jr. Def.; Shannon Merritt, Jr. F; Samantha Gutkowski, Jr. MF; Anastasia Newton, Jr. Def.; Krista Kane, So. Mid.; Michelle Krawczyk, Soph., GK.

Promising newcomers: Amanda Jenaway, Jr. MF; Tara Johnston, Jr. GK; Megan Rotter, Jr. Def.; Alison Slavin, Jr. Def.; Cassidy Truxell, Jr. MF; Ashley Welch, Jr. Def.; Dayna Stevens, Fr. F.
Pinta's 2009 Outlook: "We return a solid core of experience mixed with some newcomers whom I really expect to make a big impact this season. The girls worked hard in their club seasons and through conditioning this year and seem to be determined to make their mark in the new KLA.A. Team leadership, determination, and expectations are as good or better than they've been in quite some time."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Jimmy Mortada, first year.
League affiliation: KLA.A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 1-15-2.

Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Whitt, Kaley Coleman.

Leading returnees: Megan Nikula, Sr. MF; Kayla Wilshire, Sr. Def.; Ashley Bailey, Jr. MF; Andee Samborski, Jr. GK-MF; Katie Yax, Jr. GK; Jenna Williams, Soph. Def.; Devin Lombard, Soph. Def.

Promising newcomers: Lexi Gagliardi, Fr. F; Jesse Sanchez, Fr. F.
Mortada's 2009 outlook: "This is a



Taleen Mergian Stevenson



Michele Ring Ladywood

building year. We're going to do it like the boys and we'll be doing the same with the girls, which is to play with some technique, use strategy - the type of things you do when you're building a program."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: David Daigneau, first year.
League affiliation: KLA.A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 0-17-2.

Notable losses to graduation: Whitney Jacobs, Danielle Borg, Nickole Jarvis.
Leading returnees: Samantha Dye, Sr. F; Brittany DeJack, Sr. MF; Avalon Felan, Jr. Def.; Alyssa Escobar, Jr. MF; Jessica Kuder, Sr. Def.; Jessica Spytka, Sr. MF; Cassie Hardy, Sr. Def.
Promising newcomers: Erica Dye, Fr. MF; Heather Copeland, Jr. MF; Ashley Struppa, Sr. GK.

Daigneau's 2009 outlook: "This is my first time coaching varsity so I'm optimistic for the season. We had a good turnout - 65 girls - and this is the first time we had to make cuts. We're carrying 18 on varsity, 18 on JV and 14 on the freshman team. It's a big number and we hope to keep the program that way."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Ken Shingledecker, second year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 10-6-4.

List notable losses to graduation: Alison Szczypka (first-team All-Area); Kaitlyn Vitale, Sarah Kempa, Amanda Field, Kristen Selasky, Erica Doroghazi.

Leading returnees: Michele Ring, Sr. GK (first-team All-Area); Alessia Vagnini, Sr. MF (second-team All-Area); Caitlin Szczypka, Sr. MF; Allison Krueger, Sr. Def.; Lindsay Maier, Sr. Def.; Sydney DeLosh, Jr. MF; Allison Bielski, Soph. Def.; Christina Eroyan, Jr. Def.; Alexa Hyman, Soph. MF; Lauren Billotto, Sr. MF; Rachel Maceri, Jr. MF; Shea McParlane, Jr. MF; Laura Bou-Maroun, Sr. Def.; Alyssa Smith, Sr. Def.

Promising newcomers: Emily Chrasz, Fr. F; Mary Vance, Jr. MF; Kelly Capocchia, Fr. MF;

Becky Babon, Soph. MF; Allie Ilitch, Jr. F; Jamie Benaglio, Jr. MF.

Shingledecker's 2009 outlook: "This year's senior class has already proven to be excellent leaders on and off the field. I am looking for their leadership to help with the infusion of the multiple underclassmen that are expected to make an impact right out of the gate. It should be difficult to score goals on us due to the fact that we return one of the states top goalkeepers in Michele Ring, and three starters off our defense. Offensively, we will go how Vagnini and Szczypka go."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Trevor Johnson, third year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 6-11-1.

List notable losses to graduation: Amanda Moody (second-team All-Area).

List leading returnees: Tori Bunker, Sr. MF-sweeper; Jordan Fyffe, Sr. MF (first-team All-Metro; Teresa Parent, Jr. MF; Morgan Tressler, Jr. Sweeper (second-team All-Metro); Kristen Jolly, Jr. GK (second-team All-Metro).
Promising newcomers: Jerrica Clements, Soph. MF-F; Britney Olds, Fr. F.

Johnson's 2009 season outlook: "We have a solid group of returning players, led by captains Tori Bunker, Jordan Fyffe, and Kristen Jolly. Bunker and Fyffe are both four-year varsity players who are the heart and soul of the team. They display great leadership and outstanding effort on the field. Jolly brings the toughness to the team. She is fearless in net and her teammates have the utmost confidence in her. We are returning 12 players from last season's team, and the rest of the young team has quite a bit of potential. Our goal for the season is to compete for the Metro Conference title, have a good run in playoffs, and just improve as a whole by the end of the season. If we come together and play to our potential, we can be very competitive and dangerous in our conference."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND

Head coach: Sara Schaffer, first year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 9-8.

List notable losses to graduation: Megan Fisher, Sam Terranella, Jessica Welsler, Chelsea Kyles (injury).

Leading returnees: Allyson Yankee Sr. GK-Def. F; Danielle Voetberg, Sr. Def.; Abi Gieschen, Sr. Def.; Lauren Gieschen, Sr. Def.; Hannah Mielke, Sr. MF; Emily Meier, Jr. Def.; Miranda Kasprzewicz, Jr. F-GK; Ashley Pniowski, Jr. MF; Amber Pniowski, Jr. MF.

Promising newcomers: Taylor Wiemer, Fr. F; Sarah Frusti, Soph. F-GK; Lauren Switzer, Jr. MF; Carley Girolamo, Jr. F-MF.
Schafer's 2009 outlook: "As a team they have a good attitude and work ethic. We are working on developing our skills. I'm anxious to see how we improve as a team."

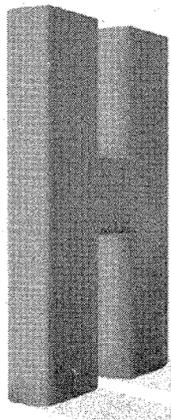
THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
(all double-headers)
Friday, March 27
Franklin at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Wayne at Garden City, 11 a.m.
John Glenn at Harrison, 1 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
(all double-headers)
Friday, March 27
Franklin at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 4 p.m.
Stevenson vs. John Glenn at Ladywood H.S., 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Annapolis at Wayne, 11 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, March 28
EMU Relays, 10 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, March 26
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 27
Milford at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Marian at Ladywood, 5 p.m.
Farmington at Franklin, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Harrison, 7 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, March 26
Harrison at Franklin, 7 p.m.
BOYS GOLF
Friday, March 27
Huron Valley vs. Oak Christian, 3 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Friday-Saturday, March 27-28
Individual State Championships at Midland, 8 a.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
Saturday, March 28
Davenport at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 29
Madonna at Davenport (2), 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Saturday, March 28
Huntington (Ind.) at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.
Urbana (Ohio) at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
FIRST-ROUND PLAYOFFS
(Best 4-of-7 series)
Thursday, March 26
Plymouth at Sarnia, TBA.
Saturday, March 28
Sarnia Sting vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

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All-Observer icers' talent is on cutting edge

SPORTS BRIEFS

FIRST TEAM

Adam Powers, Sr. G, Salem: The first-year high school player was pivotal in the Rocks' reversal of fortunes this past season. He helped Salem win the inaugural KLAA South Division title by posting a 2.5 goals-against average while saving 91 percent of the shots he faced. Powers earned All-KLAA honors.

"Adam is one of the of the most athletic goalies I've ever seen play at the high school level," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "He has an amazing ability to play the puck. Adam's performance during the second half of the season was one of the main reasons we were able to turn things around."

Dan Bostick, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The third-year performer, who made All-Kensington Conference, finished with four goals and 10 assists in 25 games for the Division I regional finalists.

"Dan gives you a solid, physical presence," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "He's a good skater who looks to join the rush. he logged a lot of minutes - usually playing against the other teams' top lines. He played in all situations."

Donny Barlow, Sr. Def., Canton: The talented senior's combination of strong skating, skills and physical play made him one of the KLAA's most-respected blue-liners. He led the Chiefs with a plus-minus rating of plus-39 while racking up five goals and 13 assists.

2008-09 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM
 Adam Powers, Sr. G, Salem
 Dan Bostick, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill
 Donny Barlow, Sr. Def., Canton
 Nick Tomilenko, Sr. F, Canton
 John Vella, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson
 Cole Rochowiak, Jr. F, Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM
 Mike Justus, Soph. G, Plymouth
 Adam Weigand, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill
 Alex Berlin, Sr. Def., Canton
 David Russell, Sr. F, Salem
 Luke Merandi, Sr. F, Plymouth
 Justin Shureb, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson

COACH OF THE YEAR
 Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION
 Stevenson: R. J. Kierdorf, Tyler Vines; Churchill: Mike Woynick, Ryan Cioch; Franklin: Jordan Chisholm, Tyler Barnes; Salem: Sam Ott, Kyle Powell, Josh Jarvela, Mario Macari; Plymouth: Ryan Renault, Zach Gambrell, Tyler Sanders, Chris Merrill; Canton: Ryan Lash, Bryan Davison, Zane Birchler.



