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**Health event
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Elderly residents of Westland and Wayne and all members and families of Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112 are invited to a free Health-O-Rama from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Sponsored by the Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112 and Carenet Homecare Services Inc., Health-O-Rama is a free outreach health and wellness program including a physical examination, blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, flu shots, therapy, and rehabilitation exercises and information about social services, community resource information and durable medical equipment.

The Health-O-Rama program will be conducted by certified registered nurses, therapists, therapy assistants, medical social workers and in-home physicians. No appointments needed. Service will be provided on a first-come basis.

**Riders to help
Easter Seals**

Westland resident Julie Busch will help carve a path in the snow leading to independence and success for children with disabilities during Easter Seals Michigan's 25th Anniversary For Women Only (FWO) Snowmobile Ride at Alpine Lodge in Gaylord from Feb. 3-5.

Busch is among 40 women statewide who have committed to sled in support of Easter Seals. During its quarter-century history, FWO has raised more than \$2.25 million for Easter Seals' Children's Developmental Therapies and Services.

Only 10 more snowmobile enthusiasts are needed to help the agency reach its 25th anniversary goal of 50 participants. To learn more about FWO or to support a snowmobile rider's fundraising efforts, visit www.easterseals.com/fwo or call (248) 475-6411.

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LeBlanc proposal would require officials be at meetings to vote

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Elected or appointed officials would be required to be physically present to vote and participate in meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act under a resolution introduced by a local state legislator.

Referred to the House Government Operations Committee, the resolution introduced by state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-West-

land, would express the Michigan House of Representatives intent that the law be interpreted to prohibit officials from using electronic methods, such as Skype, to participate and vote at public meetings.

Short of a House bill, LeBlanc said the resolution serves as an introduction to the issue which arose at a Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education meeting last year.

"It was brought to my attention

that an elected official was casting votes while not physically at the board meeting," LeBlanc said. "The law prohibits round robin calling. When the Open Meetings Act was approved, the Internet was in its infancy. I would like more clarity. The Legislature doesn't vote absentee."

Using Skype or similar technology could allow an elected official to be gone from the community for months, he said, such as spending the winter out

of the state.

"A government official seems to need to be there to participate in the meeting," said LeBlanc, who also requested an attorney general's opinion on whether the participation via Skype is legal. "Some things make elected officials sweat and people should see that."

After a couple of conversations with Michigan Attorney

Please see PROPOSAL, A2

Good choice!



Kate Mansell (center) receives a ceremonial check for her \$20,000 prize in the Pay It Off, Live It Up contest sponsored by Culver's and Pepsi. Joining her are Culver's of Westland General Manager Jamie Bell (from left), Westland Mayor William Wild, Culver's co-founder and CEO Craig Culver and Culver's of Westland owner Linda Fitzpatrick.

Sandwich selection wins her \$20,000 in Culver contest

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A lot of people will take advantage of an instant winning ticket for a free soft drink or fries, but there are probably quite a few who don't bother going online to enter numbers for another chance at a prize.

Kate Mansell did take the time to enter for a chance at

another prize and ended up winning \$20,000 in the Pay It Off, Live It Up contest sponsored by Culver's and Pepsi.

"It's amazing. I've never won anything in my life. I'm glad to start with something big," said Mansell, who got her winning ticket at Culver's of Westland. "I better enter every sweepstakes I can — I'm feeling lucky."

A Northville resident, Man-

sell has worked for nearly nine years at the Lowe's Home Improvement located across Newburgh from Culver's. To earn a contest entry, Mansell had to order a grilled or crispy chicken sandwich basket — she went for grilled — and also ordered a Pepsi soft drink.

"I took a chance and entered the code online, I got picked.

Please see CONTEST, A2

Neighbors alerted about condo break-ins

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Following three recent break-ins reported at Westland's Rivergate Condominiums, resident Judith Bianchi wants to alert neighbors to take extra security precautions.

When she returned home Jan. 4, Bianchi found that the front door had been kicked in and her belongings ransacked. There was still a footprint on the damaged door.

"It was scary and upsetting that a stranger had been in private places. There was stuff strewn all over when I came home," Bianchi said. "They took out all the (dresser) drawers. I cried like a baby. It's very emotional."

Bianchi was particularly upset at the loss of jewelry, including her grandmother's diamond ring that she planned to use when she gets married.

Beyond her belongings, Bianchi said she was fearful about her safety being alone in her home. She's added security measures to her home, but wanted greater notice to other residents in the development, located on Nankin Boulevard west off Wayne Road, after learning of other recent break-ins. Last fall, she said someone

Please see BREAK-INS, A2

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Smoke escapes through the burnt out roof of one townhouse damaged in two separate fires twice at a four-unit building in the Holliday Park Cooperative. No one was injured, but the units are uninhabitable.

**Two fires damage four
Holiday Park townhouses**

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Four units at Holliday Park Cooperative were damaged by two fires — one Thursday afternoon and a second Friday morning.

The first fire is blamed on food cooking on the stove left unattended, while the cause for the second fire is still under investigation, Westland Assistant Fire Chief John Adams said. No one was injured in either fire.

At approximately 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, firefighters responded to a fire in a middle unit of a building consisting of four ranch-style condominiums in the complex off North Wayne Road south of Joy.

"The gentleman who lives there has a habit of cooking with grease. He prepared a meal and fell asleep. He left the stove unattended," Adams said. "He hadn't cleaned the range hood. The fire got into the

Please see FIRES, A2

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FIRES

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roof line directly over the stove.”

A smoke detector in the man's unit had been set off by his cooking, Adams said, so he had disconnected it. As a result, residents in the adjoining units on Spring Valley Drive reported the fire when their smoke detectors sounded.

“One of our guys pulled the resident out of his unit,” Adams said.

The fire moved into the shared attic space and the damage made three of the units with common walls uninhabitable, Adams said, while a resident was allowed to stay in the fourth unit.

The second fire was reported at 7:50 a.m. in the occupied fourth unit. The cause of that fire is



Westland firefighters faced heavy smoke in battling two fires at the Holliday Park Cooperative Thursday and Friday.

still under investigation, Adams said.

“We need to rule out a number of things like electrical that may have been compromised by the first fire,” Adams said.

Firefighters were still on the scene midday Friday assisting the displaced residents in gathering belongings from their units. All had plac-

es to stay.

“Life safety is a number one priority for us, we made sure everyone has a place to go. They are all safe and dry,” Adams said.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$300,000, not including contents.

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Wild to attend mayors' White House reception

Westland Mayor William Wild has a very important date after being invited to join a delegation of mayors at a White House reception on Wednesday.

Wild will be in Washington, D.C., to attend the 80th Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors which will convene at the Capital Hilton Wednesday through Friday.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is a non-partisan national organization based in Washington D.C., with a member-

ship of hundreds of mayors across the nation representing cities with a population of 30,000 or more. Wild has been an active member since 2007 and has served on numerous committees and task forces.

The conference will allow mayors to discuss the most important topics plaguing the United States today, including job creation and employability, business development, education, childhood obesity and more.

Confirmed speakers

include U.S. HUD Secretary Shawn Donovan, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

“This conference gives me the opportunity to network and brainstorm with some of the most progressive mayors from across the country on finding creative solutions to issues that today's cities are facing,” said Wild.

CONTEST

Continued from page A1

I was surprised. I forgot what I entered for,” said Mansell, who works in receiving at Lowe's. “I thought it was \$1,000. I had all the paperwork. My mom was skeptical. It said I was a potential winner. They had to verify everything.”

Mansell's parents Kathy and Bob accompanied Wednesday her to the

official presentation of the ceremonial check by Culver's co-founder and CEO Craig Culver at the Westland restaurant. The prize money had already been given to Mansell on two Visa debit cards.

Noting the contest, designed to promote Culver's use of antibiotic-free premium chicken and Pepsi Max, was held at 445 restaurants in 19 states, Culver said. Mansell was a very lucky person to win the cash prize. “She had a great chick-

en sandwich — the best chicken sandwich she ever had,” Culver said.

With her prize money, Mansell said she plans to do exactly what the contest name says by paying some bills, using part of the money for a down payment on a new Ford and taking a trip to the California wine country. “Because I've never been there,” said Mansell, who is 33 and single.

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CORRECTIONS

• A story in the *Livonia Observer* on Thursday should have indicated that the former Exhibit Works company is now known as EWI Worldwide. The story should have indicated that a KIA interactive display created by EWI is also similar to Kinect Hack, which is a game.

• The H&R Block office at 2771 South Wayne Road in Westland is open, contrary to a Dec. 29 *Observer* story, “On deadly blast's anniversary, store's future uncertain.”

The story was about William C. Franks Furniture, which was destroyed in a December

2010 explosion that killed two employees, and it mentioned several neighboring businesses.

The furniture store, in the city of Wayne, was a block south of H&R Block, which is a seasonal office that opened Jan. 3 and remains open through Tuesday, April 17.

PROPOSAL

Continued from page A1

General Bill Schuette, LeBlanc said he began working with AG staff for a legislative solution prior to the opinion being released.

“The attorney general offered to be the co-pilot to advance this,” LeBlanc said.

As a courtesy, LeBlanc said he had called Wayne-Westland school board Vice President John Goci to let him know that the opinion was being requested. LeBlanc reached Goci, who was still out of the country, on his cellphone.

For his part, Goci defended using Skype to participate in board meetings while he was out of the country. It's a question of whether to

use technology to fulfill your board duties or just be absent, he said.

“I would think that Richard (LeBlanc) should be focusing on more important things. People are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads,” Goci said. “The future is very technology-oriented. People conduct business all over the world every day using this technology.”

Using Skype or a similar technology isn't a problem, Goci said, so there isn't a need to write a law to remedy the situation.

In conversations with a number of elected officials, LeBlanc said none disagreed with his proposal.

“One official said they didn't want an absentee government,” he said. “People want to see the body language. Sometimes it's beneficial for

people to fully see officials voting.”

The Wayne-Westland school board will follow whatever the law is regarding electronic participation in public meetings, board President Carol Middel said.

“I have no problem with electronic communications as long as it is not being abused,” she said. “Things come up in your private life that mean you could miss a meeting here or there for family reasons or your job. That shouldn't preclude you from serving.”

Middel added that she doesn't have a problem with LeBlanc's proposal. “Someone needs to make up their mind (regarding absentee participation) and then I'll follow it,” Middel said.

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BREAK-INS

Continued from page A1

had cut the screen to the doorwall off her deck and attempted to break in.

Along with the break-in at Bianchi's unit, West-

land Police Lt. Michael Match said there was a break-in reported Jan. 9. A third break-in was reported at a unit that was vacant. It was unclear when that happened.

In late December, Match said two residents

of the nearby Woodcrest Villa Apartments were arrested for attempting to break into a unit at Rivergate.

“They (the suspects) knocked on the back door. They were messing with the back door, but someone was home,” Match said.

A common ploy for break-ins is someone knocking on the door of a home in an effort to determine if the residents are home.

“I know this is huge for the residents, but I wouldn't consider this a rash of break-ins yet. We have assigned extra patrols to put an end to it,” Match said. “It's a crime of opportunity.”

There was a letter posted about the break-ins, but Bianchi said she was concerned that not many of her neighbors would see it and wanted a greater effort to spread the word.

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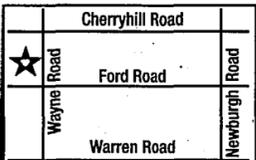
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Holidays come early for student letter writers



Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Brewer (from left), Senior Airman Rebecca Brewer and Ray Lopez, commander of VFW Post 9565 were the guests Kim Hutchinson (at right) brought to meet Shayla Weston's students.



Ethan Desjardins thinks about what he wants to say before writing his Valentine letter.

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

There were still visions of sugar plums in their heads, but students in Shayla Weston's fifth-grade class were well on their way to finishing valentine letters. With good reason. The messages are meant for U.S. military personnel serving in harm's way and getting them there can take a month.

"These kind of letters are a huge deal, they're very important," Staff Sgt. Matthew Brewer of Belleville said. "You can have cruddy days and mortar attacks, but the nice thing is getting a letter from a child."

Weston, who teaches at Marshall Upper Elementary School in Westland, has had her students writing letters for the troops since the start of the school year. In September, they wrote messages about 9/11, in October for Veterans Day and in November for Christmas. So just before their Christmas break, her students sat down to pen letters wishing troops a Happy New Year and

happy Valentine's Day. She started the project with the help of Kim Hutchinson, whose daughter Ashley is in her class.

"I had the idea last year and we did cards and letters at Schweitzer where Ashley was at, and continued them when she came here," said Hutchinson, who is the Ladies Auxiliary senior vice commander at VFW Post 4553 in Detroit. "I asked if it was OK to once a month do letters for the troops and she said yes."

The two women are proud of the students' work, calling it "very supportive, very patriotic." And Hutchinson also is proud of Weston, whom she had nominated for VFW Teacher of the Year in District 4. Much to her delight, Weston won and moves on to state competition.

Hutchinson has brought guests to the classroom, about a third of them are veterans or are in the military like Brewer and Senior Airman Rebecca Miller. Brewer is with the 127th Security Force Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base,

while Miller is on the command support staff. Both served a tour of duty in Iraq.

With a lot of boys in the class, Weston and Hutchinson make sure their letters are positive and filled with positive phrases.

"I thank them for what they have done," Jalen Hamilton said about his letter. "I wish them a happy holiday and tell them how I feel about what they're doing in the war."

He decorated his card with hearts and flags and "different kinds of symbols."

Michelle Ferrell's letter was one of thanks and hope.

"I thank them for what they did and told them I

hope they come home to see their family," she said, adding that she had written letters to the troops when she was in the second and third grades at Kettering Elementary. "It makes me feel happy to tell them that. I have a lot of family history, so it makes me feel good."

Arion Gamble believes it's important to send the

letters. She thinks the soldiers are probably "not happy to have to kill someone," so she sends letters to let them know "someone cares."

"I think about them sacrificing their lives for us, it makes me feel that they're family," she said. "I tell them I'm thankful for all they've done and ask how their day has

been." The students had plenty of questions for Brewer and Miller and, in return, they had a message for the students about the letters.

"I personally keep every letter I anyone sent me," Brewer said.

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However, the doctor is on even better grounds; his stand makes more medical sense. First, giving a medicine without a diagnosis is not good medicine. Giving steroids with no diagnosis is particularly dangerous as steroid has a euphoric effect and on that ground alone can make a patient feel better. At the same time the underlying process causing the pain continues unabated. When the steroid dose drops, the pain will return forcing the practitioner to give more steroid, or face the task of finding the cause of the pain; a task that should have begun before giving steroid dose pack.

Secondly, steroids in doses over 7-10 milligrams cause a myriad of side effects including glaucoma, cataracts, increased susceptibility to infection, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis and thinning/bruising of the skin. Also steroids taken over weeks to months cause a bloating of the face and body and thinning of the hair, making the person appear fat and ungainly.

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Dianne Laura recites her oath of office.



Newly elected board member Randy Roulier recites the oath of office administered by Judge Kathleen McCann.

School board under new leadership

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia school board has new leaders and new members.

The board Monday unanimously elected Patrice Mang as president, Greg Oke as vice president and Mark Johnson as secretary for 2012.

New trustees Dianne Laura and Eileen McDonnell, elected by voters to four-year terms during the November general election, were sworn into office by 16th District Judge Kathleen J. McCann.

They ran on platforms of improving communication and transparency.

Randy Roulier, an appointee elected to a two-year term in November, was also sworn into office by McCann.

'Common sense'
Resident William

Petersen, who follows local politics and was a member of the Observer's reader endorsement panel for the mayoral and city council races in November, said he is pleased with the new leadership. He said he moved to Livonia 11 years ago because the school district was great at the time, and he wants it to become great again.

He said the school board needed an infusion of "common sense."

"I think the new members bring a fair amount of that," he said. Lynda Scheel, the previous board president, was defeated by voters in November. Rob Freeman, the previous board secretary, did not seek re-election. Their terms ended Dec. 31.

The seven-member board voted on its new officers after the new-

ly elected trustees took their seats. Trustee Colleen Burton, who was board vice president last year, chaired the meeting.

No quick vote on bond

Mang said transparency and open communication "with everyone" are important to her. She said she wants all to have the opportunity to express themselves.

Mang was elected to the board in May 2008.

She said the board will take its time this year deciding whether to ask voters to approve a \$190 million bond proposal for school improvements.

It will also have to implement the most recent change in state law requiring school board elections to be held in November of even-



New board member Eileen McDonnell is sworn into office.

numbered years, Mang said. The Livonia board previously held annual elections.

Oke was elected to the board in 2007 to a one-year term to fill a vacancy and then re-elected to a four-year term in 2008.

Johnson was elected to the board in 2010.

Kids are top priority

Laura, a school board member from 1996 to 2000 and wife of Livonia City Council Vice President Joe Laura, said it was the third time McCann, a longtime friend, had administered the oath of office to her. "I promise that I take

my oath seriously," Laura said after thanking family, friends and supporters. "I won't forget our No. 1 priority — the children."

McDonnell said she will do her best to give Livonia students the best education possible.

She also thanked family members, friends and supporters for helping her to get elected, including former school board member Marge Roach, who made McDonnell stay home from a hockey game in order to work on her campaign.

Roulier, appointed in February 2010 to fill a vacancy left by Trustee Dan Lessard, who resigned, said he looks forward to the next three years of his term.

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Be ready for winter cold and weather

By Catherine Harman
Guest Columnist

The winter season is among us. Cold temperatures, ice, and snow are hazards to all ages. Even though winter can provide outdoor fun, it is import to be safe. The winter elements can cause grave problems for the young and elderly.

Although anyone who is unprepared cold can be badly affected, older people are particularly at risk for hypothermia, frostbite, snow shoveling injuries and falls. These risks can be avoided with proper safety knowledge and preparation.

Hypothermia is basically the reduction of normal body temperature. Adults age 50 and up are more susceptible to hypothermia than younger people. They have slower metabolisms and tend to produce less body heat than younger people. As people age, it becomes more difficult for them to tell when the temperature is too low. The skin over time thins and body heat insulation becomes less. A deadly drop in body temperature, or hypothermia, could result after long or short periods of time from cold exposure. Adults should be aware and know the warning signs of hypothermia to look for - shivering, cold pale skin or ashy looking skin, feeling very tired, confused and sleepy, weakness, problems walking, slow breathing or heart rate.

Some safety tips on how to avoid hypother-

mia include trying to stay indoors in very cold arctic conditions; wearing multiple thin layers of clothing - multiple thin layers are warmer than a single thick layer - and wearing a warm hat, gloves or mittens, proper winter jacket and boots, and a scarf to help protect your mouth, nose and lungs from the cold air. Finally, you must stay dry. These steps can help you avoid hypothermia.

Frostbite is another risk people face when exposed to cold conditions like hypothermia. Frostbite is injury to any part of the body after excessive exposure to extreme cold. In most people, frostbite usually affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes. In extreme cases, it can result in loss of limbs. People with heart disease and other circulation problems are more likely to get frostbite.

The first sign of frostbite starting is when your skin turns red or dark or starts hurting. If these signs happen, go inside right away and get warm. These are other signs of frostbite that has set in: skin that's white or ashy (for people with darker skin) or grayish-yellow, skin that feels hard or waxy and numbness. If you think you or someone else has frostbite, call for medical help immediately.

Remember that frostbite is an injury and can be very severe. The same steps that will help protect you from hypothermia will help protect you from frostbite.

Snow shoveling injuries are common among elderly adults. Injuries are usually caused by heart conditions and falls. When it's cold outside, your heart works extra hard to keep you warm. Working hard by shoveling snow, for example, may put too much strain on your heart, especially if you have heart disease and cause a heart attack. Back problems can occur from heavy lifting. Use proper lifting techniques when shoveling snow.

Fall injuries are very common accidents that occur every winter. Ice and snow are the main reasons for fall injuries. Be careful were you walk and try to avoid walking on ice and snow. Be extremely careful on stairs that are covered with ice and snow. And finally be careful for black ice and in walking at night. Most injuries occur at night. Be sure to have your driveway, sidewalks, and stairs cleared of snow and ice. If you can't do it, get someone else to for you.

Winter safety is the key to your health. Be sure to remember the signs of hypothermia, frostbite, and recognize potential fall hazards. Be sure to protect your heart and back while shoveling snow. Take the proper precautions when going outside in cold weather. By taking the proper precautions, you will be safe and enjoy the winter season.

Catherine Harman is chief of the Garden City Fire Department.

