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The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers
Volume 45
Number 69
75 CENTS

Around Westland - A2

WESTLAND OBSERVER

THURSDAY January 21, 2010. online at hometownlife.com

AROUND TOWN

Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland are planning a used book sale at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, between Warren and Ford roads. For information, call (734) 326-6123.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, 3-7 p.m., there will be a preview sale for Friends members. You can join to become a Friend at the preview sale.

The sale continues 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13. Saturday is \$6 a bag day and you must bring your own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag.

The sale wraps up noon to 4 p.m. Sunday with a bag day sale for \$4, also bring your own bag. Regular prices are \$1 for hardcover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records, 10 cents for magazines, and \$2 for a green reusable Friends bag.

Money raised helps fund programs at the library for all ages.

Rotary Luau

The Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation has set its fund-raising Hawaiian Luau dinner and auction for 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 30, at Joy Manor, on Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland. There will be a Hawaiian-style buffet dinner, silent auction with \$500 payoff and live auction.

The Cool 2 Duel dueling pianos will offer entertainment at the benefit event. Michigan Chiropractic Specialists/Amanda Apfelblat is the major sponsor.

Maui sponsors are: Juenemann Insurance Agency, Joseph Tseng, D.D.S., North Bros. Ford & Lincoln-Mercury, Pepsi. Hula sponsors are: Ameriprise Financial-Antoinette Martin, C&M Printing and Imaging, Men on the Move, Harlow Tire, Judge Sandra Cicirelli, Judge Mark McConnell, Westland Youth Assistance-Paul Motz.

Cost is \$90 per couple, including one Island Raffle ticket. A table of eight is \$340 (includes four Island Raffle tickets), individual \$45 (raffle ticket not included). All include dinner, beer and wine.

Additional Island Raffle tickets are \$45 each, and Hawaiian attire optional.

Additional donations and sponsorships are welcome. Make donations payable to: Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. For more information, call Gary Bulson at (734) 729-6683.

Tickets for the Hawaiian Luau are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce office on Ford Road between Central City Parkway and Newburgh and at C&M Printing and Imaging in Westland. Proceeds support Westland Rotary charitable projects.

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Mayor in D.C. to address city concerns

Westland Mayor William Wild is scheduled to visit the White House today.

Wild was to join 1,200 mayors from cities throughout the U.S. in Washington, D.C., to address matters of mutual concern, including a metro economic agenda on job creation, local transportation investment, climate protection, airport security and federal investments.

Wild was slated to join a contingent of mayors at the White House. President Barack Obama and the mayors will engage in a panel discussion on the economy and jobs.

First Lady Michelle Obama was to host the mayors for a plenary discussion Wednesday. The conference will conclude with an awards banquet to recognize several mayors, including Wild, who will accept an award on behalf of

'It is incumbent upon us to address these priorities if our country and this All-American city of Westland is to prosper.'
WILLIAM WILD, Westland mayor

the city. The award is being kept confidential at the request of the USCM until Friday, when the award will be presented.

In addition to attending the conference, Wild has secured separate meetings with Westland's federal legislators, U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, to discuss specific local matters regarding the city of Westland.

The challenges we are facing in Westland are being faced by

mayors throughout this great country of ours," Wild said. "Without question, our focus while in Washington will be to bring the real-life difficulties being faced by our residents to the attention of our federal officials with a shared goal of working collaboratively to achieve real-life solutions that will put people back to work and kick-start the economy."

"It is incumbent upon us to address these priorities if our country and this All-American city of Westland is to prosper," he added.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors was founded in 1932 and serves to promote effective national urban and suburban policy, and to serve as a forum for sharing ideas among the mayors of cities with populations of 30,000 or greater.

Auto Show Charity Preview

Photo page, A8

In Depth Auto Show coverage online at hometownlife.com



Westland tribute does King's legacy proud



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Westland Friendship Center.



Chanelle Wright and Gerald Powell are members of the John Glenn High School Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. The group presented the American flag at the community celebration for Dr. King.

For an online photo gallery, visit us online at www.hometownlife.com

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland held its 12th annual ceremony Monday celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but it was the first time Margaret Edwards attended.

"I got an invitation from the mayor and thought the children should be exposed to Martin Luther King Jr.," said Edwards, a Westland resident who brought her grandchildren to the ceremony. "I guess it took a special invitation to get me here. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

"I thought it was a nice opportunity to learn about Martin Luther King Jr.," said her granddaughter, Andrea Edwards, 11, who attends Stevenson Middle School. "I didn't know that his house had been bombed. We don't study much about him in school right now."



Michigan Opera Theater's Richard Jackson performs "Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing."

There was a full house for the program held at the Friendship Center. Michigan Opera Theater singer Richard Jackson performed *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* and led the audience in singing *Let There Peace on Earth*. The Bel Canto Choir performed *A Symphony of the Heart and Like a Tree*.

Westland Department of Public Works Director Kevin Buford introduced a pictorial tribute to King produced by Friendship Center volunteer Jim Speen, then offered

Please see MLK, A2

Homebuyers targeted for Jan. 28 workshop

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There are plenty of homes on the market and plenty of people who might like to buy them if they can make the right deal.

Westland's Housing Department and a local real estate company are joining forces to let would-be homebuyers know about continuing federal tax credits that have been extended and renewed.

"So many people aren't aware of the tax credit available and the changes. It was a big boon for our office in the last quarter," said Chris

Peterson, owner/broker at Century 21 Dynamic. "You had to close by November (to qualify for the previous credit). We thought we need to promote it if it is approved again and it was approved. Also, it was expanded."

The homebuyers tax credit workshop is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Friendship Center.

Located on Wayne Road in Westland, Century 21 Dynamic had previously worked with the city on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

"We decided to see if the city was

willing to do this. There are a lot of people who didn't hear it (the tax credit extension)," said Peterson.

"Because it was expanded as well, we probably could do pretty good business. There were so many people who couldn't find what they were looking for by the deadline."

"There is a homebuyers tax credit of up to \$8,000 and it's no longer just for first-time buyers," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "There is an income limit but most people would qualify."

During the seminar, Inglis will make a presentation on affordable housing. Also on hand will be real

estate agents, representatives from mortgage companies and credit counselors.

"We'll have professionals from different fields so people have individual conversations," said Inglis. "This is another tool to get people into homes. The tax credit has really stimulated the economy."

The seminar is open to anyone — it's not limited to Westland residents — but advance registration is needed. To reserve a spot, call Century 21 Dynamic at (734) 728-8000 or info@century21dynamic.com.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Autism fund-raiser

The Michigan Indigo Children and Families Network will be hosting a 10 band benefit at Last Chance Bar & Grill, Warren west of Inkster Road in Westland, 1-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. The event will feature bands from the area including: Animilistic Frenzy, Wisteria, Snake Oil, Madam Trolley, Dear Maybe, Yankeeville & Scratch, The Groove, Cruizin Jupiter, Shattered Sky and Sean Moylan.

There will also be raffles, karaoke, and give aways. Admission is \$5.

Proceeds will benefit the Michigan Indigo Children and Families Network which is an Autism, Aspergers and ADD/ADHD support group. For more information, contact Neil Carrick at (734) 469-0234 or neilpatrickcarrick@gmail.com.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold district coffee hours on Monday, Jan. 25, in Livonia and Garden City. No appointment is necessary.

From 9-10 a.m., Anderson will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Talk to Anderson 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; phone: Toll-free (866) 262-7306; or e-mail: SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Game time

Seniors can stop by the Westland Friendship Center 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays to play on the Wii video game system, donated by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. The Wii will be set up each week in Hall B for various games.

The Friendship Center has put the Wii to good use with numerous bowling events. The Wii is a wonderful tool for social interaction and a great way to keep active. The Friendship Center is located on Newburgh south of Ford.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Census jobs

If you are out of work or looking for some part-time employment, the 2010 Census may be your answer. Contact their office currently located in Livonia at (734) 437-4120

to set up an appointment for a basic skills test required to apply for a Census Taker Position.

Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale Friday through Sunday, Feb. 12-14.

Friends members can shop at a preview sale 3-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. You can join to become a Friend at the preview sale.

The sale will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13. Go Green with the Saturday Bag Sale — for \$6, shoppers can fill their own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag with books.

From noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 there will be a \$4 bag sale — bring your own bag.

The regular sale prices are: \$1 hardcover books, DVDs, CDs, 50 cents large paperbacks; 25 cents small paperbacks, videos, cassettes, records; 10 cents magazines; and \$2 green reusable Friends bag.

Money raised help fund programs at the library for all ages. The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway.

For information, call (734) 326-6123.

Trivia for Tatas

Help raise money for the annual Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and show off your smarts at Trivia for Tatas Sunday, Feb. 28, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road. The cost is \$15 if paid by Feb. 14 and \$20 at the door. Registration begins at noon with the games beginning at 1 p.m.

All ages are welcome and there will be cash prizes with bonus questions to earn more prizes. Bring your own team or come on in and join a team

Buffalo Wild Wings will also donate 20 percent of all food and drink sales with event flyer 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds go to benefit the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

For more information, contact Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or e-mail downtw@doubleexpress.net.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Post 171 on Merriman Road between Avondale and Palmer. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

CORRECTION

A recent article in the *Westland Observer* should have said that resident Mark Rodriguez doesn't oppose paying police and firefighter retiree health care from the retirement fund but that the funding should come from investment earnings, not the money generated by a voted millage.



The Westland audience listening to poet Nandi Mandisa.

MLK

FROM PAGE A1

inspirational comments on King's impact on his life.

Recalling when he took a test to be hired by Westland DPS in 1991, Buford said a man on the Civil Service Commission — a man who didn't know him — made sure he got a shot at becoming a city employee. That man was Mack Mayfield, who was in the audience.

"Mack Mayfield was the first African American public works supervisor for Westland — I was the second. I was proud to follow in his footsteps," Buford said.

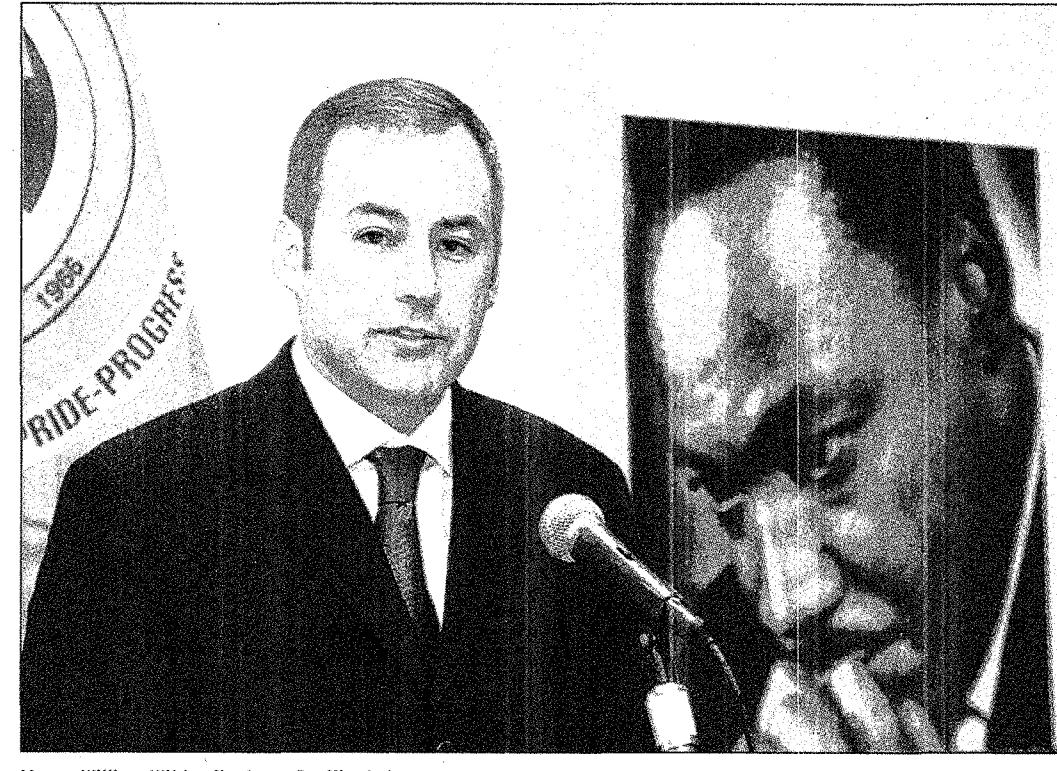
Born not too long after King was assassinated in 1968, Buford said his family and teachers made sure he was aware of King's legacy — they wanted to instill in him King's love, equality, integrity and honor.

"He didn't want us to be viewed as African Americans, but equals. I stand here as the embodiment of that — that you can do whatever you want," Buford said.

He recalled that his late father, the Deacon Henry Bufford, told him a story about the federal government investing a lot of love, time, money and energy in building a new battleship. Sometimes when the battleship is put on the water, it doesn't float, but the elder Buford noted that didn't mean the ship would be abandoned — too much had been invested into it.

"He said, 'You're my little battleship.' He saw me start sinking and he put in more time, love and attention," Buford said. "Before he passed (in 1997) he said I was floating. All of you are battleships."

Speen's video tribute traced King's life, including excerpts from his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, a 1965 Freedom March and his shift from civil rights to working on poverty issues. The video also included excerpts from King's last speech, "I've



Mayor William Wild reflects on Dr. King's legacy.



Nandi Mandisa recites a poem, Evolution In America.

the march made her more committed to civil rights. She went on to become a local and state secretary for the NAACP.

A U-M employee for 41 years, Ford was later transferred to the university's Dearborn campus, which brought about another resolution.

"A lot of people told me I was their first experience with a black person. I realized I had a responsibility to present myself as a positive black lady," Ford said.

Before offering the closing prayer, Apostolic District Elder Luke McLendon of Christ Temple Apostolic Church recalled being a fifth-grader in 1963 and not too happy about having to watch King's march on television.

"We were supposed to have a rehearsal of a play — *Snow White*. I was Prince Charming in it. It was important to me — I got to kiss Snow White and she was a cute girl," McLendon said. "I was annoyed. If I had contact with that teacher today, I'd tell her I repent — I remember it like it was yesterday. It had that kind of impact on me."

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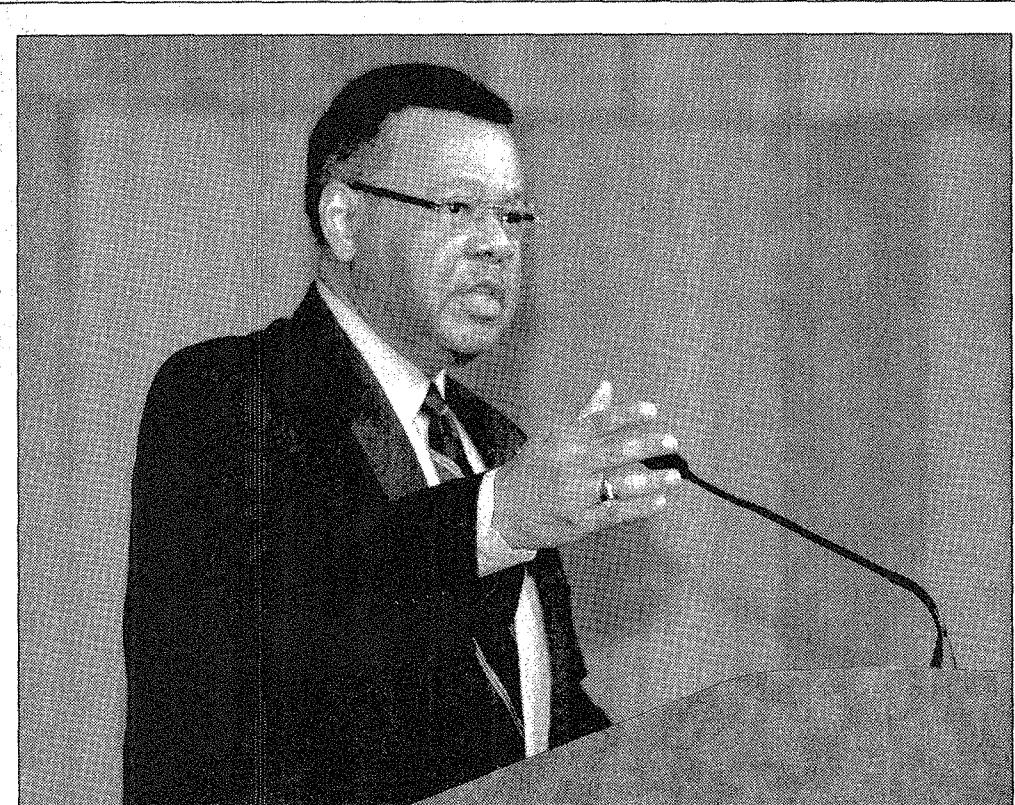
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Part of our history

Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, discusses Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. Jeffress spoke at the 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration, organized by the city of Livonia Human Relations Commission, at Livonia City Hall. Jeffress was the keynote speaker and spoke of his experiences of discrimination in staying at hotels, eating in restaurants and even drinking at water fountains.



Vocal students from the Livonia Public Schools' Creative and Performing Arts program sing "America" at the Livonia observance.

Madonna students volunteer on MLK Day

Approximately 90 Madonna University students and staff members — the largest group yet — volunteered their time and talents Monday at community organizations throughout Metro Detroit in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

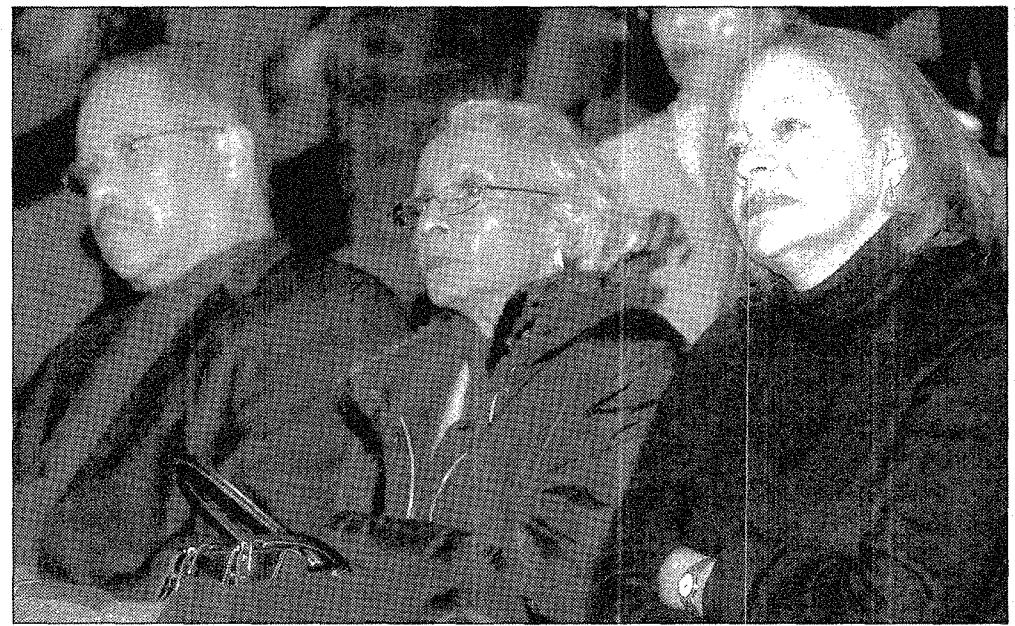
This was the fourth consecutive year that the Livonia university partnered with the University of Michigan-Dearborn, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Lawrence Tech University and Henry Ford Community College for this day of service. United Way staff recruited the agencies where students served and assisted Volunteer Solutions in creating and maintaining the extensive online volunteer database.

Madonna student volunteers worked with the following community groups: Beyond Basics, Bridging Communities, Child



Madonna University nursing students Christina Klein of Plymouth and Giulia Cipparrone of Dearborn paint at Motor City Java House in Artist Village in Old Redford.