Adam Powers Salem



Dan Bostick Churchill



Donny Barlow Canton



Nick Tomilenko Canton



John Vella Stevenson



Cole Rochowiak Stevenson

"He is a player who works as equally had in practice and off the ice as he does on the game. Cole loves to play hockey and loves to be at the rink, or with the team, and that excitement comes out in his play. He has a chance to be a real special player next season."

COACH OF THE YEAR



Ossenmacher

Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem: In just his second year at the helm, Ossenmacher turned the Rocks into a team to be reckoned with this season. After finishing 7-17-1 last season and struggling early this year, the Ossenmacher-mentored Rocks did a U-turn to finish 14-9-3 and win the inaugural KLAA South Division title.

"It was a very rewarding season, especially considering how much we struggled early on," said Ossenmacher, who played college hockey at the University of Dayton. "The guys really bought into what we were coaching during the second half of the season and they worked hard to turn things around."

He excelled on the Chiefs' power-play and penalty kill units while finishing among the team leaders in minutes played. Barlow also excelled as a defensive back on the Chiefs' football team.

Nick Tomilenko, Sr. F, Canton: The lightning-quick forward was one of the KLAA's most dynamic players throughout the 2008-09 campaign, netting 34 goals and 11 assists. He led the Chiefs in power-play goals (13), short-handed goals (three) and game-winning goals (six). Tomilenko is also the starting shortstop for the Canton baseball team.

John Vella, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The three-year varsity performer and senior captain was known for his two-way play.

Vella finished with 13 goals and 11 assists with a plus-rating of 17.

"John was a bit of a marked man this season coming off the year he had last year, but he adjusted well and learned how to get his teammates more involved," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said of the All-Kensington Conference pick. "He was our captain and leader both on-and-off the ice. He always played against the other team's top competition. He played in all situations for us, excelling on the penalty kill."

Cole Rochowiak, Jr., F, Liv. Stevenson: The junior led the Spartans with a team-high 33 points on 17 goals and 16 assists, along with a team-best plus-rating of 32.

"Cole is a player who plays with a high level of intensity on a truly consistent basis," Mitchell said of the All-Kensington Conference pick.

Madonna women's soccer coach resigns

Madonna University head women's soccer coach Paul Thomas announced his resignation during Sunday's postseason banquet at the St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

Thomas, who had just finished his third season at the helm of the Crusaders, cited an upcoming relocation to the Chicago area and the birth of his first child as his reasons for stepping down.

"I want to thank Bryan Rizzo for giving me the chance to be a head coach at the collegiate level," said Thomas after the announcement. "I also want to thank the players, their families and all of the Madonna University administration for their support during my time here. I loved my time here at Madonna and will miss it greatly."

The search for Thomas' replacement will begin immediately.

"We are very grateful to Paul for the job he did in guiding our women's soccer team over the past three seasons," said MU director of athletics Bryan Rizzo. "His hard work resulted in an undefeated conference season and top 25 ranking in 2008. He certainly leaves the program in a strong position to continue its success."

Thomas compiled a 35-14-4 overall record, highlighted by this past season's 15-4 record, including a perfect 12-0 mark in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play. The Crusaders captured the WHAC regular season title and advanced to the WHAC tournament championship match.

MU ended the season ranked 22nd in the country as Thomas was named WHAC Coach of the Year.

CMU's Schulz All-Tourney

Central Michigan University softball infielder Jill Schulz (Livonia Ladywood) was named to the Under Armour Showcase All-Tournament team last weekend in the Under Armour Showcase held at the University of South Florida.

The junior batted .533 (8-for-15) with three doubles and recorded at least one hit in all five of the Chippewas' games over the weekend.

She also had a pair of multi-hit games, going 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI in a 9-4 win over Jacksonville University (Fla.) and 3-for-4 with a double in a 1-0 victory against Loyola-

Marymount (Calif.)

McDougall Coach of Year

Livonia Franklin High grad Laura McDougall was recently named Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Recreational Coach of the Year during the MSYSA's annual meeting and awards ceremony in Sterling Heights.

Making the game fun, while stressing sportsmanship, teamwork, responsibility and dependability, McDougall, a social worker, currently coaches an under-10 girls team in the Hamburg Soccer Club.

She began playing soccer at an early age including a stint on her father's team at 9.

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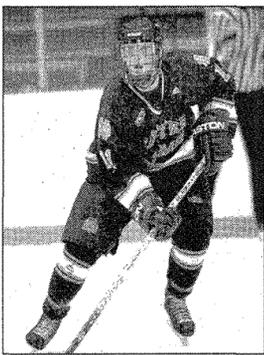
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Notre Dame captain Condra FRANKLIN celebrates CCHA crown

FROM PAGE B1

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Erik Condra, Notre Dame's senior captain from Livonia, has helped the Fighting Irish to a CCHA championship and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

As Erik Condra's collegiate hockey career winds down he savors each and every moment.

The Livonia native and senior right winger for Notre Dame cherished another in his illustrious career Saturday night as the Irish rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat Michigan, 5-2, for the Central College Hockey Association championship at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Condra and his teammates, ranked second in the country, improved to 31-5-3 overall and will open the NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed beginning Saturday night against Bemidji State (Minn.) at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Condra has led the Irish in scoring for consecutive years. This season the 6-foot, 195-pound winger has 13 goals and 25 assists. He is 13th all-time for the Irish in points (158) and his 110 assists ranks him seventh.

Last year Condra missed Notre Dame's run to the NCAA Championship final where the Irish fell to Boston College, 4-1.

He was severely injured in the CCHA playoffs against Ferris State and lost for the season when he suffered the double-whammy - a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) along with a torn medial collateral ligament (MCL).

Needless to say, Condra was relegated to the sidelines late last season and relegated to the role as team cheerleader.

"It's one of the hardest things I've ever had to do," said Condra, who earned second-team All-CCHA honors this season. "And to lose was even harder at nationals. But I stayed around the team as much as I could because they supported me and made me feel I was still part of team."

Condra, a seventh-round draft pick in 2006 by the

ice endeavors and academic record where he carries a 3.56 grade-point average.

"I'm proud of the senior class that's done so much for this program the last four years," Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said. "My heart went out to Erik (last year) because you lose a kid you really care about. Another thing that bothered me is that he had to watch our Final Four run. You hate to lose a player of that caliber, but it also was because of the kind of kid he is."

Saturday night's comeback against Michigan was witnessed by a throng of family members including grandparents from as far away as Portland, Ore.

Condra's uncle, Kirt Bjork, was an All-America for the Irish back in the early 1980s. Bjork resides in Milwaukee and works in ND's development office.

"It makes it that much more special," Condra said. "You have to take advantage of your opportunities and even though we were down 2-0, we were doing the right things. We got a couple of bad bouncers and gave up a breakout, and U-M always capitalizes it seems. We just had to continue to play our game and not be individualistic. We knew if we'd play our game we'd come out on top."

The Irish came out on top with five unanswered goals, including four in the final period, to hoist the Mason Cup for the second time in three years.

"Then (2007) we were a Cinderella, an underdog because we've never done it before," said Condra, who wears the 'C' on his jersey as team captain. "But now we have the experience and the upperclassmen who have been through the tough times all the way through. We've gone through a little bit of everything and now what we know what to do in a special situation."

Since then, Notre Dame has captured two CCHA titles, played for a national title and is going to its third straight NCAA Tournament. Condra, a pre-med and psychology major, recently won the CCHA's Lowe's Award for his commitment to the community, his off-

NHL's Ottawa Senators, committed himself to months of rigorous rehabilitation to make sure he'd be ready for the 2008-09 season opener.

"I had the surgery done in South Bend, the surgeon I had was top-notch," he said. "But first I had to wait six weeks for my MCL to heal. I stayed in South Bend (to rehab). It took me five-and-a-half months to get back on the ice. I worked as hard as I could. Our trainer Kevin Ricks did a great job. It took nine months to get back to 100 percent and now I'm all the way back."

Condra, who came to Notre Dame from the Lincoln (Neb.) Stars of the U.S. Hockey League, was recruited by Dave Poulin, but never got to play for him.

Jackson, inheriting a program that had only won 58 games the previous four years, returned to the collegiate ranks after a nine-year hiatus to replace Poulin after he took a job in athletic administration.

Since then, Notre Dame has captured two CCHA titles, played for a national title and is going to its third straight NCAA Tournament.

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"We were pretty flat that first quarter," said Franklin coach Dave McCall, whose team fell behind 18-12 as the Tigers nailed three 3-pointers. "We were quite drained from the day before and it was tough to refill the tanks quickly. We were one step behind and did a lot of looking. We just couldn't make that step and they (Benton Harbor) are a good team."

Benton Harbor outrebounded Franklin 24-10 in the first half en route to a 33-21 point advantage.

The Tigers had a whopping 52-23 board edge for the game.

Benton Harbor's 6-foot-2 center Iesha Ellis snared 14 rebounds, while 5-8 sophomore Deborah Meeks contributed 15 points and seven boards.

"We had position on a lot of those rebounds, but we didn't have the legs to get it or the jump," McCall said. "It's a tough schedule to play back-to-back days against the caliber of teams we faced."