Westland's LeBlanc to seek county's 12th District seat

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Term limited as a state representative,

Richard LeBlanc is throwing his hat into the ring



LeBlanc

for a newly redistricted open Wayne County Commission seat that includes part of Westland and Garden City.

"I guess the reason I'm running, in part, is that my 18-year legislative career dovetails nicely with the commission," said LeBlanc, a Westland Democrat. "It's not a secret that I will be term limited Dec. 31, 2012. My hope is that the electorate would like to keep me in a legislative capacity, not at the state, but in a similar capacity."

LeBlanc is running in the county commission 12th District, which includes Garden City, Inkster and the northern part of Westland. The districts are being realigned based on 2010 U.S. Census population figures.

In the current county commission district, Westland is represented by Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, who would not be a resident of the new 12th District. Gebhardt isn't seeking re-election.

Garden City is currently part of the 9th District, along with

Redford Township and Dearborn Heights. The new 8th District will include Redford Township and Dearborn Heights, along with a portion of Livonia. Current 9th District Commissioner Diane Webb, D-Garden City, is relocating and will be running for re-election in the new district, which is approximately 90 percent of the existing 9th District. Webb is supporting LeBlanc in his bid for the county commission seat.

"LeBlanc has been a devoted public servant for many years, and I know he will bring his passion for serving citizens to the county commission," Webb said.

Employed at Ford Motor Co. for 11 years, LeBlanc served a term on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education and nine years as a Westland city councilman before being elected to the Legislature.

"As a local legislator, I've been an effective advocate for the residents of our communities, helping them one by one, for nearly two decades," LeBlanc said. "If elected, Garden City, Inkster and Westland residents will receive the same high level of responsiveness that has been demonstrated to my constituency during my seven terms of office since first becoming elected in 1992."

Jobs and economic development would be a focus for LeBlanc, along with the county budget and fiscal responsibility.

"County services are strained due to decreased tax revenue, yet issues involving our roads, crime and public safety and public transportation still deserve immediate attention," LeBlanc said. "This is an exciting opportunity to continue my record of accomplishment to the residents and businesses of the new 12th District."

Along with Webb, LeBlanc also has support from other officials, including Westland Mayor William Wild, Garden City Mayor Randy Walker and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

LeBlanc, 53, and his wife Cheryl have two adult sons and two grandchildren. LeBlanc has established a campaign website at www.RichardLeBlanc.net.

Webb expressed regret that she will no longer be representing Garden City, her hometown where she served on the city council.

"It saddens me to lose Garden City. There are so many awesome people that I love there, too, but I am greatly comforted by the fact that they have an experienced leader and a caring, hardworking candidate in Richard and I am confident that if the people choose him, they will be in good hands," Webb said.

The primary election is Aug. 7, with the general election Nov. 6.

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Preschool signups

The Lathers Child Development Center is currently taking names for its fall enrollment. The tuition/fee-based program will begin registration in March. For more information and to get on the mailing list, call secretary Kathy Ilich at (734) 762-8490 or director Sonya Griwicki at (734) 762-8440.

Fibro group

The Metro Fibromyalgia Group will meet 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, south of Ford Road, Garden City.

The speaker is from MiFi who will talk about adolescent and teenage fibromyalgia. Many young people are undiagnosed and dealing with fibromyalgia. The Metro group's goal is to spread the word about fibromyalgia, and this is the first time it is reaching out to younger people.

For more information, contact Ruthann Bruce, president, at arubobb@wideopenwest.com or go online to www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Scrapbook event

Calling all Scrapbookers to have a day of fun, food and fundraising. Garden City High School Project Graduation 2012 is having a Scrapbooking Fundraiser 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, in the cafeteria of the high school, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes meals. Many vendors will be on site. Registration information is available by e-mailing Lynn Collard at collard@gcity.k12.mi.us or by calling (734) 812-9526.

Tax preparers

The Accounting Aid Society seeks volunteers for the upcoming tax season to learn to prepare taxes and file credits for middle- to low-income families in southeast Michigan.

Accounting Aid Society estimates that it will need 674 volunteers who will help 20,613 families receive \$24.4 million in refunds and credits. Tax sites will be in community centers, libraries and other locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties from January through mid-April. Training includes tax law and tax computer software and is available at local colleges and universities, plus online.

For more information and to register, go to www.accountingaidsociety.org.

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Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, D-9th District, meets with residents 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month, while representatives of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is at the center 1:30-2:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, holds district hours 10:30-11:30 a.m. the fourth Monday of the month. Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

From 278 to 140: Weight loss is woman's health gain

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Lori Ward of Westland weighed 278 pounds before having surgery almost four years ago at the Michigan Bariatric Institute affiliated with St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

These days, using diet and exercise after the surgery, Ward, 57, is around 140 pounds.

"You have to keep exercising," the former Northville Township resident said. "That's what I find helps me a lot. The more I exercised, the more I felt better."

"Exercise to me is the number one thing you have to do. You've got to keep moving. You just feel better."

Ward works at the Canton dental office of Janis Hayward and Associates, and she has been featured in a recent ad campaign for weight loss through the Michigan Bariatric Institute, part of Trinity Health.

"It's been kind of fun," she said of the recognition. "I get a lot of that from the people who come in here (work). My 15 minutes of fame, basically."

She found her recovery from bariatric surgery smooth, and is confident she'll keep the weight off into her senior years. Ward had begun to put on weight over the 10 years before her surgery, not so much so when her four now-adult children were born.

"Fabulous," Ward said of how she feels now. "It's a lot better. In 2010, I actually did a mini-triathlon" in Lansing.

Ward swims, runs, works on the elliptical at



Lori Ward started at 278 pounds before her bariatric surgery. "Fabulous" is how she feels now. Ward, 57, works at the Canton dental office of Janis Hayward and Associates.



After surgery and shaping up, Lori Ward was able to do a mini triathlon recently.

the gym and does walking and some weights. She appreciates the help of husband Michael and their four children.

"They were very supportive," she said. "All of them are very happy for me." Her co-workers at the Canton dental office

THE SURGERY

There are several types of bariatric surgery, said Jenny Kasprzyk, dietitian for the Michigan Bariatric Institute, which does four of those. The surgery to modify the stomach and digestive system is generally only for patients 100 pounds overweight or more.

Kasprzyk described the "food journal" kept. "Keeping track of what you're eating makes a big difference," the Clinton Township resident said. That's especially true for bariatric patients but also for those with New Year's resolutions to drop 15 or 20 pounds.

Bariatric patients keep a focus on protein calories, Kasprzyk said, to change metabolism and make sure they're healthy: "We want to make sure we keep up with the proper nutrition."

She agreed it's best to see a doctor before starting a fitness regimen, to determine overall health and ability to work out. "It's kind of that old mantra of 'No excuses.' You just kind of have to break down those walls," said Kasprzyk, who recommends starting small on exercise and building up.

Ward was also a big help. "I'm a stress eater," explained Ward, who'd dealt with their son having cystic fibrosis and the death of her dad.

Through the Michigan Bariatric Institute — which is on Facebook — Ward worked on her diet even before the surgery as well as after. She attended nutrition classes

"I think the biggest tip is to find something you enjoy" and will stick with, she said.

As for food calories, Kasprzyk recommends eliminating the high calorie latte-type drinks, which have a lot of sugar and fat. Soda pop also represents empty calories, as does alcohol often consumed during the holidays.

"We tend not to get our water intake," Kasprzyk said. "Those liquid calories can add up very quickly." She's worked some four years at the Michigan Bariatric Institute, and enjoys seeing patients like Lori Ward achieve normal weight.

"Absolutely," Kasprzyk said. "I think that is the best part of my job to see those transformations. She probably never imagined she'd be where she is today."

Bariatric surgery does have risks for older people beyond Ward's age, Kasprzyk said, but regular weight loss is encouraged at any age. Her grandpa's in his early 90s and family members still talk to him about sugars in food.

"It's never too late," she said of fitness.

before surgery focusing on what she was eating. She learned to read food labels as well.

"It's a great program," she said of work with a dietitian.

Ward was back to work within 10 days of her surgery, which was covered by her health insurance.

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No slacker

Musician, carpenter branches into painting with first exhibit

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

One can safely say that painter Andrew Slackta's first solo exhibition doesn't live up to its billing.

"Slacker Art" — the name is a play on Slackta's longtime nickname — opened Tuesday at the Plymouth Community Arts Council and continues through Thursday, Jan. 26. The 35 oil paintings on display show Slackta's talent in landscape, portraits, still life and surrealism, his favorite genre.

"Slacker," who lives in Grand Blanc, is anything but. He's a professional carpenter and a singer-songwriter with a long interest in visual arts. He began working with oil paints just two years ago and says he reads every painting book he can get his hands on.

"It's a source of happiness for me," Slackta said Monday about his motivation for painting. "I think it's important to have something that you're passionate about."

Style choices

Slackta works in a variety of styles. He lists surrealist Salvador Dali as a major influence, and that can be seen in paintings like *The Edge of the World*, *Indecision* and *The Temptation of a Yellow Cosmos*. In the latter painting, a flower — the Yellow Cosmos — rooted in an island floating in darkness bends toward the light from a window in the upper left quadrant.

"To me, that's what it's all about, creating that

MEET THE ARTIST

A reception for Andrew Slackta is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Friday at the PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon (at Junction) in Plymouth. The public is invited. "Slacker Art" is on display through Thursday, Jan. 26; gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For more information, call (734) 416-4278 or visit the website www.plymoutharts.com. Slackta also has a website, www.slacktartist.com.

light within the painting," Slackta said. Slackta's work also shows the influence of impressionism, as in *4th of July 1982*, and the cub-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Andrew Slackta and PCAC volunteer Denise Cassidy Hang "Utah Sun."

ism of an artist like Pablo Picasso, as in *Melancholy in Red*, a small painting depicting a sad-

looking figure. A study of a whale skull, *River Whale* (based on a photograph published in *National Geographic* magazine), brings to mind the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, who painted the animal skulls she found in the Southwest.

Slackta often works off of photographs of his subjects, desiring to capture them at a single moment from an unchanging perspective. One large painting, the landscape *Utah Sun*, even contains an element found in the photograph itself and not the scene: the lens flare, or the sun's glare off the camera lens.

Slackta plays guitar and writes songs in the folk and folk-rock genres, and is a big fan of the late novelist Kurt Vonnegut, an influence on all his art. If Von-

negut's writings were music, he said, "that would be my kind of music."

Vonnegut homage

Slackta pays tribute to Vonnegut in one piece, *Kurt Vonnegut*, in which the writer's portrait looks out from the back of a beat-up acoustic guitar. Two other portraits on "found objects" are also in the exhibit — of Osama Bin Laden and Barack Obama, painted on a charred cookie sheet and a charred pizza pan, respectively. The portraits are set together as one work, *Osama and Obama*; the painter said the men represent two sides of the same coin.

Inspiration for his paintings can come from anywhere, Slackta said, but ideas don't necessarily come easily. "Prob-

ably as much time as I spend painting, I spend 10 times as much thinking about what to paint," he said.

Denise Cassidy of Plymouth, a painter in acrylics and a member of the PCACs exhibition committee, said she likes the variety and use of color and symbolism in Slackta's paintings. When he was presented to the committee for a possible show, she said, "the work spoke for itself."

Slackta said he's thrilled to have his own show, and that he's looking for objective feedback from visitors.

"As much as I enjoy painting in general, it's nice to show somebody the fruits of my work," he said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
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"Julia Rayne Cloud" is a portrait of the artist's daughter.

Schoolcraft activities honor MLK Day

Students, faculty, staff and the community are welcome to participate in several activities to be held at Schoolcraft College in Livonia in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday.

Bridging Barriers: Unity in Diversity and the college's Art Department will host a Student Art Exhibit from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. focused on the subject of civil rights and social justice. In addition to the opportunity to have their art featured in this special exhibit, one student will receive a \$100 Schoolcraft College gift card for use on tuition, books, food in Henry's Food Court, or items in the college's bookstore.

At 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Rita Crooks and Thomas Costello from Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion will host discussions based on Dr. King's speech, "Where Do We Go from Here?" delivered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in August 1967. Crooks and Costello will lead an exploration of social justice and equity, its evolution since 1968, and the opportunities for and benefits of ongoing efforts.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. student volunteers, coordinated through the col-

lege's Americorps VISTA initiative, will read multi-culturally diverse books, participate in games, and make crafts with school-age children to increase their understanding and appreciation for the work of Dr. King, ongoing efforts toward social justice and in celebration of diversity.

All of these activities will be held in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

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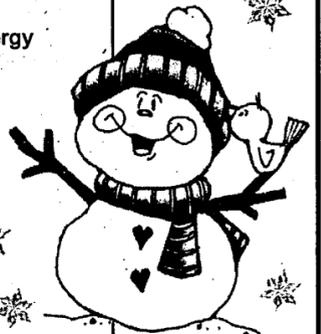
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King headlines arts fundraiser

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Fresh off a fall fundraiser that raised more than twice what it brought in last year, the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities will try it again this spring.

And this time, the partnership is turning to a local favorite to raise both funds and exposure for the arts in Canton and surrounding communities.

Steve King and the Ditties, playing their brand of rock favorites from the 1930s on, headlines "Rock-n-Roll Valentine's," a Feb. 10 concert at the Village Theater at Cherry

Hill in Canton. The event starts with a 7 p.m. reception, followed by the 8 p.m. concert.

"The wonderful thing about Steve King is they play rock-and-roll hits from the '30s on, spiced with comedy," said Jill Breen Engel, director of the Partnership. "He plays classic music that appeals to you if you're 20, or if you're 80. People can sing it, they can dance to it, they can relate to it."

The Partnership is flushed with the success of their October fundraiser, which featured Rod Stewart tribute act Danny Dee. That event raised \$6,350, more than double the \$2,999 raised at the

2010 fundraiser.

Engel said they tried to make the Danny Dee appearance "more of an event" that just a concert, including a reception and an afterglow at Hayden's in Canton.

"We've done a lot more marketing with the Partnership and the Village Theater," Engel said of the event's success. "Rod Stewart's music covers a larger age range, so it appealed to a wider age group."

The idea behind this new fundraiser — the first February fundraiser the Partnership has tried — is to bring even more exposure not only to the arts in general, but to the

Village Theater, which draws its biggest audiences from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Westland and surrounding communities.

"If I have an opportunity to gain more exposure for the Partnership and the theater, and to raise another \$10,000, why wouldn't I?" Engel said. "People want to see concerts like that at the Village Theater."

Engel and her husband, Frank, are among the sponsors of this event; other sponsors are Glenn and Patty Shaw and Don and Colleen Soenen.

Appetizers will be provided at the reception by PF Changs of Northville

and Station 885 in Plymouth, while the dessert comes from The Chop House in Ann Arbor.

Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon and Day Spa will be conducting Valentine's Day promotions. Hayden's Grill & Bar is the site of the afterglow following the event.

"Our event is about having fun, and promoting the Village Theater," Engel said. "If we can bring in new theater patrons to an event like this, and then they get a look at the schedule for the rest of the year, they're going to be back."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

ARTS CENTER STAGE

What: "Rock-n-roll Valentine's" concert
Why: To benefit the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities
When: Friday, Feb. 10; reception at 7 p.m.; concert at 8
Who: Features local favorite Steve King and the Ditties
Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton
Highlights: Reception features food from Station 885, PF Changs of Northville and The Chop House; Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon & Day Spa with Valentine's promotions

Move to Texas means some changes are needed

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I am retired and receive a pension and Social Security. Partly because of the changes to Michigan's tax law, I've decided to move to Texas. I sold my home and I plan on renting in Texas for at least a couple of years and then I may buy something. I have several questions regarding my move. Do I need to do anything with my estate plan? I have a will and a trust and powers of attorney. Secondly, currently for all my banking needs I use a credit union here in Michigan. Can I continue to use that when I go to Texas? And do I need to change the registration of my car to Texas?

A: I want to wish you good luck on your move to Texas. Texas' gain is Michigan's loss. First, with regards to your estate plan, you typically do not have to change your will and trust. More likely than not when your will and trust were draft-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

ed there was a provision included stating that if there were any disputes they would be governed by Michigan law. Therefore, even though you're in Texas, Michigan law would still govern. Therefore, if you're happy with your estate plan and it is up to date, then you really do not have to change your will and trust. However, it is a different story when we talk about powers of attorney.

When someone moves to a different state, I generally recommend that they draft new medical durable powers of attorney and general durable powers of attorney. I believe it is better to redo

your powers of attorney based upon the laws of the state where you will reside. In that regard, you may find that you don't necessarily have to see an attorney. There are many free fill-in-the-blank forms, particularly when it comes to medical durable powers of attorney. For example, in Michigan we have the Michigan Patient Advocate form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney available on my website (www.bloomassetmanagement.com). Other states, including Texas, also have forms that you can use that work just as well as any document an attorney can draft.

With regards to using your same credit union for such things as your direct deposit or Social Security and your pension, there are no problems. However, you will want to verify whether the credit union is geared

to handle out-of-state customers. For example, when you need cash, will you be able to visit any ATM machine, and what about the fees involved? If you find that the credit union is not geared for out-of-state clients, to avoid the hassle of resetting up your direct deposits, you may want to open an account at a local credit union in Texas and have it, on a regular basis, transfer money from your Michigan credit union. This would allow you to have something local and, at the same time, save you the hassle of changing your direct deposits and direct transfers.

With regards to your automobile, I definitely believe that once you move to Texas and become a Texas resident, your car should be retitled and you should obtain new automobile insurance. Auto insurance is

not standard throughout the country and policies differ. What I want to prevent is if you are in an accident in Texas, your current insurance trying to renege on their obligations. You and I both know insurance companies conveniently look for ways not to pay claims, therefore, it makes sense, since you will be a Texas resident, to retitle your car and obtain new insurance in Texas.

Since you will be getting a new policy, it is always a good idea to shop it around. Consult with your existing insurance policy to see if they offer coverage in Texas and, if so, what are the costs. Then, go online to get a competitive bid and also, why not get a referral from family and friends in Texas for a reputable local agent that you can deal with? Also, keep in mind that since you are going to rent, you may also need to obtain

some type of renters insurance to cover your personal possessions.

One last note and that is to invest the money from the proceeds of your home wisely. If you are going to buy something in Texas over the next couple of years, CDs may be your best bet. On the other hand, if the money is for more long-term goals, don't forget that even in Texas you're going to need a rising income. You want to make sure that you have a portfolio that has some equities.

Good luck in Texas and never forget, if things don't work out, you can always come home. 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 website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Burkey's Auto Repair has been providing quality car care in Livonia since July, 2010. We are a two-man business delivering honest and professional automotive repair and auto maintenance services to the people of Livonia and surrounding areas. We are quality ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified technicians and are equipped to handle all major and minor repairs on foreign and domestic vehicles.

We decided to open Burkey's Auto Repair after we had acquired the habit of eating every day and we realized we had outgrown the ability to work out of the home garage. The realization came when the only shoes I could find in my closet were for brakes; the only belts were serpentine. We found our shop in Livonia and since our opening have met wonderful Livonia residents and look forward to meeting more.



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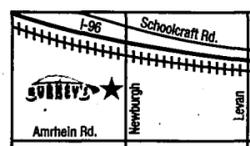
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Skate party raises 188 pounds of food for Gleaners

Dozens of "Rock Star Savers," members of Co-op Services Credit Union in Livonia, recently attended the third annual Rock n' Roller Skate Party to enjoy a fun evening of skating, games and prizes. The Rock Star Savers program, designed for children ages 11 and younger, teaches them that saving money, even a little at a time, can totally rock.

The party, held at the Bonaventure Skate Center in Farmington Hills, included free games, skate rentals, prize draw-

ings, pizza and pop. "We had more than 300 people attend this year's event, which was the biggest ever," said Jeremy Cybulski, Co-op Services' youth and community development coordinator. "It was the first time we requested canned donations to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank and collected a total 188 pounds of food from these very generous members."

The credit union's popular Rock Star Mascot was also on hand to greet the kids and pose with them

for individual picture taking. Rock Star Mascot is a frequent visitor to local elementary and middle schools that have student credit unions in partnership with Co-op Services.

Those schools include Cleveland Elementary, Coolidge Elementary, Cooper Upper Elementary and Hayes Elementary in the Livonia Public Schools district and Botsford Elementary and Grandview Elementary and Clarenceville Middle School in the Clarenceville School District.

"The skating party is one of the fun events that families look forward to each year," said Cybulski. "It's a great way for them to enjoy some free fun — especially during such an expensive time of year."

For more information about the Rock Star Savers program and Co-op Services Credit Union, visit www.cscu.org.