Help, Fish and Loaves, Gleaners Community Food Bank (Detroit and Warren), Habitat for Humanity, Ruth Ellis, Salvation Army (several locations), Stanford House and Van Dyke Schools (McKinley and Kennedy elementary schools).



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

King program

Dr. William G. Anderson of Bloomfield Hills listens Saturday to a speech by Donzaleigh Abernathy with Melba Johnson, mother of Southfield district Judge Sheila Johnson. With them is Laurita Anderson of Westland, whose godfather was civil rights movement co-founder Ralph Abernathy. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force of Southfield, in partnership with Providence Hospital and DTE Energy Foundation, sponsored a free presentation by Donzaleigh Abernathy, daughter of the late Rev. Ralph Abernathy, civil rights activist and close friend and confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 16 at the Millennium Theatre in Southfield.

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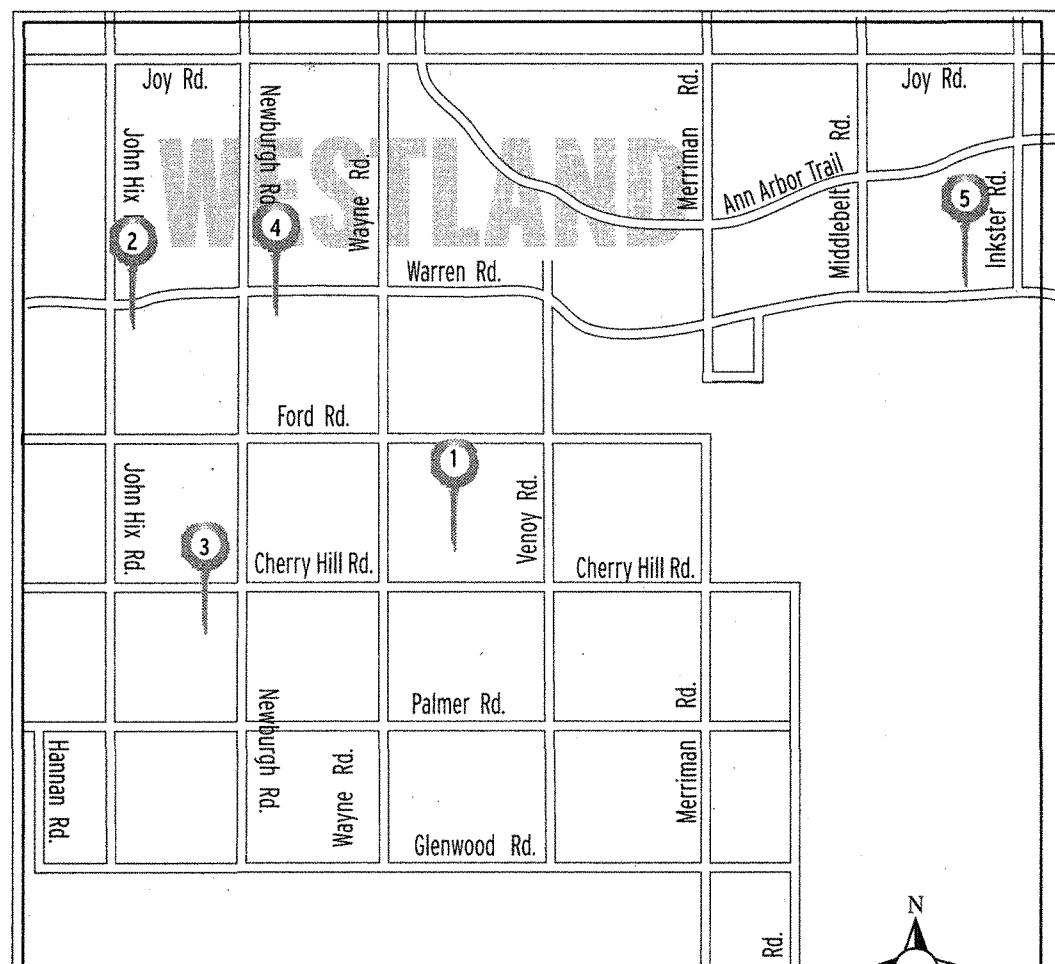
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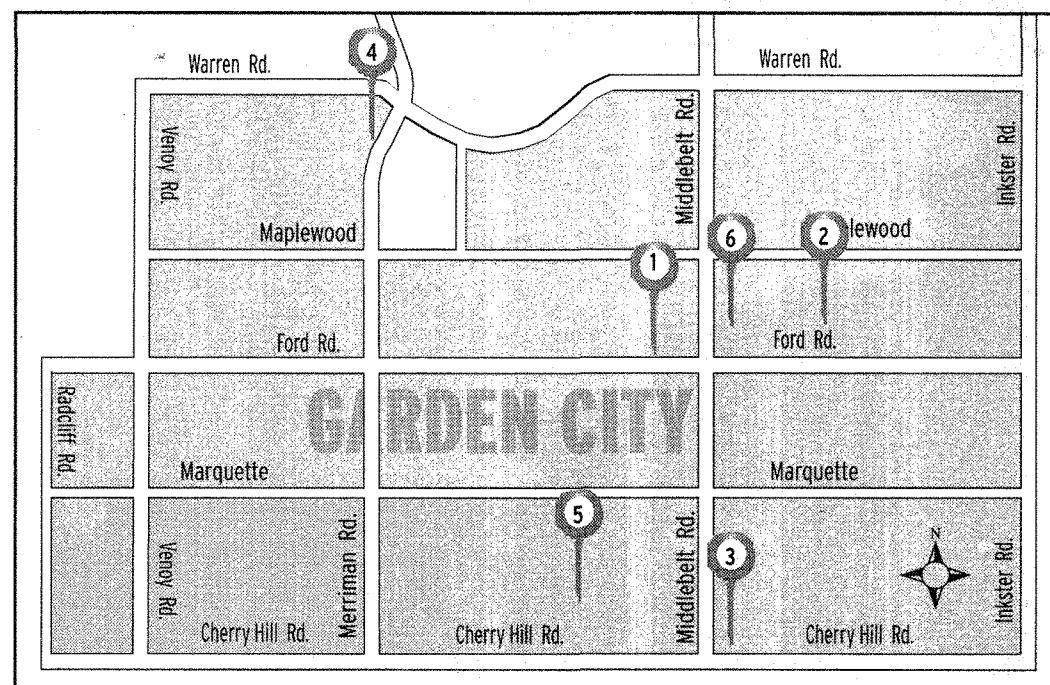
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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS



GARDEN CITY POLICE BRIEFS



Larceny

1 On Jan. 18, a resident in the 1300 block of Hawthorne told police that someone stole his automobile trailer from the driveway. The man said the enclosed trailer, valued at \$3,000, had been parked near his garage. Reported inside the trailer were a welding machine and assorted tools valued at \$8,000.

Vehicle theft

2 A Dearborn Heights resident told police that someone stole her 1996 Plymouth station wagon while it was parked at Candyworks, 6519 N. Hix, Jan. 18. The woman told police she remembered locking the vehicle and had both sets of keys to the car which was valued at \$3,000.

Larceny

3 About 800 feet of phone line coaxial cable was reported stolen from spools from behind

T-Mobile, 400 Manufacturers Drive, Jan. 18. The cable was valued at \$800. The employee filing the complaint told police it was the third time in the past couple of weeks that a similar theft had occurred.

Surveillance video showed the suspects as wearing hooded sweat shirts and driving a dark-colored SUV. The employee said the thieves spent as long as two hours cutting the cable into small sections in the rear yard of the business.

A second employee told police that he visited an Inkster metal business where he saw coaxial cable cut into three- to six-foot sections. The metal business indicated a fingerprint was obtained from the person selling the cable. Police were continuing to investigate.

Shoplifting

4 Police were called to Meijer, 37201 Warren, Jan. 13 about a man who had reportedly taken some Dickies cloth-

ing from the store and left without paying. The suspect was reported to have left the store parking lot eastbound on Warren.

An officer spotted the suspect near Central City Parkway. The driver, an Ypsilanti man, was reportedly identified by a store employee as the shoplifter and arrested. The officer reportedly recovered the clothing, valued at \$165, from the front seat of the vehicle. The man was also cited for violating his license restrictions.

A female passenger, a Westland resident, was arrested on a warrant.

Larceny from a vehicle

5 On Jan. 17, a Garden City woman told police that someone broke a window on her vehicle and stole the stereo while she was parked at DeLuca's Restaurant, on Warren at Inkster Road.

Theft from store

1 While an employee at the Tanning Salon was showing a female customer around near the back of the store about 5 p.m. Jan. 17, an unknown man entered the store located at 29521 Ford.

The employee told the man who was dressed in bright clothing that he would be right with him.

Before he was, the man reportedly opened a cash register, stole money and fled into a vehicle which was parked near the building.

The store employee didn't know how the thief withdrew the cash because he said the cash drawer was locked, according to the police report.

The female customer said that she didn't witness the theft and the report didn't indicate that she was part of the theft situation.

The police are looking for a white man, about 40 years old, wearing a yellow jacket and a brightly colored baseball cap.

Identity theft

2 A 20-year-old resident in the 29000 block of Birchawn told police Jan. 18 that someone opened three fraudulent accounts in his name. Two were for Consumers Energy and the other was for Comcast.

The Consumer Energy accounts were reportedly traced to addresses on Bendon and Lenawee streets in Westland.

The accounts were reportedly listed as unpaid and showed up on his credit reports.

The young man said that none were opened by him. He added that he lives with his parents.

Police provided him with a packet of information about identity theft.

Retail fraud

3 Police arrested a suspect in a retail fraud case at the Shell gas station at 120 Middlebelt in Garden City early Jan. 17.

The man who was arrested was located outside a gas station at Michigan and Middlebelt in Inkster.

The clerk in Inkster became suspicious when the suspect, a 43-year-old Ypsilanti man, reportedly tried to sell him some cigars at \$2 a box and called the police.

Police reportedly returned the stolen case of cigars to the gas station clerk in Garden City.

They also arrested the Ypsilanti man on outstanding warrants for a failure to appear case of child neglect in 20th District Court in Inkster and for nine other convictions of retail fraud with a variety of

degrees.

Breaking and entering

4 A couple who was checking on a home in the 6700 block of Sunset sometime before 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 while the owner was gone, found that thieves broke into a home that was recently burglarized.

The thieves entered through the back door that was boarded up.

Jewelry was strewn about as well as items in the home office and kitchen. The thief stole two flat-screen TVs.

Breaking and entering

5 Someone stole 25 feet of copper pipe from a home in the 320 block of Lytle Place that was being refurbished sometime before Jan. 7.

There were holes in the drywall and the shed lock was broken.

The report to police was delayed.

Theft

6 A Garden City High School teen, together with his mother, reported Jan. 17 that someone broke into his locked locker at the school located on Middlebelt, north of Ford, during the previous weekend. The thief stole his duffel bag and its contents which contained athletic shoes.

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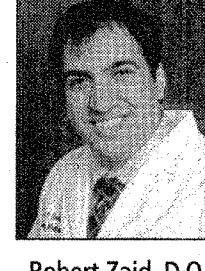
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PROVIDENCE

Hospitals in Southfield and Novi

Westland council OKs auto storage use

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Auto storage seems to be a growing business, at least in Westland.

The council voted Monday to approve special land uses for two properties to allow an auto storage facility.

Jim Kerwin, a Garden City councilman, received the special approval for property

at 33100 Beechwood, west of Venoy. For many years, the property has been headquarters for Kerwin Construction.

The 2.3 acre-site is zoned for light industrial use and has a 6,240-square-foot building with a fenced-in yard to the rear. Thomas Larson petitioned for the special use approval telling Westland officials that he intends to operate a vehicle

towing service out of the location.

After their public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended granting the special approval.

"The remainder of the site (beside the building) is paved and fenced. This would be an optimal use," said Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson. "The Planning Commission found this was a

compatible use."

Responding to a question, Thompson noted there are no homes near the site — the North Bros. Ford dealership is located to the south. St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School are nearby, as are Westland Youth Athletic Association fields.

Similarly, there were no objections from the public or council to a special use

approval for an auto recovery business that will operate at 38236 Abruzzi, south of Ford and east of Hix. The .8-acre parcel is zoned for light industrial use and has a 9,972-square foot building.

Petitioner Robert Jordan indicated that he has an auto repossession business, currently located in Dearborn Heights. He reported the majority of his operations took

place during normal business hours.

"This is very similar to the other request. It's in an industrial park. It is a fairly large multi-tenant building with a lot of vehicle and construction equipment storage," said Thompson. "It would be predominantly two- or three-day storage."

irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Garden City church reaches out to quake victims in Haiti

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With their hearts poised toward helping earthquake-shaken Haiti residents, Merriman Road Baptist Church embarked on a major relief effort this week.

The 1,400-member congre-

gation is collecting personal hygiene items and is urging the entire Garden City community to join its effort.

The Rev. Wayne Parker is committed to providing aid.

"We are looking for toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer, washcloths, wipes, disposable razors and

bandages," said Parker. "These items will be bagged into kits and sent by container to distribution centers that have been working in the region for nine years."

The church is linked with two direct response agencies, "Rays of Hope for Haiti," of Grand Rapids, and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief which is coordi-

nated out of Florida.

"Financial contributions will go directly to disaster relief," Parker said. "The Disaster Relief agency has responded numerous times to hurricane devastation in Haiti as well as the U.S. With over 90,000 volunteers, I believe it is the largest response agency in the country."

Parker knows that donations are limited.

"I know that there are a lot of people asking for money but we wanted to offer a simple and direct way for people to get involved."

The church is located at 2055 Merriman in Garden City, one block south of Ford.

Donations will be accepted during the office hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We will also set up an after-hours drop-off box," Parker said.

The church office phone is (734) 421-0472.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

Westland taps budget director

Former Taylor finance director Patti Duha has been appointed Westland's budget director.

Duha's duties will include the compilation and completion of the city's annual budget and preparing weekly, monthly, and quarterly financial reports as well as helping oversee day to day operations of the city's finance department.

Duha served as Taylor's finance

director for three years following six years with Van Buren Charter Township as water and sewer director. Duha also worked for Wayne County as the deputy director in the Department of Environment along with a previous stint in Taylor and has an extensive municipal finance background including management of several capital improvement projects.

"The city remains committed to providing fiscally responsible service to the residents and a well-crafted budget is a reflection of the quality of that service," said Mayor William Wild. "Ms. Duha will work for the city as a contractor, allowing the city to perform its budgetary duties while saving funds on health care and pension costs that would have occurred otherwise."

County commissioner 'goes green' with paperless work

A local official has joined the effort to save a tree from being sacrificed to produce paper.

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Westland, is the first of the 15 commissioners to completely eliminate paper from the legislative process.

The commissioner said she took into consideration how much paper came across her desk on a daily basis, how many file cabinets were being crammed with correspondence, financial records, external and internal communications.

"I was astounded over the amount of physical paper needed to carry out my duties and responsibilities," said Gebhardt, whose district includes Westland, Inkster and south Livonia. "But that's not unusual. One of the main culprits identified during any governmental waste audit is plain-and-simple paper."

The first step was to acquire a laptop

and a software program that increased her flexibility and mobility, Gebhardt said. These enhancements gave her the means to electronically receive the agenda packages and other county-related correspondence. Gebhardt added that she not only she receives information and data this way, she can respond electronically, as well.

"Going paperless is green because it cuts down on paper use in addition to the valuable commodities of saved energy and time," she said.

Gebhardt is hopeful that her initiative will create a road map for her colleagues and the commission administration to develop a manageable strategy to also go green.

"The evidence is clear," Gebhardt said. "Transforming county government into a paperless environment would be eco-friendly, budget friendly, as well as increase productivity and efficiency. That's a win-win for the taxpayer."

District-wide accreditation draws kudos

The six Wayne-Westland schools participating in a model internal review process, part of district-wide accreditation, got a pat on the back last week.

Tom Dolan and Debbie Juriga, both of the North Central Association, and Carolyn Rakotz of the Wayne County Regional Educational Services

Association, made a presentation to the Board of Education.

The schools participating in the internal review include Hoover, Kettering, Elliott and Madison elementary schools, Franklin Middle School and William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"I've evaluated 80-100 schools and

districts in the last few years. The experience with Wayne-Westland Schools has been refreshing for us," said Dolan. "I think you have established a very positive foundations for moving forward. There was consistency between the schools — a shared philosophy — that's something unique for a district this size."

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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business



Bruce Thompson, Westland planning director, and Mark Swieczkowski of Choice Insurance chat at last week's annual meeting of the Westland Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held at Lakeshore Grill of Macy's and gave chamber members a chance to share thoughts on good customer service, something they enjoyed with the tasty meal and attentive service.

Putting customers first: Chamber members aim high

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Customer service is key to business people in Westland and Garden City.

"Customer service is a large part of my business," said Jim Kollar, who owns Alleycat Designs in Westland. His business does embroidery and screen printing.

"Meeting their needs, being as helpful and accommodating as possible," Kollar said of good customer service. "Making them happy, basically."

He and others at the recent Westland Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, held at Macy's Lakeshore Grill, shared views on current customer service standards.

"I don't think anybody cares about it anymore, business-wise," Kollar said. "It's an ancient art form. That's what sets me apart," he added of his high standards.

Also at the lunch, Patrick McNally is president of the Garden City Board of Education, as well as Western Campus president for Wayne County Community College District.

"We are service-oriented," McNally said of the Garden City schools, including students, staff and the community. The district meets

'Customer service is treating someone the way you want to be treated. We don't put people on hold.'

SARAH WEBB, client care manager for Comfort Keepers

educational needs for the local, state and national communities.

In his daily life, McNally's comfortable with automation and prefers e-mail use. "I don't mind the automation systems as long as there's an option to get to a person," he said. He finds pre-selected options on phone systems don't always meet his needs.

He's done online coursework for his soon-to-be-completed doctorate, and is good with technology. "Hopefully, they've gotten me through this far anyway," McNally said with a smile of those skills.

He finds e-mails beneficial in that there's a written and dated record. "You might lose some of the message," McNally said, adding it's important to be careful on wording correspondence.

"Customer service is treating someone the way you want to be treated," said Sarah Webb, a lunch attendee and client care manager for

Comfort Keepers. "We don't put people on hold."

Her business focuses on in-home care, with phones answered around the clock. "It's part of my job," Webb said of that attention. "And we must answer the phone with a smile. It has to be heard in your voice."

Webb finds technology has both helped and hurt customer service. On the plus side, computers and Web sites make getting information easier.

Jeff Petty's focused on customer service for his new business, EmbroidMe, at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland. Its grand opening was Thursday, Jan. 14.

Petty defines good customer service as people getting "more than what they expect." His is a full-service embroidery business, including apparel, print wear and spirit wear for schools, along with promotional products.

"I used to work in the automotive industry," Petty said at the Jan. 12 Macy's luncheon. "You can't forget at the end of the day that the customer is what's important."

His focus is quality products at reasonable cost. "We want to deliver on time. The customer should be thrilled with it," the business owner said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New location for businesses

C&M Printing and Imaging has moved to a new Westland location, 39010 Webb Drive, west off of Hix between Warren and Ford roads. The large building is shared with Men on the Move movers, another veteran Westland business, and Excaliper, which does truck and trailer repair.

"All three businesses have gone in there," said Mary Vellardita, co-owner with Dick Isham of the printing business. "We like our space better." The large building was divided up for the three businesses.

C&M Printing and Imaging has the same phone number, (734) 729-5401, as does Men on the Move, (734) 729-MOVE (6683), which is owned by Gary Bulson and partner Gary Wrigley.