Yet the Patriots, whose tallest starter is 5-9, clawed their way back into the game during the third quarter with a 14-8 run thanks to eight points from

sophomore Chelsea Williams.

Briauna Taylor, who scored a team-high 15 points, pulled the Patriots to within two, 35-33, with 3:31 left in the third before Destiny Williams took over for the Tigers, making three straight baskets, all on rebound putbacks during the final 3:09 of the third quarter, to push Benton Harbor's lead back to six, 41-35.

Fourteen of Destiny Williams' 21 rebounds came on the offensive end. She had 19 first-half points.

"It was tough guarding her because in the first half we tried fronting her," Briauna Taylor said of the Miss Basketball runner-up. "The second half, coach (McCall) decided it was better to play behind her instead of giving up the lob pass. But she was able to look for her teammates. It was hard. She has wide arms."

Franklin's rebounding problems were compounded by foul trouble as both Brittany Taylor and Seneca Scott exited with five personals in the fourth quarter. Franklin got only as close as seven points the rest of the way as the Tigers were able to make 10-of-14 free throws in the final period to stave off any ideas of a Patriot comeback bid.

"You have to praise the other team because they gave it all they had," said Benton Harbor coach Lou Harvey, whose team finished 26-2 overall. "And all you can ask for is that you want it to be a competitive game. They (Franklin) made a lot of adjustments and threw a lot of things at us. But whatever we changed up, we always put Destiny into a scoring position."

Sophomore Chelsea Williams added 13 points for the Patriots, while Nicole Emery and Brittany Taylor each contributed eight.

"The third quarter we played on emotion, but it can only go so far," McCall said. "We had a tough, long game the day before, and we had to play with everything we had, but you can't play at three-quarters. We came back and give the girls credit. That's why I have so much respect and admiration for them."

But in the end, it was Destiny Williams, who also dished out four assists, that tipped the scales in Benton Harbor's favor.

"We haven't seen a player like her all year," McCall said. "She's quite a young lady. She's multi-faceted. Whether you front or back her, she can make either play."

GOLFERS

FROM PAGE B1

"These guys are pretty athletic," Finlay said. "I wouldn't mind taking them out and training them in other sports. Golf is a powerful, rotation sport. Most people just want to get through 18 holes and not get injured. But these guys are just not doing it once or twice a week. They're scholarship athletes and it requires conditioning."

Bealert came away impressed following the team's initial sessions.

"It's a good bunch, they're very open to listening, they want to do a good job and they're serious," Bealert said. "The fact that they want to get better is a good thing."

"Dave gave them an introduction to try it out and they were very impressed with his presentation and what he had to offer. He's very knowledgeable about biomechanics."

"We started off with drills to check their balance, stability and mobility. From the very beginning we eased into it, then by the fourth and fifth session it was more power. But whatever exercise they do, posture is critical, just like the golf swing. College kids are developed, but I'd think it would be even better for high school kids."

Players work up quite a sweat after just an hour of work in Finlay's facility, which opened last September.

"I can hardly wait for the spring season," said MU sophomore Austin Stillman, a graduate of Livonia Franklin. "This is a huge advantage for this program. It will not only help me, but the whole team in the future. We're pretty committed. It also brings us together as a team. I'm getting back in shape. It's helped my range and motion. It's given me more flexibility and strength to hit the ball further."

MU junior Steve South, who played hockey in high school,

noticed a difference when he went to play earlier this month in Myrtle Beach, S.C., during spring break.

"I saw a significant change in distance, I'm driving the ball further than before," he said. "It's tough work. It's a lot harder than I thought. I got more of a sweat than I anticipated. It's good and it will all benefit."

Mato is confident he'll see the rewards right away as MU will embark this weekend to Louisville, Ky., for its first spring tournament.

"You watch the game on TV and how many tournaments are won and lost on the last four holes?" Mato asked. "When you're walking and carrying a bag like these guys are, fatigue becomes a factor, especially on the hilly course. That's why we need to play the last four holes strong."

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Westland-Garden City

Strictly Business

| IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A |



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Making up the Parkside Dental Team are dentists Dr. Ricardo Seir (from left), Dr. Steven Cohen, Dr. Stuart Felhandler and Dr. Daniel Rogers.

Parkside Dental Team: 'We do it all'

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

At Parkside Dental Team, we do it all! From root canals to extreme makeovers, our team is recognized as a leading provider of general and cosmetic dentistry. In addition, we have doctors that specialize in sedation dentistry, dental implants, Invisalign orthodontics and the Lock-Tight Denture.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

At Parkside Dental Team, we aim to treat all patients with the latest advances in dental care in a family-oriented setting that is convenient, comfortable and easily accessible for all their dental needs and in a manner that will enhance their well-being and health. For this reason, we offer a bilingual staff to accommodate our Spanish-speaking patients, as well complimentary shuttle services for patients in need, a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere for patients with dental anxiety, and the newest treatment and prevention technologies, including digital x-rays and laser cavity detection.

In addition, we believe that beyond what we do in our office, it is important for us to work together to give to those in our community, which is why our doctors and hygienists are committed to promoting dental health awareness among children and senior citizens. We are proud to continue our tradition of dental health

PARKSIDE DENTAL TEAM

Address: 36444 Warren Ave., Westland

Name and Title: Practice owners Dr. Stuart Felhandler, Dr. Daniel Rogers, Dr. Steven Cohen and Dr. Ricardo Seir

Business Opened: Parkside Dental Team was founded in 1959 in Detroit

Number of Employees: Parkside Dental Team includes 4 doctors, 7 hygienists, 7 dental assistants, 1 sterilization coordinator, 1 lab coordinator, 7 administrative employees, and 1 marketing director

Your Business Specialty: At Parkside Dental Team, our doctors have more than 100 years of combined experience. We specialize in family and cosmetic dentistry. We also offer sedation dentistry, dental implants, and Invisalign Orthodontics.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Business phone and e-mail: (734) 261-6060, www.parkside-dentalteam.com.

awareness in the Westland Community and are currently completing our second annual Children's Dental Health Awareness Month Program in Westland.

How did you decide to open your first business?

In 1959, Dr. Jerome Kurtis opened a dental office in Detroit. Over the years, he welcomed

Dr. Stuart Felhandler, Dr. Daniel Rogers, Dr. Steven Cohen, and Dr. Ricardo Seir to join his special group practice - Parkside Dental Team. In 2004, Dr. Kurtis retired. Since then, Doctors Felhandler, Rogers, Cohen, and Seir have strived to match his standards of excellence in dentistry.

How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?

In March of 2008, after almost 50 years in Detroit, Parkside Dental Team relocated to Westland. For quite some time, we realized that we were in need of a larger and more conveniently located office to better serve our patients and staff. We were delighted when we found a great location in the city of Westland.

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

If you toured our building, you would never believe that it is a dental office - and not because of the fireplace and the big screen TV in the front lobby, but because of all of the sugary treats in the employee lounge! One of the perks of owning (and working for) a small business, is the personal relationships we develop with our patients, many of whom remember us during the holidays, and on birthdays and other special occasions. Our office is constantly stocked full of homemade cakes, cookies, candies, and other goodies. It's truly a dentists' (and dieters') nightmare!

| BUSINESS MILESTONES |

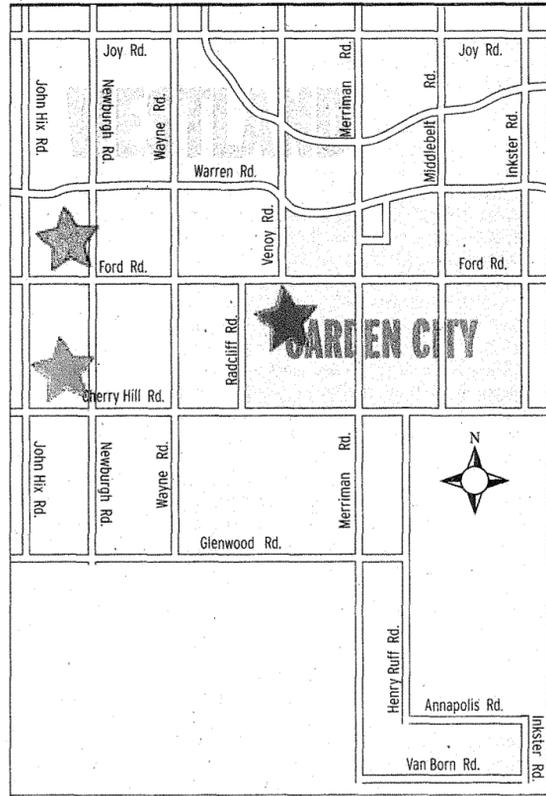
SPECIAL EVENT

In support of unions

Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan 6-9 p.m. Saturday April 18. Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5. In an effort to reach out and help the struggling union families of Michigan, Skateland West is offering an evening of entertainment and family fun at a premium discount. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed and many games and activities are planned for the special session. Grab your family and friends and roll your recession worries away with Skateland West. For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or go online to www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

At the show

JC Penney Custom Decorating of Westland will exhibit at the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's popular Spring Home & Garden Show April 3-5 at Rock Financial Showplace. JC Penney Custom Decorating is an in-home decorator service offering custom-made window treatments, bedding, rugs and accessories. JC Penney's decorators work with customers in their own home, designing and creating the window treatments and bedding that express the customers' unique style and taste. There is no charge for a decorator consultation and finance options fit every budget. Marketing materials given at the show will include a \$25 referral coupon. JC Penney feature trends such as fabrics for outdoor living and our products offer both traditional and contemporary styles. These styles can include trim items such as euro pleats, border banding and nail head trims to name just a few. All JC Penney products are installed by experienced JCPenney custom decorating installers and are all fully warranted by JCPenney and alternate window vendors. Show hours are noon-9 p.m. Friday, April 3, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 4, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, April 5. Rock



Financial Showplace is at 46100 Grand River in Novi.