Headquartered in Livonia, Co-op Services Credit Union has more than 52,000 members and maintains eight full-service branch offices in the Detroit metro area.



Co-op Services' Rock Star Mascot poses by some of the canned donations for Gleaners Food Bank collected at the credit union's third annual Rock n' Roller Skate party.

Recovery of stolen autos up in 2011, H.E.A.T. reports

Since its inception in 1985, Livonia-based Help Eliminate Auto Thefts (H.E.A.T.) has been working in partnership with citizens and law enforcement to keep Michigan communities safe from the dangers and expense associated with auto theft-related crimes.

To date across its 26-year-history, H.E.A.T. has managed more than 9,100 anonymous tip calls and website submissions, which have led to the recovery of more than 4,400 vehicles valued at over \$54 million. As a result, more than 3,500 suspects have been arrested and more than 2,200 tipsters have been awarded some \$3.7 million for their information.

In 2011, H.E.A.T. saw an increase over its 2010 statistics across nearly every category. Additionally, the number of tips paid, the amount of tips awarded and the value of property recovered all saw increases over both 2010 and 2009 figures.

From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011, H.E.A.T. managed 338 tip calls, which led to the recovery of 97 vehicles (up from 77 in 2010) valued at over \$1.6 mil-

lion (up from approximately \$90,000 in 2010 and \$89,000 in 2009). Seventy-seven suspects were arrested and 55 anonymous tipsters received rewards valued at nearly \$117,000 (a nearly 30 percent increase from last year).

"We continue to be encouraged by and grateful for the active participation of Michigan citizens in protecting themselves and their neighborhoods from auto theft-related crime," said Terri Miller, H.E.A.T. director. "Thanks to their information and our tenacious partners in Michigan's law enforcement agencies, we are steadfast in our efforts to chip away at auto crime statewide."

To further assist in H.E.A.T.'s auto theft awareness and prevention in Michigan moving forward, the organization recently unveiled a revamped website at www.1800242HEAT.com. Visitors will find a more streamlined site and enjoy a more user-friendly format for learning about the H.E.A.T. program and auto theft prevention, as well as reporting anonymous tips.

AROUND WESTLAND

License plates
Romanowski VFW Post 6896 will be holding a license plate meet 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the post, 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland.

License plate collectors will have a chance to buy or sell with other people. Tables to set up on are \$5 each. Admission is \$5 a person. Children under age 12 will get in free and get a free license plate. All proceeds will go to the VFW.

For more information, contact Scott R. Olson by e-mail at ohawkeye@yahoo.com or by calling (734) 421-1599. Or visit the post's website at www.vfw6896.com/meet.html.

Train show
The Ss. Simon and Jude Usher's Club will sponsor a buy and swap train show, Railroadiana, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, in the church hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman Road, Westland.

Admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free.

There will be operating train layouts of various gauges and more 130 dealer tables. Tables are available at \$10 per table. To reserve tables, or for more info, call (734) 595-8327. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

Single serving Taste tickets are available for purchase for \$1 each. Some soft drinks will be available for purchase, and complimentary coffee and lemonade will be available. Ethnic cuisine from the countries of Bolivia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico and Spain will be offered by members of the parish, and attendees can vote for their favorites. Call the parish office at (734) 721-8745 or send an e-mail to saintmary150@gmail.com for more information.

The observance of St. Mary's 150th anniversary continues through December. It features a variety of events, including special Masses, dinners, dances, school reunions and more. Full details of the year's events are on the parish website www.stmary-wayne.org.

4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinochle and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The time also has changed for its popular game night due to early darkness. It'll be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Class reunion
Wayne Memorial High School class of 1957 is looking for classmates for its 55th class reunion which will be held May 19.

For more information, contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com or Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

Ethnic dinner
St. Mary Catholic Church continues its year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1862 with an Ethnic Smorgasbord Taste Fest, featuring the cuisine of 10 different countries, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22, in the parish's Activity Center at 34530 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

Spaghetti dinner
The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be

Spaghetti dinner
Help support your local veterans by attending an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner 5-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at AMVETS Post 171 in Westland.

The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under and children age 3 and under free. The dinner will include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, drinks and dessert.

The AMVETS Post is at 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland.

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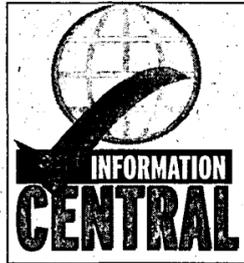
Lawmakers: Tax credit helps create jobs

The Michigan Economic Development Authority Board has approved a tax credit amendment for the U.S. Farathane Corporation to expand at its Westland and Shelby Township Facilities and build a new facility in another location. "This tax credit to help USF expand is great news for Westland and for our workers," said State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. "This will help USF grow and by putting more people to work that will help other local businesses and Westland's economy." USF designs and manufactures highly engineered plastic fabricated components. USF provides its customers with a wide range of full service support in product design, material selection and manufacturing capabilities primarily serving the automotive, consumer goods, electronics and heavy truck industries. The company continues to diversify itself into new markets and products through utilizing its existing capabilities and taking them to other industries. USF received a tax credit in 2009 for its new headquarters in Auburn Hills. This year's tax credit is an amendment to the 2009 credit so that they can expand

in Westland and other locations. This new expansion is expected to create 391 new jobs. The company currently has 1,033 employees in Michigan. "When new jobs are created in Westland everyone benefits," said LeBlanc. "Westland is a great place to do business, and I am pleased that USF wants to expand their operations in our community." Analysis suggests that this will provide a positive return on investment, totaling of \$65.5 million in additional revenue to the state, while at the same time creating 2,103 new jobs and retaining 1,249 by the year 2016. "I was excited to hear that the US Farathane Corporation was approved to receive this grant. Their Westland facility already employs 169 full-time employees, and this grant would mean an expansion of their facilities in Westland, as well as Shelby Township," said State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "This is exactly the kind of investment in our local companies that Michigan needs and an excellent example of how targeted investment can help Michigan's economy during these challenging times."

Auto show has lengthy history

It's January and for Detroit, that means it is time for the annual showing off of the automobile industry's newest and hottest concepts at Cobo Hall. We are able to get sneak peeks at what the future holds for automakers from around the world. But the NAIAS was not always international. Starting off, the auto show was regional and called the Detroit Auto Show, which some people still refer to it as. The very first show was held in 1907 at Riverview Park. Several years passed and the show continued to expand as cars became more popular and demand grew, causing the show to have to move around to different locations in Detroit, including the Michigan State Fairgrounds, the Wayne Gardens Pavilion and the Light Guard Armory. When World War II broke out, the United States economy faced massive restructuring. The U.S. did not get involved in the war until the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. President Roosevelt announced that there would be rapid mobilization and asked the auto industry leaders to shift production to tanks, planes, ships and guns. Initially, the automakers hoped to continue producing cars, as well, but soon the government banned the sale of all new automobiles. In 1957, foreign auto manufacturers were finally allowed to display their products at the show. European vehicles were now placed side-by-side with the vehicles from the Big 3. By the 1980s, planners of the Detroit Auto Show wanted to gain recognition and compete with the biggest auto shows around the world - in Paris, Tokyo, Frankfurt and Geneva. To do so, they needed the attendance of more foreign media. This was easily obtained



by having Japanese automakers debut their newest cars in Detroit. In 1989, the name of the Detroit Auto Show was officially changed to the North American International Auto Show. To get in the mood for attending the 2012 NAIAS, check out some books that take a look at the history of the automobile. There's Larry Edsall's *Legendary Cars: Cars that Made History from the Early Days to the 21st Century* and Hans Isenberg's *Great Classic Cars of the World*, which both give a pictorial overview of auto innovation. Another great title that focuses on the broader implications of the car is *The Automobile: A Chronology of Its Antecedents, Development and Impact* by Clay McShane. Whether you get a chance to make it down to Cobo Hall this year or not, you can still get your fill of all things car-related here at the Westland library. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or you can remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westlandlibrary.org.



suffered from epilepsy. He was able to keep his illness mostly hidden from the world until George's mother decided that Howard must be put in an institution for his safety and the safety of his family. Rather than face a life living in an institution, Howard flees never to be seen again. A limited number of copies are available at the Reference Desk. Everyone's welcome. **OverDrive Essentials and eBooks:** 7 p.m. Jan. 17. Come in to learn more about the Library's new OverDrive service, and what you need to get started downloading free audiobooks, eBooks and music to your computer or mobile device. We'll answer your basic questions, show you how to search for and check out content, and downloading eBooks to Nook and Kindle eReaders. Everyone's welcome. Sign up online at westlandlibrary.org/events or call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

Documentary Movie Night: 7 p.m. Jan. 18. This month's movie is *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold*. Do you ever wonder why the characters in your favorite movie or TV shows use a specific product? Morgan Spurlock brings us along for the pitch as he explores the quest to rake in advertising dollars through the sale of subliminal ad space in our favorite forms of entertainment. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone's welcome. No sign up required. **Friday Night Movie and Dinner:** 6 p.m. Jan. 20. Need to relax? Let us provide your food and entertainment needs with a Dinner and a Movie. Tonight's dinner will be provided by Famous Dave's BBQ (BBQ sandwich plus two sides, soft drink, and dessert). Cost is \$10 for dinner. Tonight's movie is *The Help*, about "an aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s who decides to write a book detailing the African-American maid's point of view of the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis" (imdb.com). This movie is rated PG-13. Doors for the dinner attendees will open at 6 p.m. Doors for movie only attendees will open at 7 p.m. Snacks and refreshments served. Trivia and prizes before the movie. **Job Seekers Lab:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays. Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed. **Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library:** 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters. **Chess Group:** 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign up required. Computer classes as well as one-on-one computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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

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

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold, registration fees may apply.

Publish: January 15, 2012

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PUBLICATION OF HEARING

STATE OF MICHIGAN
44th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION
LIVINGSTON COUNTY

PETITION NO. 1396801 NA

TO: JENA LYNN RAINERI

IN THE MATTER OF: DEVIN SHEEHAN 08/30/2000

A hearing regarding the court taking jurisdiction over the child will be conducted by the court on March 5, 2012 at 8:30 am in Livingston County Circuit Court before Judge Hackett Garagiola.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Jena Lynn Raineri personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.

This hearing may result in the termination of your parental rights

Publish: January 15, 2012

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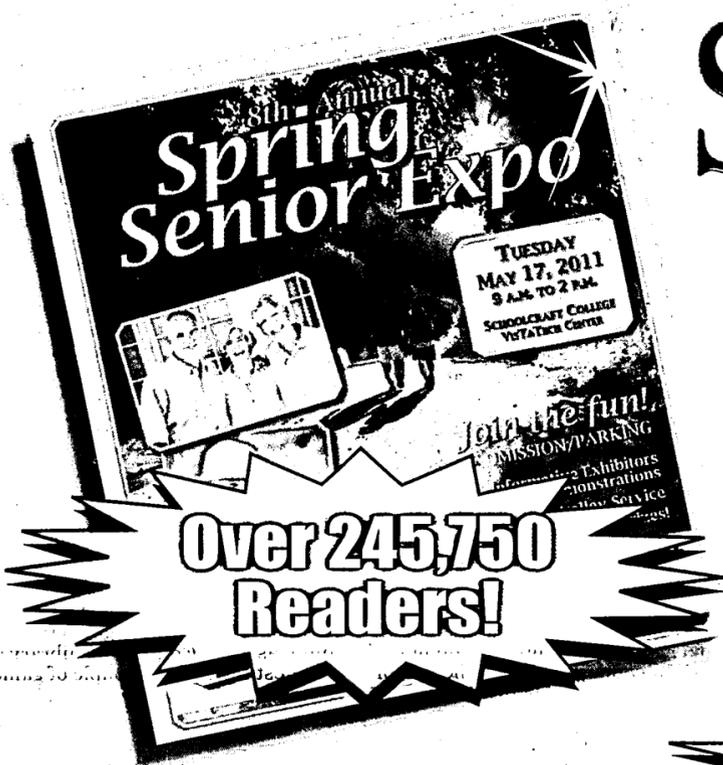
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Sweet Dreamzzz marks decade of helping kids get good rest

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

When it comes to getting a good night's sleep, the gift of a sleeping bag can mean a lot to a child in a low income family.

Nancy Maxwell, executive director of Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc. based in Farmington Hills, has seen many grateful recipients of the sleeping bags and blankets that the non-profit group provides.

"A little girl told our program director that she couldn't wait to go home because her sleeping bag was perfect for her closet, and that's where she slept," she said of one recent recipient at a Westland school.

Another child, a homeless boy at an Ypsilanti program, told them, "Thank you so much, I now have a bed."

Celebrating 10 years

Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc. is celebrating 10 years of providing sleeping supplies and sleep education.

It began when Kathleen Donnelly, of Farmington Hills, read an article about a boy in Detroit who slept under his coat in a burned out house with no heat.

Donnelly and a group of friends helped the boy and his mother, then went on to provide sleep kits to a low-income Detroit school, with the help of hundreds of volunteers and donors.

As the need became apparent, Donnelly and co-founders Maria Borri



Susan Fezzey of Farmington, left, had a Sweet Dreamzzz award established in her honor in 2011, which was presented to Candace Collins, a Farmington Public Schools teacher, at the group's annual celebration held in October.

and Maxwell incorporated Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc. in 2001. Its mission is to ensure that every child has a warm, comfortable night's sleep and is educated regarding the importance of sleep.

"I think sleep is probably the most overlooked component to a child's health and well-being," said Maxwell, of Farmington Hills.

Getting enough sleep also means better academic performance, she said.

The program has served some 33,000 children in southeastern Michigan so far, she said.

Various programs

Sweet Dreamzzz has programs for at-risk early childhood and ele-

mentary school children. Additionally, it has enrichment programs for all students, and holds parent and employee workshops.

Schools with at-risk children are pre-qualified for the program and there is a waiting list.

"It's the teachers who are saying we need the program," said Maxwell. "They see that the kids are coming in tired or unkempt."

Children learn about a good night's sleep through the Sweet Dreamzzz Rest. Educate. Motivate. (R.E.M.) Sleep Education Program. It was designed with the assistance of Wayne State University Professor Monica Tracey and the National Institute of

Health and Human Services.

The Sweet Dreamzzz kits include a sleeping bag for 4- and 5-year-olds, a blanket for 3-year-olds, a stuffed animal, a reading book, sleep activity book, crayons, toothbrush and toothpaste and a chart for parents to track good sleeping habits.

Caregivers, too

In the past year, the elementary program launched a curriculum that included a missing piece — parents.

The two-week curriculum for Oakland County children was for a non-profit agency, OLHSA, and its federally funded Head Start preschool and Connections programs.

SLEEP TIGHT

Sweet Dreamzzz recommends the following hours of sleep:

- ages 3-5: 11 to 13 hours
 - ages 5-12: 9-11 hours
 - ages 12-18: 8½ to 9 hours
 - adults: 7-9 hours
- Sweet Dreamzzz gives the following examples of good sleeping habits:
- Engage in relaxing behavior one hour before bed time, such as bathing and reading in low light.
 - Stop screen-time one hour before bed, including television, video games and computers.
 - Develop a routine for bed time.

Surveys showed a very positive response, she said.

Parents not only established good bedtime routines as they read *Goodnight Moon* to their kids, but learned such things as the appropriate number of hours of sleep their children needed.

"Their children were coming to school sleep deprived," said Maxwell, because parents believed they needed less sleep than they did. After their children received enough sleep, "the parents were saying, my child is better behaved."

"We tell them sleep is totally free — you can give your child this gift and it costs you nothing other than to establish a sleep routine and provide a warm, comfortable, quiet place to sleep."

Lots of help

The program costs \$15,000-\$17,000 per school, said Maxwell.

Donors and volunteers contribute to their mission.

The pilot OLHSA program was funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Detroit Auto Dealers Association Charitable Foundation Fund through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

School and community groups from Bloomfield to Garden City and Plymouth have collected and donated sleep kit supplies, she said.

Volunteer "sleep teachers" deliver the sleep education program.

The annual R.E.M.ember Celebration recognizes those who help the program.

In 2011, the Susan M. Fezzey Volunteer Award of Excellence was established in honor of Fezzey, a dedicated Farmington volunteer. The first recipient was Candace Collins, a Farmington Public Schools teacher, who received it at the October celebration.

Maxwell looks forward to continuing to help children get a good night's sleep.

"The waiting list has grown," she said. "Having the waiting list itself is motivation."

To find out more about Sweet Dreamzzz, visit sweetdreamzzz.org. The address is 23660 Research Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Phone: (248) 478-3242

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SPORTS

Charger onslaught ices Rocks

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

High-flying Livonia Churchill on Friday gave Salem an up-close look at why they're near the top of the Division 1 boys hockey rankings.

The No. 3 Chargers dominated their KLAAs South Division opponent for most of the contest at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, rolling to a 6-1 victory.

Leading the rout with two goals and two assists each were senior forwards Jake Otto and Devin Smythe, while senior forward Nick Proben and junior forward Thomas Carey each collected two helpers.

"If you were to ask them if they gave their best effort tonight the answer would be no," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, whose team had battled tough Brighton to a 3-3 tie two nights

earlier. "I think there's a lot more in the tank to give. But a lot of that has to do with the team we faced tonight."

"I don't think we've played a team as fast as they are yet, so decisions that are made in other games that worked, they don't work out here."

Scoring for the Rocks (5-6-1-1, 3-3-1-1) was sophomore forward Jack Driscoll, from sophomore forward Jake Sealy and senior defenseman Michael Manser.

But by that time, the Chargers (9-1, 5-1) had a commanding 4-0 lead and wide edge in territorial play.

Pretty special

And Churchill needed just 80 seconds for Smythe to answer the Driscoll goal with a shorthanded marker, opening up a 5-1 edge

Please see CHARGERS, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Churchill's Matt Sinclair (17) rushes the puck up the ice against Salem's Alex Zultowski (2) during Friday's Kensington Conference game.

1st pitch for MU baseball

Terry Foster of WXYT-FM (97.1) and The Detroit News will be the featured speaker as the Madonna University baseball team will stage its annual 1st Pitch banquet beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Italian American Club in Livonia.

Tickets, which are tax-deductible, are \$60 each or \$110 per pair. Youth tickets are \$30 (12 and under).

Table sponsorships are also available and reservations must be received by Jan. 20.

Raffle items are also needed as donations.

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820 or e-mail bjhvolves@aol.com.

CHS athletic fundraiser

The Livonia Churchill High Athletic Patrons will stage its annual dinner fundraiser 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at The Coaches Corner, located at Seven Mile and Farmington roads.

The event features food and fun, with all proceeds benefitting Churchill athletics.

Hourly 50-50 drawings will be held.

Rod Hawrany and Mario D'Herin of Roger and Rod's Barber Shop will serve as guest bartenders.

For more information, call the Churchill athletic office at (734) 744-2650, ext. 46117.

WYAA hoops

Registration continues for Westland Youth Athletic Association basketball 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Age groups offered include: Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12) and Varsity (13-16).

Right Start games will be played at Upper Elementary School, while Freshman, JV and Varsity will be at the Bailey Recreation Center.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640.

Arctic Chill triathlon

The Arctic Chill Indoor Triathlon, sponsored by the city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, will be at 7 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Pre-registration has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

Age-group competition includes: 18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60 and 61-and-over.

The cost is \$35 per person. Check-in time is 30 minutes before assigned start time.

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

Glenn slugs out win over Wayne

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

If you loved defense, then Friday's Westland John Glenn at Wayne Memorial boys basketball clash was the place to be.

But if you're big fan of offense, you might have asked for a ticket refund.

Despite 22 turnovers and 12-of-24 foul shooting, Glenn emerged the victor thanks to a 16-4 third-quarter run to beat the stubborn Zebras, 43-37.

Glenn, getting 15 points from senior forward Eric Covile and 13 from Nick Daniels, improved to 6-2 overall and 3-0 in the KLAAs South.

But the victory did not come without some anxious moments down the stretch as Glenn held on by making 4-of-8 foul shots in the final 2:11.

"We made plays when we had to," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "We had kick-outs. We rebounded the ball late. We made just enough plays to get out of here. But you know, it's Wayne-Glenn, and I told the guys it was going to be hard. I think they

now know it was hard."

Wayne led 20-15 at halftime as the Rockets committed 12 turnovers and hit only 6-of-17 shots from the floor.

"We were all not happy at halftime," Young said. "All players, coaches, everybody . . . Obviously we came out in the third quarter and held them to four points and that turned the tide for us."