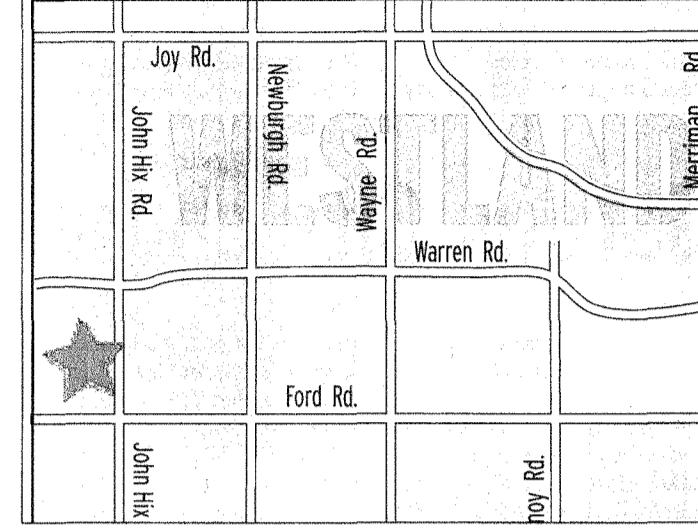
"So far so good," Bulson said of the new site. He likes the three business owners sharing space. "My type of business doesn't really need a visible location. Most people looking for a mover, it's by word of mouth," Bulson said.

You can find out more about Men on the Move online at www.michiganmovers.com.

You can reach Excaliper at (734) 641-4444, owned by Ron Kuduk.

Charity support

American Community Mutual Insurance Company employees worked together throughout 2009 to raise nearly \$6,000 to benefit two Michigan-based nonprofit organizations. The donations are part of an ongoing effort lead by the American Community Employee Charity Committee, which spearheads all fund raising, charitable contributions and community involvement events.



In December 2009, American Community employees had an opportunity to nominate their favorite charity to receive the monies raised for the 2009 Charity Fund. Once the nominations were compiled, employees voted for their top charities. The following organizations each received \$2,989:

•Angela Hospice — for the past 23 years, the organization has been providing comprehensive, compassionate, and hospice care to the community of Southeast Michigan. A pioneer in the hospice movement, Livonia-based Angela Hospice opened the first freestanding inpatient hospice center of its kind in Michigan, and developed specialized prenatal and pediatric programs. The hospice is on Newburgh in Livonia.

•Michigan Humane Society — provides the highest quality service and compassion to the animals entrusted in their care, and to measurably reduce companion animal overpopulation. The organization also takes a leadership role in promoting humane values for the benefit of all animals. The MHS oper-

ates a facility at Newburgh and Marquette in Westland.

"At American Community, we strive to create an environment that allows employees to participate in company-sponsored events to support communities where we work, live and play," said Leslie J. Gola, vice president of Human Resources. "Each year employees reach out to organizations that assist our friends and neighbors with various needs to help build community spirit and improve their quality of life."

With beginnings dating back to 1938, American Community Mutual Insurance Company is one of the oldest health insurance companies in the nation.

Based in Livonia, American Community offers a broad range of affordable traditional, consumer-directed, and short-term, temporary health insurance products for individuals and families, as well as groups of two-50 employees. The company markets its products through independent insurance agents in multiple states. For more information, visit www.american-community.com.

Workshop aims to boost business

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of Wayne County's leading economic development officials will be the keynote speaker as Canton Township rolls out the first in a series of workshops intended to bolster local businesses amid a rough-and-tumble economy.

Turkia Awada Mullin, chief development officer of Wayne County's Economic Development Growth Engine, or EDGE, will help kick off the Strategies of Success (SOS) series 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, at the Summit on the Park banquet center, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

Efforts to retain local businesses and help them survive have remained just as critical to the township's economic health as attracting new companies, Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

"We want them to stay in Canton and thrive," he said.

To that end, the first SOS session featuring Mullin has been organized to educate businesses on resources, both in Canton and regionally, they can tap into not only to remain afloat but also to prosper despite difficult economic times.

Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Canton's economic development manager, said SOS series participants can learn ways to tap into resources such as Michigan Works, which connects employers and businesses, Schoolcraft College's Small Business & Technology Development Center, the Canton Public Library, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Township government.

"So often there are resources at no cost or low cost that can provide positive messages and education," Bilbrey-Honsowetz said.

Among other achievements,

Mullin has played a significant role in creating the county's TURBO (Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities) program, which provides economic incentives to spur new development and improvements to properties in Wayne County. Since its inception, more than \$300 million in TURBO projects have been approved and more than 2,500 jobs created, officials said.

The SOS series, sponsored by the township and chamber, is free to Canton businesses and local chamber members, and it includes breakfast.

Companies outside Canton and who don't belong to the chamber may attend for a \$10 fee.

To register, call the Canton chamber at (734) 453-4040 by Friday, Jan. 22. Several other workshops are expected to run through June and will be announced in coming weeks.

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Wish You Were Here

Vincent J. Cracchiolo took his Westland Observer along for a mid-December visit to Times Square in New York City. Submit your "Wish You Were Here" photos to Sue Mason, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226. Photos may be sent as JPEGs via e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.



Westland resident Eileen Rodak took along a copy of the Observer on A Capitol Christmas, a senior trip through the Friendship Center. In the distance is Mt. Vernon which was viewed on a sunny December morning. Included on the trip was a visit to the Capitol, the Vietnam memorial, WWII memorial, Korean memorial, a viewing of the musical A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theater, and a Christmas concert with the National Symphony led by Marvin Hamlisch. Residents are invited to submit a photograph of themselves holding a copy of the Observer at a landmark visited during their travels to Wish You Were Here. Submit the photograph and information at smason@hometownlife.com.

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Westland Democrats

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26

Location: Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey at Venoy (between Palmer and Michigan) in Westland.

Details: Board meets at 6:30 p.m. Club meetings are held regularly on the last Tuesday of the month.

Contact: Mike Short, treasurer, (734) 788-1550. Address is P.O. Box 851304, Westland 48185, e-mail WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times and areas they're willing to drive.

Contact: Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Nominations sought

Details: Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is asking the community to submit nominations to recognize adults who provide exemplary service to Girl Scouts. Nominations and letters of endorsement are due Feb. 1. Nomination forms are available online at www.gshom.org, "Volunteers" link, or by calling (800) 49-SCOUT. Girl Scout volunteers create opportunities for girls ages 5-17 to build courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place. Nominations are sought for national recognitions given by Girl Scouts of the USA, including outstanding volunteer and outstanding leader. Girl Scouts will formally

honor recipients at a council-wide ceremony in Lansing on May 1 and at regional recognition events later that month.

Contact: Send nominations to GSHOM Ann Arbor Regional Center, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Railroadiana

Time/date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7

Location: SS. Simon & Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, one mile west of Merriman, Westland.

Details: The Ushers Club is hosting a Toys and Train Show in the church hall. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10. To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. the day of the show. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free.

LifeCare

Time/date: 7:15 p.m. Thursday

Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth

Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.

Contact: Lillian Easterly-Smith at info.lifecarecc@gmail.com or (734) 956-2109.

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/ performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9-16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There are opening for girls ages 9-11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys ages 9-12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.

Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net.

TOPS 869 meetings

Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Adams Senior Village,

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

American Legion Post 251

Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.

Details: All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join.

Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

Garden City Democratic Club

Time/date: 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)

Location: Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

Citizens for Peace

Time/date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month

Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S.

Department of Peace. All are welcome.

Contact: Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

In Harmony

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting

Contact: call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

Writing Group

Time/date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month

Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

Details: The Story Circle Network

is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays.

Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting

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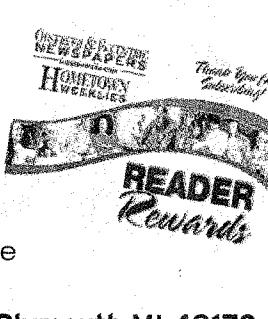
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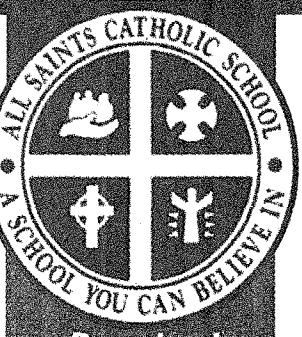
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, center, joins folks from Tempo International Group, whose holdings include a research and development facility in Canton Township. From left, Davic Xu, Jessica Pellegrino, Tempo Chairman Tianbao Zhou, Bob Ficano, Cindy Zhang and James Zhou.

All dressed up with somewhere to go

Locals make a scene at Auto Show Charity Preview

The 2010 North American International Auto Show Charity Preview black-tie gala, one of the top single-night fund-raising events in the nation, opened its doors to nearly 8,500 guests, including many from Observerland.

Last Friday's event raised more than \$2 million for 12 local children's charities. Ticket sales were up more than 25 percent over 2009.

Charity Preview attendees enjoyed the concept and production vehicles on display on the show floor, as well as the music of the Romantics.

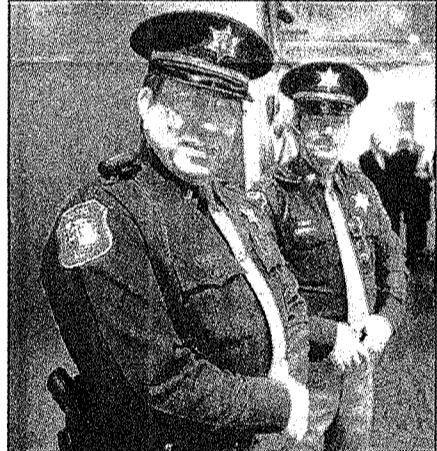
Beneficiaries of the Charity Preview include: Barat Child and Family Services; Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan; Boys Hope Girls Hope of Detroit; The Children's Center; Judson Center; Children's Services of Northeastern Guidance Center Assistance League; The Detroit Institute for Children; ThinkDetroit PAL; Easter Seals-Michigan; March of Dimes; Children's Hospital of Michigan; and the DADA Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.



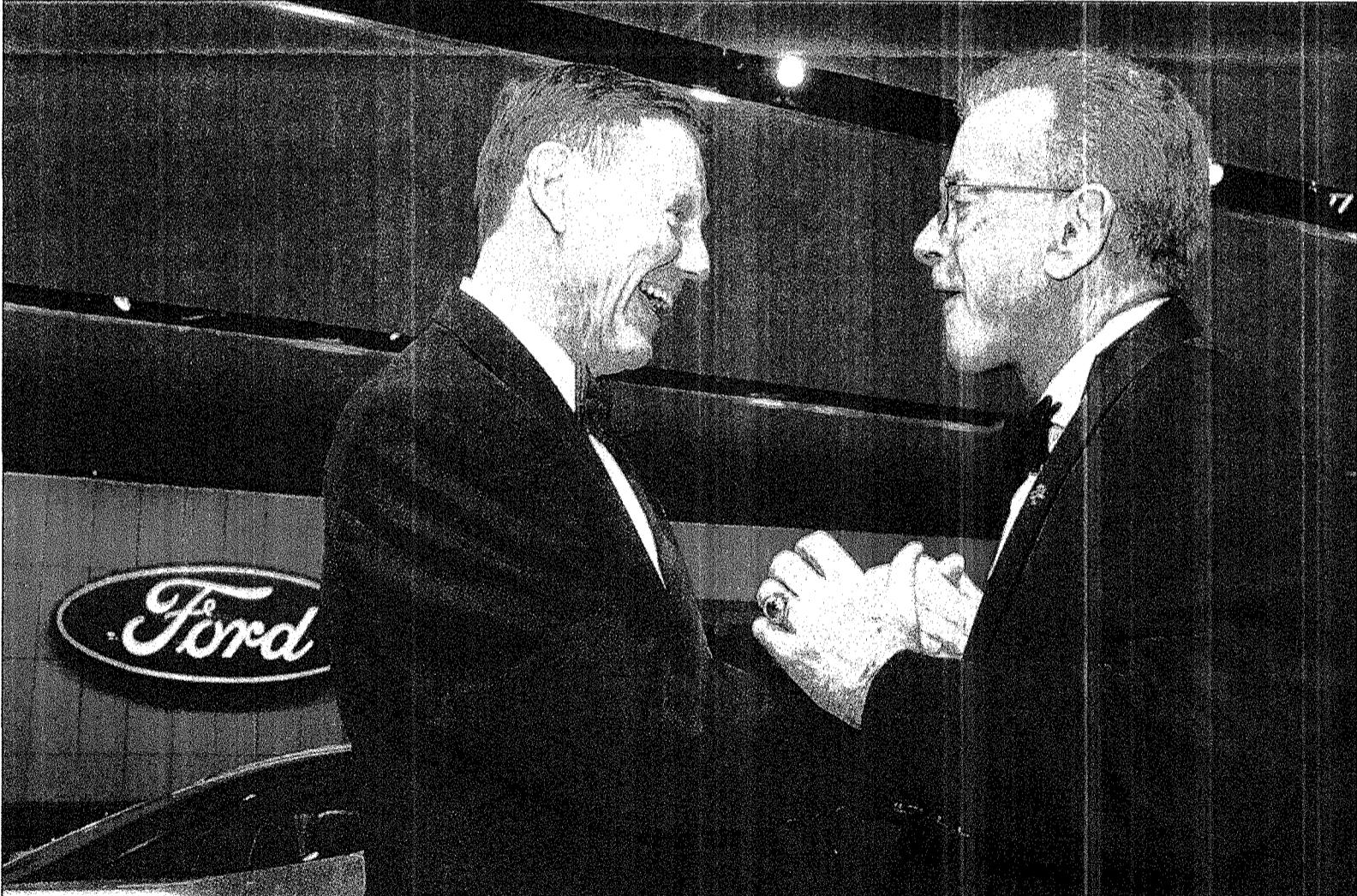
Geri and Dave Brown, of Canton, pose for a photo by the Chevrolet exhibit.



Plymouth Township Chevrolet dealer Scott LaRiche and wife Dawn LaRiche enjoy the Preview.



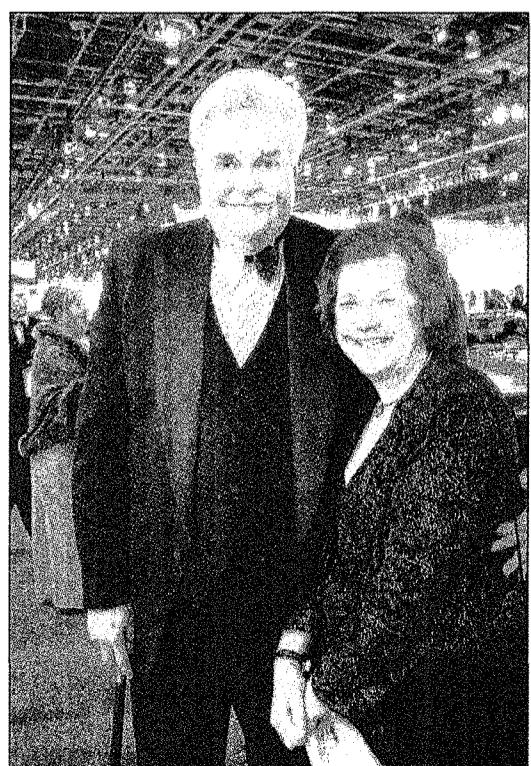
Wayne County Sheriff Executive Lt. R. Karl Burnett and Cmdr. James Edwards work to help keep people safe at the auto show. Burnett hails from Livonia, Edwards is a resident of Riverview.



Ed Brown, owner of Livonia's Bill Brown Ford greets golfing buddy and Ford Motor Chief Executive Alan Mulally at the 2010 North American International Auto Show Charity Preview.



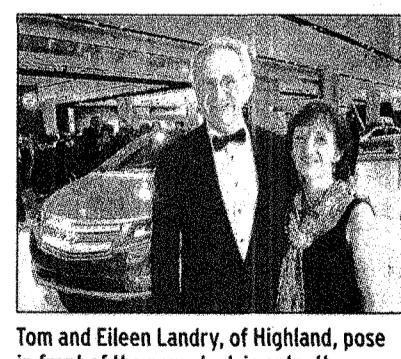
Chris Ogden, a WDIV-TV (Channel 4) producer working the preview, is a resident of Livonia.



State Sen. Bruce Patterson and spouse Phyllis Patterson attended the Charity Preview. The Pattersons are from Canton.



At left, Teresa Nadolski and her husband own three auto dealerships; Champion Chevy in Howell, Cueter Chrysler is Ann Arbor and Champion Chrysler in Lansing. Cheered by the support of friends and family during a very difficult year for auto dealers, Nadolski treated the ladies to a night at the Auto show Charity Preview. She is a resident of Farmington Hills. Sherry Burns of Farmington Hills, Jennifer Kipper of Farmington Hills, Marilyn Smith of Farmington Hills, Teri Spiro of Bloomfield Hills and Mary Patton of Bingham Farms help dress up a Chevrolet.



Tom and Eileen Landry, of Highland, pose in front of the new electric auto, the Chevrolet Volt. Landry represents March of Dimes, one of the charities helped by the Charity Preview.



Former state legislator Rocky Raczkowski and fiancee Amalia Kaddo are from Farmington Hills.



Steve King and the Dittilies play in downtown Plymouth Sunday at 1 p.m. as part of the musical additions to the annual Plymouth Ice Festival.

Free concerts enhance Ice Fest weekend

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Ice Festival organizers reached out and the Downtown Development Authority stepped up.

The DDA, charged with promoting and supporting Plymouth's downtown and the businesses there, is sponsoring four outdoor concerts during the Ice Festival, which opens Friday. The free shows, at three different locations, are designed to give festival-goers more reasons to stroll downtown and not limit their Plymouth experience to Kellogg Park, where the festival is centered.

DDA Operations Director Tony Bruscato said the concerts are the organization's way of enhancing the Ice Festival.

"We want to show (visitors) a good time and show them what downtown has to offer," Bruscato said.

The concert lineup features three shows Saturday and one Sunday:

- The Troubadours, 1 p.m. Saturday, on Penniman between Main and Harvey. World music and bossa nova.

- The Shawn Riley Band, also at 1 p.m. Saturday, on Ann Arbor Trail between Main and Harvey. Top 40 hits.

- Global Village, also at 1 p.m. Saturday, on Forest near Wing. Soul, funk and rock 'n' roll.

- Steve King and the Dittilies, 1 p.m. Sunday, on Forest near Wing. Oldies and favorites.

Bruscato said the concerts will further market the downtown at a time when thousands of people are already in Plymouth to view the ice sculptures. That could prove more effective, he said, than trying to lure people into the city with an entirely new event.

"It's much easier, once you have people already here, to engage them," Bruscato said. "Ice Fest has been around for so long, people naturally come down here."

Sam Walton of Signature Professional Group, the Ice Festival organizer, said the DDA's concerts represent the type of festival involvement he's advocated.

"We simply want to give people more of an opportunity to see things downtown," he said.

Business owners on Forest are also sponsoring a number of events during festival weekend, including a petting zoo and pony rides for children during festival hours Saturday and Sunday.

"Everybody really came together and the festival has a good feeling about it," Walton said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

To help in Haiti, make sure charities are legitimate

We have all seen the pictures from Haiti. The devastation has been tremendous and the problems people are experiencing are immense. They are compounded by the fact that Haiti does not have a functioning government.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

As Americans, when we see people suffering and people in need, our natural reaction is to open our hearts and our pocketbooks. Federal, state and local agencies around the United States have rushed emergency aid and assistance to Haiti. The American people, who are the most generous people in the history of the world, have flooded charitable organizations with contributions.

Unfortunately, many from around the world look at this as an opportunity to profit from the misery of others.

During natural disasters that have occurred in the past literally thousands of scams by people seek to take advantage of the generosity of the American people.

Bogus Web sites popped up overnight soliciting money for

Unfortunately, many from around the world look at this as an opportunity to profit from the misery of others. During natural disasters that have occurred in the past literally thousands of scams by people seek to take advantage of the generosity of the American people.

victims. Because of this, it is important to protect ourselves so that money donated is used for the intended purpose. Resources are not available to shut these scams down. Consumers must be the last line of defense.

In order to protect your hard-earned money, before you donate to a charitable organization, follow these tips.

- Do not respond to unsolicited e-mails. It doesn't matter if they have a professionally done Web site and a tear-jerker appeal. Be cautious. Don't set yourself up for identity theft. Deleted all unsolicited e-mail.

- Be cautious of telephone solicitations. Phone solicitations should be avoided for the same reasons as e-mails. Even for legitimate charities that use phone solicitations, a substantial amount of a contribution goes to the solicitor, not to the charity itself.