Relay fund-raiser

Razor Cuts Pro Barbers is cutting for cancer in a fund-raiser for the Garden City Relay for Life which will be held May 30-31. The staff will be doing haircuts 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the shop at 33159 Ford, next to Red Wing Shoes. There also will be a raffle, Tin Can Alley and food. For more information, call Razor Cuts at (734) 293-5890.

ONGOING

Now open

Look for the All-Star Grille & Music Bar inside Vision Lanes at 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh in Westland. For adults, the establishment offers "incredible

food and service" and deliveries anywhere on the building "on real plates."

It also offers free home delivery for a minimum \$10 order. There's live music at 9 p.m. on Saturdays and karaoke at 9 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday. For more information, call (734) 641-8181.

Good for you

If you can only eat sugar or gluten free foods, you'll find a selection of cookies, cake, pies, muffins and cupcakes and pizza crusts at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe at 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Don't deny yourself, give them a try. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays and holidays. For more information, call (734) 261-3680.

| CHAMBER CHAT |

WESTLAND CHAMBER

The Westland Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for their 2009 Awards Program.

This year, the Westland Observer will be co-sponsoring the First Citizen of the Year award with the Chamber. This award was created to recognize an individual for

outstanding local volunteer community service. Last year's recipient was Lou Toarmina from Toarmina's Pizza.

The Business Person of the Year Award, which is sponsored again this year by Parkside Credit Union, will be given out on the same evening. The Business Person of the Year Award was established to recognize a member of the

Chamber that stands above the rest. Last year's recipient was Angelo A. Plakas from Angelo A. Plakas & Associates. If you know of an individual that is deserving of either one of these awards, please call the chamber today at (734) 326-7222 to get a nomination form.

Brookellen Swope
president and CEO

| BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS |

Contractor honored

Firestone Building Products Company recently presented Advanced Roofing Inc. of Westland with its 2009 Firestone Master Contractor Award. The local roofing firm also earned the Firestone Inner Circle of Quality Award in recognition of its dedication to long-term commercial roofing system installation quality.

"The Firestone Master Contractor Award acknowledges Advanced Roofing Inc.

for its consistent craftsmanship, excellence in customer service and superior installation quality," said Tom Walker, vice president of sales and marketing for Firestone Building Products. "We are pleased to recognize the roofing firm for its commitment to Firestone's high roofing system performance standards."

This year, 256 Firestone-licensed contractors were named 2009 Master Contractors throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico

based on total square footage installed and exceptional inspection ratings. The Inner Circle of Quality Award is earned by Master Contractors who demonstrate long-standing quality execution, consistent professionalism and a commitment to Firestone's strict time-honored standards of installation excellence.

For more information on the roofing services provided by Advanced Roofing Inc., contact Dale Narsesian at (734) 722-7600 or by e-mail at dale@advancedroofinginc.net.

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Grow 'Green' with Us!

To submit an item for the religion calendar, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday. For a complete listing of events online please go to hometownlife.com.

MARCH

Mobile food pantry

Trinity Church is once again hosting a Mobile Food Pantry Saturday, March 28, at the church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., west of Beck, Plymouth. Reservations can only be made 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26. To schedule a time for pick up on March 28, call (734) 459-9557.

The free food distribution is a way for the church to offer assistance in these trying economic times.

Fish fry Fridays

4-7 p.m. (or until dinners run out) Friday, March 27, and April 10, at St. Robert Bellarmine on the corner of West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. All you can eat fish dinner is \$8. \$7 seniors, \$4 kids under age 12. \$8 baked cod dinner, \$6 fish sandwich, \$2 cheese pizza. Dinners include choice of fries or mac & cheese, coleslaw, roll and butter, coffee, tea or milk. Carry out dinners do not include beverage. All-you-can-eat fish The St. Michael the Archangel Parish's "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Dinners continues 4:30-7 p.m. March 27, and April 3 in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Dinners feature hand-dipped fresh Alaskan cod, fried or baked, along with an assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost, \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children ages 3-11, free ages 3 and under. Carryout orders, \$7. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Health expo

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at St. Constantine and Helen Hellenic Church, 36375 Joy Rd., Westland. Cost \$35, includes lectures on diabetes, heart disease and nutrition; heart healthy continental breakfast and lunch; tests for hearing, blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, and gifts such as cookbooks, pedometers and glucometers. No food after midnight for testing which ends at noon. Call (248) 356-5033 to register.

An evening with Simon Peter

A live dramatic presentation of the story of the ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth from the point of view of one of his closest friends, the Apostle Simon Peter, 7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, March 29-30, at St. Priscilla Catholic Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, north of Seven Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (248) 476-4700. A 6 p.m. Lenten Meal precedes the presentation. Free will offering. Performed by John Dzwonkowski.

Detroit Lutheran Singers

Present concerts 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21915 Beech Street, Dearborn, and 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 202 E. 5th Street, Royal Oak. The children's choir from St. Paul Lutheran School will sing several selections in this final concert.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7). Call (734) 453-0190.

Open house

Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church, an English-speaking Orthodox Christian parish at 1385 Goddard near Fort Street, hosts an open house 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29, showcasing the church's newly redecorated sanctuary. The open house will be preceded by the regular Sunday morning worship services, including the Divine Liturgy, which begins at 9 a.m. The open house concludes with Vespers, a brief evening prayer service. For more information, visit <http://holyncarnation.org>, call (313) 282-6153 or e-mail frfenton@holyncarnation.org.

Lenten vespers services

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit continues 2009 series of Lenten Vespers services 6 p.m. March 29, Sunday of St. John Climacus, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Dearborn; and April 5, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills. The general public as well as Orthodox Christians is invited to attend. All proceeds will be used for COCC charities and projects. Call (734) 422-0278 or e-mail paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

Lenten schedule

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites all members of the community to any and all of its upcoming Lenten activities including Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7 p.m. followed by Benediction, and a special private reconciliation opportunity 2:30-3:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. Holy Thursday features the Mass of the Last Supper at 7 p.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 p.m. Good Friday devotions will begin with Stations of the Cross at 12:15 p.m. followed by the Liturgy of the Passion at 1:30 p.m. An Easter Egg Hunt begins 9 a.m. Holy Saturday followed by Blessing of Food at noon and the Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon. For more information, call (734) 261-1455 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Midweek Lenten services

Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have midweek Lenten services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. For information, call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

Lenten services

7 p.m. every Wednesday through April 1, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. April 9. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

Wednesday Lenten Service

Hosanna-Tabor offers a mid-week Lenten Service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Laverne, Redford. The Lenten Series will be "Places of the Passion" with the focus not on the physical locations of our Lord's passion but on the spiritual wonders of his work. A free will offering dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. prior to the service each week through April 1. For information, call (313) 937-2233.

Lenten services

Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Fish fry

Continues 4-7 p.m. every Friday through April 3, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square. Choose from fried or baked fish with baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, roll, and coffee, tea, or punch, \$8. Kids meals like chicken nuggets, corn dogs and fries, \$4. Call (734) 721-4802 or (734) 891-2523.

Families in action workshops

The National Association for Mental Illnesses 10-week educational program continues at St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills. The program is for people with a loved one diagnosed with a serious mental illness. The workshop meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays or Thursdays through April 30. \$20 per person; \$30 per couple. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. Call (248) 348-7197 to register.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, except for March, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive. The bank continues in April. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

UPCOMING

Dining in the kingdom of God

For five Wednesdays in Lent, St. Aidan will host the series. Luke's Gospel revealed 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist. This presentation will be given by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology, 7-9 p.m. April 1, and April 8. Free. Call (734) 425-5950.

Kids Easter fun day

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia hosts a Kids Easter Fun Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 4, at the church located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road. Morning includes games, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, prizes and more

for children ages 4-12 years old. All are welcome to attend this free event. For more information or to sign-up for the fun day, call (734) 422-1470.

Mom to mom sale

Connection Church in Canton is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at 3855 Sheldon, Canton, north of Michigan Avenue. Table rentals are sold to capacity with over 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. There is a \$1 admission.

Bethany west singles

■ Saturday, April 4, Monthly Dance at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Dance lesson this month; Two Step, cost is \$10, refreshments included. Time is 8 p.m. to midnight. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane K. for information, (734) 261-5716.

■ Saturday, April 18, Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths. Palm Sunday, April 5, 4:00 p.m.

Holy Week music

4 p.m. Palm Sunday, April 5, A Recital of Organ and Vocal Music presented by organist Glenn Miller and renowned Kirk Chancel Choir soloists Nicole Greenidge, Lenora Green, Peiyi Wang, Charles Freeman and Tobey Miller, featuring classics, spirituals and contemporary selections, and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 10, A Program of Choral Music for Good Friday presented by the Kirk Chancel Choir, including music ranging from plainsong, Renaissance composers, spirituals and contemporary works at 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield-Hills. Call (248) 626-2515 ext. 109, or visit www.kirkintehills.org. No charge.