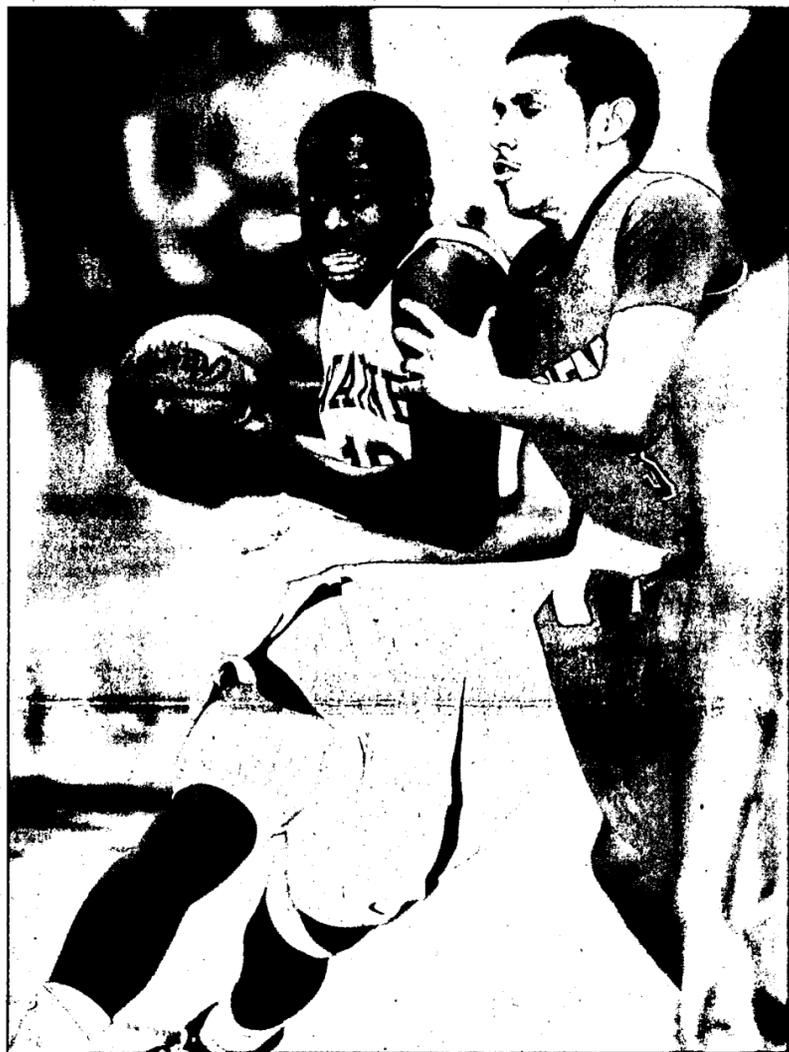
Covile, a 6-foot-4 senior, had seven straight points during the third and the Rockets, leading 31-24, carried that momentum into the fourth.

But Wayne (4-4, 1-2) refused to fold after falling behind by as many as eight with 4:14 left following a triple by Daniels.

Michael Cooper answered with a triple with 3:32 remaining to cut the deficit to 38-35 and Thomas White's basket with only 1:28 to play made it 39-37.

Wayne, however, couldn't get over the hump. The Zebras missed five straight shots in the final minute, including two misses to tie it with

Please see GLENN, B3



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO
Wayne's Michael Cooper (left) gets checked by John Glenn defender Desmond Cervera during Friday's KLAAs South Division clash.

Falcons swoop by Ladywood, 56-35

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood learned quickly Thursday night that trying to play catch-up against the defending state Class B girls basketball champions is recipe for disaster.

The host Blazers missed their first seven shots and fell behind 17-8 after one quarter as Catholic League Central Division leader Dearborn Divine Child cruised to a 56-35 victory.

"It's been our focus the last several games of starting stronger and having more positive possessions from the get-go," said Divine Child coach Mary Laney, whose team avenged a loss on the Blazers' home floor last year. "I'm just glad to see one of our goals was accomplished."

"Our defense was really stifling tonight. And I think obviously with the amount of fast-break points and high-percentage shots we got . . . our defense really contributed tonight."

Divine Child, now 8-2 overall, has now swept all four Central Division foes after the first

round in the Catholic League.

The Falcons, who shot a blistering 52.3 percent from the floor (22-of-42), got a game-high 20 points from sophomore guard Nicole Urbanick.

University of Detroit Mercy signee Rosanna Reynolds, a senior guard, added 11, while 5-9 junior guard Morgan Blair contributed eight of her 10 during the opening quarter.

"She got good looks, took her shots and obviously this was her best scoring night," Laney said of Urbanick. "Blair is playing against a lot of players who were her elementary school teammates. That's added incentive when you have that kind of rivalry, but she's been a phenomenal defender and passer, and scoring about 10 or 12 a game as well."

Ladywood trailed 33-22 at the half and never got closer the rest of the way as DC opened up a 43-23 advantage with 3:36 left in the third quarter on a pair of free throws by Blair.

"They dug in and played hard," Ladywood coach Antho-

Please see LADYWOOD, B2



Ladywood's Morgan Chops (14) spins inside for the shot against Divine Child's 6-foot-4 center Maylaysha Cammon during Thursday's Catholic League Central Division clash.

New-look Spartans



The Livonia Stevenson boys swimming and diving team recently continued their annual hair bleaching tradition at Cher Salon, located at 21012 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Three years ago Cheryl McEvoy offered her salon and staff for the event when her son, Jack, was a diver. Three years ago Cheryl McEvoy offered her salon and staff for the event when her son, Jack, was a diver. Among those who participated in the event included (front row from left): Jake Goeddeke, Michael Chen, Tanim Islam, Tim O'Donohue, Evan Daniels; (second row, from left): Sean Reppenhagen, Cheryl McEvoy, Tom O'Donohue, Bradley Bielicki, Eric Ferrara, Zack McCarter; (back row, from left) John Ferrara, Bryan Frederick, Mike O'Donohue, Devin Dely, David Ptashnik and Brandon Bielicki.

Crusader signee



Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger (left) recently signed three players to NAIA National letters-of-intent including Brent Ochodnicki (right), a 6-foot-5 senior left-handed pitcher from Livonia Churchill High. Ochodnicki, a two-time scholar-athlete, helped Churchill to the KLA South Division co-title and earned Pitcher of the Year for the Chargers as a junior. "You don't see great velocity out of him yet, but he's still growing into that body," Haeger said. "He's got a nice, long arm action and he's a young man that if he works and continues to put on weight, he'll be a great pitcher for us." Haeger also signed Salem catcher Brett Ramirez along with 6-6 right-handed pitcher A.J. Susick of Auburn Hills Avondale.

Glenn matmen pin two top-notch foes

Westland John Glenn's wrestling team, despite a 10-1 dual meet record, has not received any consideration yet in the Division 1 state rankings.

But the may change soon for the Rockets, who could be cracking the top 10 after scoring a pair of impressive dual meet victories Wednesday night at home over KLA South Division foe Canton, 36-24, and No. 8-rated Southgate Anderson, 36-27.

It was Glenn's second victory this season over a top 10 opponent. In December, Glenn defeated No. 10 Clarkston in the

Rocket Duals.

Double winners on the night for Glenn includes Kyle Gillies (103 pounds), Anthony Long (152), Travis Mann (160), Danny Croft (171), Jordan Brandon (215) and Dylan Morantes (285).

Spartans prevail

Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team won a KLA Central Division quad meet Thursday at Novi in dramatic style.

The Spartans and Salem were tied at 36-all going into the final match and 103-pounder Marco Lytwyn came through with a first-period pin to

seal Stevenson a 42-36 dual match triumph.

Stevenson also defeated South Lyon East, 54-30, to improve to 4-5 overall.

Lytwyn went 2-0 on the night along with Darren Tran (125-130), Corey Davis (135-140), Kody Roy (145-152), Samer Shebak (145-152) and Jacob Range (215).

"Every day I keep telling the boys to work hard to get better," said Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan, whose team is 2-0 in the Central. "It was nice to get the wins, but we made many mistakes that need fixing."

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 36 CANTON 24

Jan. 11 at John Glenn
103 pounds: Kyle Gillies (WJG) pinned Bobbi Kincaid, 1:14; **112:** Ben Griffin (C) p. Rod Watts (WJG), 1:23; **119:** Richard DeMarois (C) decisioned Austin Hartford, 7-2; **125:** Austin Pillmar (C) dec. Quinn DuPraw, 10-8; **130:** Keshav Patel (C) won by major dec. over Brett Quinn, 11-2; **135:** Jessé O'Neal (WJG) dec. Mark Pryz, 3-1; **140:** Alec Pantaleo (C) won by technical fall over DeAndré Moore, 18-2; **145:** Zach Marsh (C) dec. Keven Wacker, 12-8; **152:** Anthony Long (WJG) p. Dylan DeClue, 0:26; **160:** Travis Mann (WJG) p. Ryan Morelli, 0:48; **171:** Danny Croft (WJG) p. Pat Murphy, 0:44; **189:** Chris McCowan (WJG) p. Alex Cole, 1:00; **215:** Jordan Brandon (WJG) p. Scott O'Brecht, 0:31; **285:** Dylan Morantes (WJG) dec. K.J. Wooley, 6-3.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 36 SOUTHGATE ANDERSON 27

Jan. 11 at John Glenn
103 pounds: Kyle Gillies (WJG) won by void; **112:** Jared Fernandez (SA) pinned Rod Watts, 1:20; **119:** Logan Parks (SA) decisioned Austin Hartford, 7-3; **125:** Raven Schmitt (SA) dec. Quinn DuPraw, 8-4; **130:** Jacob Balough (SA) dec. Jesse O'Neal, 11-9; **135:** Alex Malloy (SA) p. Brett Quinn, 1:27; **140:** Tyler Carson (SA) dec. DeAndré Moore, 3-1; **145:** Keven Wacker (WJG) dec. Josh Lockwood, 10-7 (overtime); **152:** Anthony Long (WJG) dec. Marian Bugos, 7-2; **160:** Travis Mann (WJG) p. Cody Stanley, 3:20; **171:** Danny Croft (WJG) p. Jake Deibis, 1:04; **189:** Devon Bronson (SA) p. Chris Donaldson, 0:29; **215:** Jordan Brandon (WJG) dec. Ben Dominguez, 8-4; **285:** Dylan Morantes (WJG) p. David Valez, 1:06.
John Glenn's dual meet record: 10-1 overall, 1-0 KLA South Division.

KLAA CENTRAL QUAD Jan. 11 at Novi

LIVONIA STEVENSON 54 SOUTH LYON EAST 30
103 pounds: Marco Lytwyn (LS) pinned Aaron Hoorn, 1:35; **112:** Caleb Hill (SLE) p. Emmanuel Austin, 2:20; **119:** Noah Keefer (SLE) won by void; **125:** Darren Tran (LS) won by void; **130:** Alex Hessler (SLE) p. Shaun Lopes, 3:56; **135:** Corey Davis (LS) p. Jess Straklin, 1:25; **140:** Kody Roy (LS) p. Eddie Clark, 1:00; **145:** Samer Shebak (LS) won by void; **152:** Connor Vaughan (LS) won by void; **160:** Joe Carroll (LS) won by void; **171:** Jacob Kelley (LS) won by void; **189:** Casey Fadden (SLE) p. Joe Scott, 2:35; **215:** Jacob Range (LS) p. Luke Patterson, 1:42; **285:** Dom Carendongo (SLE) p. Ricky Roy, 0:30.

STEVENSON 42 SALEM 36

103 pounds: Marco Lytwyn (LS) pinned Joey Taylor, 1:30; **112:** Alex Arble (Salem) p. Emmanuel Austin, 1:03; **119:** Caleb McCabe (Salem) won by void; **125:** Cody Korpus (Salem) won by void; **130:** Darren Tran (LS) won by void; **135:** Jacob Tennis (LS) won by void; **140:** Corey David (LS) p. Justin Cook, 1:10; **145:** Kody Roy (LS) p. Riley Dostader, 0:51; **152:** Samer Shebak (LS) p. Connor Thornburgh, 0:36; **160:** Tyler Grosse (Salem) p. Joe Carroll, 3:56; **171:** Alex Brown (Salem) p. Jacob Kelley, 2:35; **189:** Joe Scott (LS) decisioned Mitch Gross, 7-5; **215:** Jacob Range (LS) dec. Jake McCabe, 12-7; **285:** Ali Alamo (Salem) p. Ricky Roy, 5:13.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 4-5 overall, 2-0 KLA Central Division.

KLAA SOUTH QUAD Jan. 11 at Wayne Memorial WAYNE MEMORIAL 63 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 14

103 pounds: Jake Preiss (WM) pinned Zachary Smith, 1:02; **112:** Josh Perez (LC) decisioned Tyler Mulligan, 10-8; **119:** Jonathon Locklear (LC) p. Tim Way, 3:21; **125:** Jake Hale (LC) p. Michael Gossett, 1:44; **130:** Devon Adams (WM) p. Josh Messerall, 2:48; **135:** Michael Nicholson (WM) p. Justin Baker, 1:39; **140:** Allen Parker (WM) p. Cameron Valentine, 0:50; **145:** Micheil Hood (WM) won by void; **152:** Sharif Hegazi (WM) p. Daniel King, 0:57; **160:** Sam Ekanem (WM) p. Matt Siemasz, 1:37; **171:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Jacob Sarn, 3:35; **189:** Devin Korzetki (WM) p. Nathan Dietrich, 0:13; **215:** Colin Mullins (WM) p. Jacob Mercieca, 0:25; **285:** Dimitrus Renfro (WM) dec. Emmanuel Haddad, 9-2.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 47 PLYMOUTH 28

103 pounds: Jeffrey Harris (P) pinned Jake Preiss, 0:46; **112:** Tyler Mulligan (WM) p. Daniel Ahern, 4:11; **119:** Trey Berry (P) decisioned Tim Way, 6-4; **125:** Chase Kallil (P) dec. Tristan Jarosiewicz, 6-2; **130:** Jon Conn (P) p. Michael Gossett, 2:54; **135:** Devon Adams (WM) p. Hussian Yousef, 4:54; **140:** Said Yousef (P) won by major dec. over Michael Nicholson, 10-1; **145:** Allen Parker (WM) p. Samuel Campbell, 1:31; **152:** Sharif Hegazi (WM) p. Tarek Tamimi, 1:12; **160:** Matt Walsh (P) p. Sam Ekanem, 2:45; **171:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) won by technical fall over Joseph Shaver, 17-1; **189:** Devin Korzetki (WM) p. Matt Ayoub, 0:30; **215:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) p. Faris Abraham, 1:23; **285:** Dimitrus Renfro (WM) p. Adam Dulong, 0:37.
Dual meet records: Wayne, 8-0 overall, 2-0 KLA South; Churchill, 2-7 overall, 0-2 KLA South.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 104 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 75

Jan. 10 at John Glenn
200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Joey Wakeford, Nick Stevens, Josh Wakeford, Dave Vader), 1:49.01; 2. John Glenn, 2:00.79; 3. Churchill, 2:01.39.
200 freestyle: 1. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 1:54.79; 2. Derik Atzinger (LC), 2:02.86; 3. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 2:03.36.
200 individual medley: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 2:12.29; 2. Franklin Qiu (LC), 2:28.25; 3. Tim Moran (WJG), 2:29.0.
50 freestyle: 1. Nick Stone (WJG), 24.63; 2. Vader (WJG), 24.69; 3. Kenny Denstaedt (LC), 25.14.
1-meter diving: 1. Ainsworth Orr (WJG), 159.10 points; 2. Sean Taylor (WJG), 128.25; 3. Nick Taylor (WJG), 113.25.
100 butterfly: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG) 56.79; 2. Bradley Johns (LC), 1:08.15; 3. Jacob Burdicki (WJG), 1:08.34.
100 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 52.98; 2. Cody Hodges (WJG), 55.84; 3. Vader (WJG), 56.03.
500 freestyle: 1. Ferguson (WJG), 505.78; 2. Atzinger (LC), 5:30.0; 3. Alholinna (WJG), 5:50.18.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Churchill (Atzinger, Michael Sessamen, Qiu, Denstaedt), 1:44.21; 2. John Glenn, 1:44.61; 3. Churchill, 1:57.73.
100 backstroke: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 57.66; 2. Johns (LC), 1:03.72; 3. Burdicki (WJG), 1:10.67.
100 breaststroke: 1. Qiu (LC), 1:13.36; 2. Nick Stevens (WJG), 1:13.53; 3. Moran (WJG), 1:15.28.
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Josh Wakeford, Vader, Ferguson, Joey Wakeford), 3:39.45; 2. John Glenn, 3:58.1; 3. Churchill, 4:10.04.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 3-0 overall, 1-0 KLA South Division; Churchill, 1-3 overall, 0-1 KLA South.

NOVI DETROIT CC 92 LIVONIA STEVENSON 80

Jan. 12 at Stevenson
200-yard medley relay: 1. Catholic Central (Jack Walsh, Ryan Newman, Dan Szuba, Jake Szuba), 1:41.07; 2. Stevenson (John Ferrara, Jim McNamara, Bradley Bielicki, Brandon Bielicki), 1:41.81; 3. Catholic Central, 1:52.03.
200 freestyle: 1. Colin Brinkman (CC), 1:49.27; 2. Grant McNamara (LS), 1:55.27; 3. David Ptashnik (LS), 1:57.59.
200 individual medley: 1. Walsh (CC), 2:00.82; 2. Ferrara (LS), 2:02.48; 3. J. McNamara (LS), 2:06.65.
50 freestyle: 1. Brandon Bielicki (LS), 23.18; 2. T. Szuba (CC), 23.24; 3. D. Szuba (CC), 23.5.
1-meter diving: 1. Eric Rathgeber (LS), 176.18 points; 2. Jesse Damesworth (LS), 164.85; 3. Brian Atiyeh (LS), 155.41.
100 butterfly: 1. D. Szuba (CC), 56.55; 2. Ptashnik (LS), 59.4; 3. Christopher Vela (CC), 59.54.
100 freestyle: 1. T. Szuba (CC), 50.59; 2. Brandon Bielicki (LS), 51.14; 3. Neil Robinson (CC), 54.59.
500 freestyle: 1. Walsh (CC), 4:55.09; 2. G. McNamara (LS), 5:07.72; 3. Simon Shanks (CC), 5:16.73.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Catholic Central (Brinkman, T. Szuba, D. Szuba, Shanks), 1:35.53; 2. Stevenson (J. McNamara, G. McNamara, Ptashnik, Brandon Shatter), 1:37.99; 3. Catholic Central (Grayson Arnold, John Clinger, Aidan Schenkus, Alex Elenbaas), 1:44.7.
100 backstroke: 1. Ferrara (LS), 54.64; 2. Brinkman (CC), 55.91; 3. Robinson (CC), 58.54.
100 breaststroke: 1. Newman (CC), 1:02.64; 2. J. McNamara (LS), 1:03.42; 3. Jacob Collier (LS), 1:08.53.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Catholic Central (Vela, Shanks, Walsh, Brinkman), 3:26.44; 2. Stevenson (Ferrara, Parker Belmonte, Bradley Bielicki, Brandon Bielicki), 3:28.64; 3. Stevenson (G. McNamara, Ptashnik, Alex Lee, Shatter), 3:39.24.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 2-1 overall.

LADYWOOD

Continued from page B1

ny Coratti said of the Falcons. "We played hard, but we didn't put the ball in the basket. You've got to make shots to be successful."

"They're very talented and it showed. They beat our butts and hats off to them."

Ladywood committed a total of 22 turnovers and shot only 12-of-46 from the floor (26 percent).

"They (Divine Child) play hard defensively," said Coratti, whose team stands 5-5 overall and 1-1 in the Central Division. "They did a good job defensively

pressing us. We made some uncharacteristic errors. It's stuff that we can correct. I know our kids will battle and find a way to get this ship right."

Ladywood had trouble solving DC's 2-3 zone defense.

"We've got to change sides of the floor and show a little more patience," the Ladywood second-year coach said. "We want to attack, but we were in a little bit of a hurry today when we got down. We were trying to make a 10-point shot when you're down 18. Our kids aren't in that situation a lot, so ..."

Ladywood junior point guard Andie Anastos fin-

ished with 14 points, while junior forward Kiley Gorski added eight off the bench. Junior guard Shelby Walsh contributed six on a pair of 3-pointers.

The 5-8 Anastos was the main focus of the Falcons' defense.

"Stopping Anastos, just trying to keep her out of the game as much as possible and stop her drive, which I don't know is possible because she's such a great, physical player, and such an aggressive player," Laney said. "But to kind of take her out of the game was the game plan."