- Before you give your hard-earned money to a charity, check it out. Make sure it is legitimate and that the bulk of your money is going for chari-

table purposes. There are a couple excellent Web sites that can help, www.charitynavigator.org and www.give.org. Both of these Web sites can help you determine whether the charity you are considering is legitimate and how much of the money collected actually goes to the charitable purpose vs. administrative and/or fund raising. In addition, the Better Business Bureau also provides a helpful list of charities that are providing assistance in Haiti and meet BBB standards.

The Haitian people are in need and the American people want to assist. If you are thinking about helping out in Haiti or, in fact, if you're thinking of donating to any charity, make sure you do your homework ahead of time so that your money can make a difference. Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spaghetti dinner

For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Weight Watchers

The Friendship Center has a Weight Watchers program offered to members only. Meetings are 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Weight Watchers offers educational meetings to assist members in making better food choices and living a healthier lifestyle.

This program can help older adults control Type II diabetes, high cholesterol and other diseases where weight may be a factor. To participate in this program, you must be 50 years or older and a member of the Friendship Center — no exceptions.

The center also offers other programs that may help you realize your weight or lifestyle goal. Check out exercise programs for supportive classes to healthier living.

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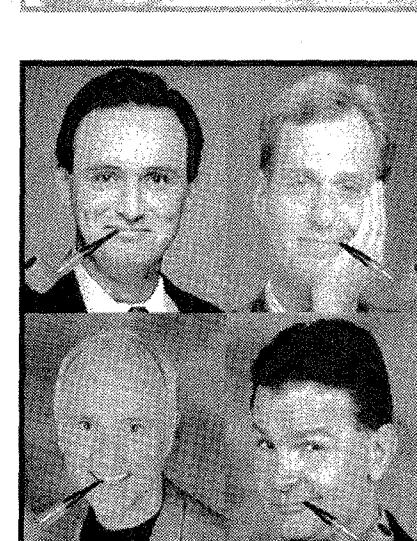
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THURSDAY
January 21,
2010

Page, A10 (W)

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

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

W-W public input rules a plus for all

Last week, the Wayne-Westland Board of Education approved a public participation policy to oversee speaking at board meetings. Provisions include a three-minute limitation on speaking per person, compared to the previous five minutes.

"It's not intended to limit speech, but to let as many people speak as possible," board President Skip Monit said at the Jan. 11 meeting.

There are two chances to speak at each board meeting: after business items are concluded, and earlier related to agenda items.

There's a hierarchy for speaking as well. First priority goes to audience members with children who attend school in the district, with second priority going to those who live in the district without having students and school district employees.

Delegations who wish to speak to the board would be required to designate a speaker to present their views. If the board president finds that several audience members wish to express the same or similar views that another speaker has already presented, the president may recognize the next speaker.

Provisions are included for decorum, to guarantee speakers maintain courtesy.

The new procedures have been reviewed to make sure they're legal. Other public bodies, such as the Westland City Council, have long operated under similar provisions.

The recent Wayne-Westland school closings and realignment have been painful, but that doesn't mean the board's reaction was knee-jerk last week in voting in the provisions. Meetings need to allow residents and business people ample time to air their views, but not at the expense of others.

Decorum is called for, too, and to remember that school board members are essentially volunteers giving their time and talents to their community. They're accountable for their actions, as are administrators. They deserve, however, to be treated with reasonable respect.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

In response to "Mayor: 'At an impasse' with AFSCME":

nomoreperks wrote:

I couldn't believe how much money the city directors are making over \$90,000.00. If the mayor was serious about cutting expenses all he has to do is look around his office and city hall. Cut all the directors' pay and eliminate car allowances completely for all city employees, police and fire depts. I think the mayor would have a lot more leverage with the city unions if they saw that real cuts were being made at city hall. These directors make double what the average city employee makes and along with the perks they receive it is obscene. So how about it, Mr. Mayor, why don't you lead by example? I'm sure you could find some qualified directors for say \$55,000.00 per year.

myboat wrote:

Two percent increase, that's a laugh, the directors just got a 5 percent increase six months ago.

In response to "Cops start issuing e-tickets":

rodneyfield wrote:

You're right, that doesn't seem right at all. I would think that records would be available 24-48 hours after they are written/filed by the officer, hmm.

Also you would think the first copy would be free and then of course you have to pay for lost or subsequent copies.

You should contact one of the Council members and have them look into it for you. I have found them quite helpful in the past.

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

LOCAL

COMMUNITY VOICE

With the Winter Olympics approaching, which sports are you most interested in watching on TV?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Center in Garden City.



"Basketball, hockey and tennis."

Andrew Osborne
Garden City



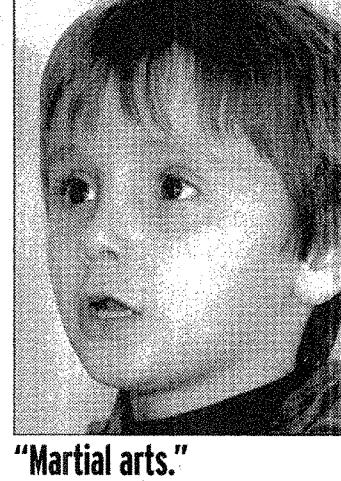
"I'm not really interested in the Winter Olympics."

Betty Dittberner
Garden City



"Martial arts and karate."

Robert Yarber
Garden City



"Martial arts."

Shane Yarber
Garden City

LETTERS

AFSCME response

This letter is in response to "Mayor: 'At an impasse' with AFSCME" published in the *Westland Observer* on Jan. 10, 2010.

Apparently, Mayor Wild just does not have his facts straight. The total number AFSCME members working for the City of Westland has not been 125 for years due to layoffs and attrition. There are over 20 positions less than the mayor's claim, 103 to be exact, and all departments are performing more work with fewer employees. The mayor should know how many employees are under his charge.

AFSCME Local 1602 in no way intended to negotiate through the newspaper as meetings proceeded, and looks to resolve differences at the bargaining table. It was shocking to find the mayor threatening layoffs and outsourcing work in the paper, especially after accepting the Appointed Officials and Mayor's Office pay and benefit plan last week.

While the administration claims they have made "cuts" in their wages and benefits, the Appointed Official's Pay Plan does not come close to what AFSCME employees are expected to accept from the administration. The union proposed significant savings to the city in the areas of health care, wages, and pension. In some cases, union proposals exceeded the savings of those proposed by the administration. This administration would rather balance the entire city budget on the backs of the least compensated employees in the city, and implement concessions that they themselves are unwilling to accept.

Residents need to be concerned. Usually, outsourcing is not the most cost-effective way to provide good service. The most recent snowfall is a good example. The administration contracted for brine application on the roads for a large dollar amount. Did Westland roadways look any better than surrounding city roadways without brine or as they have in previous years? Residents know the answer to this question and their safety should not be jeopardized. The monies spent on this contract could have covered a lot of salt, fuel, and overtime.

Another taxpayer concern should be ongoing attorney and consulting costs. Excessive use runs rampant, yet the current administration does not seem to be concerned about cost cutting in this area. The mayor and his appointees are compensated extremely well to manage the issues of the city. Why should taxpayers pay for both administrators and consultants? Perhaps the Westland City Council should look into outsourcing administrators. After all, as Mayor Dave Bing said, "Cities are service providers, not job providers."

Larry Roman

AFSCME Local 1602 president

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Submit letters via the following formats.

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E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

upon their underlings. Retaining loyal customers should be of utmost priority in this economy.

There's a local grocery store which I frequent for convenience (not for the sub-standard help they employ) which has some of the rudest clerks this side of planet Earth. I was once there a few days prior to Christmas, picking up some milk, waiting behind a woman who had a cart full of items. The sales clerk was extremely friendly to her, concluding the transaction with a hearty "Merry Christmas!" When my turn came, this clerk said absolutely nothing to me — not even a "hello" or "thank you," but I thanked her as I wanted to demonstrate that unlike her, I wasn't an idiot. Another stone-faced clerk at this store also won't speak to me when she waits on me — I'm surprised she doesn't growl at me!

Sales clerks should smile and greet customers who enter their establishment. They should ask if you need assistance — erring on the side of overly helpfulness — especially if the customer aimlessly wanders the aisles for more than a few minutes. In large stores such as Meijer, Home Depot, etc., you could wander the store for days before encountering another human being!

All customers are deserving of respect, regardless of how shabbily dressed they might be, or how small their purchase is. The attitude of sales clerks fielding phone inquiries is also appalling. They'll often act annoyed as if you're interrupting their Internet porn surfing time.

Leo Weber
Livonia

'Just plain stupid'

We find Rush Limbaugh's recent comments to be quite typical Limbaugh hate and racial fear mongering as well as being quite unacceptable. Limbaugh, who pompously claims "talent on loan from God," has severely criticized President Obama, claiming the 100,000 plus death in Haiti plays "right into Obama's hands." Limbaugh wants to know if Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel, brother of Obama's chief of staff, Rahm, is going to carry out "Obama death squads in Haiti." Rush warns against sending any money for Haitian relief.

We find these and other comments to be quite offensive. Robert Gibbs, Obama's press secretary, calls Limbaugh's comments "just plain stupid." Beyond just plain stupid, we would add obnoxious and hateful.

Obama is responding to the Haitian humanitarian crisis swiftly and effectively. Just yesterday, Obama named previous presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to coordinate Haitian relief efforts. During this crisis, the Limbaughs of the world have earned the right to be ignored, not censored. Censorship may contribute to the prevention of Limbaugh making a continuous fool of himself.

While bodies are being dug out from the rubble, this is no time for Limbaugh's biased and skewed political fairy tales. This is the time to help our neighbor in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, where people have lost what little they had.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

'Green' jobs?

The tax and spend plan the Obama administration has been on in the last year is doing exactly what the experts said it would: halt the economy and send the jobless rate skyrocketing. Not one of Obama's cabinet members has ever held a real job with a private company. They have no clue on what makes

Sales clerks paid to be friendly

During Christmas I encountered several people whose role it is to interact with the public and found their behavior woefully inexcusable. There was a female Santa hat-wearing bell ringer who didn't offer a "Merry Christmas" or even a tepid "thank you" but only grimaced a "mad-at-the-world" scowl at me on two occasions when I dropped some coins into her red kettle — a discredit to the organization she represents.

Only one store clerk wished me a "Merry Christmas" and few even ventured an insipid "Happy Holidays."

The sad fact is that the rudeness of people in the public sector is a systemic, yearlong blemish. True, not all customers are likable, but sales clerks are paid to be friendly — part of their job involves pampering customers to curry the favor of repeat business. It's amazing how store managers ineptly fail to impress this basic business principle.

Gwen Stefani jewelry line

Young designer is rising star at Miriam Haskell

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

West Bloomfield's own Samantha Bankle Schefman recently made history in the world of costume jewelry, becoming the youngest designer at the legendary Miriam Haskell company.

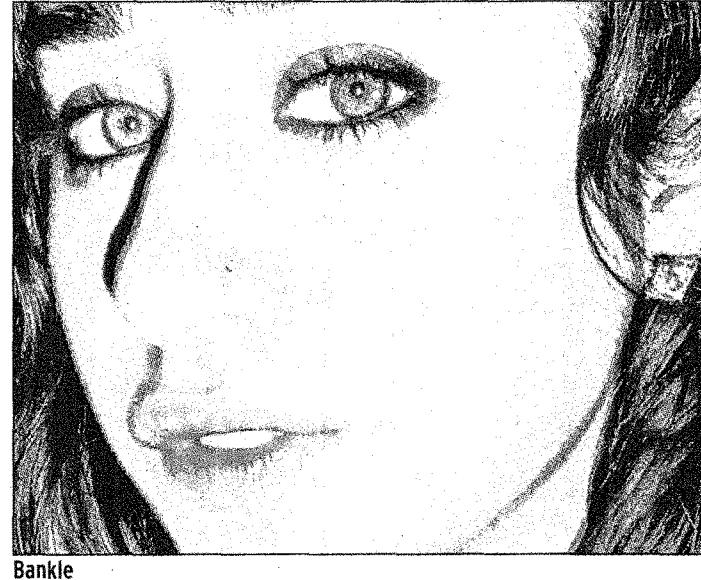
Her first assignment? Creating singer Gwen Stefani's Harajuku Lovers line, set to hit Macy's in March.

Schefman, who graduated from Groves High School in Birmingham, secured an internship at Miriam Haskell in New York City upon earning her B.F.A. from College for Creative Studies last May. After four months, she was hired full-time.

"I'm extremely lucky to get this position," Schefman said. "I signed on as the youngest member of the company in October, right before my birthday. I just turned 23 in November."

The late Miriam Haskell founded her namesake company in the 1920s and became known for partnering with talented designers to create unique, high-quality costume jewelry. Her vintage pieces, worn by the likes of Joan Crawford, Lucille Ball, Gloria Vanderbilt and the Duchess of Windsor, are highly sought by collectors and displayed in museums internationally.

Now corporate-owned, Miriam Haskell has ventured into creating jewelry for celebrities, designers and department stores including Betsey Johnson, J. Lo, Calvin Klein,



Bankle

Vera Wang and Old Navy.

The company recently signed an exclusive license agreement with Gwen Stefani, who already has successful clothing, handbag and fragrance lines.

MUSIC INSPIRED

Schefman said she grew up listening to Stefani's band No Doubt, and now analyzes the singer's solo work.

"I study it for the line I'm working on," Schefman said. "It's definitely a reference and everything she sings about is translating into our designs. I've taken myself away from being a fan and more of working for her."

The jewelry, like Stefani's other fashion ventures, is inspired by the Tokyo street culture embodied by her Harajuku Girls back-up dancers.

"The line has ended up being pieces for the fans that are kind of based around the girls and Gwen," she said. "A lot of it's based on what's trendy and what's selling, but we're experimenting with all different materials. The first set is very rock chic."

After the launch, the company expects to release a new group of Harajuku Lovers jewelry every three months.

"They'll be very different looks. They'll be cohesive but they'll definitely transition for the seasons and our own inspirations," Schefman said.

According to Schefman, Stefani caused a stir when she visited the Miriam Haskell offices in Manhattan to plan her line. "People wanted to meet her and be there because she's gorgeous and perfectly put together, so we weren't

even allowed in the meeting," Schefman said. "I haven't met her yet, but I have a whole lot of respect for Gwen. She's definitely driven and talented."

ARTISTIC FAMILY

Schefman said she was excited to be assigned to the Harajuku Lovers collection and coincidentally, it wasn't her first brush with Stefani. While at CCS, she interned at Stefani and Company in Keego Harbor, owned by Cary and Jesse Stefani, who are relatives of Gwen and designed the wedding ring for her marriage to musician Gavin Rossdale.

Schefman, whose father Robert Schefman is a painter and Head of Foundations at CCS and mother Christine Schefman is Director of Contemporary Art at David Klein Gallery in Birmingham, said she was raised to be an artist and always encouraged to return to New York City, where she was born.

Although her first love is black and white photography, Schefman decided to focus on jewelry design as a career and targeted Miriam Haskell for employment.

"I'm obsessed with collecting vintage jewelry," she said.

Schefman currently lives in Brooklyn and plans to launch her own jewelry line soon under the label Samantha Bankle Designs.

Macy's has locations at Somerset Collection in Troy, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and Westland Center. To read Samantha Schefman's blog, visit lovebabylife.com.

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Golden Opportunity

HOLLYWOOD -- A FossatiUS handbag, by Birmingham designer Catherine Fossati Healey, was featured on the Golden Globes Red Carpet Sunday night. The Venice Clutch was carried by Mai-Linh, wife of actor Michael Stuhlbarg. Both Michael and Mai-Linh were dressed by stylist Allison Rae. Fossati is a boutique luxury brand specializing in exquisite limited edition handbags that focus on innovative design and use luxurious materials like genuine alligator, ostrich and lizard. Each handbag is discretely branded and comes with a card of authenticity marked with the production number of the limited edition. Visit www.FossatiUS.com.



Mai-Linh and husband Michael Stuhlbarg at the Golden Globe Awards. She carries a FossatiUS handbag, by Birmingham designer Catherine Fossati Healey.

Parisian Community Day

LIVONIA -- Parisian will hold its semi-annual Community Day event Saturday, Feb. 27. Non-profit groups may sign up now by logging on to communitydayevent.com to request event booklets and begin raising funds for their organization. In 2009, over \$10 million was raised by participating nonprofit organizations through Parisian semi-annual Community Day events.

Eligible Community Day organizations include local 501C-3 nonprofit organizations and schools. Non-profit groups sell savings booklets for \$5 and in return, the purchaser receives a \$10 off coupon, plus more than \$50 in special savings on products as well as coupons valid on regu-

lar and sale price merchandise on Feb. 27. The organization keeps 100 percent of the \$5 donation. The Community Day event provides an opportunity for local 501C-3 organizations to raise the funds needed to support their missions.

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. operates 278 stores, including 11 furniture galleries, in 23 states in the Northeast, Midwest and upper Great Plains under the Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson Pirie Scott, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's and Younkers nameplates and, stores in metro Detroit under the Parisian nameplate. The stores offer a broad assortment of brand-name fashion apparel and accessories for women, men and children, as well as cosmetics and home furnishings.

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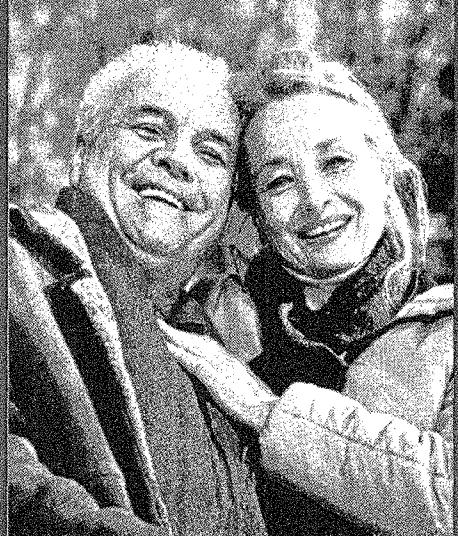
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THURSDAY
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SECTION B
(WL)

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HOMETOWN LIFE



Novi treys bounce Stevenson in division clash

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Novi used a barrage of three-pointers Tuesday evening to knock off KLAA Central boys basketball leader Livonia Stevenson.

But the long-range marksmanship came from a most unlikely source — a 6-foot-8 center.

Junior Samer Ozeir, who finished with a game-high 22 points, popped in four of his team's nine triples to propel the Wildcats to a key 71-54 victory.

BOYS HOOPS

Stevenson, which had its six-game winning streak snapped, falls to 6-2 overall and 3-1 in the division.

Novi, meanwhile, is now 7-2 overall and 3-1 in the KLAA Central.

The Wildcats led 15-12 after one quarter, but Stevenson pulled ahead 29-25 with 2:19 to go until halftime on two of senior guard Bobby Naubert's team-high 20 points.

Novi, however, pulled even at inter-

mission, 31-all, with 29.4 seconds left on Justin Hopton's triple, one of four by the Wildcats.

The other three during the period came from Ozeir.

He (Ozeir) had a great start to the year and had some huge games," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "We expect him to get and hit open shots. He just has to let the game come to him and it was certainly good to see him make shots."

The Wildcats, hitting 8-of-16 shots from the floor, outscored Stevenson 19-9 during the third quarter to take control

of the game. The period ended on Ozeir's tip-in at the buzzer.

Novi then put it away by making 6-of-8 fourth-quarter shots along with 8-of-11 free throws.

The closest the Spartans would get was 57-50 with 4:36 remaining when Jonathan Campbell converted a conventional three-point play.

"It looked like boys among men," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "We got outworked on the glass and on the

Please see HOOPS, B3

SIDELINES

CHS Hall of Fame

The eighth annual Livonia Churchill Athletics Hall of Fame induction dinner will be Thursday, March 11, at the Italian-American Hall, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia.

Among the inductees are coach Mike Hughes (volleyball and track), athlete Michelle Phillips (2003 graduate; volleyball, cross country, track) and the 1990 state Class A runner-up boys soccer team.

Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar start at 6 p.m. followed by welcome and introductions at 6:30 p.m. Dinner starts at 6:45 p.m. with the program from 7:30-9 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person (if purchased by March 1) or \$45 (after March 1). Checks should be made payable to: Churchill Athletic Patrons, and mailed to Pete Charnley, CAP treasurer, 16867 Fairway, Livonia, MI 48154.

For more information, call Dan Andaloro at (734) 776-4523, or e-mail dandaloro@aol.com.

Football inductees

Longtime Detroit Catholic Central assistant coach Rick Coratti and former Wayne Memorial standout Al Slamer (Holt) will be among those honored at the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame induction and banquet Saturday, March 27, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Ann Arbor.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Guest speaker will be University of Michigan head coach Rich Rodriguez.

To obtain tickets, call Gandalf Church at (269) 963-0865. For more information, call Larry Merx at (845) 837-9438, or e-mail lmerx@maxpreps.com.

1st Pitch Banquet

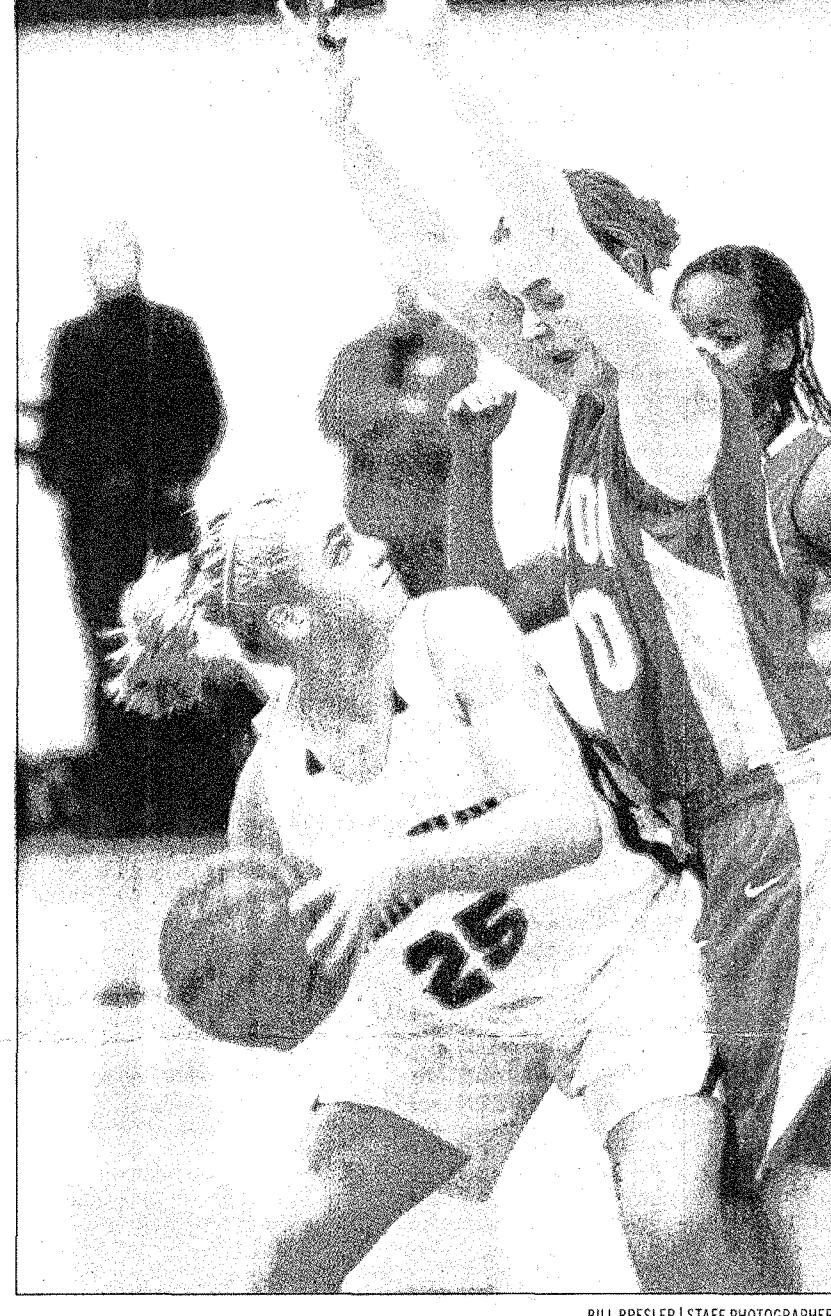
The Madonna University baseball team will stage its first pitch banquet to kick off its fund-raising effort from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at the Italian-American in Livonia.

Former Philadelphia Phillies pitcher and long-time University of Detroit baseball coach Bob Miller will be the speaker. Former Detroit broadcaster Ray Lane will be the master of ceremonies.

Adult tickets are \$50 each, or \$90 per couple. Youth tickets (12 and under) are \$30.

Table sponsorships are available and silent auction items will launch the social hour at noon. A dinner buffet will be from 1:20-3:00 p.m. and the 2010 MU baseball team will be introduced at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call co-chairs Paul Flavin at (248) 380-5142; or Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820. You can also e-mail 1stpitchbanquet@gmail.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Katie Neu (25) is hemmed in by Canton defender Sara Schmitt during Tuesday's KLAA South Division clash for first place.

Patriots break ice, snap 37-game skid

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin ended 22 months of frustration and tasted victory for the first time since Feb. 23, 2008, with a 4-2 victory Saturday over host Taylor Unified at the Taylor Sportsplex Ice Arena.

The Patriots got a pair of goals from junior Adam Michael to snap a 37-game losing streak.

"Win or lose, it's great to see the development our players having worked so hard to obtain," Wirgau said.

"We have come such a long way, but we're not celebrating anything. We still have so much more to prove. We finally have the 'right' personnel and players in that locker room, and it shows in our play."

Franklin, now 1-12 on the season, led 1-0 after one period on Michael's goal from Tyler Dewhirst and Cyle Slender.

The Patriots built a 3-1 lead after two periods as Michael scored again from Dewhirst and Aaron Hoffmeyer followed by

PREP HOCKEY

Kevin Webb's goal from Jacob Wirgau and Matt Jarecki.

Ryan Hopkins got Taylor Unified (5-6) on the board in the second period with an even-strength goal from Tyler Keith. The hosts then cut the deficit to 3-2 in the final period on Cody Wood's goal from Jody Matyaszek and Derrick Wallace.

But Kevin Webb's goal from Robbie Ringeiced the victory.

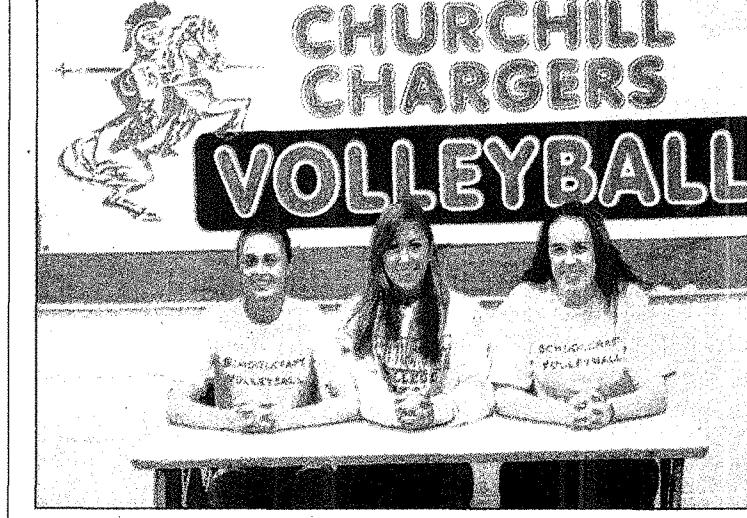
The Patriots controlled play from the opening face-off and outshot Taylor Unified, 31-29.

Franklin goaltender Anthony Crechioli made 27 saves in the triumph, while Taylor Unified's Dustin Lemay also had 27 stops.

"It was great to see such maturity from everyone," Wirgau said.

"Our goaltender was great, having just come back from a concussion suffered four games earlier."

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Lady Ocelot signees

The Schoolcraft College women's volleyball program has added three players off Livonia Churchill's 53-6 team which reached the Class A state semifinals last November in Battle Creek. Among the signees for next fall include (from left): Taylor Kerr, a first-team All-Observer selection who played libero; Chrissy Maleske; and second-team All-State and first-team All-Observer selection Sarah Supplea. Schoolcraft finished 23-17 at year ago and finished fourth in the MCCAAs Eastern Conference under coach Rich Lamb.



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GIRLS GYMNASTICS

FARMINGTON INVITATIONAL GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

Jan. 16 at Farmington

TEAM STANDINGS:

1. Farmington United A, 146.6; 2. Northville, 143.8; 3. Canton, 140.45; 4. Brighton, 139.2; 5. Livonia Blue, 139.0; 6. Grosse Pointe, 138.3; 7. Livonia Red, 134.85; 8. Farmington United B, 133.3; 9. Howell, 131.0; 10. Salem, 127.4; 11. Fraser, 122.6; 12. Lakeland, 74.1; 13. Harrison, 66.0.

DIVISION 1 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Emily Quint (LB), 9.6; 2.

Kristen McElveen (F), 9.4; 3. Makenna Pohl (N), 9.35; 4. Robyn Piwowar (C), 9.3;

5. Alyssa Bresso (F), 9.2; 6. Cassidy Winter (N), 9.0; 7. Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 8.95;

8. Alyssa Bresso (F), 8.75; 9. (tie) Ayana Lewis (C), Alex Kitz (LB) and Meredith Robinson (B), 8.7; 8. (tie) Samantha Kohl (F) and Adelaida Jepperson (S), 8.55; 10. Madi Kaiser (GP), 8.45.

Balance beam: 1. Madi Kaiser (GP),

9.2; 2. Katina St. Pierre (LR), 9.15; 3.

Lauren Krieger (GP), 9.1; 4. (tie) Amy Bell (F) and Amy O'Brien (N), 9.05;

5. Allie Kemp (F), 9.1; 6. Cassidy Winter (N), 9.0; 7. Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 8.95;

8. Alyssa Bresso (F), 8.75; 9. (tie) Ayana Lewis (C), 9.0; 7. Marina Moretti (B), 8.9; 8. (tie) Alex Kitz (LB), Nicole Jacobs (S) and Emma Abessinio (GP), 8.85.

Floor exercise: 1. Robyn Piwowar (C), Taylor Dempsey (N), Madison Cusick (B) and

Cathy Huang (C), no scores reported.

Uneven bars: 1. Makenna Pohl (N),

9.3; 2. Madison Cusick (B), 9.25; 3.

Alyssa Bresso (F), 9.2; 4. (tie) Kristen McElveen (F) and Kyoko Yamamoto (F),

9.05; 6. Allie Kemp (N), 8.95; 7. Emily Quint (LB), 8.9; 8. Robyn Piwowar (C), 8.85; 9. Alex Fideler (C), 8.75; 10. Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 8.5.

Balance beam: 1. Emily Quint (LB),

9.55; 2. Allie Kemp (N), 9.5; 3. Makenna Pohl (N), 9.3; 4. Cassidy Winter (N), 9.25;

5. Kristen McElveen (F), 9.2; 6. Kyoko Yamamoto (F), 9.1; 7. Alyssa Bresso (F),

8.9; 8. (tie) Robyn Piwowar (C) and Alex Fideler (C), 8.45; 10. Madison Cusick (B), 8.35.

Floor exercise: 1. (tie) Emily Quint (LB) and Alyssa Bresso (F), 9.5; 3. Robyn Piwowar (C), 9.45; 4. Makenna Pohl (N), 9.35; 5. Kristen McElveen (F), 9.3; 6.

Kyoko Yamamoto (F), 9.25; 7. (tie) Allie Kemp (N) and Alex Fideler (C), 9.15;

9. Madison Cusick (B), 9.1; 10. Cassidy Winter (N), 8.95.

All-around: 1. Emily Quint (LB),

3.755; 2. Makenna Pohl (N), 37.3; 3.

Kristen McElveen (F), 36.95; 4. Allie Kemp (N), 36.7; 5. Alyssa Bresso (F),

36.35; 6. Robyn Piwowar (C), 36.05; 7.

Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 33.9; 8. Cassidy Winter (N), 33.4; 9. Kyoko Yamamoto (F),

27.4; 10. Madison Cusick (B), 26.7; 11.

Alex Fideler (C), 26.35.

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

Vault: 1. (tie) Amanda Lumert (F)

and Marina Moretti (B), 9.2; 3. (tie)

Samantha Kohl (F) and Meredith

Robinson (B), 9.05; 5. (tie) Nicole

Jacobs (S), Alex Dubach (B) and

Courtney Schippers (H), 9.0; 8. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.95; 9. (tie) Amanda Pampilius (H), Stephanie Sanders (Harrison) and Amy O'Brien (N), 8.9.

Uneven bars: 1. Marina Moretti (B),

9.05; 2. Amanda Lumert (F), 8.95; 3.

Amanda Pampilius (H), 8.9; 4. Emma Abessinio (GP), 8.8; 5. (tie) Ayana Lewis (C), Alex Kitz (LB) and Meredith Robinson (B), 8.7; 8. (tie) Samantha Kohl (F) and Adelaida Jepperson (S), 8.55; 10.

Floor exercise: 1. Madi Kaiser (GP),

8.45; 2. Katina St. Pierre (LR), 9.15; 3.

Lauren Krieger (GP), 9.1; 4. (tie) Amy Bell (F) and Amy O'Brien (N), 9.05;

5. Allie Kemp (F), 9.1; 6. Cassidy Winter (N), 9.0; 7. Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 8.95;

8. Alyssa Bresso (F), 8.75; 9. (tie) Ayana Lewis (C), 9.0; 7. Marina Moretti (B), 8.9; 8. (tie) Alex Kitz (LB), Nicole Jacobs (S) and Emma Abessinio (GP), 8.85.

Balance beam: 1. Madi Kaiser (GP),

9.2; 2. Samatha Kohl (F), 9.5; 3.

Ayana Lewis (C), 9.1; 4. Katina St. Pierre (LR), 9.0; 5. (tie) Amanda Pampilius (H) and Alex Kitz (LB), 8.95; 7. Stephanie Sanders (Harrison), 8.9; 8. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.85; 9. (tie) Amy Bell (F), Amy O'Brien (N) and Madi Kaiser (GP), 8.8.

All-around: 1. Marina Moretti (B),

35.85; 2. Ayana Lewis (C), 35.20; 3.

Katina St. Pierre (LR), 35.10; 4. (tie)

Amanda Pampilius (H) and Alex Kitz (LB), 35.05; 6. Madi Kaiser (GP), 35.00;

7. Nicole Jacobs (S), 34.95; 8. Meredith Robinson (B), 34.65; 9. Amy Bell (F), 34.50; 10. Katie Kretzschmer (LR), 33.9;

Uneven bars: 1. Katie Kretzschmer (Red), 8.7;

2. St. Pierre (Red), 8.65; 3. Jacqueline Kendall (Groves), 8.05; 4. Lauren Patla (Red), 7.95; 5. Lark (Red), 7.7.

Balance beam: 1. Dayna Esper (Red), 8.95; 2. St. Pierre (Red), 8.9; 3. Maddie Reem (Groves), 8.4; 4. Mallory Dorton (Red), 8.3; 5. (tie) Kretzschmer (Red) and Rose Prebola (Red), 7.95 each.**Floor exercise:** 1. St. Pierre (Red), 8.65; 2. Kretzschmer (Red), 8.5; 3. Patla (Red), 8.25; 4. Reem (Groves), 8.15; 5. Maggie McGowan (Red), 8.0.**All-around:** 1. St. Pierre (Red), 34.90;

2. Kretzschmer (Red), 34.10; 3. Kendall (Groves), 31.60; 4. Tessa Raymond (Groves), 30.75; 5. Swazey (Red), 30.70.

Livonia Red's dual meet record: 5-2 overall.

Inside job: Chargers rout Wayne

KLAAS GIRLS HOOPS

whose team improved to 5-4 overall and 1-3 in the division.

Senior forward Darcy DeRoo added 12 points, while senior forward Taylor Byron contributed 10.

Senior Allie Coleman paced the Zebras with 13 points.

Churchill was 15-of-24 from the foul line, while Wayne hit 4-of-8.

PLYMOUTH 52, JOHN GLENN 42: Stacey Klonowski's game-high 19 points spurred the Wildcats (3-6, 2-2) to a KLAAS South Division triumph Tuesday over visiting Westland

John Glenn (3-6, 2-2).

Taylor Birman added 11 points for Plymouth, which led 33-24 at intermission.

"They (Plymouth) are well coached and they completely took us out of our game," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "It was frustrating. I'm disappointed because we should have handled their pressure better."

Senior forward Michelle Vanover paced Glenn with 18 points, while Amber Dunson added eight.

Plymouth was 15-of-22 from the free throw stripe, while Glenn was 4-of-9.

NOVI 70, STEVENSON 47: Caroline Johnson and Kelsey Masserant each tallied 17 points Tuesday as

the Wildcats (8-1, 3-1) downed Livonia Stevenson (3-6, 2-2) in a KLAAS Central Division encounter.

Novi led 31-30 at halftime and then pulled away with 24-8 third-quarter run. The Wildcats made 15-of-19 foul shots.

"We came out flat," Stevenson first-year coach Jen Knopf said. "Offensively we struggled and we were not attacking."

Junior center Kristen Balhorn scored a game-high 19 points for the Spartans, who made 12-of-21 free throws.

Sophomore guards Jorden York and Molly Knopf each added nine.

"We need to believe in ourselves and finish off games, but it's a hard sell right now," Jen Knopf said.

Ladywood drops third straight

Livonia Ladywood finds itself mired in a three-game losing streak following a 56-44 girls basketball setback Tuesday at Warren Regina.

The Blazers, who slipped to 6-5 overall and 1-2 in the Catholic League's Central Division, shot only 28 percent from the field.

Meanwhile, Regina (6-3, 1-2) hit 48 percent of its shots from the floor and made 19-of-30 foul shots.

The Saddlelites jumped out to a 25-18 halftime advantage after outscoring Ladywood 12-6 in the second quarter.

"We got into early foul

trouble - we had (Cara) Miller, Alyssa (Anastos) and Molly (Gacioch) all on the bench," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "We also had six possessions in a row where we had turnovers (in the second period)."

Regina then outscored Ladywood 17-12 to lead 42-30 after three quarters.

"They went to a 2-3 zone defense and our shooting just wasn't there," Cannon said.

"And they (Regina) shot the ball really well."

Anna Marchese led Regina with 18 points, while Cory DeLamiellere added 10.

Anastos, a senior forward, led the Blazers with 13 points.

Ladywood was 12-of-15 from the foul line.

CLARENCEVILLE 73, HAMTRAMCK 24: On Tuesday, Livonia Clarenceville (3-7, 2-2) registered a much-needed victory, racing out to an early lead over the host Cosmos (0-12, 0-4) and never looking back.

Ashley Devon and Jenna Burgess each scored 16 points to lead the victorious Trojans, who led 15-8 after one quarter and 40-10 at halftime.

Kristen Jolly added 14 points and three assists.

Burgess led the Trojans in rebounding with nine and also collected three steals. Devon went one better with four steals.

DazShawn Hall led Hamtramck with 16 points.

PARKWAY 43, HURON VALLEY 19: Points proved hard to come by Tuesday night as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-5, 2-4) fell at home to Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (8-5, 4-2) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game.

Senior guard Emily Cress topped Parkway with 17 points.

Senior forward Devon Linderman led Huron Valley with seven points.

"It was not a good night for us," said HVL coach Kris Ruth, whose team managed just eight second-half points. "We had 28 turnovers and shot horribly from the floor. We had no intensity on the court tonight."

Fourth-quarter comebacks have become a trend lately for the Wayne Memorial boys basketball team.

Tuesday's 60-58 overtime victory over visiting Livonia Churchill was the latest for the Zebras, who improved to 7-1 overall and lead the KLAAS's South Division at 4-0.