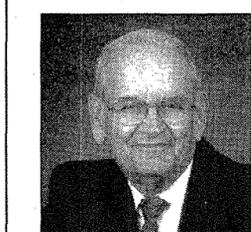
Men's Good Friday breakfast

Former Detroit Lion quarterback, Eric Hipple, will be the guest speaker at the 34th Annual St. Michael Men's Good Friday Breakfast 8 a.m. Friday, April 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Rd., Canton. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$2 for boys 10 and under. Call the church office at (734) 459-3333 for information and tickets.

Passion play

Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church Chancel Choir and Friends present "The Passion According to Saint Mark" by Jan Bender 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, April 15, at the church, 33360 West 13 Mile and Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills. The choir and string ensemble will be conducted by Cantor Amy Studt. The work describes the history of the passion of the Lord as written by the evangelist, St. Mark. Using the Biblical text of the passion, traditionally read on Palm Sunday, it is sure to be a powerful and meaningful history

Please see CALENDAR, B7



ELMER L. CSERNITS

Age 91, passed away March 23, 2009 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Husband of the late Dorothy Peterson Csernits. Dear father of Sharon E. (Bruce) Moon, Jack J. (Julie) Csernits and William L. Csernits. Loving grandfather of Laura Barber, Brett and Michelle Csernits, Maxwell Barry and great-grandfather of Hannah Marie Christensen, Cameron Mitchell Csernits and Travis Wallace-Barber. Elmer was a WWII B17 pilot and a proud member of America's premiere fraternal organization of military pilots, the Order of the Daedalians at Luke AFB. He was a design engineer at Ford Motor Company, retiring in 1980, and lived in Sun City West, AZ. Elmer greatly enjoyed ballroom dancing. He was an active member of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church for 28 years. A memorial service will be held Thursday, 11:00 a.m., in the small chapel of Kensington Community Church 1825 E. Square Lake Rd., Troy. Final resting place will be in South Bend, Indiana. Memorials may be directed to Shepherd of the Hills UMC 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375 or Hospice of Michigan 400 Mack Ave., Detroit, MI 48201 or online at www.hom.org. Generations Funeral Services, Farmington Hills.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



MARY BETH WILLIAMS VINCENTI

March 21, 2009. Age 55. Beloved wife of Philip. Cherished mother of Lauren Smith (Robert), Philip (Susan), and Alexandra. Special grandmother of Sophia and a grandson expected May 11th. Dear daughter of Patricia Williams and the late Donald Williams. Dear sister of Donald, Dennis, James, Robert, and Gregory Williams, and Janet Statin. Services were held Wednesday at Holy Name Church, Birmingham. Memorial tributes to HAVEN, P.O. Box 431045, Pontiac, MI 48343 or Susan G. Komen For The Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

3/26/09

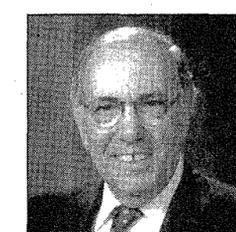
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ALAN WALT

Age 80. Husband, Father, Lawyer, Labor Arbitrator. Of West Bloomfield, Michigan, born June 13, 1928 in Detroit, passed away in Sarasota, Florida on March 22, 2009. He is survived by wife Arlene, daughter Adrienne and her husband Ira Mintz, son Robert and his wife Deb, and is predeceased by beautiful daughter, Julie. For the past 35 years, Mr. Walt enjoyed a highly successful career as a labor arbitrator, deciding thousands of disputes involving a wide range of union, public, and private sector organizations. Many of his decisions are referenced in leading arbitration journals. He was an active member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and the American Arbitration Association, and was recognized by his peers for his significant contributions to the profession. Before becoming an arbitrator, Mr. Walt practiced law in the firm bearing his own name, first in Detroit and then in Southfield, Michigan. Previously, he partnered with the late Michigan Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Brennan, was appointed City Attorney of Livonia, Michigan, and worked as an Assistant Prosecutor for Wayne County. He also served as the chairman of the Michigan Employment Security Appeals Board. Mr. Walt earned a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from Wayne State University, and was member of the Michigan Bar Association. After earning his degrees, Mr. Walt enlisted in the United States Army and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant serving in the Judge Advocate General Corps, stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and the Pentagon. He continued in the U.S. Army Reserves where ultimately he was promoted to the rank of Major. Alan Walt was a generous and devoted husband, father, father-in-law, and friend, a patron of the arts, and an individual who was committed to and maintained the highest standards of personal and professional integrity. He was deeply loved and will be terribly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. Walt's memory to Gilda's Club Metro Detroit (<http://www.gildasclubdetroit.org>).



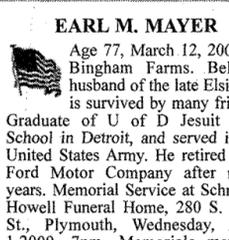
VIRGINIA HANDEYSIDE GOULD

Age 92, of Indianapolis, IN. Passed away Sunday, March 22, 2009. Born in Omaha, Nebraska on August 4, 1916, she grew up in Wayne, Michigan and spent most of her life in Bloomfield Hills, MI. She was the daughter of Charles A. and Mildred (Raymo) Handeyside. On June 30, 1939 she married Frederick C. Gould who preceded her in death in 1998. Survivors include her daughter, Nancy G. Adams, (R. Morris) of Indianapolis, IN, son Bruce F. Gould of Troy, MI, two grandchildren: Douglas B. Adams (Pamela) and Julia A. Browning (Douglas), five great-grandchildren; Jack, Abigail, Reese, Zoe, and Hope. Her main interest included spending time loving her family and friends. Ginny was a 1938 graduate from the University of Michigan where she met her husband. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, former president of the PTO in Bloomfield Hills, MI, former president of the Birmingham Chapter of the University of Michigan Alumni Association, a member of the Village Club of Bloomfield Hills, and Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Ginny attended Northminister Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and attended Bible study at Forum at the Crossing where she had been a resident since 2000. Family and friends will gather from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Jennings-Lyons Chapel, Owosso, MI followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 11:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery, Owosso, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield Hills. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Jennings-Lyons Chapel, Owosso, MI.



MARY ELLEN (Harper) KENYON

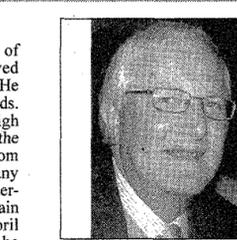
Passed away peacefully on March 10, 2009 in Harlingen, TX. She was born June 17, 1923 to Arthur and Gladys (Gay) Harper in Sapulpa, OK. After high school, Mary Ellen worked for the local telephone company until she enlisted in the United States Women's Marine Corps, where she proudly served her country, driving trucks at the Miramar military base until she was discharged in March of 1946. The following June she married Robert J. Kenyon of Plymouth, MI where they bought a home and settled. Several years later son Thomas was born, followed a year later by Gerald. Soon daughters Gay and Jo Ellen joined the family to make it complete. Mary Ellen initially stayed at home to raise their children, then worked as the Deputy Clerk of Plymouth Township. Bridge was a lifelong passion of Mary Ellen's and she garnered many Master points at tournaments. She played contract bridge several times a week for many years. Mary Ellen expressed her creativity through her hobby of quilting. She was meticulous about their design and production, and every stitch was done by hand. She started quilting at age nine and through her life produced scores of quilts. She was an avid reader, and enjoyed historical novels, mysteries, drama, and adventures. Classical music was another passion of hers, and she maintained a respectable library of varied composers and performers, listening for hours each day. Mary Ellen and Bob retired to southern Texas in the late 1980s where they enjoyed good warm weather, good bridge games, and the company of good friends. Mary Ellen is survived by her brother, Sherman Harper of Laguna Woods, CA, her four children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Seattle, Tampa and Denver. No service is planned. Mary Ellen will be interred in Plymouth, MI with her loving husband, Bob, who died in 1995. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice.



EARL M. MAYER

Age 77, March 12, 2009, of Bingham Farms. Beloved husband of the late Elsie. He is survived by many friends.

Graduate of U of D Jesuit High School in Detroit, and served in the United States Army. He retired from Ford Motor Company after many years. Memorial Service at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 7pm. Memorials may be made to U of D Jesuit High School and Academy, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI, 48221, or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI, 48207-3485.