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BOYS HOOPS

Hot start propels Stevenson to win

After dropping their first two KLAA Central Division boys basketball games of the season, the Livonia Stevenson boys basketball team played giant killer Friday night.

The Spartans jumped out to a 25-9 first-quarter advantage and never looked back en route to a 67-57 victory over previously unbeaten Salem.

Jonathan Campbell and Joe Mims paced a balanced Stevenson scoring attack with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

Senior center Austin Bumpus added a double-double with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Stevenson, now 5-2 overall and 1-2 in the Central, led 9-0 at the start and connected on four 3-pointers during the first period.

"We kept the pedal to the metal for the entire 32 minutes and that's how Stevenson basketball needs how to play," first-year coach Brandon Sinawi said. "Guys were taking good, smart shots."

Salem (8-1, 2-1) got 11 points apiece from Chris Dierker and Tyler Stewart.

The Rocks made 12-of-20 free throws, while Stevenson hit 18-of-28. **FRANKLIN 51,**

CHURCHILL 39: Senior center Jake Barham's 16 points and 14 rebounds powered Livonia Franklin (2-6, 1-2) to a KLAA South Division win Friday at home over Livonia Churchill (2-5, 0-3).

Tommy Smith and Andrew Lebbos added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for the Patriots, who led 23-14 at half-time and put it away with a 14-7 fourth-quarter run.

HAZEL PARK 72, C'VILLE 60: Deonte Brown's game-high 20 points propelled the Vikings (4-4) to a victory Friday night at Livonia Clarenceville (2-7).

Damon Hammon and Erick Bolitho contributed 14 and 10 points, respectively, for Hazel Park, which led 36-28 at halftime.

Sam Brown and Damien Quarles each tallied 15 points, while Austin Douglass added 11 for the Trojans.

Clarenceville was 12-of-20 from the foul line, while Hazel Park hit 14-of-21.

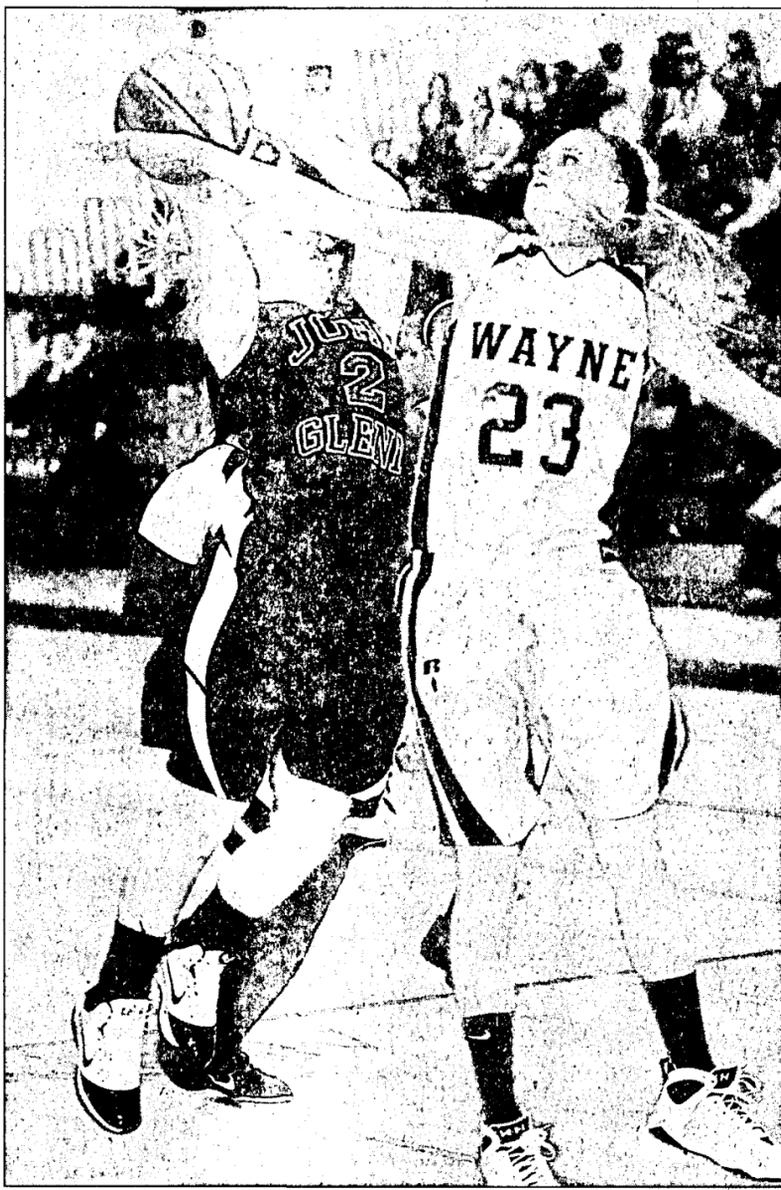
FRANKLIN ROAD 67, HVL 45: Despite a team-high 26 points from sophomore Ryan Schaffer on Friday night, visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (2-4, 1-2) fell to MIAC Red Division leader Novi Franklin Road Christian (3-4, 3-0).

Quinn D'Ascendo paced Franklin Road and all scorers with 31 points. Nick Harris and Jalen Walker chipped in with 14 and 10, respectively.

"It may sound funny, it we played our best game of the year," Huron Valley coach Jim Ott said.

The Hawks, who trailed 35-20 at intermission, made only 10-of-21 free throws on the night.

The Wildcats were 8-of-13 from the line.



John Glenn's Abbey Wright (left) tries to avoid getting her shot blocked by Wayne's Holland Boertje in Friday's KLAA South Division clash.

OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

GLENN

Continued from page B1 a minute remaining and a pair of triple tries with just under 30 seconds to go.

The Zebras connected on only 13-of-59 shots from the floor (22 percent) and went 8-of-16 from the foul line.

"I can live with that if we keep playing intensely on defense," Wayne coach Mike Schuette said. "But I wish we had shot better from the free-throw line, especially down the stretch. And we had one putback that should been in that went short."

"But you know, this is a great rivalry. Both teams played hard defensively and that's why the score was what it was."

Cooper and White each tallied 10 points to lead Wayne.

Jordan Lowry, who was all over the glass, chipped in with seven and Brian Smith had six.

"I give a lot of props to Wayne," Young said. "I thought they played, for the most part, better than we did. They outlasted us, they outworked us. They got more offensive rebounds and more shots because of that. And we were very fortunate to win the game."

Wayne's relentless offensive rebounding factored into taking 20 more shots from the field than Glenn. The tall-



John Glenn's Eric Covile (11) grabs the rebound in Friday's 43-37 victory at Wayne Memorial.

OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

er Rockets were 15-of-39 from the floor (38 percent).

"We attacked the basket with our little guys who played big," Schuette said. "I was very happy, and one of them was Jordan Lowry, who did a great job for me underneath. I'm pleased."

"But give credit to Glenn. They didn't give us a lot of good shot selections either. Their defense is pretty good, so we took what we could take and hopefully next time we can get a foot in here, or a little spacing a little differently and see what happens."

The next meeting between the two teams is Friday, Feb. 3 at Glenn.

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Rocket booster Covile back; Graves nets 31 vs. Wayne

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Erica Covile's return to the lineup was a welcome sight Friday night for an already Westland John Glenn girls basketball team.

The 6-foot-1 Covile, who had been out since mid-December after suffering a setback with her surgically repaired knee, scored 17 points as the KLAA South Division leaders pulled away in the second half to down host Wayne Memorial, 70-38.

One of the beneficiaries of Covile's return to the lineup with 5-8 senior guard ShaKeya Graves, who poured in a career-high 31 points.

"Erica got the green light," Glenn coach Eric Kovatch said. "You can see the presence she provides with her rebounding. The talent is amazing and it just makes everyone better. ShaKeya Graves dropped 31, and that's because everybody was rebounding and getting the outlet."

Covile feels confident now she can finish out the season.

"It feels better, it's way stronger than before," the Temple University signee. "I'm back. At the beginning when I hurt it I thought I rushed it. I just sat out a bit and got stronger. It wasn't that strong. It needed to be strengthened."

Covile was just happy to get back into the lineup.

"I missed a lot of shots, but it will be back soon," she said. "It was boring sitting out."

Purdue signee Joslyn Massey and Abbey Wright each tallied eight points for the Rockets, who outscored Wayne

39-17 in the second half.

"We played well the second half," said Kovatch, whose team is 7-2 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA South. "We pulled away and finally had the nice margin of victory that we were hoping for."

"(Wayne coach) Leslie (Williams) does a very good job and they work hard. They hung with us the first half. They made a run in the second (quarter) and challenged our girls to come out the second half. A couple of the assistant coaches felt we played a solid 14-or-15 minutes of basketball, and that was enough to create a nice margin."

Sophomore Ashley Bland paced Wayne (2-7, 1-2) with 16 points.

Holland Boertje, a senior guard, added 10, while Kayla Horn had six.

"We try to go out collectively as a team and do our best," Williams said. "And quite frankly ... with us being down only 10 at halftime I was quite pleased with the girls' performance. They played hard. The fourth quarter kind of let us down. They only outscored us by seven points (18-11) in the third quarter. The girls showed up and played hard. We just have to learn how to finish."

Glenn's fast-break and a deeper bench took its toll on the Zebras in the second half.

"We're short on players," Williams said. "That means we're short on energy. We just ran out of gas I'd say. We couldn't get back to guard Graves. Twenty-two of those (points) were in the second half. If you can't guard the cherry pick, you're going to struggle. We didn't have anything to match that."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 17
Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
S.L. East at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Garden City at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Luth. W'sld at Bapt. Park, 7 p.m.
Luth. South at HVL, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20
Wayne at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Glenn, 7 p.m.
Edsel Ford at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at HVL, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 17
Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m.
Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
C'ville at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Bapt. Park at Luth. W'sld, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Mercy, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18
HVL at Lutheran South, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20
Luth. W'sld at HVL, 5:30 p.m.
Churchill at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Glenn at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Marian at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 18
Churchill vs. Howell
at Grand Oaks, 6:50 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Novi,
Franklin vs. Canton
at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20
Ladywood vs. Northville
at Arctic Pond, 3 p.m.
Franklin vs. Grand Blanc
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Churchill vs. Grandville
at East Kentwood, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Churchill at East Kent, 2 p.m.
Franklin vs. W.L. Central
Lakeland Ice Arena, 6:20 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Country Day
at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Jan. 18
Churchill at Plymouth, 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson at S. Lyon, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin, Canton, John Glenn
at Wayne Memorial, 5:30 p.m.
Luth. Westland at C'ville, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Franklin Tournament, 9 a.m.
Chippewa Valley Inv., 9 a.m.
UM-Dearborn Tourney, 9 a.m.
Lincoln Park Tourney, TBA.

BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Jan. 17
Churchill at RU, 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 19
Plymouth at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Glenn at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at S.L. East, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Jan. 16
Livonia Blue vs. Northville
at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 17
Liv. Red vs. W.L. Maroon-Gold
at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Farmington Inv., 10 a.m.

PREP BOWLING
Tuesday, Jan. 17
(3:30 p.m. at Novi Bowl)
Clarenceville vs. Canton.
John Glenn vs. Wayne.
Wednesday, Jan. 18
(3:30 p.m. at Super Bowl)
Clarenceville vs. Wayne.
John Glenn vs. Novi.

Thursday, Jan. 19
Ladywood vs. Regina
at Westland Bowl, 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Wayne County Champ., TBA.

PREP SKIING
Wednesday, Jan. 18
Ladywood vs. Marian
at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.

GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Monday, Jan. 16
District 3 Team Competition
at Farm. Hills Arena, 4 p.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Wednesday, Jan. 18
Plymouth at Churchill, 6 p.m.
Stevenson Quad, 6 p.m.
John Glenn Quad, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Grosse Ile Invitational, 10 a.m.
Bedford Invitational, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 18
MU at Aquinas, 7:30 p.m.
Alpena at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
Indiana Tech at MU, 3 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 18
Alpena at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.
Aquinas at MU, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
MU at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb, 1 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.

Heiden's 42 sinks Lady Ocelots

Oakland Community College's Meagan Heiden scored a game-high 42 points and it was her two free throws with only two seconds remaining that proved to be the difference in Wednesday's 79-77 upset over visiting Schoolcraft College.

Heiden, a 5-foot-10 sophomore from Rochester High, connected on 14-of-27 shots from the floor, including three 3-pointers, to go along with a game-high 12 rebounds in a women's basketball game played at OCC's Highland Lakes campus in Waterford.

Alicia Cook and Jillian Carland chipped in with 12 points apiece as the Raiders, who earned their first win in the series since 2008, improved to 7-8 overall and 4-0 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

It was the first time the Lady Ocelots (11-4, 2-2) suffered back-to-back losses in the conference since February of 2005.

Schoolcraft, which led 41-35 at

halftime, got 14 points apiece from Shawnicka Thomas and Diamond Tolliver. Dominique Jones added 10 points.

Thomas also had 10 rebounds and five assists, while Shanequa Braggs grabbed nine rebounds.

Schoolcraft led 67-61 with 6:00 remaining, but could not hold one.

Schoolcraft lost despite making 33-of-76 shots from the floor (48.3 percent). The Lady Ocelots made only 7-of-14 free throws, while OCC hit 17-of-21.

MADONNA 78, LOURDES (OHIO) 49: Madonna University (6-10, 3-4) snapped a six-game losing streak Wednesday night with a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph over visiting Lourdes University (5-13, 0-8) at the Activities Center.

Senior Becca Wojcinski paced MU, which jumped out to a 41-20 halftime lead, with a career-high 16 points and six rebounds, while juniors Michelle Lindsey and Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Lourdes got a game-high 20 points from Tarynn Hampton and 13 from Emily Orsini.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Lourdes deals MU 61-56 defeat

To say the Madonna University men's basketball team has been streaky this season would be a gross understatement.

The Crusaders started the season 0-4, then captured nine straight, but has now dropped five of their last six following a 61-56 setback Wednesday at home to Lourdes University (Ohio).

MU rallied from an 11-points deficit to pull within three points late, but couldn't complete the comeback falling to 10-9 overall and 4-2 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) finished with 15 points, three assists and four steals for MU, which trailed 27-19 at halftime.

Travis Schuba and Matt Jenkins added 10 and eight points, respectively.

Lourdes (9-10, 3-5) got 17 points from John Willhite.

Marcus Outlaw and Corey Harvey added 12 and 10, respectively, while John Washington grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

MU was outrebounded 35-27 and shot only 39.2 percent from the floor (20-of-51).

OCC 82, S'CRAFT 63: Lagos, Nigeria native Oguochukwu Njoku loomed large Wednesday night as host Oakland Community College (12-2, 4-0) stopped Schoolcraft College (10-4, 3-1) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game played at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus.

Njoku, who stands 6 feet, 11 inches, scored a game-high 23 points to go along with seven blocked shots.

Asaad Robinson added 16 for the Raiders, who led 42-24 at halftime.

Karl Moore paced the Ocelots with 19 points and 14 rebounds, while Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial) added 14 points and eight boards. LenDerrick Wtcher also contributed 10 points as Schoolcraft got within with 10 with eight minutes to play.

OCC went 19-of-29 from the foul line, while Schoolcraft hit 16-of-26.

PREP HOCKEY

Spartans blank Pats, 5-0, but falter in Traverse City

Livonia Stevenson used a 49-10 shot advantage to secure a 5-0 boys hockey victory Wednesday night over Livonia Franklin in a game played at Edgar Arena.

J.D. Byrne scored twice and added one assist as the Spartans improved to 9-3 overall and 5-3 in the KLAA's Central Division with the Kensington Conference crossover win.

Stevenson led 3-0 after one period as Byrne opened the scoring at 6:25 off assists from Mario Tomei and Travis Harvey.

The Spartans, ranked No. 6 in Division 1, then scored twice in the final minute of the same period on goals by Dominic Lutz (from Byrne and Tomei) and Tyler Roberts (from Chris Catalano and Eric Willets).

After a scoreless second period, Stevenson got a short-handed goal from Jake Kierdorf (from Nate Sink and Thomas Ross) with 12:52 left in the third.

Byrne added a power play goal with 1:38 remaining from Tomei and Harvey.

Franklin, which lost to the Spartans for the second time this season, took eight penalties in the third period.

"The way the game played out I was proud because it was probably the best we've played in five years," said Franklin coach Scott Wirgau, whose team slipped to 2-8-1 overall and 0-8 in the KLAA South Division. "All the shots they (Stevenson) got were from the outside. They got nothing from the kill

zone and we played short-handed the whole third period."

Franklin goalie Matt Slinder made 44 saves, while Stevenson's Mike Canitra had to make just 10 stops en route to the shutout.

T.C. CENTRAL 4, STEVENSON 1: Four second-period goals within a five-minute span, including three on the power play, carried Traverse City Central (9-2-1) to a non-league win Friday over visiting Livonia Stevenson (9-4) at Howe Arena.

Nico Saco scored twice, while Cam Givens and Mark Jordan added one goal each for the state-ranked Trojans (No. 5 in Division 2).

Stevenson's Dominic Lutz scored in the third from Nate Sink.

"We played well the first and third periods, but we have to learn to play a complete game," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team outshot Central 28-24.

Traverse City Central goaltender Bill Vermetten made 27 saves, while Connor Humitz (two periods) and Mike Kanitra (one period) combined for 20 stops.

NORTHVILLE 4, FRANKLIN 1: Three power-play goals lifted the Mustangs (10-4-1, 3-3-1) to a Kensington Conference crossover win Friday over visiting Livonia Franklin (2-9-1, 0-9) at Novi Ice Arena.

It was 1-1 after one period as Danny Donahue struck for the Patriots at 29 seconds off an assist from Tyler Hewitt, but Northville's Clay Neal scored unassisted to tie it with 5:45 left.

With 4:51 left in the second, Neal scored the game-winner from Alex Shuart and Kenneth Kosinski on a power play followed by Matt Giordano's power play goal with 2:00 remaining from Neal and Cole Brown. Jack Meacham scored again on a power play for Northville with 8:23 left in the third from Giordano and Austin Ratts.

Franklin goalie Matt Slinder made 31 saves, while Northville's Jake Pawloski had 21 stops.

CHURCHILL 6, NORTHVILLE 1: Another big second period carried state-ranked Livonia Churchill (8-1, 4-1) to a Kensington Conference crossover victory Wednesday over the visiting Mustangs (9-4-1, 2-3-1) at Edgar Arena.

Northville drew first blood at 2:08 of the opening period on Matt Sopha's short-handed goal, but the Chargers' Matt Sinclair with the first of his three goals with 57 seconds left on assists from Chris Mireles and Devin Smythe.

The Chargers, ranked No. 2 in Division 1, then scored four times in the second period to build a commanding 5-1 lead.

Ben Proben started it off on a power play from Jake Otto at 3:03 followed by Sinclair on a short-handed effort from Riley Brown at 4:48.

Tommy Carey then scored from Otto at 7:50 and Sinclair struck again with just seven seconds remaining before the period ended from Carey and Brown.

"Northville scoring right off the bat kind of woke us up," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We made a few adjustments and then took over the second period."

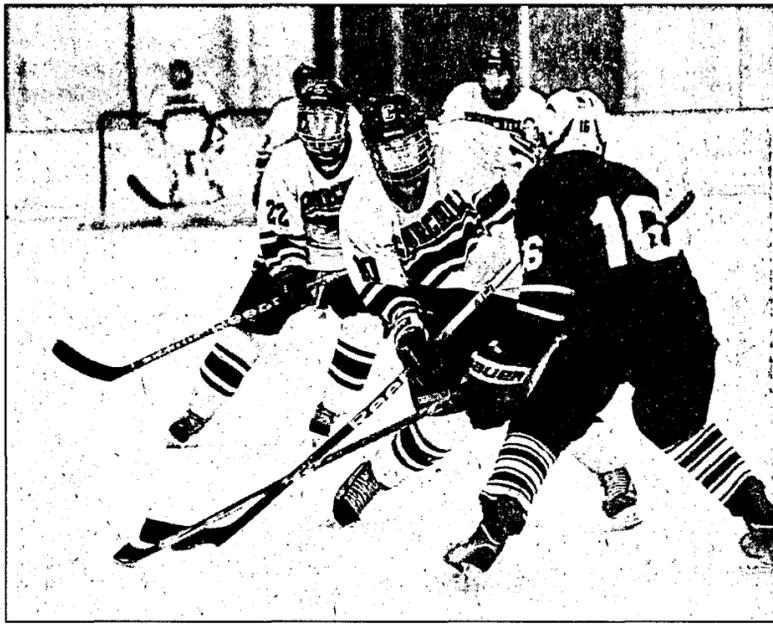
Kevin Louwers' goal from Brad Milks and Carey closed out the scoring at 5:49 of the final period.