Down 31-24 at halftime and 46-32 after three quarters, Wayne rallied in the final period with a 23-9 run to make it 55-all at the end of regulation.

Wayne then outscored the Chargers 5-3 in the four-minute extra session to pull out the victory.

"We fought and fought, and finally caught them (Churchill)," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "We couldn't get any flow going - nothing. We finally got some turnovers off our press like we did Friday against (Westland)

difference Tuesday as the Wildcats (5-4, 2-2) edged host Westland

John Glenn (3-6, 2-2) in a KLAAS South Division matchup.

Glen trailed 26-23 after three quarters, but pulled even at 28-all on a three-pointer by Jeremy Langford with 4:10 left in regulation.

Brett Hudy's basket with 1:28 remaining gave the Rockets a 31-30 lead and Langford, who finished with a game-high 14 points, split a pair of free throws to make it 32-30. (His triple at the horn rimmed off Plymouth held on.)

Nadratowski finished with nine to lead Plymouth. Pat Salo added eight, while Brennan Beyer contributed 7-of-14 free throws.

CANTON 55, FRANKLIN 48: Kevin Weiss and Dietrich Lever each tallied 15 points Tuesday to propel the Chiefs (5-4, 3-1) to a KLAAS South Division victory over visiting Livonia Franklin (2-7, 0-4).

Brandon Duffey added 13 for Canton, which outscored the Patriots 12-6 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Canton made only two field goals in the final period, but hit 8-of-10

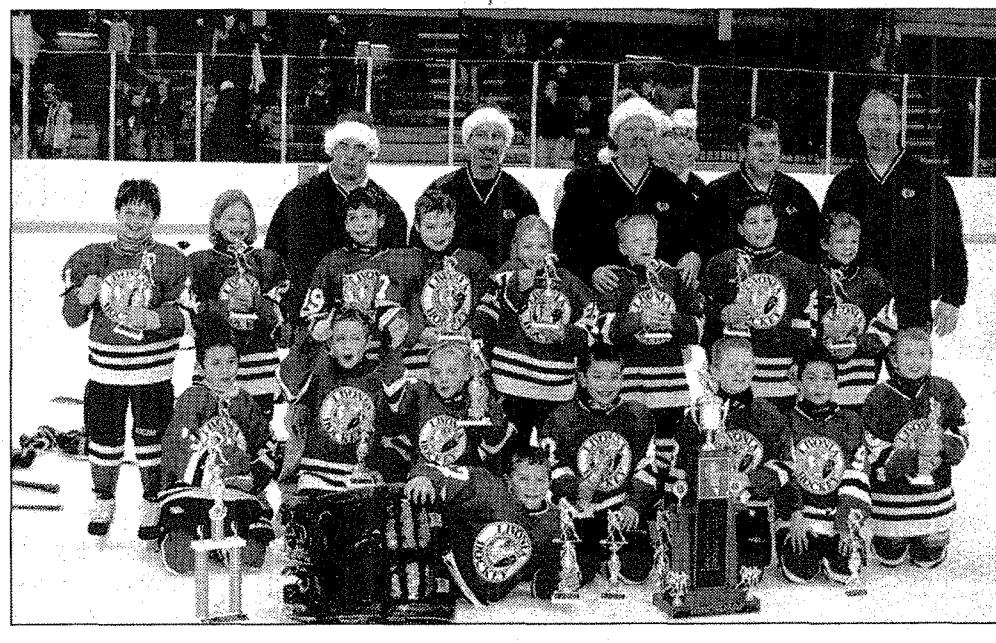
THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Jan. 22 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at South Lyon, 7 p.m.



Butler champions

The Livonia Mite Blackhawks went 4-0-1 to capture the Gordon Butler Memorial Tournament held recently at Eddie Edgar Arena. The Blackhawks earned the title with a 2-1 overtime shoot-out victory against the 10-and-under Livonia Knight girls. Members of the Blackhawks include (front row, from left): Jimmy Targosz, Ryan Featherngill, Zach Venditelli, Brendan Stout, Joey Daniels, Matt Behen, Paul Clark, Ian Buchanan; (middle row, from left): Charles Hilu, Emily Kostielney, Justin Pedersen, David Warner, Mikayla Vanzant, Connie Linsner, Connor Moore, Aidan Tripp; (top row, from left): assistant coaches Shawn Venditelli, Dave Moore, head coach Dan Behen, the Grinch, assistant coaches Zach Stout and Bob Warner. The Blackhawks' manager is Beth Stout.

Road trip a success

Stevenson goes 2-for-2 on Traverse City swing

State-ranked Livonia Stevenson made it two-for-two on its northern swing Saturday by defeating the host Traverse City West, 3-2, at Gordie Howe Arena.

"It was a great trip from all perspectives," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team improved to 11-1-1 overall. "We came up here to play competitive games and they were just that. I am very proud of all associated with our program for how the represented Stevenson both on-and-off the ice. We are also grateful to the Traverse City teams for having us and we hope to make this an annual trip."

Stevenson led 1-0 after one period on John Strauch's unassisted short-handed goal at 14:56.

Traverse City West (8-6) tied it on a power-play goal in the second period.

The Spartans, who out-shot the Titans 37-25, got the game-winner in the final period on Travis Gosselin's goal off a nice pass from Steve Sudek. Also drawing an assist was Doug Perchall.

Stevenson's Justin Shureb put it away on another short-handed effort off a two-on-one opportunity off a pass

from Cole Rochowiak.

"The line of Sudek, Gosselin and Perchall is one that doesn't get much of the spotlight, but the goal they scored for us today in the third was huge," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "They have been great for us all year, good teams need players like these to win big games and have a successful season."

CHURCHILL 2, P.H. NORTHERN 1:

Livonia Churchill (7-6-1) climbed over the .500 mark by notching its second straight victory in successive days Saturday at McMoran Arena - this time over host Port Huron Northern (3-7).

Outshooting the Huskies, 38-19, Churchill got the game-winner with 6:16 left in the final period from Jake Otto. Assists went to Steve Klisz and Nick Proben.

Northern got on the board at 6:06 of the opening period on Bobby King's goal from Lewis Nowakowski and Jan Marks.

Klisz tied it just 1:52 later on assists from Mike Kutek and Otto.

Northern goaltender Matt Fernandez made 36 saves, while Churchill's Aaron Crouse had 18 stops.

It was a good weekend for us against two very hard working teams," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, who also got a 6-4 win Friday over Anchor Bay. "It's good to back on track."

NORTHLAKE 2, LADYWOOD 1: Katelyn Meek's overtime goal gave the

Mustangs (7-4, 5-4) the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory over Livonia Ladywood (4-7, 3-7) at Novi Ice Arena.

After a scoreless opening period, Alison Holden got Northville on the board in the second period off an assist from Lauren Grigg.

Ladywood tied it during the same period on Eman Frei's goal from Julie Bushart.

Grigg and Holden then assisted on Meek's game-winner.

Ladywood goaltender Jessica Pavael was outstanding in defeat turning away 38 shots.

Northville's Kaityn Sabourin faced only 10 shots.

CANTON 6, FRANKLIN 0: Duggan Tear scored twice Friday as the host Chiefs (5-7-1, 2-2-1) erupted for four second-period goals to down Livonia Franklin (0-12, 0-4) in a KLAAS South Division encounter at Arctic Edge.

Canton led 1-0 after one period on Riley Hoernschemeyer's goal from Garrett Bryden and Sean Murphy.

The Chiefs added four more in the second - Tear (from Parker Pakule and Shawn May); Jordan Smith (from Murphy and Jimmy LaFontaine); Murphy (from Kyle Korte and Bryden); and Tear (from Pakule and Brandon Schlieger).

Phil Baciak completed the scoring for Canton in the final period from Brandon Gilo and Taylor Baker.

Canton outshot the Patriots, 35-24.

Phil Baciak completed the scoring for Canton in the final period from Brandon Gilo and Taylor Baker.

Canton outshot the Patriots, 35-24.

Crusaders still winless in WHAC

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

That first win in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference continues to elude the Madonna University men's basketball team.

The Crusaders battled hard for 40 minutes, but just came up short Saturday at home against Indiana Tech, 76-73.

Shaun Cabrera's triple from the left wing with only 45.3 seconds left proved to be the dagger as Tech improved to 7-10 overall and 2-2 in the WHAC.

The loss drops MU to 3-16 and 0-4.

"We played a pretty good game for about 35 minutes, we had run there in second half where they trying to give us some opportunities to put it away," said MU first-year coach Noel Emenhiser, whose team has dropped eight of nine. "If you let somebody hang around never know what's going to happen. Cabrera made a big shot with under minute, a three-pointer. It was only second one they made all day - 25-footer with a hand in his face. They made plays at end to win game and unfortunately we didn't."

Four players scored in double figures for the Warriors led by

Jason Souder's team-high 18 points off the bench.

Cabrera added 15, while Mike Bobby and Anthony Johnson contributed 13 and 11, respectively.

Freshman Kevin Henry, who did not start, scored a team-high 13 points in 18 minutes before fouling out with 3:37 remaining.

Josh Gay contributed 11 points, while Leroy Allen and Ryan Waidmann (Canton) added nine and eight, respectively.

Waidmann grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

The Crusaders trailed by only one at halftime, 31-30, after leading 28-19 with 6:40 left.

MU shot only 41.1 percent from the floor (23-of-56) and had only 24 points in the paint.

Several missed shots came off putbacks.

"Kind of inexplicable," Emenhiser said. "Those shots are supposed to be gimmers, especially from guys who are starters and seniors. You hope they can finish those, but it was kind a domino effect. We missed a couple, tightened up a bit and didn't play with as much confidence down the stretch."

The Crusaders return to action 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at home against WHAC co-leader Cornerstone (16-4, 4-0), which has won eight straight.

So what is the mental state of the Crusaders right now?

"That's a good question," Emenhiser said. "Losing a tough one at home where we played hard, I hope we don't take a step back. We want to continue to build. We hope to move forward, but it's kind of fragile right now."

HENRY FORD 91, SCHOOLCRAFT 67: In an MCCA Eastern Conference matchup Saturday, host Henry Ford Community College (17-0, 7-0), ranked No. 3 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, pulled away in the second half to beat Schoolcraft College (2-15, 1-7), which lost its ninth straight.

Freshman center Aaron Felsner had 25 points, eight rebounds and two blocks for the Ocelots, which cut the deficit to eight in the second half after trailing by 11 at intermission.

Cameron Mitchell (Redford Thurston) added 14 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks, while Ron Pummill (Garden City) contributed 15 points, six rebounds and four assists.

"There's no solace in losing by 24, but I thought we came out and played well the first half and I'm proud of the overall effort," Schoolcraft coach Randy Henry said. "They (Henry Ford) are a lot faster. They pressed and we couldn't match their speed."

Ocelots' Burrell dishes out new assist record

It was a record-breaking afternoon Saturday as the No. 1-ranked and unbeaten Schoolcraft College women's basketball team rolled past host Henry Ford CC, 116-83.

Sophomore point-guard Angie Burrell dished out a school record 19 assists as Lady Ocelots improved to 18-0 overall and 9-0 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

Burrell, who had 10 assists as halftime as Schoolcraft breezed to a 62-31 advantage, eclipsed the record of 14 set by Brittany Collins against Kirtland on Jan. 7, 2009.

The Lady Ocelots also set school records for most assists in a game (41) and most field goals (53).

Antania Shepherd led Schoolcraft with 28 points, seven

assists and eight rebounds.

Amber Avery added 22 points and 14 rebounds, while April Goins also tallied 16 points to go along with 11 rebounds. Kimberly also had 16 points, while Burrell contributed 10.

Schoolcraft also scored (116) the second most points in school history. The two teams combined (199) for the second most points in school history. The Ocelots .602 (53-88) field goal percentage was the second best in school history.

Schoolcraft has won 68 of its last 70 conference games, including 36 straight.

Henry Ford (7-10, 3-4) got four players score in double figures led by Danielle Smith's 20 points.

Heather Jaroh (Livonia

Franklin) and Jasmine Johnson added 15 and 14, respectively, while April Richardson had 11.

SCHOOLCRAFT 89, CONCORDIA JV 44: Four players scored in double figures Monday as the Lady Ocelots (19-0) rolled past the host Concordia University JV squad in Ann Arbor.

April Goins had a game-high 19 points, while Antania Shepherd, Kimberly Bee and Amber Avery each added 14.

The Lady Ocelots at least 60 percent for the second straight game making 39-of-62 from the field.

Bee grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds, while Shepherd had eight assists and eight steals.

Ashley Cloutier and Catherine Herriman tallied 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Cardinals, who committed 29 turnovers and were out-rebounded 51-30.

Herring sparks Madonna to victory

hit 8-of-16 shots from the floor, including three triples.

Another freshman, center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added 17 points and eight rebounds.

MU outrebounded the Warriors 46-38 as Heather Goodwin finished with a team-high 10, while Tabatha

Wydryck snared eight.

The Crusaders, who hadn't won in a month, snapped a seven-game losing and improved to 5-11 overall and 1-3 in the WHAC.

Amanda Tipton's 16 points and 10 rebounds paced Tech, which slipped to 8-12 overall and 1-3 in the WHAC.

Patriot grapplers in same spot

Franklin earns fifth runner-up finish at Brighton

Chalk up another second place showing for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team, which traveled Saturday to Brighton for a dual match tournament.

Franklin, now 15-8-1 overall, scored wins over Walled Lake Western (66-12), Macomb Lutheran North (59-18), Plymouth (49-18) and the Southgate Anderson 'B' team (49-18).

The only loss came against the host Bulldogs, 44-19.

"I was pleased with the way we wrestled today, especially after coming off the loss to Churchill on Wednesday because of a mistake I made due to a wrestler being written down on the weigh-in sheet wrong," said Franklin coach Dave Chiola, referring to the 38-36 setback. "You never know how a team will rebound from something like that. I thought we rebounded great. I see young guys hitting new moves and becoming more relaxed and aggressive."

Dan Martinez (112 pounds), Paul Hanni (130), and Matt Roos (160) went undefeated on the day for the Patriots.

Meanwhile, Steve Tuvo (125), Jordan McGuire (140), Josh Hatfield (145) and Alex O'Connor (171) all finished 4-

1 on the day.

"We are back to improving every week, which is good, because we have a lot of great competition coming up," Chiola said. "Brighton is a very good team and I thought we wrestled them well. We had some close matches with them that they pulled out, but other than (Novi Detroit) Catholic Central, it was the best team we've seen this year. I like the fact that we beat Plymouth 49-18 today after only beating them 37-27 on Wednesday."

It was Franklin's fifth runner-up finish in six tournaments.

"Like one of my captain's moms' said, 'Five seconds is better than two fifths,'" Chiola said. "We have a long list of things to go over. And with a weekend off for the varsity this week, this will be a good week to go over it."

Host Spartans 4th

Livonia Stevenson stands 12-11 on the season after finishing fourth in Saturday's 10-school Spartan Classic Dual Tournament.

Monroe defeated Belleville in the finals to win the tournament, 31-28, while Northville downed the host Spartans for third, 45-22.

Stevenson went 3-2 on the day defeating Ypsilanti Lincoln (45-21), Orchard Lake St. Mary Prep (69-10) and Utica Ford II (47-27). Their losses came against Northville and Belleville.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

defensive end. They (Novi) executed their offense better. They beat us in every phase of the game.

"We knew he (Ozeir) would shoot 'threes,' but we did not defend him as well as we should have."

Hopton, a senior guard, added 12 points, while senior guard Jeremy Mims contributed 10 for the Wildcats, who shot 25-of-54 from the floor (46.2 percent) and committed just nine turnovers.

The game took on added importance for the Wildcats, who also got eight points from 6-5 forward Ryan Jok and seven from 6-4 junior Rob Laney.

"I didn't tell the team that, but yes, it was a 'must win' because you don't want to be two back with six (games) to go," Heitsch said. "And two of

those losses are at home.

"In this division the talent level has increased. We don't necessarily have the best athletes. People have caught up in ability to guard us in transition."

Stevenson, with a total of four triples on the night, had no other players score in double figures other than Nauert.

C.J. Mwila and Jordan El-Sabeh each added seven points as the Spartans shot only 19-of-53 from the field (35.8 percent) and committed 13 turnovers, including six in the final eight minutes.

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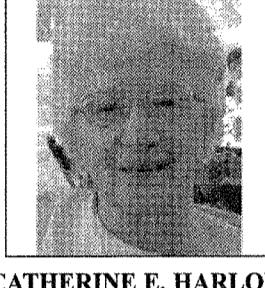
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DOROTHY B. BUSH

Age 96 of Farmington Hills. Beloved wife of the late Lyman. Loving mother of the late David L. Bush, the late Kathleen Ryan, and the late Paul Bush. Cherished grandmother of 8 and great-grandmother of 3. Dean sister of Eva Hoefer and Floyd (Beatrice) Hibble. Visitation Friday 10 AM until 12:30 PM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington. Funeral Service Friday 1:30 PM (In state 1 PM) at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Avenue, Farmington, MI 48335. Memorial contributions may be made to Salem United Church of Christ or Alpha-I Foundation Attn: Development Office, 2937 SW 27 Avenue, Suite 302, Miami, FL 33133.

**JOHN MORRIS**

91, of Livonia, January 19, 2010. John is a Proud Marine, WWII Veteran, Pearl Harbor Survivor, retired from Dow Chemical and former Para-pro from Farmington Public Schools. He is survived by Lillian, his beloved wife of 63 years; his loving daughters, Penny Dickerson (Dorman III) and Janet Goulart (the late David); his cherished grandchildren, Dorman IV, Randy and Jacquelyn Sullivan (Mike); and great-grandchildren, Julia and Michael II. Funeral service Friday, January 22nd, 10:30 AM at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (just N. of Grand River, btw. 9-10 Mile Rd.), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Thursday 3-8 PM. Memorial tributes are suggested to The Capuchins or Odyssey Hospice heeney-sundquist.com

**CATHERINE E. HARLOW**

Age 87, of Farmington Hills, January 18, 2010. Beloved wife of the late William (d. 1997); dearest mother of Geoffrey (Virginia), Marc (Michelle) and the late Christopher (d. 1957); dear sister of Louis Clinton (Rene) Finger; cherished grandmother of Jessica, Nicholas, Ronald, Elizabeth, Catherine, Connor, Adelyn, Kinsey and Devon; and beloved aunt to many. Visitation Thursday 5-8 PM, Friday 2-9 PM, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Rosary Friday 7 PM. Funeral Mass Saturday, January 23rd, 10:00 AM (in state 9:30 AM) St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Interment Holy Sepulchre. Memorial tributes suggested to Food for the Poor Inc., 6401 Lyons Rd, Coconut Creek, FL, 33073, 954-427-2222, FoodForThePoor.org.