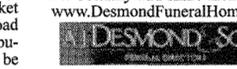
THOMAS J. TRENTA

Born in New Jersey on November 14, 1946, died on March 22, 2009 at William Beaumont Hospital-Troy. He was a 1968 graduate of Marquette University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Accounting. He entered the United States Army in 1968 and, as a First Lieutenant, served a combat tour in Vietnam from 1970-1971. Tom began law school at the University of Detroit School of Law in 1972 and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1976. Mr. Trenta was primarily involved in the defense of medical malpractice cases until 2008 when he was appointed Vice President of Global Litigation for Kelly Services, Inc., a Fortune 500 global enterprise. He was a member of the Oakland County Bar Association since 1976, served on and chaired the Membership and Medical-Legal Committees, and was a Sustaining Member of that organization. He was a Life Fellow and Trustee of the Oakland County Bar Foundation and had served as a Master of the Bench in the OCBIA Inn of Court. Tom was an avid golfer and active participant in the "Fight True" organization always living its credo: "Fight for what is true and be true to the fight." Adored by his wife, Pat, who he loved dearly. Devoted father of Thomas (Jennifer), Jeff (Rachel), Michelle Trenta, Matt and Brett Hager. Beloved grandfather to Elisabeth, Andrew, and Blake. Tom is also survived by his only brother Jack (Leslie). Family will receive friends at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road, Troy, Michigan (between Maple and Big Beaver Roads) on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, from 2-8 p.m. Funeral Mass Thursday, March 26, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 1400 Inglewood, Rochester, Michigan, with Reverend Thomas Slowinski officiating. Visitation begins Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Memorial Tributes may be made to: Paint A Miracle, 210 University Drive, Suite #2, Rochester, MI 48307 (www.paintamiracle.org). View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



IRMA TIANO

March 23, 2009. Beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of Linda (Michael) Blanck and John Michael (Vicki). Dear sister of Peter Jr. (Herta) Furbacher, Edward (Mary) Furbacher, Donald (Shirley) Furbacher and Wilma (Henry) Rochette. Grandmother of David, Thomas, Trent, Todd and Rachelle. Great-Grandmother of Megan, Amanda, Lillian, Lucia, Kayleigh and Cadence. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Mass will be held Monday, 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road (S of Cherry Hill). Memorial contributions to Angela Hospice would be appreciated. Care and Services were entrusted to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home (734) 981-1700. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



DESMOND & SONS
Funeral Home

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

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586-826-7062

or toll free
800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charollette

DE08579123

Worship can ease worries in current economic crisis

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Musician Stevie Wonder had a song a few years back in which he sang, "When you feel your life's too hard, Just go have a talk with God."

Local pastors agree that the current economic slump hasn't kept worshippers away from services. "I think everybody's worried at the moment," said the Rev. James Skimins, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. "We're trying to keep it very positive."

His congregation ran a Career Connections program in February to help job seekers. "It went very well," Skimins said.

He has found in his ministry that when people are knocked off their center, "they need just that sense that God's with them. You're free to say what you want in church."

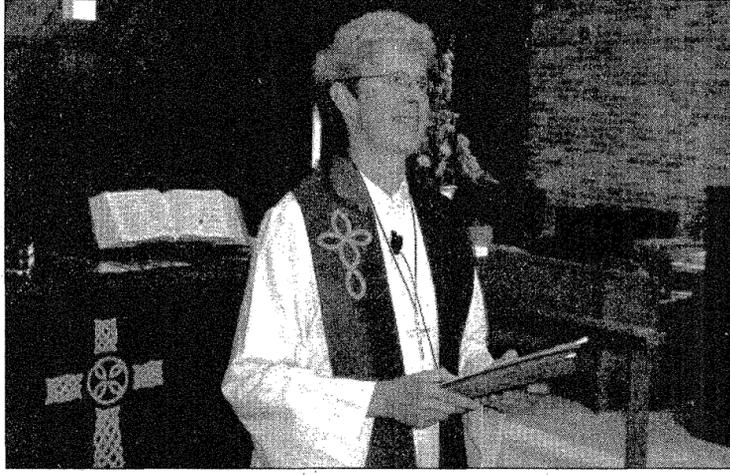
People draw strength from their relationship with God and other worshippers, Skimins said.

Agreeing is the Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt, senior pastor of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia. "I think people are looking for some moral strengths, some spiritual support," she said.

Eckhardt hasn't seen droves of new people at church, but attendance is strong. "People are talking to each other and encouraging each other," she said. Each Sunday at her church, people who've lost their jobs gather informally to see how others are faring.

"It's really helpful and it's working out for us," Eckhardt said. "It's hard to say that I've lost my job."

She finds worshippers seek God's guidance and sense of peace in tough times. "So there's a sense that God will get us through it." She agreed prayer also helps



The Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt leads worship at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia. "I think people are looking for some moral strengths, some spiritual support," she said of steady church attendance.

in dealing with job loss.

In January, Eckhardt used Sunday worship as a time to address current uncertainties. There was a psychologist from Samaritan Counseling Center in Farmington Hills who spoke during worship at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, and that was well-received.

She'd like to develop a more formal support group for job help down the road. Eckhardt noted retirees and working people at her church have been helpful with suggestions and job leads for the unemployed church members.

Over at St. Valentine's Catholic Church in Redford, parish priest the Rev. Paul Coutinha hasn't seen a big increase in attendance. "Probably just a little, but not a lot," he said. He'd seen higher atten-

dance related to the tragedy of 9/11.

"I think there were more people. But there is a slight increase, I would say," Coutinha said.

"We believe God is present in every situation," the priest said, noting the importance of faith and hope. "People have not been talking about it too much," he said of unemployment. For many, job loss is embarrassing.

St. Valentine's has no formal ministry for job seekers, but staff works to connect them to other parishes like St. John Neumann in Canton that do. "Informally, we do help," Coutinha said, noting staff gives the best information they have. "Sometimes, people's faith is tested," he said.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

through the chorales and soloists. For information, contact Amy Studt at astudt@sbcglobal.net or (248) 626-7906.

Easter eggstravaganza

10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, east of Haggerty. For information, call (248) 348-7600. Over 6,500 eggs to hunt (Age Groups 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11; "Eggciting" show by special guests Two Can and Araya Sonshine; photos with the Easter bunny; games and prizes; hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks for everyone. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Rain or shine. Don't forget your Easter basket.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its 30-year tradition of all-you-can-

eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school-cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard. Expanded menu features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted beverages served buffet-style, \$5, adults; \$3, children 4-11; free, under age 3; \$15, family (two adults and all children). Everyone welcome.

Registration opens St. Mary School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne, recognized as a School of Distinction, is now accepting registrations for the 2009-2010 school year for grades Kindergarten through 8. For more information, call (734) 721-1240.

New worship schedule

Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on April 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A111	Latvia McDaniel	Microwave, Air Conditioner, Speakers
A118	Saria Johnson	Mattress, 2 Boxes, Bookshelf
A145B	Randall Frye	File Cabinet, Fax Machine, Microwave
A160	Rosanne Stevens	10 Bags, Clothes, 5Boxes
C103	Avon Adams	Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator
C120	Robert Powell	Refrigerator, Freezer, Big Screen TV
D132	Marco Davis	Couch, Tools, Bike
D166	Kenneth Siebert	4 Tables, 2 Show Cases

Publish: March 26, and April 2, 2009

CE080076_2x3

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE0802644</p>	<p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional Child Care Provided At All Services Youth Groups - Adult Small Groups CE0802642</p>	<p><i>"More than Sunday Services"</i> Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org CE08038516</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 <i>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</i> Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden CE08026507</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE0802644</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daily 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org CE08026497</p>	<p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 am & 11:00 am Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org CE08026508</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE08026517</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45601 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3195 CE0802628</p>	<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available) CE08026505</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH CE08047263</p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WLUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE08026509</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M. Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquet CE08026548</p>	<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p>	
<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia • Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE08026511</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org CE08026520</p>	<p>ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 36375 Joy Rd., Westland Sunday Services: Matsins 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am Rev. Fr. Teodor Petrutu Parish Office: 734-525-6789 www.stcoons.org Hollen Cultural Center Banquet Hall 734-525-3550 CE08026521</p>	

John Clayton & Wayne State Big Band

Chris Collins, conductor



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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Music

OE08650340



Dan Zanes and Friends will play at Rackham Hall in Ann Arbor on Sunday, March 29.

Dan Zanes & Friends bring family-friendly fun to town

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Former Del Fuegos lead singer Dan Zanes has forged a whole new career making family-friendly music with his friends. His videos appear on the Disney Channel, and his new album, *The Welcome Table - Songs of Inspiration, Mystery and Good Times*, raises money for interfaith groups that help immigrants new to the United States.

On Sunday, March 29 Dan Zanes & Friends will stop in Ann Arbor as part of a worldwide tour. Here, Zanes speaks with Filter from the Kingdom of Bahrain, where he played at the Spring of Culture Festival.

How was your show last night?

I think we had one of the best concerts we've ever had since we've been doing this. It was everything I always wanted to see from the stage, truly an all-ages show, even teenagers were dancing and lots and lots of dads, and it was a mixture of the Arabic community, Indian community, expats, English and South African, so it was beautiful. It's always been my goal to have a party where everyone is really together regardless of age and background. Tonight was a perfect example of that.

You're touring schedule is crazy ...

This is a busy spring. We're here in the Middle East then we're coming to you in Ann Arbor, then we're going to the U.K. For me it never feels like work. It feels like a joyous experience we get to share with people.

What is your mission?

What I hope for all this, is that people go out and make their own music. Anyone can do it. It's not that complicated. Music making is one of life's great

pleasures but we tend to buy it instead of play it. It's easy and I think when people see us play they can get a sense of the possibilities. It's not about being technically proficient. It's just about participating with spirit and gusto.

So you are working on a show for Disney?

We finished a pilot for them, and we're waiting to hear back whether the show is a good fit for them. We made something we're really proud of. Hopefully they'll feel good about it.

I hear your concerts have kiddie mosh pits.