Northville goaltenders Jimmy McGlynn and Jake Pawloski combined for 34 saves, while Churchill netminders Alex Estes (two periods) and Chris Adams faced just 15 shots combined.

G.P. SOUTH 6, LADYWOOD 0: Claire Boyle tallied a pair of goals Wednesday as Grosse Pointe South (6-2, 6-2) pulled away with three late third-period goals to beat Livonia Ladywood (4-7, 4-7) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game at Detroit's City Arena.

Tenley Shield, Anne Crowley, Marissa Monforton and Melissa Klinger also scored for the Blue Devils, who led 2-0 after one period and 3-0 after two.

Anastasia Diamond made 10 saves in goal for South to earn the shutout, while Ladywood netminder Sara Koch had 22 stops.



Churchill's Michael Rybinski (10) shoots the puck in front of Salem's Adam Marthaler (16), while teammate Tommy Carey (22) trails the play in Friday's game at the Cultural Center.

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

and chasing Salem sophomore netminder Parker Godfrey.

Churchill also scored on the power play, in the first period on a goal by senior forward Kevin Louwers. Chargers head coach Pete Mazzoni said special teams has been a main focal point early this season.

"We've worked really hard on our penalty kill and our power play," Mazzoni said. "Last year, it's what cost us the game in the quarters. We made a deal with ourselves that we weren't going to lose a game to special teams this year. Knock on wood, we've been pretty good so far."

Mazzoni said he made sure his squad came out prepared to face a Salem team that had been playing strong hockey since January began.

"They were playing really well as of late," Mazzoni said. "The tie against Brighton was probably huge for them. We tried to use our speed, I think we moved the puck pretty good."

"And we're able to wear teams down a lot with our depth. We got a couple early, and sometimes when things start rolling the oth-

er way it's tough to stop it. But they (Rocks) competed, I'm sure they will bounce back from it."

Fast start

Churchill needed just 2:12 to get on the scoreboard.

On an early power play, Proben took a slap shot from the right point that Godfrey stopped with a pad. But Louwers knocked in the rebound.

Salem senior forward Mark McGee was tripped up on a subsequent rush into Churchill territory, drawing a penalty.

But the Chargers had all the dangerous chances, particularly on a chance by senior forward Mike Gambino in the low slot.

Churchill broke it open with two more goals late in the stanza.

Smythe followed his own rebound at the Salem crease to beat Godfrey with 3:43 to go. Assisting were Otto and Proben.

Then with just 1:13 remaining, junior forward Matt Sinclair took a centering pass from Carey and slipped a low shot inside the right post.

It could have been an ever wider gap if not for Godfrey's goaltending. He faced wave after wave of Churchill pressure, with 22 shots directed his way in the opening 15 minutes

alone.

Churchill made it 4-0 at 1:01 of the second period, when a shot by Otto hit a Salem player and trickled over the line.

The Rocks responded with extended pressure on Churchill goalie Alex Estes and cut the lead to 4-1 with 11:28 left.

A slapshot from inside the blue line by junior forward Jack Driscoll caromed in off a Churchill player past Estes, who stopped 22 of 23 Salem shots for the night.

Any spike in momentum was shortlived as Churchill chased Godfrey just over a minute later. Smythe converted a pass from Otto to open up a 5-1 lead.

With Anthony Veresan taking over in goal for Salem, Otto's wrist from the left circle found the back of the cage for a 6-1 edge entering the second intermission.

The teams played a scoreless third, with Churchill outshooting the Rocks by a 9-6 margin (and by 46-23 for the game).

"Jake (Otto), he brings energy every night," Mazzoni said. "He's been with us four years, and so he's obviously one of our leaders. It's good to see him rewarded for all his hard work."



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GIRLS HOOPS

Menard lifts Chargers past Pats

Erin Menard was a difference maker Friday night.

The 6-foot-10 senior senter scored 12 of her game-high 20 points in the opening period as host Livonia Churchill held off girls basketball rival Livonia Franklin, 38-37.

"She really saved us," said Churchill first-year coach Matt McCowan, whose team is 3-6 overall and 1-2 in the KLAA's South Division. "Had it not been for her, we would have lost. She played like a senior."

Julia Szuba added seven points for the Chargers, who went 8-of-18 from the foul line.

Churchill won despite making 35 turnovers.

"We have to learn how to take care of the ball," McCowan said. "It was a sloppy game and we're fortunate and glad we got the win. Franklin played well and wanted the game. Give them credit."

The Patriots (1-8, 0-3) got 16 points from Katelynn Devers and nine from Natalie Desautel.

After Churchill's Cecilia Hansen missed a pair of free throws with 11 seconds left, Franklin had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but the last-ditch shot went in-and-out.

STEVENSON 42, SALEM 22: Livonia Stevenson (6-2, 2-1) used a balanced scoring attack Friday to earn a KLAA Central Division victory against the host Rocks (1-7, 0-3).

Sophomore center Charlesann Roy finished with 11 points, while senior guards Molly Knoph and Jordan York added 10 and eight, respectively.

Breanne Beaver led Salem with nine points. "We were more patient on offense and played with intensity on defense," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "It was a whole group effort today and everyone contributed."

"Mara Murray did a great job on Beaver and Katelyn Foster gave us a spark offensively."

LUTH. WESTLAND 36, CALVARY 24: Eight different players scored Friday as Lutheran High Westland (5-4, 2-2) earned the MIAC Red Division triumph at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian (3-5, 0-2).

Hannah Conley and Taylor Wiemer led the

way with nine and eight points, respectively.

Aldreanna Fikes also grabbed a team-best 14 rebounds.

Emily Getchell led Calvary with a game-high 15 points.

"It's good to get another conference win," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "We need to continue working hard in practice and getting better each game."

CRANBROOK 59, CLARENCEVILLE 26: Madi Heimerdinger scored 15 points and LaShay Edwards chipped in with 12 as Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (5-3) rolled to a lopsided victory Thursday at Livonia Clarenceville (1-8).

The Cranes jumped out to a 38-14 halftime lead and never looked back.

Sophomore center Ayanna Buckley paced the Trojans with 13 points.

Both teams struggled mightily from the foul line as Cranbrook was only 7-of-20 (35 percent), while Clarenceville was 4-of-14 (28.5 percent).

PARKWAY 41, HVL 37: Alyssa Whitcher and Hayley Arrol tallied 12 and 10 points, respectively, leading Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (7-1, 5-0) to a MIAC Red Division win Thursday over visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-3, 1-2).

Angelica Weidman also grabbed 10 rebounds for the victorious Eagles, who trailed 23-22 at halftime before outscoring the Hawks 12-6 in the third quarter.

Freshman Madison Dest led the Hawks with 12 points, while sophomore Dayna Schroeder added seven.

Huron Valley made only 3-of-19 free throws. "Turnovers and free throws beat us," HVL coach Kris Ruth said. "We need to finish stronger. We had lots of great opportunities that we did not capitalize on."

FRANKLIN ROAD 39, LUTH. WESTLAND 37: Kristen Massey poured in a game-high 27 points Tuesday to give Novi Franklin Road Christian (4-2, 2-0) the MIAC Red Division victory over host Lutheran High Westland (4-4, 1-2).

Aldreanna Fikes scored 10 points and pulled down 13 rebounds in a losing cause.

Hannah Conley added eight points, while Amanda Terranella chipped in with six points and nine rebounds.

The Warriors led 23-20 at halftime and by as many as seven in the third period.

"Made too many turnovers and untimely fouls in the fourth and let this one slip away," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "We need to learn from it and move on."

Both teams shot 50 percent from the foul line — Franklin Road (14-of-28) and Lutheran Westland (8-of-16).

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2012 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW



The Dodge Challenger gets the once-over from industry people.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Auto dealers gearing up for tremendous year

By Jay M. Grossman
O&E Staff Writer

"The sky's the limit." That's how Jim Bechtell, owner of the Somerset Buick/GMC dealership, sums up his outlook for the upcoming year. With the 2012 North American International Auto Show in full swing this week, Bechtell and other auto dealers around southeast Michigan are eager to capitalize on the success the industry enjoyed in 2011.

"General Motors for Buick and GMC, they've got a nice little niche with the premium vehicle market," Bechtell said. "They're not luxury cars like Cadillac, but they're not Chevys either. The price point is right in the sweet spot for these world-class cars."

He then pointed to the all-new Verano and the launch of the Encore as examples of how General Motors is gearing up for the year.

"It's all about the product," Bechtell said. "We can now offer vehicles that get 32 mpg or 36 mpg and you don't have to feel like you're crammed inside. They've got capacity and they offer great performance."

Dick Scott, owner of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, shares the enthusiasm.

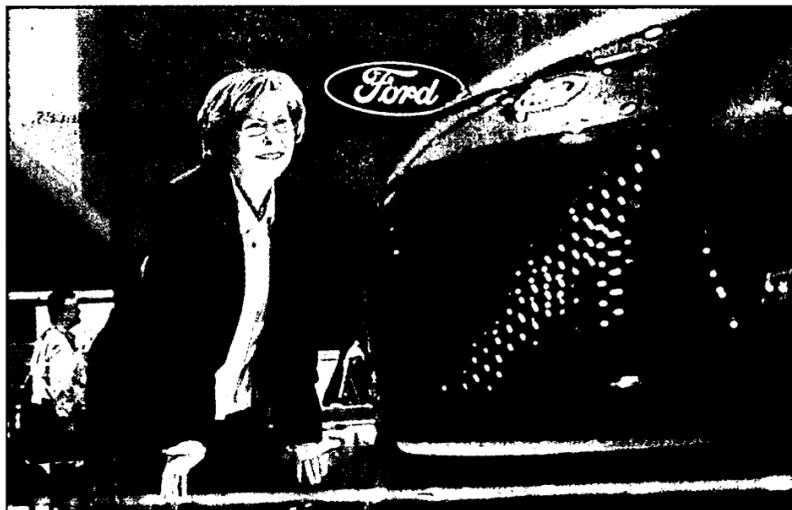
"We've got great products to start with," he said Friday. "We've got the 2013 Dart coming in June — it's just a phenomenal car. The banks are really concentrating on auto loans, there are strides in the economy and it's an election year, which is always good for retail."

He estimates a 15- to 20-percent increase in sales across the board.

"We had a great 2011," he said. "We finished December with a flurry and everything is pointed in the right direction, which is good for the entire economy."

Mike Schriber, general manager of Bill Brown Ford in Livonia, said the newly-designed 2013 Escape and Fusion are sure to capture the public's attention.

"Bill Brown Ford is in a unique position," he said. "We sell more Escapes and Fusions than any dealer in the United States. We'll be the ones who get the inventory, especially in the beginning, when they're hard to get."



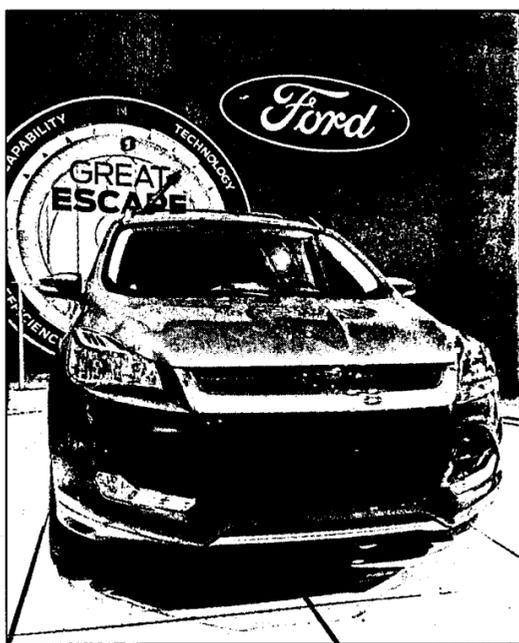
Teri Arbenowske, Economic Development Director for Farmington Hills, admires a Ford Focus.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Dart resurrects a famous old Dodge model nameplate, and replaces the Caliber.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The 2013 Ford Escape.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At the same time, Schriber said leasing deals on 2012 Fusions and Escapes have been sweetened to move the inventory.

"It really is all about the customer," he said.

Roy Williams, sales manager at Avis Ford in Southfield, adds the stylishly revamped 2013 Tau-

rus to his list of hot-selling products for the coming year.

"We've got quite a bit of momentum going right now, and to add to that momentum we've got the new Fusion, the new Escape and the new Taurus," Williams said. "Anyone heading down to the auto show

will get a chance to see just how great these cars look."

Williams added that Ford plans to continue with its aggressive incentive programs to keep people heading into the showrooms.

"Ford is committed to staying aggressive," he said. "We are always striving to being the best."

Scott LaRiche, vice president of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township, expects the public to be pleasantly surprised by the number of new vehicles being introduced at this year's car show, not to mention the quality.

"I think the number one thing in 2012 is every manufacturer across the globe has excellent products that people can see at the auto show," he said. "I spoke to some of the manufacturers at the show and they're anticipating 14.2 million to 15 million in car sales across the globe this year. That's a nice uptick from last year's number, which I think was around 13.5 million."

Along with better cars, LaRiche said many of the GM dealerships are getting face-lifts to offer nicer showrooms and customer lounges. He also touted the 2013 Malibu that's expected to arrive in his showroom in the next several weeks.

"They took it to a whole new level," LaRiche said. "They're taking cues from the Camaro and Corvette in terms of styling — and it gets up to 38 mpg on the highway. For a mid-sized vehicle, that's incredible."

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At the auto show

Hot Wheels

A favorite toy of young boys everywhere was brought to life by Chevrolet, with the making of a Hot Wheels Camaro Concept. The car features 20-inch wheels and tires and a black aluminum hood insert with milled extractors.

"Guys of all ages have played with Hot Wheels Custom Camaros since 1968, imagining what it would be like to drive those cars for real. We are thrilled to bring that dream to life with such a stunning concept, the very embodiment of Hot Wheels," said Felix Holst, vice president Hot Wheels design manager.

Dancing with hamsters

Kia Motors has a display where people can dance with the Korean car company's famous hamster, digitally speaking.

Fans walk onto a sprawling white dance floor with a gigantic TV screen above. The interactive system can read a person's location and movements and then insert a funky hamster into the display as if were out on the dance floor, too. Ford has a similar display, minus the hamster.

Fast lane

A number of race cars are on display at the auto show, including the No. 18 Mars/Interstate Toyota Camry that Kyle Busch drives in the Sprint Cup Series. For a more historic perspective, check out the 1952 Mercedes Benz 300 SL race car that roared around the track at a top speed of 142 mph.



Ford interactive video screen display.

BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Into the clouds

Ford has a massive mechanical interactive display that reaches for the clouds. Called the Ford Living Connected Experience, the display takes 12 people roughly 20 feet into the air, where they can check out a 360-degree film that highlights Ford's upcoming in-car technology. It's a show-stopper by all accounts, one that is sure to attract large crowds.

Star watch

Former Detroit Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios was seen at the auto show industry day Thursday, hanging out as the special guest in the Comcast area on the main show floor. Chelios, who owns a bar in Detroit and is a spokesman for Comcast, also took some time to pose for pictures and sign autographs.

NASCAR Nationwide driver Kenny Wallace will be at the Toyota display at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. today (Jan. 15) posing for pictures and greeting fans.

Mobility center debuts

Not all the action at the NAIAS is on the main show floor.

For the first time, the auto show features a mobility center, highlighting adaptive vehicles and products for people with disabilities. The exhibitors and display vehicles are located in the Michigan Hall, which is in the basement.

The Michigan Hall also is where the Michigan Economic Development Corp. will host the Pure Michigan Ride and Drive Track — a quarter-mile, indoor ride-and-drive test track surrounded by landscaped and forested terrain, where visitors can ride along in electric and hybrid vehicles provided by more than 30 auto manufacturers.

Building blocks

Ford has its own safety table, complete with interactive screens for adults and a production table where kids can make wooden model cars out of automoblox. Ford will display them throughout the car show.

"This whole table is about driving safely," said spokeswoman Michelle Jackson, who lives in Metamora.

— By Jay Grossman and Nathan Mueller



Kia invites attendees to dance with giant hamsters.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2012 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW



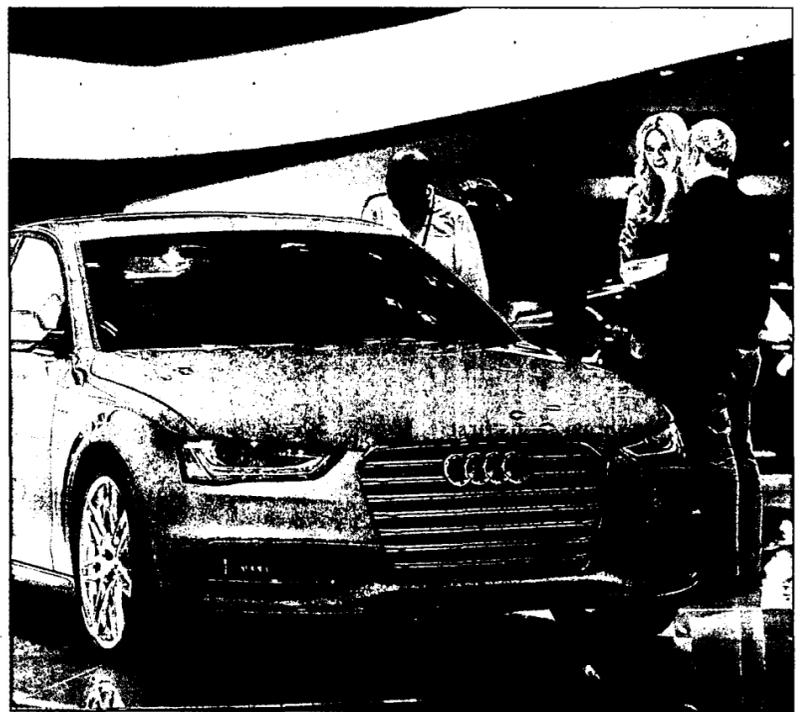
This is a 360 degree panoramic view of the Auto Show, made from seven photos, stitched together in Adobe Photoshop.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reporter Jay Grossman looks for his favorite cars at the auto show.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A red Audi looks pretty good.

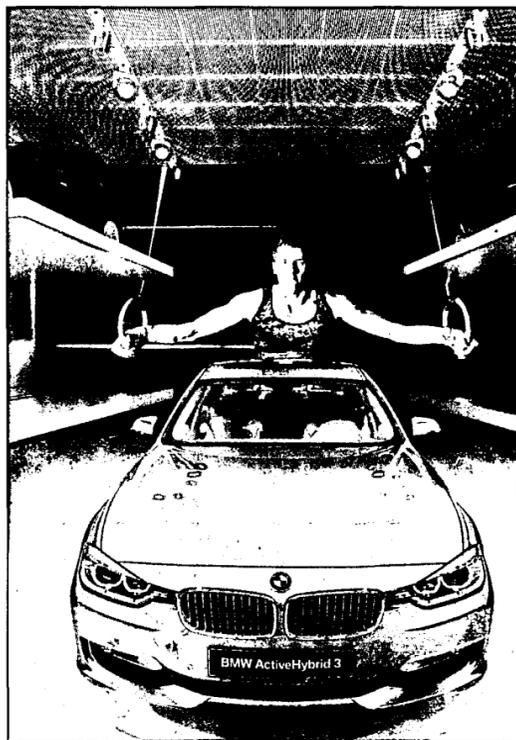
Family man looks for perfect ride

By Jay Grossman
O&E Staff Writer

Of course, I wanted a Porsche. Or perhaps a Bentley. Heck, I'd gladly settle for a really nice Cadillac. But my mission at this year's auto show was to find a perfect ride for a family of four, plus a dog. The scenario just happens to mirror my life: A lovely soulmate, two boys that were genetically engineered to destroy all household appliances and a large dog that sheds. Sorry, but I am not ready for a traditional minivan. I know minivans are perfect for my lifestyle. I know it's OK for dad to drive a minivan. I'm sure Brad Pitt owns one. It's just not me. I stopped at the Toyota display and chatted with Sam Butto, a communications specialist who lives in California and has his own family. He recommended a Venza crossover wagon. "It's very refined," Butto said. "It has all the bells and whistles that parents can still enjoy if they want to go out on the town without the kids." A night on the town? Is he talking about McDonald's and the video store? I started wondering if Butto exaggerated a bit when he claimed he was a parent. He continued. The Venza is built on a Camry platform. It's roomy and efficient, has lots of trunk space and even carries a line of separate pet accessories made especially for this vehicle. "We want to make sure your dog is comfortable," he said. Here's the best part: For the kids you can get a rear audio or video entertainment system. Butto said it's the perfect way to keep them preoccupied so they take a break from destroying things. In other words, a bribe. Turns out Butto really is a parent. Ford Motor Co. marketing manager Amy Maren-

tic, who lives in Plymouth and is married with three kids, wanted to fit me into the all-new Escape, which I later learned is named the Ford Kuga in China and Europe. Why anyone would want to go from Kuga to Escape baffles me. Kuga is a cool name for a vehicle. Say it a few times and you feel like a chieftain. As a backup plan, Marentic also mentioned the Ford Edge. I like the vehicle because it won numerous awards from pet associations. If it's good enough for my mutt, it's good enough for the two boys. I like the name, too, because it reminds me of the ultra-cool guitarist in U2, who happens to call himself The Edge. At the same time I'm wondering if he ever considered the name Kuga. Finally I met up with Jon Brancheau, vice president of marketing for Nissan North America. He recommends the Nissan Quest because of its great cargo capacity and steady handling. One feature in particular caught my attention: air scrubbers. "If one of the kids should happen to lose a couple of French fries under the seat, the Quest has a filter system that will actually refresh the air inside the vehicle," Brancheau said. "An air scrubber if you ... the technical guys would prefer a better term, but I call it the air scrubber." The perfect solution to what I call gas, something my two boys love to pass. For now, I'll keep trying to squeeze everyone into my Ford Fusion. It's a great car and still has a lot of miles under the hood. Hopefully the boys won't get too much bigger before my next vehicle. As for the smell of French fries, I'll just ignore it. Jay Grossman writes for the Birmingham Eccentric and loves to look at new cars.