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

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ART**Costick Center****Time/Date:** Through Feb. 26**Location:** 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills**Details:** "Metallics: Photography by Janna Bissett"**Contact:** (248) 473-1856**Lotus Arts Gallery****Location:** 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth**Details:** Ronnie Wood is the artist of the month**Contact:** (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734) 453-5400**Northville Art House****Time/Dates:** "Made of Wood: Multiple Perspectives"

through Jan. 30

Location: 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville**Contact:** (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org**plan B gallery****Time/Date:** Through Jan. 30**Location:** 167 Union, Plymouth**Details:** "Undomesticated" show includes contemporary

sculpture, painting, drawing, installations

Contact: (734) 834-3827**AUDITIONS****Farmington Players****Time/Date:** 12:30 p.m. sign-in for ages 8-17 and 2:30 p.m.

sign-in for ages 18 and over, Sunday, Jan. 24; call backs at 7

p.m., Monday, Jan. 25

Location: The Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332

West Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Gypsy" is about a relentless stage mother, Rose, who travels the country with her two daughters, June and Louise, and their manager, Herbie. While June and Louise wish their mother would settle down and marry Herbie, Rose continues to pursue dreams of stardom for her girls. The auditions for those between 8 and 17 will include singing, reading and dancing. All materials for these auditions will be available on the Gypsy home page at www.farmingtonplayers.org. Those who are 18 and over should be prepared to perform a 60- to 90-second monologue for the reading audition.**Contact:** E-mail Jason Wilhoite at counterpoint78@gmail.com or call him at (734) 765-4535.**Oakland Community College****Time/Date:** 7:10 p.m., Jan. 26 and 5-7 p.m., Jan. 27**Location:** Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus, located on Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.**Details:** "Black Comedy" revolves around the efforts of a young man to impress his fiancée's father while desperately and hilariously dealing with the ensuing confusion among his invited and uninvited guests. Needs five men and three women, ages 17 to 60. Auditioners should arrive 15 minutes early and be prepared to read a character and scene of their choice from excerpts posted at www.oaklandcc.edu/theatre.**Contact:** E-mail preferred date and hour for audition to dohill@oaklandcc.edu or leave a message at (248) 522-3636.**COMEDY****Go Comedy!****Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net**JD's House of Comedy****Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com**Jazz Cafe at Music Hall****Time/Date:** 9 p.m. third Thursdays**Location:** 350 Madison Ave., Detroit**Details:** Show Up, and Go Up, open call, free w/ Contact: (313) 887-8532; www.jazzcafedetroit.com**Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia****Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia**Details:** Bill Dwyer, through Jan. 23; Tom Cotter, Jan. 27-30**Contact:** (734) 261-0555; www.kickerscomplex.com**Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle****Time/Date:** Clinton Jackson, Jan. 21-23; Andy Pitz, Jan. 28-30**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak**Contact:** (248) 542-9900; www.comedycastle.com**Village Theater at Cherry Hill****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 22**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton**Details:** Three members of the Stand-Up Dads will perform. The group features Dan St. Paul, who has appeared on VH1 & Comedy Central; Tim Bedore, a frequent guest on NRP's "Marketplace" and A&E's "Caroline's Comedy Hour;" Milt Able, who has more than 15 years standup comedy experience; and Kelly McDonald, who has appeared numerous times on NBC's "The Tonight Show." Billed as a "clean comedy show," the Stand-Up Dads may deliver some adult-themed humor and subject matter. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$22 for seniors and youth**Contact:** (734) 394-5460; www.cantontowntheater.org**CONCERTS****The Ark****Time/Date:** Tim Eriksen & Bill Bynum & Co., Jan. 21; The Macpodz, Jan. 22; Yiddishe Cup, Jan. 23; Katie Herzig, Jan. 24; Take a Chance Tuesday featuring Chris Proctor, Jan. 28;**23rd Ann Arbor Folk Festival** featuring Iron and Wine, Jay Farrar & Benjamin Gibbard, Jan. 29; folk festival featuring Rosanne Cash, Richie Havens and Doc Watson**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org**Detroit Institute of Arts****GET OUT****Time/Date:** Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.**Location:** 5200 Woodward Ave**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org**JWH Center for the Arts****Time/Date:** 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m.**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth**Details:** BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May. Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmullen@yahoo.com**Magic Bag****Time/Dates:** The Backbeats, Jan. 22; the Mega 80's, Jan. 23 and 29, Feb. 6; Robert Gordon & The Gang They Couldn't Hang, Jan. 24; Lloyd Cole, Jan. 28; Fifth Way, Jan. 30; Cowboy Mouth & Junior Brown, Feb. 5**Location:** 22920 Woodward, Ferndale**Contact:** (248) 544-3030; www.themagicbag.com**Music Hall Jazz Cafe****Time/Date:** Ben's Friends, 7 p.m., Jan. 21; Stage to Stage, Jan. 22; Ain't Misbehavin', 7 p.m., 7 p.m., Jan. 26; Discovery Series, 7 p.m. and open jam session, 9 p.m.; Jan. 27**Location:** 350 Madison**Details:** No cover most shows; \$5 Ben's Friends**Contact:** (313) 887-8500**Plymouth Coffee Bean Co.****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Jan. 23**Location:** 884 Penniman, Plymouth**Details:** Bobby Pennock and Barry Holdship**Contact:** (734) 454-0178**Seligman Performing Arts Center****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Jan. 30**Location:** On the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills**Details:** Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quartet presented by Chamber Music Society of Detroit; tickets range from \$43-\$75**Contact:** (248) 855-6070**Trinity House Theater****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30**Location:** 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia**Details:** Luke Winslow-King performs original songs in the ragtime blues and jazz traditions with national slide guitar and voice with Joshua Davis; tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers**Coming up:** Peter Mulvey with Drew Nelson, 8 p.m., Feb. 6; tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Jo Serrapere, 8 p.m., Feb. 12; tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Erik Brandt and the Urban Hillbilly Quartet, 8 p.m., Feb. 13; tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Cats and the Fiddler, 8 p.m., Feb. 19; tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Mike Mangione and His Band, 8 p.m., Feb. 26; tickets \$12, \$9 for subscribers**Contact:** (734) 464-6302; www.trinityhouse.org**Village Theater at Cherry Hill****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton**Details:** Five Vegas quality vocalists will croon the classic standards of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis Jr. and Peggy Lee at "Salute to the Great American Songbook." Tickets are \$20

Luke Winslow-King will play Saturday, Jan. 30, at Trinity House in Livonia.

Contact: (734) 394-5460; cantonvillagetheater.org

DANCE**Music Hall for the Performing Arts****Time/Date:** 8 p.m., Jan. 23**Location:** 350**Madison,** Detroit**Details:** Russian**National Ballet****Theatre of****Moscow****performs****an assortment of****pieces;****tickets are \$50, \$40, and \$30****Contact:** (313) 887-8500; www.musicall.org

Russian National Ballet Theatre of Moscow

FAMILY**Bakers Keyboard Lounge****Time/Dates:** 2-5 p.m. Sundays**Details:** Jazz for Kids Program**Location:** 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit**Contact:** (313) 345-6300; www.bakerskeyboarldlounge.com**Detroit Institute of Arts****Time/Dates:** 2 p.m. Sundays**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org**Marquis Theatre****Time/Dates:** "Pinocchio," through Jan. 24, tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up**Location:** 135 E. Main, Northville**Contact:** (24

FILTER

At the festival

Some ice sculptures convey a message at Plymouth event

BY SHARON DARGAY

O&E staff writer
Rudolph, a blind and deaf Dachshund, has appeared in a coloring book, made appearances at local schools and will be celebrated in sculpture this weekend at the Plymouth Ice Festival.

His likeness is meant to delight passersby and send them a serious message as well.

"We're telling people to do adoptions rather than shop," explained Pam Sordyl, founder of the Northville-based Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup. The group promotes animal rescue and adoptions and pressures pet stores — through public rallies — to stop selling pets from disreputable kennels and puppy mills, which mass produce dogs. The group's public education campaign teaches about the origins of pet store puppies and lobbies for stronger laws and regulations for animal breeding.

Last year the organization commissioned a carver to create a bulldog in ice and they attended the festival for the first time.

"This year we have Rudolph. He's a puppy mill survivor and is doing good deeds," said Sordyl, referring to Rudolph's visits, with owner Marcia Fishman, to schools throughout southeastern Michigan.

Fishman, a lifelong dog lover and experienced trainer, as well as a strong



Marcia Fishman and her blind and deaf puppy mill survivor, Rudolph, a Dachshund. Rudolph's likeness will be carved into ice at the 28th annual Plymouth Ice Festival. The event runs Jan. 22-24 in downtown Plymouth.

supporter of volunteerism, takes Rudolph into classrooms to explore the issues of diversity and disabilities with children. She also wrote a coloring book about her disabled dog.

"Whatever his presence can do about awareness, whether that's with kids and sensitivity to disabilities or if it's awareness to what a puppy mill produces, I'm happy," said Fishman, who also serves as the executive director of the Screen Actors Guild for Michigan.

MESSAGE IN ICE

Sordyl said the ice festival offers an opportunity to reach potentially thousands of families and individuals.

"It worked out so well last year," she said, recalling the bulldog sculpture. "It was popular with our volunteers

and it's a positive way to reach people and spread awareness. Kids love seeing it. Kids all know dogs. It's a great way to reach families."

The group will have signs on display in conjunction with the ice art. Members will offer literature about puppy mills and will collect donations for homeless animals. The Humane Society of Huron Valley also will be on hand with information.

Sordyl said her group has about 245 members on its Facebook site — it also maintains a Web page on Meetup — and is growing.

"Our focus is pet stores because we know 24 of them that are bring in most of the dogs (from puppy mills). We have some backyard breeders and we're working on that, too,"



The Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup sent a message about adopting rather than buying dogs at the Plymouth Ice Festival last year with a canine ice sculpture and printed literature.

Sordyl said, "Without pet stores, puppy mills would not exist."

She organized Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup shortly after a pet store opened in Northville two years ago.

"I organized a parade. I had all these rescue pets come and it got the town talking. I didn't do anything else. Everyone put pressure on (the merchant)," she said, adding that the store went out of business.

SPONSORED SCULPTURES

Sam Walton, Plymouth Ice Festival's executive producer said no other issue-oriented groups or nonprofits have commissioned sculptures to represent their mission this weekend. But he noted that "Ice sculpting is an art form that relies on personal expression just as any other medium."

"If a carver decides to create a piece meant to inspire or challenge, that means the purpose of the art is being reached," he said. "The carvers run ideas by us as the producers — but we

don't make final decisions on what is to be created. We do have a few areas of the show this year that will feature a theme among a number of different sculptures.

"We have a number of sponsored sculptures this year that will be used as promotion and marketing for a business. If a business wants a sculpture, they can sponsor the sculpture. Price is dependent upon the overall size of the piece requested. The price includes the cost of the ice and the carvers time to create the work."

Delta Diamond Setters in Plymouth has sponsored an ice sculpture and supported the festival since its inception, says Kathy Aschermann, who works in the family business with her father, Tom Piotrowski, who founded it, a sibling and a handful of employees.

"We've always sponsored a sculpture. In years past we've paid extra to have them sculpt something we requested. One year we had a lady's silhouette with a strand of pearls," Aschermann noted. "We

give a donation and then a sculpture shows up in front of our store — whether it be a Gumby or a pineapple — we don't do it to have a sculpture of a diamond ring in front of the store.

"We've done it because we feel it's needed for town."

Although Aschermann said the store's ice sculpture is not meant as "advertising" or promotion, it does help drive shoppers into the store for a look. They aren't likely to buy on the spur of the moment, but may come back to shop at another time.

"The more ice sculptures there are up and down the streets, there will be an increase in foot traffic. It's always good for business exposure. Our hope is they'll like the town and remember the stores that sponsored sculptures and promoted the festival."

The Plymouth Ice Festival runs Friday-Sunday, Jan. 22-24.

For more information on festival events visit www.plymouthicefestival.org.

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DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Group brings Motown Sound to OCC

Serieux, will perform its two-hour All-Motown Review Feb. 5 at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Tickets are \$15.

Serieux is led by Larry Griffin, a 35-year music veteran who serves as baritone, second tenor, first tenor, arranger, and choreographer for the 10-member group, which regularly performs throughout the state. Serieux' latest CD, *I Can Give You Love*, has just been released.

For more information call Velma Jones at (248) 942-3243. Tickets are available at all OCC Campus Bookstores, or online at www.oaklandcc.edu/entertainment.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696.

FOOD

Eatery serves up perfect treat for ice fest

BY SHARON DARGY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Paul Zajac, general manager of Station 885 Restaurant, is working on a special recipe for Plymouth Ice Festival weekend. It goes something like this:

BLUE RASPBERRY, ORANGE AND CHERRY STRIPED SNOW CONE

5,000 pounds of shaved ice
90 gallons (900 pounds) of syrup
1 cardboard cone, 9 feet tall and 6 feet wide at its opening
1 metal exoskeleton to support the cardboard cone
Three industrial-sized ice shaving machines
Scaffolding
Place cone in metal support next to scaffolding. Shave ice. Using a bucket brigade, fill cone with shaved ice and add syrup. Serves 10,000.

"The only thing I'd ask is that I'd like the first snow cone," said Zajac, who plans to scoop out samples of the monster-sized frozen treat for onlookers when it's completed Saturday, Jan. 23, in the restaurant parking lot in Plymouth's Historic Old Village.

"I can't wait to fill this thing. It will be a sight. The joke around here is that the standard line is 'I don't know. I've never done it before.' That's one of the things that makes this fun. To accomplish thefeat is secondary. It's just a fun thing for families to watch."

Thatfeat is breaking the world record for the biggest snow cone. Zajac hopes to create a 2.5 ton (5,000 pounds) icy confection that will beat out the current record of 2.104 tons (4,640 pounds) held by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area in Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

He figures it will take the restaurant's owners, staff and volunteers about four hours, starting at 11 a.m., to create the shaved ice and fill the cone.

MAKING IT BIG

Three ice shaving machines from C. Cretors & Co., in Chicago will turn out a total of approximately 2,500 pounds of ice an hour. A bucket brigade will dump the main ingredient into a "green" cardboard cone built by ATS Packaging, with help from PianoCrafters, both of Plymouth. Then they'll add the flavored syrup and weigh the cone on equipment from Metro Scale.

The company's automo-



Showing off the cone that will be used in an attempt to build the world's biggest snow cone Saturday in Plymouth, are Tony Sebastian (left) of ATS Packaging of Plymouth, the company that donated material, helped with construction and scientific testing; Robert Costanza, owner-operator of Station 885 Restaurant, Pat DeBeliso, owner-operator of PianoCrafters of Plymouth, a company that assisted with construction; and Paul Zajac, general manager of Station 885 Restaurant.

tive scale weighs up to 16,000 pounds. We'll have a score-board read-out. We'll know (its weight) when we reach the top," Zajac said. "Because we're dealing with such weight, we'll move at a safe pace."

GETTING INVOLVED

Zajac cooked up the snow cone idea last June while searching for ways to participate in Plymouth's downtown events.

"Arguably the biggest event Plymouth has is the ice festival. I thought about world records and ice. We wanted something family-oriented, of course, and I also wanted something fun. All signs pointed to the snow cone."

He didn't find out until August, after Guinness World Records approved the attempt, just how big the last record-setting cone was. Unfazed, he figured Station 885 could build it "better and bigger."

And also edible. Zajac said Guinness requires the giant-sized snow cone to function like its smaller versions. The ice-handling equipment is sterilized and food grade ice is used.

"We're going to scoop from the top," he said, explaining plans for distributing the treat. "It will be something special to eat...to eat a piece of history."

Station 885 is located at Starkweather.

Serve game day food with a twist

THAI-PEANUT GINGER WINGS

We love to watch sports on television at my house. But it takes some seriously good food to keep the fans happy.

Snack foods are always popular — in fact, Americans eat almost 30 million pounds of snacks on Super Bowl Sunday alone. I like to have something more substantial on hand, too, to keep us going for all four quarters.

Here are a few tips from my game day playbook that will make your game watching party a winner:

- Hollowed out sourdough bread rounds are great dip containers. Leave an inch or so of bread around the edges and fill each round with your favorite dip. Warm spinach, artichoke or cheese dips work well.

- Crock pots are great for keeping foods warm. Borrow some extras from friends and set up a row of them for meatballs, chili, cocktail links or soup.

- If you're going to set out a veggie tray, do all your chopping and slicing ahead of time. Store the chopped veggies in plastic bags in the fridge and they'll be ready to go when you are.

- Score extra points with desserts that are easy to handle. Bar cookies and cookies are perfect.

I love making traditional game day foods with a little twist. These Thai-Peanut Ginger Wings are a zesty combination of ginger, sesame, soy and peanut butter, made creamy with evaporated milk. Serve them with extra peanut dipping sauce and fresh veggies — they're sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen Project Manager for the Nestle Test Kitchens and VeryBestBaking.com. Her column is courtesy of Family Features.

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REAL ESTATE

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(*)
Julie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
jbrown@hometownlife.com

Play it smart with mortgage, refinancing

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You need to choose a reputable mortgage company when the time comes to buy a home.

That's the word from Mary McGaw, mortgage loan officer for Bank of America. McGaw, a Westland resident whose work is Canton-based, said to watch what kind of mortgage you get.

"They need to watch they don't get in a balloon or adjustable," she said, noting most buyers today go for the 30-year fixed rate mortgage.

You need to watch points, a fee percentage of the mortgage price. Also, watch third party costs in quotes you get, such as those for title companies or attorney fees, McGaw said.

She added that as of Jan. 1 this year with Regulation X, the field is more highly regulated, helping to address some of the turmoil of recent years in mortgage lending.

Regulation X provides a universal form to compare mortgage terms, said Tim Burns, public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan. Consumers can now go to all brokers and get good faith estimates up front, with lenders required to provide the form within three days of the person asking for a loan application.

"It's not as confusing," Burns, an attorney, said of the process.

The Clawson resident and Oakland County commissioner said checking with the BBB is a good starting point for mortgage companies. There's a Web site at bbb.org where you can look up customer service histories across the country. The Southfield-based BBB can be reached by phone at (248) 223-9400.

"You can get a good idea if there's a track record of particular problems with a mortgage lender," he said. Doing so can save you "hours of grief and lots of money down the road."

He also recommends a check with the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, online at michigan.gov/ofir. That's the regulatory agency for the banking industry in Michigan.



"They're a reputable state organization we have a good working relationship with," Burns said.

There's been a recent dramatic decrease in available credit with more consumers seeking alternative lenders. Some prey on them with advance fee loan scams. In those, the customer pays \$1,000-\$5,000 via wire, thinking a loan will come through.

Such unscrupulous people often take on the look of a legitimate business, Burns said, but will change the phone number or e-mail.

"That's why it's important to validate who you're dealing with." Make sure the phone number and Web site

are tied to the legitimate business, something chambers of commerce can assist with.

He also sees people who are refinancing a mortgage using counselors and debt consultants, some of whom promise to modify a loan for a fee but are scam artists. There are legitimate professionals registered and approved by the state, such as Greenpath, Burns said.

Again, BBB accreditation is a good sign. You'll never pay a fee to talk to your lender, he reminds consumers. You may not like the outcome, but there's no charge for such contacts.

Some people have paid thousands to a so-called negotiator only to find

the money isn't going to the creditor.

Hiring a lawyer can help those with complex situations, Burns said, and there's free assistance for some. All need to do their homework and be proactive in checking out lenders.

Many counties have a Cooperative Extension Service through Michigan State University that offers free housing advice, although they're not lawyers. "That information can be very valuable and it's at no charge," Burns said.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority, (866) 946-7432, offers workshops and referrals, he added.

Books, contract should be open

Q: I live in a small condominium and our property manager refuses to give us a receipt for work done on a re-roofing of our building for which we have been specially assessed. He also refuses to give us any written warranty information and has given us a lot of excuses. My question is do we have a right to demand a receipt for work done? Shouldn't the roofing company provide us with receipts for our monies?

A: Presumably the roofing company has a contract with the association and is accountable to it. However,


you are entitled to review the books, records and contracts of the association which, presumably, would include

the roofing contract, any warranty provided, and any other receipts or other documentation provided to the association by the roofing company. You should make a demand upon the association Board of Directors, and, if the management company is refusing to cooperate, you should consider removing the board through the electoral process, and then, if necessary, the management company.

Q: I am on the board of a residential HOA with a common gym and spa facility, including private massage therapy rooms. The HOA does not currently contract with any specific trainers or therapists to provide services to owners, but owners are contracting with their own personal service providers who accompany the individual owner as they use the gym and spa. A board member raised a red flag when a long-term renter in the complex began posting flyers in public areas inviting owners to twice monthly "group relaxation therapy sessions" in one large common room for a voluntary "love gift" of \$10 per session to cover costs. The board members are concerned about the association sanctioning the activity, and, that it might violate existing restrictions on commercial activities by owners. What do you think?