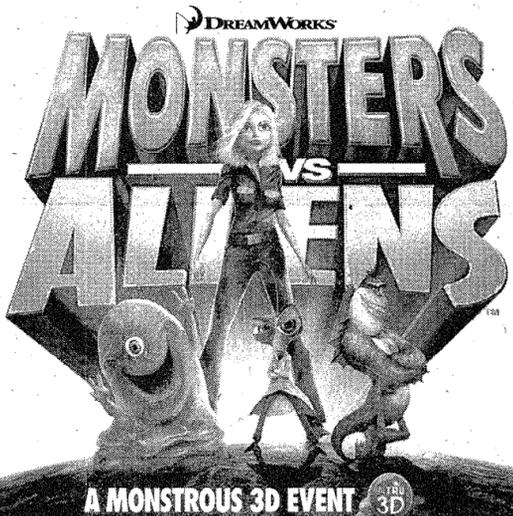
It's not too much like a concert. It's really much more like a party. It's a communal event. If people sit quietly it can make us a little bit nervous that we're not doing something right. People come ready to sing, there's a lot of singing along and quite a bit of dancing. We've always had really good dance parties in Ann Arbor. It's always been fun to play there for that reason.

I know you were in the Del Fuegos, but how did you start playing family music?

When my daughter was born I wanted music that the two of us could listen to together, but couldn't find what I was looking for so I decided to make it myself. I just did it for kids and families in the neighborhood. I didn't think I would be doing it 10 years later as a career but I realized it's something that got me really excited and I was good at it. All ages music is the old fashioned way and if I think there's something old fashioned that should be updated or preserved, I'm all for it.

Dan Zanes and Friends will play at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29 at Rackham Hall. Tickets, \$20 adults; \$10 kids, are still available. Visit www.ums.org.

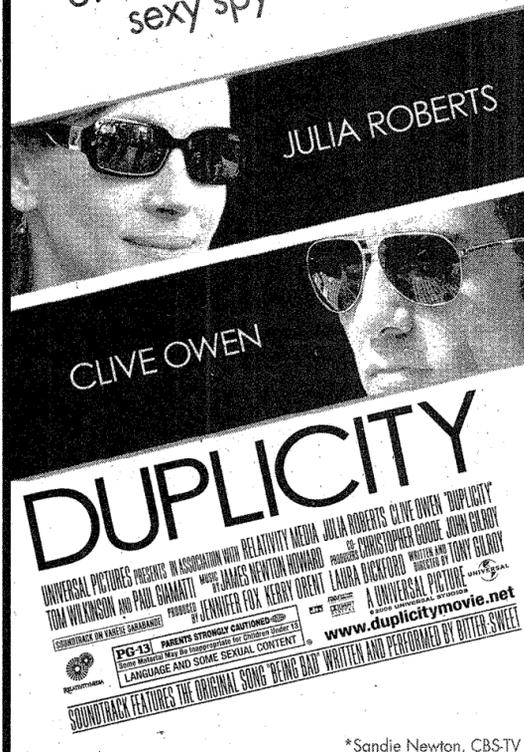
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Mon., Mar. 23, 9 - 10 pm & Sun., Mar. 29, 4:30 - 5:30 pm. View the trailer: www.hom.org



CITY BITES

BEAR CREEK COFFEE BARGAINS BLOOMFIELD HILLS
— Bear Creek Coffee's newest franchise will host a ribbon cutting and launch its new charity initiative, Communities First, on March 31. As part of Community First, from 6-10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month, ten percent of purchases will benefit a different charity. This Monday's beneficiary is Troy Community Coalition, which battles drug and substance abuse in southeastern Michigan.

Bear Creek Coffee is located at 43119 Woodward Ave., in the Kingswood Shopping Plaza, Bloomfield Hills. It is BCC's fourth outpost in Michigan, with other locations in the Flint area.

PICK YOUR PRICE AT WHISTLE STOP

BIRMINGHAM — The Whistle Stop Restaurant and Bakery will let customers name their own price through 8 p.m. March 27. Owner Matt Rafferty is hosting the promotion to help families during hard economic times. The only restriction is that desserts remain full price. Visit the Whistle Stop at 501 S. Eton Drive in Birmingham's rail district, or call (248) 647-5588.

FILTER

Francke's back Songwriter returns with a bang



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Stewart Francke has been a storyteller from the time he picked up a guitar at age 15. His 10th CD, "Alive and Unplugged at The Ark" is no exception, tackling the subject of race, love and human foibles in a style only the 50-year-old singer/songwriter delivers.

While Francke's sound is all his, the influences of artists like Marvin Gaye, Al Green, Bob Dylan, James Brown, Mitch Ryder, Bruce Springsteen and Sting shine through the Blue Boundary CD recorded live at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

This summer, audiences can sit back and listen to the blue-eyed soul musician's 9-piece band, including horns, at the outdoor music series July 14 in Huntington Woods, Aug. 12 in Birmingham, and Aug. 13 at Livonia Music Under the Stars. Francke returns to The Ark June 18, but first his hometown of Saginaw recognizes him with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the arts council there on May 7.

Francke played bass at age 18 with the legendary Chuck Berry and went on to headline shows as well as open for Earth, Wind & Fire, Chicago, Bryan Adams, Eddie Money, and Foreigner, to name a few.

He's been recognized by his peers as well with several Detroit Music Awards for Best Artist, Songwriter and Album. His songs "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang" and "American Twilights" should please long-time and new fans. The recording starts out in an acoustic vein and ends up rocking full-tilt.

"The new CD contains elements of soul music and even gospel, definitely rock 'n' roll. I call it soul music because of the place it comes from," said Francke of Huntington Woods. "I'm always trying to work within a continuum of tradition of soul music and

black music and white music too, a big amalgamation of different things. There are adult lyrics on it but there's a lot of concern with the rhythm too. I write from the standpoint that each song address a particular emotional state like "The Judas Kiss" which deals with betrayal and anger."

Francke's music definitely comes from deep inside. His battle with leukemia and a subsequent bone marrow transplant 10 years ago changed his perspective on life. He often plays benefit concerts and donates time to raise funds for nonprofits focusing on the disease.

"I either tell a story or I knew the people in the songs and what they were about. Sometimes you just change the names and you've been given a song," said Francke. "When people listen to music they bring themselves to it, their desires and expectations. I hope they consider it an ongoing conversation between me and my audience. That's what I was interested in when I didn't have the means to reach out. I was inarticu-

late and shy when I was very young."

Francke found his voice long ago. His illness set him back as far as his musical career, but today he's ready to move ahead and is presently working on a studio album to be released this fall. Three years of complications and hospitalizations left him with an appreciation for family.

For a few years after regaining his health, Francke decided to take time to spend with his children Stew, now 13, daughter Tess, 15, and wife Julia.

"I'm now just returning to my career with a great amount of intensity," said Francke. "I'm also in gratitude for my audience remaining with me even when I was down and out. There's a tremendous silver lining in all the difficult times. I appreciate every little day, every breath."

"Stewart Francke: Alive & Unplugged at The Ark" is available at all record stores and online at www.stewartfrancke.com.

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

Stewart Francke returns to the music scene with a live CD recorded at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

Comic Opera Guild presents the 1922 musical comedy

Orange Blossoms

April 3 and 4, 7:30 pm

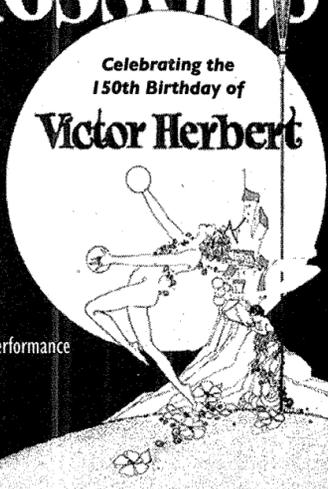
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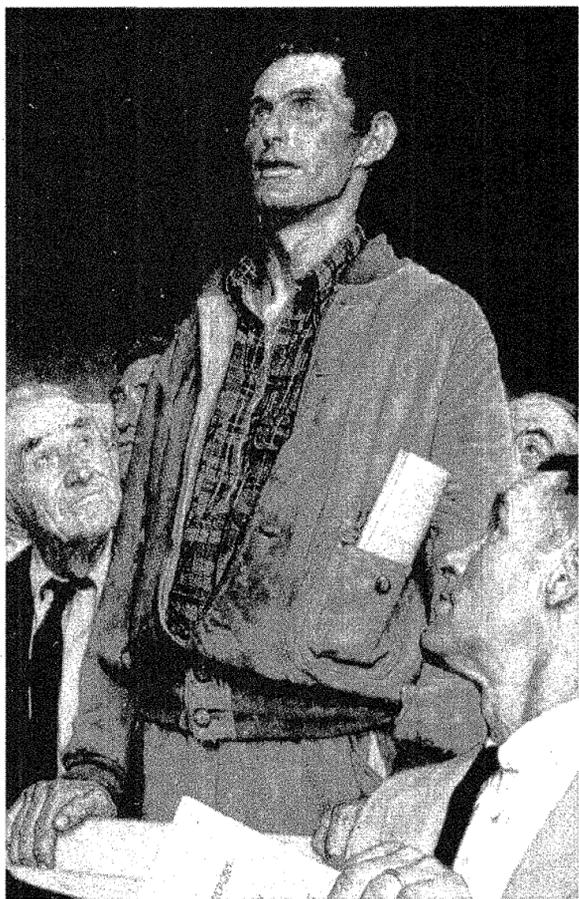
The leading producer of Victor Herbert shows in the country presents the first full stage revival of this 1922 hit in more than half a century. A beautiful score featuring the famous "A Kiss in the Dark," and a hilarious script highlight this performance by a professional cast. Come enjoy this rare experience!