VIEW FROM THE FLOOR



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bold video graphics at the BMW exhibit.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing checks out the Chrysler display at the auto show.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Nissan Juke, a small crossover SUV.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurent Haloy, of Le Automotive magazine, takes photos at the Hyundai exhibit on Jan. 11.

Flashy car can make average guy enticing

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The average guy has to stand out somehow, and honestly his vehicle can do wonders for his luck with the ladies. Sure, being good-looking and being able to carry on a conversation helps. But if you have a nice ride, women tend to overlook those minor details. That was my daunting task at the North American International Auto Show last week — find practical cars that make the average guy intriguing. For example, I have a close friend who drives a Chevy Cavalier that sounds like a dying sports car because the muffler fell off. It also has a driver's side door so dented in that if he slams it too hard he has to climb out the window like a NASCAR driver. Needless to say, he hasn't had a date in a few years. Put him in an Audi A8 and that drought will quickly come to an end. Of course, the auto show featured plenty of options, but not all are realistic. Sure, Mr. Average would love a Bentley, Shelby Mustang, Porsche or Maserati, but remember, he's average, not a millionaire. To get the best perspective, I figured I would do some research with the help of the many attractive models on the show-room floor. They are the ones getting in Mr. Average's car, right? Tifarah Brumback, a product specialist for Chevrolet, tried selling me on the company's new cars the Sonic and the Spark. The are small, sporty and big into technology, which means a girl would want to drive her own, not get into his. Finally, she gave in by offering up the Camaro. "It's all-American muscle," she said. "And it's an attention grabber." Sounds like we have a taker!

Sure, being good-looking and being able to carry on a conversation helps. But if you have a nice ride, women tend to overlook those minor details.

Samantha, who was working at the Ford display, said her car would be the 2013 Ford Focus ST. I thought, "Ford Focus not Mustang, really?" But with the help of Lisa Schoder, Ford Focus ST brand manager, I was sold. It was something Mr. Average could afford and look good in. "It brings together a fun to drive car with dynamic performance," Schoder said. "It's a hot little car." There's room for two! After all my research, I soon realized Mr. Average would have a tough time getting a date regardless of what he drove. So I went to my most reliable source — my own intuition. I can almost guarantee if a guy pulls up in a Dodge Challenger or Charger, he is going to get a second look. Hey, a Cadillac wouldn't hurt either. "For single folks, there is nothing more fun than the V series," said Hampden Tener, a Bloomfield Township resident and U.S. product director for the company. And speaking from experience, there is always the 2007 Ford Fusion. You may laugh and think "yeah right, chief." But it's what I picked up my lovely girlfriend in nearly two years ago. Then again, I guess I didn't need a sweet car to catch her attention because I'm not Mr. Average. Nathan Mueller is not your average 28-year-old, but he does dream of driving a new car someday.

Former Livonia resident brings British trio to town

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Ken and Michele Ciscon will welcome their son, Scott, home to Livonia next weekend, as the singer wraps up his first U.S. tour.

He and fellow Tenors Un Limited members, Jem Sharples and Paul Martin — all are based in London, England — will perform their Michigan debut concert on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.

The couple is promoting the concert in Livonia and says about 400 tickets have been sold, with approximately 100 still available.

"I'm just pleased they are doing so well and that they are here," said Michele Ciscon. "I'm probably their number one fan. I'm not saying that as a mom. I really think they are really good."

The trio, which came together about nine years ago, performs in the classical crossover genre. They sing classical standards and opera, combined with elements of pop music, as well as their original compositions. They'll add a few religious songs into the mix for their performance in Livonia.

"We've done stadiums. We have done a dining room in

Classical tenors



Scott Ciscon, (right) former Livonia resident, will return home with other members of his England-based trio, Tenors Un Limited, to perform Jan. 21 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia. Fellow singers are Paul Martin, (center) and Jem Sharples. The photo was taken at the Thames River.

a castle and everything in between," said Scott Ciscon, during a phone interview Thursday from Casper, Wyo., the group's first concert stop. "For us, the size of the audience doesn't matter. Every time we get to perform ... that is what matters most."

Ciscon can't remember a time that he wasn't singing. Neither can his mom.

"Scott's been singing since he was 2. It's like breathing for him," she said. "He'd sing around the house. My neighbor next door would say 'I love when he sings the *Star Spangled Banner*.' I have those kinds of memories."

Ciscon, 38, sang in choir and school musicals while in high school in Illinois, where the family lived before

moving to Livonia. He was accepted into an a cappella singing group as a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he planned to study engineering. He lived "off and on" in Livonia for about six years during and after college.

Change in direction

"The engineering became part time and singing became full time, much to my parents' dismay," Ciscon said. "It was one of those things. I was enjoying (singing) so much."

When he graduated in 1996, he was determined to turn his musical talent into a profession. He worked on a cruise ship after college and then auditioned for roles in New York. He landed a lead

part in *Grease* that took him to Germany for three years. After that came roles in the West End, London's theater district.

"After 9/11, the tourism trade tapered off and some of the shows closed," Ciscon said.

It was time to try something new.

"I had the opportunity to meet up with the guys, (Martin and Sharples) and said let's try to put our own take on the whole three tenors type of genre. But let's do it our way, writing, recording, traveling and working as a group."

International success

Since then, they've opened for Sting, sung with the Royal Philharmonic Orches-

AN EVENING WITH THE RAT PACK OF OPERA

What: Tenors Un Limited perform original compositions and favorites such as "O Sole Mio," "Nessun Dorma," "You Raise Me Up," "Volare," and more

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21

Where: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and students, \$50 for a family of two adults and two students or children;

Contact: Michele at (734) 464-8513 or e-mail to tenorstickets@yahoo.com

tra and performed alongside celebrities such as Lionel Richie and Beyoncé. They've entertained celebrities, statesmen and royalty, sung for stadium crowds and intimate gatherings.

Their first major CD, *Brand New Day*, was released in 2007. *The Rat Pack of Opera*, their current album, will be distributed worldwide.

"The Rat Pack of Opera is our tag line. In terms of the group, it's who we are and what we are. We take the music seriously, but not ourselves. We like to have fun with the repertoire and with the audience."

They'll entertain audiences in England, Scotland, Wales and Australia after their U.S. tour wraps up in Livonia.

Michele and Ken Ciscon have seen their son perform in musicals, as well as with Tenors Un Limited. They try to visit England once a year to see Scott, their daughter-in-law, and the couple's two children.

"We've never done a gig in Livonia before," Ciscon said. "It will be a nice thing for my parents to have me home."

Visit the trio's Web site at www.tenorsunlimited.com.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Thawing and preventing frozen pipes in your home

Don't care if you have a cold heart, but if your pipes freeze there is a way to thaw them to reduce damage — that I do care about.

If one of your plumbing pipes freeze this winter, it's important to thaw it out before the ice expands and splits the pipe. But, it's possible that doing it, with let's say a propane



Lon Grossman

torch, could actually make matters worse.

First, obviously if you're not careful you could burn your house down using a torch. On a lot lesser scale, if you are working on a section of frozen pipe not near a faucet that can be opened, thawing the pipe out too quickly can produce steam. The steam will, of course, expand, exploding the pipe. Wasn't that what you were trying to avoid? If you can open a faucet close to where you're thawing the pipe, you'll have a release for the steam and you only have to worry about not burning the house down.

Safety first

A few successful ways to thaw frozen pipes include using a hair dryer, heat lamp, or an electric space heater. But you should be concerned about using any electrical device around plumbing. Especially if it's frozen and split. What if water shoots out? You could get electrocuted. So if you use either of those, plug them into an outlet

How about just wrapping the pipes with rags and pouring boiling water on them, being careful not to scald yourself. No steam is created and there's no chance for electrocuting yourself.

with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If you don't have one, buy a portable one, and it'll protect you from electrocution.

My least favorite recommendation is to wrap the pipes with heating tape and plug them in. You'll find heating tape at hardware stores. It is a solution, but heat tapes should be inspected annually to make sure they are not cracked or brittle. If not installed properly, they could cause a fire and finally, if they stop working, you won't know until the pipes freeze.

If you have a kerosene heater, put it in the room with the frozen pipes to slowly thaw them out. But, don't put it too close to the wall where it could start a fire.

Water method

How about just wrapping the pipes with rags and pouring boiling water on them, being careful not to scald yourself. No steam is created and there's no chance for electrocuting yourself.

Now don't go getting all hot under the collar, but if you don't provide heat to that area, it will just freeze again.

Often kitchen sinks are on an outside wall. The pipes run up and along that wall and in older houses the insulation is

either non-existent or at best, inadequate.

Regardless, if it is plumbing to a kitchen sink or a bathroom, having insulation blown into the wall cavity should correct the problem or at least reduce the possibility of the pipes freezing.

If you can, have a plumber relocate the pipes from within the wall to the interior of the cabinet.

Another solution is to cut an opening in the cabinet or vanity doors and install decorative louvers to allow warm air in to keep the pipes from freezing.

If you have a crawlspace and the plumbing runs in the crawl, make sure the area is properly insulated. I also would insulate all pipes that run in a crawlspace or attic, with pipe-wrap.

Finally, learn where the main water shut-off is and make sure all family members know how to turn off the water to reduce any damage.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his Web site www.technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdy.wordpress.com/>.



Fresh produce can be found at the Canton Winter Farmers.

Buy local at winter market in Canton

Canton Farmers Market will hold its first of three winter markets, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Cady-Boyer Barn, 500 N. Ridge Road, at Preservation Park.

Additional winter markets are set for March 18 and April 22.

Eighteen vendors will sell their goods, including these local businesses:

- Jam by Hand, with jams and jellies
 - Day Dream Café, Canton, with pastries, pierogies, pasties, coffee, tea and more
 - Bobilin Honey, with honey and bees wax
 - Cellar Door Soap, with hand-crafted, vegan-friendly soaps
 - Boyer's Meat Processing, with farm eggs, sausage, seasonings and meat
 - JKM Soy Candles, Westland, with soy candles and soy tarts
 - Farmington Soap Works, Farmington Hills, with natural hand-cast, cold-process soaps
- Other vendors include Zingerman's Creamery, Ann Arbor, with artisan cheese, bread, salami, pastries and gelato; Pro-



Bobilin honey will be among the locally-produced foods sold at three winter markets in Canton. The first is Feb. 12.

chaska Farms, Tecumseh, with sauerkraut, spinach, radishes, artisan cheese, winter squash, and hand crafted chocolate; Hand Sown Farm, Manchester, with spinach, swiss chard, carrots; Kapnick Orchards, Britton, with apples, cider, frozen blueberries, apple butter, pastries; Captain John's Smokehouse, Bad Axe, with hand-cut jerky, meat sticks and smoked fish; Joe Sansonetti's Kitchen, Holly, with pasta and barbecue sauces, mustards and marinades; Sunbears Just Bones, Gibraltar, with dog treats and dog-

friendly soap; Nicky's Family Recipes, Royal Oak, with seasoning packets for pasta sauce, Sicilian salsa, salad dressings and flavored butters.

"We are thrilled this season to have hoop house produce at our winter markets," stated Tina Lloyd, market manager, in a press release. "Both Hand Sown Farm and Prochaska Farms are growing spinach in their hoop houses, which are a type of green house that uses solar energy to heat the ground during winter months. These farmers are able to bring a little bit of fresh produce to our winter markets which is a plus for market-goers."

First Grade Daisy Troop 40726 will coordinate a pasta collection at each winter market to benefit the pantry at Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based non-profit organization. They'll also sell boxes of pasta for \$1 for those who want to donate on the spot.

Canton Farmers Market will reopen for its regular season May 13 at Preservation Park.

REUNIONS

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include a relevant photo as a jpg attachment.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967
Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send

your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelsbach) Whittaker at S.whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75
The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

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(L to R) Four Seasons Clinical Dietary Manager Laura Cervi, MS, CDM with Lenie Manipula, Registered Dietician



...my mother's meals are so good every day... the name's Four Seasons but it should be Four Stars!...

With input from Four Seasons residents, Laura Cervi, MS, CDM fashions nutritious and flavorful meals for diabetes, heart and renal disease, and hypertension diets. Cervi, who holds a masters degree in nutrition, knows the importance of healthy food. Residents on dialysis or with wounds need additional protein. Diabetics may require six small meals a day. "We use fresh fruits and vegetables, and try to stay away from canned and processed foods," said Cervi. "One of our cooks is from Schoolcraft College's culinary arts program. She is very creative and interactive with residents during meals."

Cervi observes meals as well. "Our goal is to provide for residents as if it's their home," said Cervi. "One of our residents is a vegan; we get meals for anyone who requests kosher or halal."

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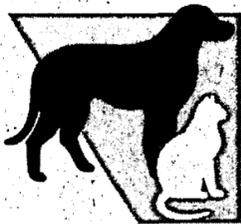
Better obedience

Better Life Canine Center, the rescue organization that trains dogs before finding them new homes, is offering a series of dog obedience sessions for its volunteers, as well as members of other animal rescues.

The January session is full, but registration is open for the six-week series that starts Saturday, Feb. 25. Participants attend the first session without their dogs and learn how to build leadership skills and strengthen the canine-human bond. They will learn how dogs learn, why dogs misbehave and how they can improve their behavior. Other topics include new dog orientation in the home and managing a multiple dog household.

Sessions 2-6 include both humans and dogs and stress basic obedience using positive reinforcement. Each dog in class will receive a basic obedience certificate. "It has really started to gain popularity, so we cannot currently offer it to the public — our classes fill up quick," e-mailed Amanda Balcazar, Center member. "This is a future goal though. Training is one of our top priorities. We offer it to other rescues as a low-cost option."

Jen Guthrie of Pro-K9 In-Home Training Professionals leads the sessions. Classes are held in Westland. E-mail Better Life Canine Center founder Brenda Woody for more



PET PROJECTS

information at brenda@betterlifecaninecenter.org. Sign up for the organization's e-mail list at www.BetterLifeCanineCenter.org. Visit Guthrie's Web site at www.ProK9Training.com.

Valentine's Day

Guardians for Animals has lined up 11 comedians for its annual Comedy for the Love of Animals fundraiser on Feb. 14 at Joey's Comedy Club in the Kicker's Complex, 36072 Plymouth Road, in Livonia. Laugh the night away while benefitting the nonprofit organization's work with homeless animals.

The show will start at 8 p.m. and feature local favorites Connie Ettinger, Julie Lyons, Russ Brown, Bob Phillips, Mike Bobbitt, Tim Zajkowski, Jeff Dwoskin, Steve Lind, Dave McDonald, Kate Brindle and Bill Bushart.

Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information or to buy tickets call Sandy at (734) 788-6857.

Coming together

The Michigan Humane



Connie Ettinger is among 11 comedians who will perform Feb. 14 at a fundraiser for Guardian Angels Animal Rescue.

Society plans a meeting for animal rescue organizations to showcase their work, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen.

During "PETCONNECT," animal welfare groups will make a five-minute presentation showing their work in the community. DVDs may be included. Refreshments will be served.

Marie Skladd, director of community outreach for the Michigan Humane Society, said the meeting is intended to help groups establish relationships with each other, open lines of communication and create a basis for them to collaborate for the benefit of animals.

For more information about PETCONNECT or the Michigan Humane Society, www.michiganhumane.org, or call (866) MHUMANE.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

Schoolcraft College marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Participate in a discussion about social justice or see an art exhibit about civil rights Monday, Jan. 16 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The Martin Luther King Jr., Day activities will be held in the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile. The student art exhibit runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. One student will receive a \$100 Schoolcraft College gift card for use on tuition, books, food in Henry's Food Court, or items in the college's Bookstore.

At 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Rita Crooks and Thomas Costello from Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion will lead discussions based on

King's speech, "Where Do We Go from Here?" delivered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in August 1967. Crooks and Costello will focus on social justice and equity, its evolution since 1968, and the opportunities for and benefits of ongoing efforts.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. student volunteers, coordinated through the college's Americorp VISTA initiative, will read multi-culturally diverse books, participate in games, and make crafts with school-age children to increase their understanding and appreciation for King's work.

For more information visit www.schoolcraft.edu.

Event helps plan graduation parties

Franklin High School's Senior All Night Party organizers will present an event Thursday, Feb. 2, to help parent and students plan graduation parties.

"Destination Graduation" from 5-8 p.m. in the cafe at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, will bring event planners and party vendors together under one roof.

Parents and students

will get a chance to sample food from local caterers and bakers, arrange party rentals such as tents, tables, chairs, ice cream carts, popcorn machines and other items, arrange for a DJ, select decorations and meet with an event planner.

Advance tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults and \$9 for adults at the door.

Buy or reserve tickets by calling Sharon Culbertson at (734) 261-3264, e-mail to celebrationstoremember@yahoo.com or return payment, name and phone number in an envelope marked "Destination Graduation" to the Franklin High School main office or by mail to Culbertson at 27815 Oakley, Livonia, MI 48154. Checks should be made out to Franklin SANP.

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Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT - EXP'D (ROYAL OAK)
2 yrs. exp. required or you will be deleted. Part-time, compensation negotiable. Email resume to: frumalou@aol.com

Help Wanted-Dental

Dental Assistant
Westland area. Full-time, 3-5 yrs. exp. req. Established practice, fun office, super people, great pay & benefits including health insurance, uniform plan & 401k, plus. Fax Loretta: 734-722-5192 or email to: applywood@aandpi.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT:
Experience preferred, xray certified, for 4 days a week in Dearborn. Must be a team player with friendly personality and positive attitude. Please fax a note as to why you should be hired along with your resume to: (313) 563-5865

Help Wanted-Medical

FRONT DESK, Part-Time.
Exp'd. only apply. Farmington Hills. No wkends. Fax resume: 248-855-0190

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part-Time. OB/GYN office. Farmington Hills. Exp. Absolutely Necessary. Call Elaine at: 248-489-1070

Ophthalmic Assistant
For patient oriented private practice. Duties include: direct patient care & admin/computer skills. Please call Val at: (734) 421-5454

OPTICIAN
Exp'd. Optician/Optical Dispenser needed for private office in Novi. Email resume to: opticianh@yahoo.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage

BEANS & CORNBREAD DINING ROOM MANAGER
2 years exp. competitive Salary E.O.E.
Please send resume to: oresume@hometownlife.com
Ref. Box 1877

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Milestones



Oliver Joseph Swelstad

Oliver Joseph Swelstad was born Nov. 16, 2011 in Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Walnut Creek, Calif. He joins his parents, Michael and Kate (Kwapisz) Swelstad, and his brother, Roman Michael Swelstad, 2, at home in Martinez, Calif. Grandparents are Ron and Billie Swelstad of Farmington Hills. Great-grandparents are Joe and Bogi Kwapisz of Farmington Hills.