A: I think that you should provide an agreement, which sets forth, among other things, that the provider has to observe HOA rules for reservation and use of the premises, and that the provider has to acquire appropriate insurance with the HOA as an additional insured, and, that the provider has to obtain releases/waivers from all who use the provider services. I would also require indemnification but most providers don't have a deep enough pocket to make that meaningful. I would also be concerned about opening up the clubhouse to outsiders in regard to the Americans With Disabilities Act. In short, you better get the association attorney involved.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD - OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of October 5-9, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Auburn Hills
3032 Debra Ct \$47,000
3176 Margaret St \$96,000
Beverly Hills
1628 W 13 Mile Rd \$116,000
Bingham Farms
32766 Bingham Ln \$438,000
Birmingham
871 Bird Ave \$417,000
1076 Floyd St \$326,000
770 Hanna St \$413,000
544 S Bates St \$351,000
698 Southfield Rd \$561,000
2614 Yorkshire Rd \$145,000
111 Yosemitte Blvd \$80,000
Bloomfield Township
4790 Apple Grove Ct \$260,000
4872 Beacon Hill Dr \$224,000
4039 Cranbrook Ct \$235,000
4058 Golf Ridge Dr E \$180,000

2718 Indian Mound Rd \$542,000
1947 Long Lake Shore Dr \$875,000
2458 Thistle Pointe \$365,000
1955 Westlake Ct \$475,000
5535 Woodland Pass \$225,000
Clarkston
6150 Ascension St \$78,000
4833 Harding Ave \$155,000
9760 Kingston Pointe Dr \$265,000
5008 Rockaway Ln \$470,000
7080 Scenic Rd \$360,000
Commerce Township
4576 Driftwood Dr \$468,000
3925 S Shore Dr \$800,000
3075 Silverberry St \$120,000
Davison
12426 Shaffer Rd \$210,000
Farmington
35554 Lark Harbor Ct \$114,000
3800 Danvers Dr \$200,000
Farmington Hills
1045 Hesters Whip Ln \$252,000
3918 Kennedy Dr \$300,000
23496 Larkshire St \$85,000
21540 Collingham Ave \$116,000
18000 Danvers Dr \$200,000
Lathrup Village
1901 Althamra Ct \$155,000
19081 Saratoga Blvd \$125,000
Milford
731 Abbe Ln \$160,000
1343 Lone Tree Rd \$206,000
1083 Ravenvale Trl \$335,000
Northville
30414 Orchard Lake Rd \$42,000
35376 Pennington Dr \$168,000
30487 Salisbury St \$130,000

24442 Springbrook Dr \$169,000
28247 Statler Ln \$130,000
32980 Thornydale Ct \$250,000
37596 Turnberry Ct \$405,000
34981 White Pine Trl \$185,000
30371 Wicklow Rd \$165,000
Franklin
26570 Drummond Ct \$440,000
Keego Harbor
29150 Eastman Trl \$285,000
2911 Cordell Ave \$140,000
2943 Glenbrook St \$27,000
Lake Orion
589 Central Dr \$325,000
1124 Yarmouth Ct \$139,000
973 Sherry Dr \$64,000
3298 Springwood Ct \$195,000
54 Waterview Dr \$165,000
1098 Wheatfield Dr \$196,000
Lathrup Village
1901 Althamra Ct \$155,000
19081 Saratoga Blvd \$125,000
Milford
731 Abbe Ln \$160,000
1343 Lone Tree Rd \$206,000
1083 Ravenvale Trl \$335,000
Northville
30414 Orchard Lake Rd \$42,000
35376 Pennington Dr \$168,000
30487 Salisbury St \$130,000

47325 Dunsany Rd \$165,000
50931 Park Place Dr \$565,000
523 Reed \$122,000
22350 Waterland Dr \$525,000
Novi
23871 Argyle St \$430,000
25772 Cody Ln \$378,000
29150 Eastman Trl \$285,000
24165 Elizabeth Ln \$235,000
24650 Venice Dr \$275,000
43333 Windmill Ct \$244,000
Oakland Township
88 Coachlamp Rd \$93,000
4724 Green Meadow Ln \$443,000
3240 Landview Dr \$300,000
Oxford
501 Iroquois Ct \$360,000
Rochester
803 Plate St \$22,000
1016 River Mist Dr \$240,000
544 Springview Dr \$390,000
202 Walnut Blvd \$262,000
Rochester Hills
510 Augusta Dr \$158,000
1898 Burning Bush Ct \$130,000
3865 Cherrywood Ln \$430,000
1416 Clear Creek Dr \$575,000
3422 Connors Dr \$50,000
1101 E Fairview Ln \$195,000
1920 Fairfield Dr \$177,000
1236 Oakwood Ct \$129,000
529 Plum Ridge Dr \$208,000
South Lyon
730 Challenging Trl \$125,000
22350 Coach Ln \$310,000
57987 International Dr \$223,000
23764 Lyon Ridge Dr \$61,000
23461 Prescott Ln W \$61,000
24757 Valleywood Dr \$110,000
625 W Crest Ln \$140,000
24810 Wedgewood Dr \$270,000
Southfield
2131 Duns Scotus St \$49,000
16229 E Rutherford St \$130,000
15971 Goldwin Pl \$120,000
20404 Mada Ave \$65,000
29063 Spring Hill Dr \$75,000
2191 Wallace Dr \$25,000
Troy
1642 Brentwood Dr \$100,000
4261 Cherrywood Dr \$215,000
6367 Country Ridge Dr \$490,000
38 Hickory Dr \$25,000
4241 Livermore Rd \$178,000
3410 Pasadena Dr \$138,000
6789 Tree Knoll Dr \$322,000
3869 Victoria Dr \$228,000
Walled Lake
1200 Addison Dr \$67,000
3102 Addison Dr \$90,000
20203 Alexa Dr \$153,000
29103 April Ct \$147,000
Waterford
2922 Buck Ave \$60,000
129 Coleman Dr \$73,000
1886 Colonial Village Way \$58,000
351 Cove View Dr \$305,000
3047 Embarcadero St \$104,000
5765 Oster Dr \$85,000
5055 Ridgtop Dr \$100,000
185 S Avery Rd \$45,000
5447 Sandblow Ct \$130,000
3510 W Walton Blvd \$99,000
West Bloomfield
16229 E Rutherford St \$130,000
5216 Brett Ct \$105,000
7239 Carlyle Xing \$150,000
6653 High Ridge Rd \$240,000
5136 Latimer St \$40,000
6177 Pickwood Dr \$330,000
1808 Poplifield Dr \$180,000
2155 S Hammon Lake Rd \$193,000
7387 Sherwood Creek Ct \$155,000
White Lake
8170 Casa Mia St \$150,000
1335 Castlewood St \$165,000
8091 Springfield Dr \$130,000
2284 Ellington St \$154,000

HOMES SOLD - WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of September 28 to Oct. 2, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton
39900 Coronation Rd \$73,000
49831 Courtyard Ln \$215,000
1156 Hampshire Dr \$154,000
1516 Hereford \$360,000
6781 Kings Mill Dr \$309,000
39934 Koppernick Rd \$115,000
47057 Mornington Rd \$290,000
6647 N Lambeth Ct \$220,000
340 Roosevelt St \$118,000
4174 Strathmore Ln \$140,000
5129 Topper Ct \$275,000
6125 Vixen Ct \$250,000
6127 Wedgewood Rd \$178,000

8435 Westchester Ln \$167,000
1124 Yarmouth Ct \$295,000
Garden City
28562 Krauter St \$29,000
627 Radcliff St \$38,000
6628 Sunset St \$63,000
Livonia
4449 Broadmoor Blvd \$250,000
18284 Brentwood St \$160,000
9336 California St \$123,000
9870 Fremont St \$67,000
37691 Kingsbury St \$145,000
5121 Leon St \$106,000
3143 Merriwood Park Dr \$80,000
29555 Nottingham Cir \$122,000

20001 Parker St \$110,000
33824 Richland St \$128,000
29620 Wentworth St \$149,000
3010 Westfield St \$110,000
15925 Woodring Dr \$180,000
Northville
44499 Broadmoor Blvd \$250,000
44718 Broadmoor Cir N \$377,000
44736 Broadmoor Cir N \$381,000
44999 Broadmoor Cir S \$372,000
15839 Crystal Downs E \$442,000
15924 Crystal Downs E \$701,000
49424 N Glacier \$295,000
16256 Oak Forest Ct \$600,000

48919 Rainbow Ln S \$325,000
1616 Weatherfield Dr \$235,000
Plymouth
50464 Elmwood Ct \$355,000
40628 Newport Dr \$64,000
51310 Northview \$260,000
398 Pacific St \$121,000
1133 Sutherland St \$165,000
Redford
19203 Kinloch \$40,000
19472 MacArthur \$81,000
12855 Norborne \$55,000
13556 Salem \$65,000
9316 San Jose \$83,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Homebuyer Seminar

A Homebuyer Seminar will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Keller Williams Farmington Hills Market Center, at 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, southeast corner of 12 Mile and Halsted in Farmington Hills.

Learn real estate basics for today's market: financing, the search, the appraisal, the inspection, everything bringing you to closing day. Go through a step-by-step talk about the home buying process with the Fitzpatrick Team. Mortgage information will be available through Flagstar Bank and Titlework presentation by Fidelity Title Company. Pillar to Post will also answer the question of "How Important Is an Inspection?" RSVP to (248) 893-1550.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Mondays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Career Seminar

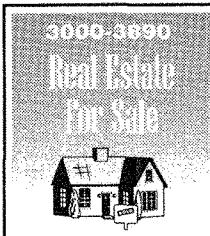
Interested in a career in real estate? Candidates would benefit from previous experience or successes in: service industries, account management, retail sales, small business operations, marketing or event planning. Candidates should have: good people/communication skills, some computer knowledge, a strong work ethic, an optimistic "can do" attitude and a strong desire to

achieve results through helping others.

Seminar includes: cost vs. income potential, training, company profit share, commission structures. Questions will be answered. Please call (734) 459-4700 to reserve your free seat 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, at

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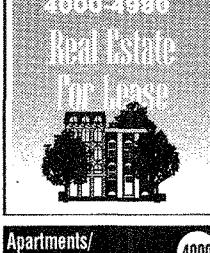
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2 Bdrm-\$625****FREE GAS AND WATER****(734) 729-6520*****Short term leases avail.****Oh Yeah!****Make your life easier...****find it in your classifieds!****FARMINGTON HILLS**: Clean 1 bdrm apt. 2nd flr. Heat & Water. 1 & 2 yr. lease from \$535/mo. 248-477-5782**FARMINGTON HILLS**: Private condo 1 bdrm, balcony, all appl., incl. washer/dryer. Covered parking, pool, tennis courts. \$550. 248-346-7007**FARMINGTON MANOR APTS.** Deluxe studio & 1 bedroom, carpet, \$300 security. 50% off first 3 months with approved credit. (248) 888-0868**FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS.** Luxury 2 bdrms, A/C, pool. New kitchen & baths, laundry rooms, heat incl. \$650/mo. 50% off 1st 3 month's rent w/ approved credit. (248) 478-8722**LINCOLN PARK**, Lowest rent. Deluxe 1 & 2 bdrms, quiet, safe balconies. Cal: (313) 386 6720**LIVONIA** Mid 5/ Middlebelt. 1 bdrm w/laundry room in unit. 50% off first 3 months with approved credit. \$595/mo. 248-521-1978**PLYMOUTH**: 1 Bdrm. \$575, 2 Bdrm. \$670. First month free w/approved credit. W/ 1 yr. lease. Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215**PLYMOUTH**: 1 bedroom, appliances, carpet, \$595. CANTON: 1 bdrm, \$550 w/heat & water. 734-455-0391**PLYMOUTH**: \$300* MOVES YOU IN!! 1 Bdrm. Single Story Private Entry/Patio Dogs Welcome. 734-459-6640 EHO www.cormorantco.com *Call for details**PLYMOUTH**: Lg. 2 bdrm. \$650. All appliances, c/a, offstreet parking. Water paid. \$650. Sec. \$1075. 248-661-5141**Just a quick call away....****SEEK & FIND****THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR**

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782 4.875 0 4.25 0 J/A

Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912 4.875 0 4.25 0 J/A

Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323 4.875 0.25 4.25 0.25 J/A

BRINKS Financial (800) 785-4755 4.625 0.75 4.125 0.5 J/A/V/F

Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922 4.625 0.75 4.125 0.5 J/A/V/F

Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113 5.25 0 4.625 0 J

Cornerstone Community Financial (800) 777-6728 5.125 0 4.5 0 J/A/F

Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100 5.25 0 4.625 0 A

Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830 4.99 0 4.375 0 J/V/F

First State Bank (800) 372-2205 5 0 4.5 0 F

Gold Star Mortgage (800) 784-1074 4.75 0.125 4.125 0.5 J/A/V/F

Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922 4.75 0.125 4.125 0.5 J/A/V/F

Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602 5.125 0 4.5 0 J/A/V/F

Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922 4.875 0.25 4.25 0.125 J/A/V/F

Michigan United Mortgage (810) 844-2222 4.5 1.375 4 1.125 J/A

Above Information available as of 1/15/10 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000

loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

SEEK & FIND

Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2010 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS														
1	Doozie	64	Meadow rodent	65	Actress —	66	— Papas	67	Noted lab assis-	68	tant	69	Waugh or	70
5	Change colors	70	Hit the books	7										

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Help Wanted-General 5000

All Students/others
2010 Expansion\$14.25 Start
PT/FT openings.

Flexible Schedules.

61st yr. may advance.

Call: 248-426-4405

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart, call 9-5, M-F.
734-728-4572 or email:
phoneworkinfo@aol.com

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FINANCIALneeds friendly, upbeat,
service oriented
individuals to work
Part-Time.Hiring for branch locations.
Job duties include
cash handling & product
sales. Goal oriented sales
experience required.Next class scheduled for
March 2010. Intense paid
training mandatory.Must be available to work
Mon-Fri: 9:15am-6:30pm
Saturday: 9:15am-2:30pmComplete job description
and locations available at
[dfcufinancial.com](#)
See Member Relations
Representative - PTAccepting Applications
through February 12, 2010Apply in person at any
DFCU Financial
Branch OfficeCredit Record in good
standing required.

Equal Opportunity Employer

A word to the wise,
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Classifieds!**
**CUSTOMER
SERVICE REPS**For growing co in Livonia.
Must have an outgoing
personality and love to talk.Great pay &
even better hours!EARN \$400-\$1000+
PER WEEK.No experience is neces-
sary, we offer paid training.
Come to Gutter Grate at:
11731 Levan Rd. in
Livonia Monday-Friday
from 1p.m. to 4p.m. to fill
out an application.

Help Wanted-General 5000

DIRECT CARE- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to!

Assist with personal care, meals, getting care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, 0#

FLORAL DESIGNER Exp'd.

The Flower Shop
7877 N. Middlebelt,
Westland. 734-425-5353FRONT DESK, CUSTOMER
SERVICE & MANAGEMENT

Planet Fitness is looking for happy, fun, fast paced people to join our front desk/customer service team as well as key experienced leaders to join our management team for Novi, Waterford, Northville & Novi locations.

Fax resume: (248) 668-1102
or apply online at:
[www.planetfitness.com](#)MAINTENANCE TECH
AND MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR

Property management company looking for maintenance tech and maintenance supervisor. Must have valid drivers license and HVAC experience.

Please send resumes to:

(248) 799-5497

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Help Wanted-General 5000

WEB FED PRESS
OPERATOR

Manufacturer of die cut seals & shapes, located in Warren, MI has opening for a WEB FED PRESS OPERATOR. We process adhesive back foams & other NON-METALLIC materials. Responsibilities include die set up, complete process run, press adjustments, troubleshooting & maintaining written set up & run instructions. Position requires cross training in other operations such as lamination and slitting.

This position is a full time, 40 hour per week, full benefit opening. Background check & testing for basic math, reading & measuring skills is part of the selection process. Physical & drug screen clearance required if selected for position.

Please include list of equipment you have experience operating with your resume.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Fax resume today:

734-996-8767
or a2dern@aol.com

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

CLERICAL, FULL-TIME

General Office Work & Typing.

Mon-Fri, 8-5. Starts at

\$7.40/hr. Apply at: 987

Manufacturers Dr., Westland.

For directions: 734-728-4572

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

RECEPTIONIST-FRONT DESK

Looking for enthusiastic, self

motivated dental receptionist

with experience. Knowledge of

Dentech Unix a plus & implant

knowledge a plus, full time.

Please Fax Resume

Alin Lori: (734) 728-1656

Help Wanted-Medical 5050

MEDICAL OFFICE
RECEPTIONIST/MA

For Internal Medicine Practice,

part time, experience required.

Send resume to: PO BOX

851494, Westland, MI 48165

MEDICAL RECEPITIONIST

Experienced only, for busy

Garden City Physician's office.

Please fax resume to:

734-522-0835

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Histotechnologist

Mohs surgeon seeks

Histotech with frozen section

experience to process fresh tissue with Mohs

frozen section techniques in

his expanding, private practice.

Background in histology, cryostat preparation

and maintenance, and his/her

chemical staining is essential.

Full or part-time, excellent pay and benefits.

Ann Arbor area.

Fax resume today:

734-996-8767

or a2dern@aol.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5080

RESTAURANT JOB OPENINGS!

There are many exciting

Crew Team Member positions

available at Tanglewood

Restaurant! All Shifts -

Days, Nights, Weekends!

We are looking for fun,

energetic and talented staff

with a full-service restaurant

experience. Someone

who is Guest-focused,

proactive and strive to

exceed our guests' expectations

every time they visit our

restaurant. Some of the

Team Member open

positions include:

• Managers /Asst Mgrs

• Cooks: Grill & Prep

• Bartenders

• Servers

• Expeditors/Dishwashers

Please send resume to:

Email: jobs@tanglewoodtheilion.com

Fax: (248) 486-5344

Or stop by and fill

out an application:

Tanglewood Restaurant

53503 W. Ten Mile Rd.

South Lyon

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

CHEVROLET SALES OPPORTUNITY

Ideal opportunity for displaced

Saturn, Saab, Hummer Sales

Professionals. Hit the ground

running with familiar product.

Top commission, demo, 5 day

week, BC/BS, Dental & Eye

Coverage, 401K. Westside.

Email:

redhockey07@gmail.com

Response within 24 hrs.

Mon. thru Fri.

No experience welcome/

training available.

Help Wanted-Domestic 5240

PERSONAL DRIVER NEEDED

Steady job, PT, Farmington

Hills & beyond, fair pay.

Call: (248) 632-9929

Position Wanted 5340

Especially
For You.
Treat Your
Sweetheart.Sparkling Clean
NATURALLY CLEAN

Residential & Commercial

Licensed & Insured

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Divorce Services 5610

DIVORCE
\$75.00[www.CSRdisability.com](#)

CS&R 734-425-1074

Business Opportunities 5640

CANADA: Investor/Partner.

\$5M Sales, Growth & Expansion.

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Vince: 1-519-818-0809

[vincent@mnsi.net](#)

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True turn key nationally

known franchise (sub & salad

shop), under option, making

money. 734-560-1802

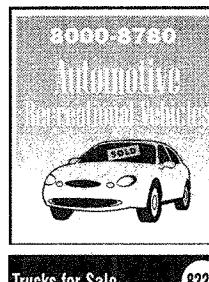
dfcu
FINANCIAL
Needs friendly, upbeat,
service oriented
individuals to work
Part-Time.

Hiring for branch locations.

Job duties include
cash handing & product sales.Goal oriented
sales experience required.

Next class scheduled for March 2010.

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Cab! What A Truck Should
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DODGE RAM 2005
Crew Cab, only \$10,995
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PONT, BUICK, GMC
(734) 453-2500

FORD F-150 XLT 2007
Super Cab, 4x4, loaded, low
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\$20,995

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800-737-0250

FORD F-SERIES 2007 15 to
choose from \$14,997

Bill Brown Ford

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FORD SPORT TRAC 2007
V8, 4x4, certified, \$23,997

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GMC SIERRA 271 2006
Crew Cab, only \$22,495

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4x4 PICKUP 2008
LOADED! Navigation, roof,
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\$36,999

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Quad seats, rear A/C,

46K miles, \$9,995

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