Credit card orders: 734-394-5460
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Norman Rockwell, American, Freedom of Speech (detail), 1943. War bond poster from the permanent collection of Norman Rockwell Museum. © 1943 SEPS. Reprinted by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN.

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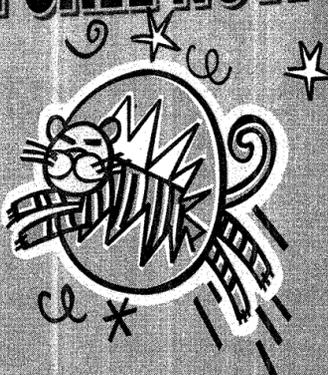
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FOOD & WINE

Winery aging to perfection

This year celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of St. Francis Winery & Vineyards in Sonoma County, Calif.

As it should be, the winery is proud of its age. Over 30 vintages, it has steadily over-delivered on wine quality at its price point. If



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

St. Francis reds were made on the other side of the Mayacamas Mountains, that is in Napa Valley, they would cost twice or perhaps three times as much.

Credit for such wine excellence is due, in no small measure, to the St.

Francis winemaking team, which has been directed since 1983 by Tom Mackey, one talented guy who quotes Homer and says some of his favorite reading is that of the high-fantasy writer J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings."

Mackey's wines, however, are no fantasy. In this decade, Mackey has been showered with accolades in the wine press. He's been dubbed Merlot's Main Man and International Red Winemaker of the Year.

Merlot, cabernet sauvignon and zinfandel are Mackey's specialties.

Three of St. Francis' latest releases are well worth the price: 2005 Sonoma County Merlot, \$18; 2005 Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon, \$20; and 2006 Old Vines Sonoma County Zinfandel, \$20.

With zinfandel prices continuing to escalate, even to \$50 and \$60 for some old vines and vineyard designated bottlings, the St. Francis Old Vines offering is a real deal.

WILD OAK

Sonoma County is the epicenter of wild oak country in northern California and several species of these heritage oaks can be found bordering St. Francis Winery's premier vineyards. From these vineyards, winemaker Tom Mackey selects the finest grapes to make his handcrafted, ultra-premium, limited production Wild Oak wines.

When the new St. Francis Winery was built in 1999, Mackey had the foresight to reserve space for a small, artisan-scale winery-within-a-winery to handle small lots, reserves and wines requiring hands-on treatment. "Tom's Winery," as it's known by the cellar crew, "allows us," says Mackey, "to make Wild Oak, a best vineyards, best lots, best barrels wine."

At \$25 per bottle for the newly-released 2005 Wild Oak Merlot and 2004 Wild Oak Cabernet Sauvignon, wine lovers will be hard-pressed to find other wines this good at the price. Wild Oak wines truly represent an exercise in blending and selection from the best St. Francis vineyard sources.

Eleanor & Ray Heald write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

Girl Scout cookie cheesecake

When you order Girl Scout Cookies this year, be sure to buy a box of Sugar Free Chocolate Chips.

They're the key ingredient in Vanilla Bean Bavarian Cheesecake, an award-winning dessert cooked up by Chef Chris Johnson of the Beverly Hills Grill.

Johnson was named CEO Favorite at the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan Cookie Gala, held March 11 at the Roostertail in Detroit.

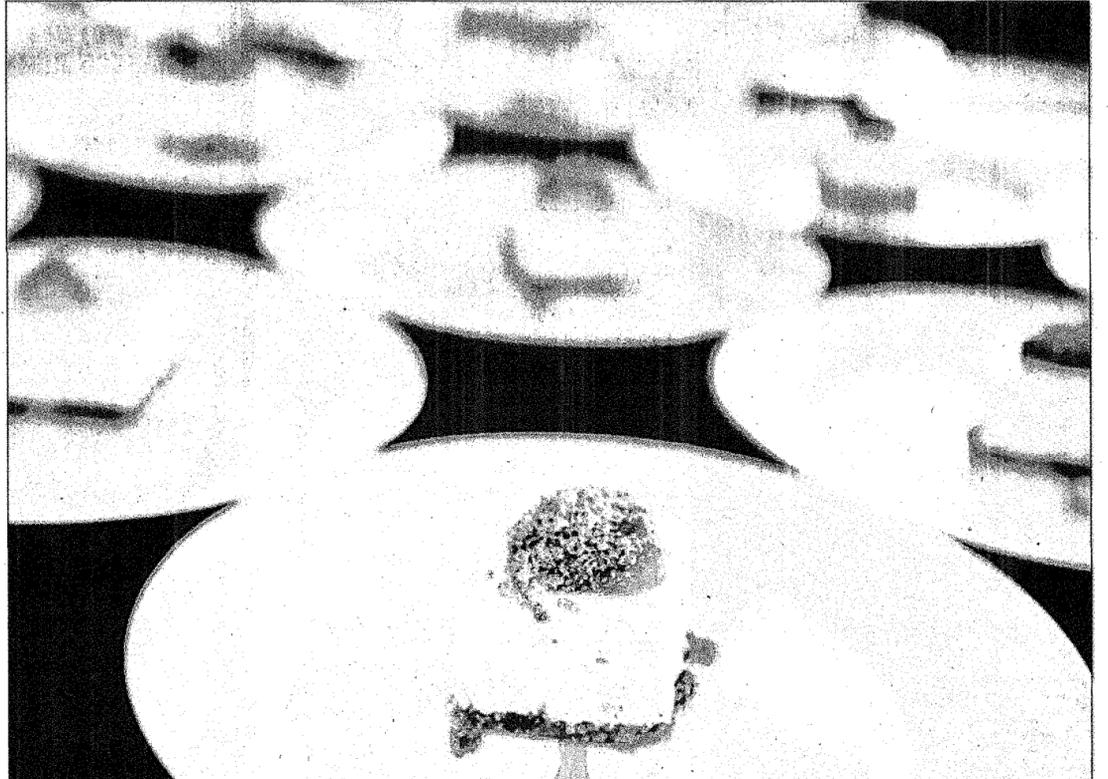
During the event, chefs were asked to create gourmet desserts using Girl Scout Cookies as a key ingredient. Eight chefs competed — one for each cookie variety.

Chef James Leonardo, who lives in Plymouth and works at Mosaic in Detroit's Greektown, received the Blue Ribbon Award (Judges' Choice). Tim Wilkins, chef/owner of the Historic White Horse Inn in Metamora, took home the People's Choice Award.

About 250 people attended the seventh annual event, which raised nearly \$57,000.

Proceeds benefit programming for some 50,000 girl members who reside in nine counties in Southeastern Michigan.

For information on Girl Scout Cookie availability and locations, call (800) 326-0309 (ask for "product sales").



PHOTOS BY SANTA FABIO

Vanilla Bean Bavarian Cheesecake is made with Sugar Free Chocolate Chips Girl Scout Cookies.



Chef Chris Johnson of the Beverly Hills Grill won the CEO Favorite Award at the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan Cookie Gala.

CHEESECAKE RECIPE

This award-winning cheesecake by Chef Chris Johnson of Beverly Hills Grill uses Sugar Free Chocolate Chips Girl Scout Cookies as a key ingredient.

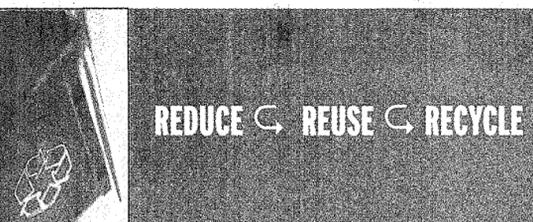
VANILLA BEAN BAVARIAN CHEESECAKE

Yields: One 18 x 13 inch cookie sheet

- 24 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 c. sugar, granulated
- 1 vanilla bean, fresh
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons gelatin, bloomed in 2 ounces of water
- 1 quart Heavy whipping cream
- 3 boxes Sugar Free Chocolate Chips
- Girl Scout Cookies, ground
- 2 ounces butter, melted

Line a 18 x 13 inch cookie sheet with parch-

ment or wax paper. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the cookies and butter and press onto the cookie sheet. Bake 10-15 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Let the crust rest at room temperature for 15-20 minutes or until cool to the touch. In a mixer with a paddle attachment combine the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, and lemon juice until smooth and well incorporated. In a separate bowl whip the heavy cream to soft peaks. Heat the gelatin until it liquefies and is clear. Add the gelatin to the cream cheese mixture. Gently fold in the whipped heavy cream. Spread the mixture onto the prepared crust. Cover and refrigerate for two hours or until set. Slice cheesecake to your desired size and serve with fresh sliced strawberries.



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DEALS & STEALS

Ye Olde Wine Shoppe, 2044 W. South Blvd., Rochester Hills, (248) 852-5533, is currently holding a Vintage Stimulus Sale. Here's a sampling of our European favorites under \$15.

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Bodegas Falset Marca 2005 Tinto, \$6.50
Bodegas Rugvino 2006 Big Bang Rioja, \$14

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