Falk-Wrisley

Falk-Wrisley

Jessica Falk and Thomas Wrisley announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Larry and Mary Falk of Livonia, is a 2003 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Michigan University. She is a kindergarten teacher in Lincoln Park. Her fiancé, son of Richard and Joyce Wrisley of Vestaburg, attends Schoolcraft College and is working toward a degree in criminal justice. A November 2012 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Butterfly enthusiasts

Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will present "The Pollinator Pyramid," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Learn how butterfly host and nectar plants are pollinated to assure an abundant crop that will attract lots of butterflies to your yard. Parking is on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com

Winter hike

Learn how to recognize winter trees and shrubs by bark and buds and explore other signs of nature during a naturalist-led hike, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 21, through Holliday Nature Preserve, Ellsworth Section, in Westland. Pre-register at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Participants will warm up first with cocoa and coffee and then hike. Trails can be muddy and slippery. Dress for the weather. Fee is \$4 for adult for Wayne County residents and \$5 per adult for non-residents. Questions? Call (734) 261-1850.

Native trees

Tom O'Dell, collections and natural areas specialist at the Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor, will talk about "Native Alternatives to Invasive Trees and Shrubs," from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Costick Center, 28600 West 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. The seminar also will feature a case history of native plant restoration at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, presented by Ashlie Simons, nature center supervisor, and Randy Lovett, supervisor of parks, Farmington Hills. Attendees will receive a packet of information and suggestions for "next steps" in their home landscape projects. The seminar is free, but advance registration is requested. Call Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority at (248) 288-5150 or e-mail to LFDean@aol.com.

Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne County will present four seminars for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10 per session or \$30 for all if registered in advance. For more information visit mgwvc.org. To register, e-mail mgwvcorg@gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181. Master gardeners will teach each session: • All About Herbs kicks off the series on Feb. 7. Learn how to choose plant and harvest herbs for culinary and other uses culinary and other uses. Taught by Pat Mann herb specialist from the Greenfield Village Herb Associates. • Composting/Hoop Houses, on Feb.

14, will teach the basics of backyard composting. Bruce Forrest, Advanced Master Gardener and community garden expert, will explain what should and shouldn't be composted and will describe different types of compost containers. He'll also talk about building a hoop house to extend the growing season.

• Urban Chicken Farming, on Feb. 21, will be taught by an urban chicken farmer. Local ordinances will be discussed as well as coop design and construction.

• Square Foot/High Yield Gardening, on Feb. 28, will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer.

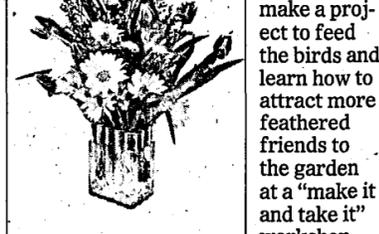
English Gardens

• Make a spring floral arrangement for \$24.99 at a workshop, at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. The store will supply everything needed to design a fresh flower arrangement. Not available at the Ann Arbor store.

• Find out which plants will attract birds to your garden at a free presentation, 1

p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28.

• Youngsters can make a project to feed the birds and learn how to attract more feathered friends to the garden at a "make it and take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. They'll choose between making a



Make a spring floral arrangement at a workshop on Jan. 21 at English Gardens.

pine cone feeder or orange cup feeder. Fee is \$5. Sign up online.

• Get a basic overview of the best varieties of orchids to grow and tips for year-round care at a free in-store presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4.

• Create an orchid garden at a "make it and take it" workshop, 2:20 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4. Cost is \$49.99. The store will supply everything needed for the project.

• Learn tricks to get orchids to re-bloom in your home at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11.

• Learn how to re-pot orchids and make them thrive at a free presentation, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

Jan. 15-31

BETHANY

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21

Location: Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Friends of Bethany Monthly Breakfast with Kathy and Pat

Contact: Kathy at (734) 956-0715

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 adults; \$1.50 children, 2-10. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club

Contact: (734) 425-4421

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 15

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: The 10-week series examines the new adult study series by theologian the Rev. Robert Barron, on which the PBS program, "Catholicism," is based. There is a \$40 charge for the study guide and workbook; registration is required. A children's ministry is available by prior arrangement

Contact: (734) 261-1455, ext. 207, e-mail swilliams@livoniastmichael.org, or see the Web site at www.livoniastmichael.org.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BEASLEY, LINDA K.

Age 52, passed away on January 6, 2012. Beloved daughter of the late Arthur Beasley. Survived by mother Keiko Beasley, brother Doug Beasley, sister Peggy (Bill) Clink and nieces Rachel, Jessie, Kumara and nephew Brian. Also remembered by many other loving friends. Please view and share memories at: www.virtual-memorials.com



KENNY, JULIA L.

January 8, 2012, age 93, of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Roland. Beloved mother of Guy (Susan). Proud grandmother of Ellen (David) Lukach, Julie (Bernie) Johnson, Guy (Christa), Emily and Ellie. Beloved great-grandmother of Lenora and Daniel Lukach, and Hannah Johnson. Dear sister of the late Fay (Tom) Keys, the late Mary Freeman and the late Betty MacDonell. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral Service was held Friday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Visitation was held Thursday. Interment Acacia Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



FUSCO, JUDE T.

Of Birmingham, and Colorado, passed away on December 18, 2011 at the age of 76. He succumbed to the rare progressive neurological disease of MSA, multiple system atrophy. Jude graduated from the University of Toronto in Architecture and founded the architecture firm Fusco, Shaffer, Pappas, in Southfield. He served on many boards including Guest House, Sobriety House, and Saint Jude's Home. Jude was also a friend of Bill W. for 31 years. Jude is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ann, and daughters, Julie (Eugene) Nagle, Jana (Matt) Morgan, Kristin Fusco, and grandchildren, Jack and Grace Morgan. Memorial gifts for MSA research can be sent to Mayo Clinic, Dept. of Development Research: Multiple System Atrophy, 200 First St. W., Rochester, MN. 55906. A celebration of Jude's life is planned for Saturday, June 23rd, 2012 in Petoskey.



JOHNSON, M.D.

J. FREDERIC Age 91 of Dearborn, formerly of Birmingham, died Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at Henry Ford Village, Dearborn. Born January 10, 1921, in Grand Rapids to Adrian and Anna Johnson, he grew up in Birmingham and Evanston, Illinois, and earned Bachelors and MD degrees from Northwestern University. Dr. Johnson-Fred to family, friends, and colleagues-wore many hats. He was a devoted family doctor, a gifted artist, a lover of British sports cars, Italian food, and the English language. He and his wife, Carolyn, were former members of the First Presbyterian Church, Royal Oak. He is survived by his children, Ann Louise Johnson Lochniskar (Roger John) of Amesbury, MA, Ellen Marie Johnson of Ann Arbor, David Adrian Johnson (Sue) of Franklin, and Paul Frederic Johnson (Linda) of Midland; sister, Helen (Eugene) Martz of Evanston, IL, and grandchildren, Jessica and Amanda. His wife, Carolyn Louise, whom he married December 27, 1947 in Moline, IL, preceded him in death in 2004. Visitation will be held Sunday, January 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of David and Sue Johnson. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 16, at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak, 48067, with visitation one hour prior and a luncheon immediately following. Memorial gifts suggested to Henry Ford Hospice, 655 W. 13 Mile Rd., First Floor, Madison Heights, MI, 48071, or to the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Instrument Fund. www.kinsey-garrett.com

PETROSKA, GERTRUDE GISELA

Age 82, died January 5, 2012. Gertrude was preceded in death by her husband, Kasys. She remains in the hearts of her children, Sue (Larry) Riley, Rita McGladdery, Loretta Hannah, and Al (Tina) Petroska; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mother enjoyed her life and friends at Silver Village in Livonia. She will be deeply missed by her family here, loved ones in Germany, and friends made along life's way. According to Gertrude and her family's wishes, cremation has taken place. No visitation or memorial service has been arranged. The family is very grateful to the staff at Angela Hospice for seeing to mother's comfort and the high level of care. Also, to Theresa Perez for her kindness and compassion. For those who wish, please consider a memorial contribution to Angela Hospice in memory of Gertrude. Share a memory www.mannsfuneralhome.com

RUCINSKI, DAVE

10/7/1964-1/4/2012. David was a great guy and a great friend but most of all a husband to Eileen Rucinski for 26 years, dad to Rebecca and Raymond, son to Ray & Jan, brother to Linda and Gayle.

WEBSTER, MURL H.

Age 77, of Warsaw, Indiana, died Jan. 8, 2012, at his residence. He was born Aug. 25 1934, in Ann Arbor, Mich. to Murl Ranney and Dorothy Eleanor (Retenmier) Webster. He graduated from Birmingham (Mich.) High School in 1952. He graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1958 and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 1959. He was a member of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Fraternity as well as a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineering. After graduation, he began his civil engineering career in Birmingham, Michigan. He worked in both civil engineering and construction throughout Michigan, New York, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for over 45 years. He is survived by his wife LaVerna (Spilak); a daughter, Rebecca (and spouse Nicholas) Hayes; two grandchildren, Alexander and Madison Hayes; brother, Lee N. (and spouse Sandra) Webster; nephew, Patrick Webster; niece, Amy Webster; stepdaughter, Kimberley Lord; step-grandchildren, Erin and Paul Curley, and Brandon Lord; stepson, Mark (and spouse Teri) Skibowski; step-grandchildren, Amanda and Brittany Skibowski; stepdaughter, Jennifer (and spouse Christopher) Voss; step-grandchildren, Katrina and Justin Jadzinski; great-grandson, Gavin Bodrie; cousin, Kathleen (and spouse James) Eubank; and father-in-law, Fred Spilak. Private memorial service was held at Mchattton-Sadler Funeral Chapel in Warsaw, with Sister Nora Frost of Goshen Center for Cancer Care officiating, followed by cremation. Burial and memorial service will be held at a later date at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, Mich. In memory of Murl Webster, contribution is to be made to Goshen Center for Cancer Care, 200 High Park, Goshen, Indiana 46580. Attn: Jan VanCuren. To sign the guestbook or to send condolences, electronically, go to: mchatttonsadlerfuneralchapel.com

LANCASTER, WILLIAM W.

January 9, 2012, age 84. Beloved husband of 54 years to the late Doris. Beloved uncle of Bob (Jody) Bonocore, Joe (Phyllis) Bonocore and Josephine Bonocore. Great uncle of Jennifer (John) Labb and Robert J. Bonocore. Brother-in-law of Al (Marge) Stuhlmann, Alice Vespar and Marie Bonocore. Cousin of Robert Cameron. Visitation Friday 10am until time of memorial service at 11am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com



PAQUETTE, BERNADINE T. (nee Beil)

Jan 7, 2012 Age 81. Beloved wife of Charles E. for 60 years. Loving mother of Charles K, Rosemarie (Edward) Vincent and Sandra Dolores (Joseph) Haffey. Dear grandmother of Jacob Joseph Haffey. Sister of J Walter Beil and the late Dolores Kern. Numerous nieces and nephews. She was an avid tap dancer and gardener. She was also the financial secretary for St. Priscilla's Bingo. There was a Visitation on Mon and Tues with a Rosary at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia Chapel. The Funeral Mass was 10:00am Wed at St. Priscilla Catholic Church 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. Please go to www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com to leave a message of condolence or to share a treasured memory.

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Survey finds unhealthy stress levels in metro Detroit area

The economy and work are significant causes of stress for residents of metro Detroit, according to a survey released this week by the American Psychological Association. The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive among 223 residents locally and 1,226 adults nationally over two months last year.

Although reported stress levels have dipped in the Detroit area since last year, residents still experience high stress levels. They reported an average stress level of 5.2 on a 10-point scale. A 3.6 on a 10-point scale is considered healthy.

Even with lowered reported stress levels, 75 percent of local residents surveyed said the economy is a significant cause of stress and 73 percent said work is a significant cause of stress. More than one-third — 38 percent — expressed dissatisfaction with their work. Nationally, 25 percent of those surveyed said they were dissatisfied with their jobs.

More than half of area residents — 59 percent — recognized the importance of managing stress, but less than half said they are doing a very good job managing it. Twenty-two percent said they have no strategies to manage their stress.

According to the survey, Detroit-area residents are more likely to report using yoga and meditation to help manage stress than others nationwide. Other frequently named ways to reduce stress include exercise or walking, listening to



music, spending time with family or friends, reading and praying.

Detroit residents reported more physical activity in 2011. Nearly 60 percent of adults surveyed said they exercise at least a few times a week, compared to 50 percent in 2010. And among those who tried, 41 percent of Detroit-area residents said they were successful at losing weight, compared to 30 percent nationally.

Yet stress is a enough of a problem for people in metro Detroit that it is a barrier to making positive lifestyle change. One in six adults who wanted to make a lifestyle change said they were too stressed to do so.

"While overall stress levels in Detroit are lower than last year, the numbers of Detroit residents

who are stressed about the economy and work is alarming," said Josephine Johnson, a Detroit-area psychologist and a member of the Michigan Psychological Association. "And although stress levels are lower than in previous years, they are still higher than what is considered healthy. It's important people pay attention to this because stress can affect your physical and emotional health, especially if not managed properly."

The national survey found that reported stress levels have stabilized from the highs of the economic crisis; however, they remain higher than what is considered healthy. Americans who serve as caregivers — providing care to both the aging and chronically ill — for their family mem-

bers report higher levels of stress, poorer health and a greater tendency to engage in unhealthy behaviors to alleviate that stress than the population at large.

To read the full report on Detroit and the United States, visit www.stressinamerica.org.

Stress in America is part of the American Psychological Association's Mind/Body Health public education campaign. For additional information on stress and lifestyle and behavior, visit www.apa.org/helpcenter and read the campaign blog www.yourmindyourbody.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

January

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• **Get Up and Move**, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 and Thursday, Jan. 19, and 26. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

• **Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga**, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 18-19 and 25-26. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City.

• **Eating Disorders Support Group** meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 and 25 at the hospital. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

• **Diabetes Self-Management series** meets at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31. Learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Call (734) 458-4330 to register.

Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

• **NUTRITION CLASS** Gail Posner, a registered dietician, will lead a tour of the grocery aisles at Hiller's Market, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the

Commerce Township store at 14 Mile and Haggerty and 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in the West Bloomfield store at Orchard Lake Road and Maple. Gail will explain how to determine the nutritional value of thousands of products and ingredients, and teach participants how to interpret health claims. They'll learn which fish are healthiest, why it's important to buy organic milk, and why extra-virgin olive oil gives a better "bang for your nutritional buck" than regular olive oil. Participants will go home with recipes and handouts that help them solve the inevitable "what's for dinner?" dilemma. Cost is \$20 per person. A reservation and prepayment is required. Space is limited; www.GailPosner.com or (248) 855-4558.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FILMS

AMC Theatres and the Autism Society will host a screening of the film, "The Secret World of Arrietty," at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia. During this sensory-friendly screening, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Audience members may get up and dance, walk, shout or sing. The theater's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. For more information visit www.autism-society.org/sensoryfilms.

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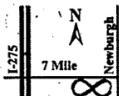
Randall Sternberg, MD

Primary Care Internal Medicine
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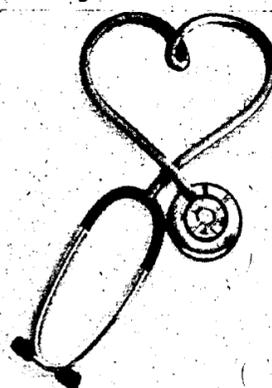
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MY HEART...MY LIFE.

Fact: Heart disease is the number one killer of Americans.

Fact: One of every three deaths in the U.S. is related to cardiovascular disease.

Fact: You can change your lifestyle TODAY, and decrease your risk factors for heart disease.

Join our cardiovascular experts for an interactive educational series designed to celebrate your heart.

NATIONAL GO RED DAY: WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH FORUM

Friday, February 3, 2012 • 10 am – 12 Noon

Garden City Hospital, Medical Office Building Classrooms

6245 Inkster Road • Garden City, MI 48135

National Wear Red Day. Cardiologist Dr. Karen Wiarda will be available to answer all your heart healthy questions. Afterwards, we'll get our hearts pumping in a Polynesian aerobics class - the latest exercise sensation. Bring or wear your red work out clothing and GO RED! Guests can also enjoy a fabulous prize drawing, giveaway items and lunch.

HEALTHY HEARTS 101

Thursday, February 16, 2012 • 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Village of Redford

25300 Six Mile Road • Redford, MI 48240

GCH Cardiologist Nizam Habhab, DO, FACC, FACP will discuss heart health. An exercise physiologist will be on hand to teach simple exercise techniques that can easily be done at home or in the office. A heart healthy dinner will be served.

GCH HEART WALK 2012

Saturday, February 25, 2012 • 9 am – 12 Noon

Westland Mall

35000 Warren Road • Westland, MI 48185

Dress comfortable and bring all your heart related questions for our panel of experts. A GCH pharmacist will be on hand to answer medication questions, free health screening on site, and our Pulse EMS will be on hand for support.

All events are FREE. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Seating is limited. Call 734-458-3248 to reserve your space.



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\$149 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
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 \$1,952 Cash Due at Signing

- 2.0L TI-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine
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23 city / 33 highway MPG³

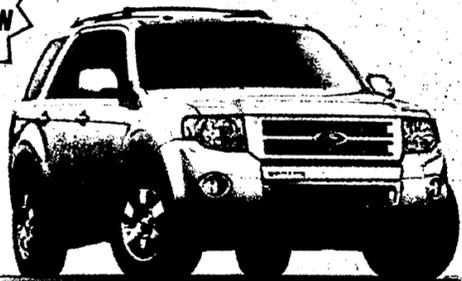
\$169 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
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 \$1,223 Cash Due at Signing

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- Sync[®] Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System • MyKey[™]

**EXTRA
\$750
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MSRP: \$30,995⁵



21 city / 28 highway MPG³

\$169 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
 PER MONTH LEASE
 Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.
 \$1,492 Cash Due at Signing

- Heated, Premium Leather Trimmed Front Seats
- Power Moon Roof
- Reverse Sensing System
- 6-speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac with Roll Stability Control
- 2.5L Duratec I-4 Engine

**EXTRA
\$500
AUTO SHOW
CASH!**

2012 EDGE SE FWD

MSRP: \$29,265⁵



19 city / 27 highway MPG³

\$199 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
 PER MONTH LEASE
 Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.
 \$2,224 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5 TI-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™]
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability • Personal Safety System
- 17" Painted Aluminum Wheels

2012 TAURUS SEL FWD

MSRP: \$29,250⁵



18 city / 28 highway MPG³

\$219 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
 PER MONTH LEASE
 Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.
 \$2,788 Cash Due at Signing

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- AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™]
- Sync with Traffic, Directions and Information
- Dual-Zone Electronic Automatic Temperature Control

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Offers Up To 28 highway MPG³

\$285 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees²
 PER MONTH LEASE
 Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.
 \$2,133 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5L TI-VCT V6
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System
- AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™] and Curve Control
- Rear Camera • MyKey[™]
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(1) 4 vehicles feature Auto Show Cash: \$250 Auto Show Cash on Focus, \$500 Auto Show Cash on Fusion and Edge, and \$750 Auto Show Cash on Escape. All applicable Auto Show Cash is included in payments shown. (2) Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low mileage lease. Residency restrictions apply. Some payments higher, some lower. Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees and customers (Focus). Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash with exception of the 2012 Focus. You must currently lease a Ford product through Ford Credit and re-lease through Ford Credit. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/31/12. Fusion, Edge and Escape Payments include \$500 trade in assistance. Focus payment includes \$250 trade in assistance. (3) MPG estimate based on 2012 Focus SE SEDAN with SFE Package- EPA-estimated 29 city/40 hwy mpg, 2012 Fusion SEL 2.5L I-4 Engine with 6-speed automatic 23 city/33 hwy mpg, 2012 Escape 2.5L I-4 Engine 21 city/28 hwy mpg, 2012 Taurus SEL 3.5L V6 engine 18 city/28 hwy mpg, 2012 Edge SE 3.5L V6 engine 19 city/27 hwy mpg, and 2012 Explorer XLT with 2.0L I4 optional EcoBoost engine 20 city/28 hwy mpg. (4) Horsepower and torque achieved with premium fuel. (5) MSRP, A Plan price is for qualified, eligible A Plan customers and excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Optional equipment not included. Not all vehicles qualify for A Plan price. (6) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.

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