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## Group: Rec plan is solution to park contamination

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

An unwavering citizens group has rekindled its push for a vast recreation complex in Westland, calling the need greater than ever after learning that Central City Park is contaminated.

The group, Citizens for Frontier Park (CFP), proposed two years ago that city officials use land west of the park for a 30-acre complex with

such amenities as baseball diamonds, soccer fields, an indoor pool, a two-sheet ice arena, picnic pavilions, basketball courts and walking trails.

After learning that city and county officials kept quiet for years about elevated levels of lead in Central City Park — specifically in the ball diamonds and soccer fields — CFP proponents are worried that children will have no sufficient place to play their games.

They have proposed what they consider a

viable, long-range solution to address the contamination problem and move ahead with Frontier Park, and they believe government officials should move quickly.

"The county and city owe the residents something," said Todd Kangas, among three Westland Youth Athletic Association past presidents who unveiled their latest vision to the *Observer*.

Kangas and former WYAA presidents Mark Rodriguez and Keith DeMolay said the city and county should consider paving over the contami-

nated ball diamonds and creating a playing court for special-needs athletes. They also said officials could pave the existing soccer fields and use the area for a parking lot.

Moreover, they believe that an 18-year-old land agreement between the county and the city already contains language that would allow officials to use property west of Central City Park for Frontier Park.

PLEASE SEE PARK, A3



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ivan and Dorothy Love hold one of 126 kittens that they have helped foster for the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care.

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

## Cat whisperer MHS volunteer provides four-legged fostering for kittens



Dorothy Love can't resist giving a hug to a wide-eyed kitten in the Berman Center's adoption section.

When Ivan and Dorothy Love's daughter died in an automobile accident in May 2005, the Livonia couple found solace in hugging their kittens.

And when Ivan was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in December 2005, it was the kittens he held when he was upset.

"In February (2006), I had surgery, 38 rounds of radiation and now hormone therapy," Ivan said. "The kittens helped me through this a lot more than they can ever know."

That "they" is the staff at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. Ivan has been a MHS volunteer since 2001 and for the past two years has, with the help of his wife, fostered kittens.

"We've fostered 126 kittens and haven't adopted one yet, so I guess that's pretty amazing," said Ivan who has had a positive outcome of his cancer treatment.

Ivan retired from Ford

Motor Company in March 1999 and turned to working at the MHS's old shelter in Westland "after everything on the honey do list was done."

He went one day a week to the shelter, working exclusively with the cats. He happened to be at the clinic when a woman brought in a cat and four kittens just five weeks old. He volunteered to take them home and raise them.

"After I experienced numb toes from diabetes, it got hard to clean those old cages, so I started doing this," said Ivan.

"The rule was that we can foster as long as we don't keep one," added Dorothy. According to Dorothy, her husband has a way with the kittens, a knack that has earned him the nickname of the Cat Whisperer.

He is experienced in dealing with a variety of pet ailments — fleas, upper respiratory infections and parasites — and nursing kittens back to health. He has sat up with young kittens, feeding them with an eye dropper, slept in

PLEASE SEE KITTENS, A4

## Detroit woman faces hearing on charges stemming from fire

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Detroit woman is facing a court hearing today on charges of trying to kill three people by setting fire to the front door area of their Westland apartment.

Keli Angelique Coleman, 28, is accused of dousing the area with gasoline and starting a fire after mistakenly believing that the residents had her 4-year-old child, police said.

Coleman and the child's father have had differences, police said, and the Willow Creek apartment, on Newburgh south of Ford, is occupied by the father's mother.

Coleman is facing a hearing today in Westland's 18th District Court on three counts of assault with intent to murder and one count of arson of an occupied building.

Three people inside the apartment escaped injury during the fire, which erupted around 11 a.m.

Dec. 26 and mostly damaged the front door area. The child was not inside the residence, police said.

Coleman was jailed on a \$100,000 cash or surety bond after her arrest. Her hearing today is expected to determine whether she will have to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

The incident happened on Oakview Lane in the Willow Creek complex. When police arrived, they saw two people screaming from a second-story unit, and a mattress had been thrown from the apartment, according to police reports.

A police officer kicked in the front door and, with help from an occupant, put out the fire, according to police reports. The officer then helped the three people leave the apartment.

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## Senate names Anderson to Appropriations panel

State Sen.-elect Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has been chosen to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee in the new state legislature.

The committee makes important decisions about which projects and services the government will fund.

"Michigan continues to face extremely difficult budget challenges," Anderson said. "Our goal must be to live within our means, while protecting critical services and investing in our communities. It will not be easy, but I am confident we can work in a bipartisan way to do what is best for the 6th District and the entire state."

Anderson, the first state senator from Westland ever selected to serve on the appropriations committee, was also appointed to four appropriations subcommittees, including economic development, transportation, higher education and general government.



Anderson

"Improving our economy, tackling transportation issues and securing funding for higher education are important to this community, and I will use my new role to be a strong voice for us in Lansing," Anderson said.

Anderson was elected in November to serve as the state senator for the 6th District, which includes Livonia, Garden City, Redford Township, and Westland. He defeated former state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia.

Previously, Anderson served three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives and as a member of the Westland City Council.

He will be sworn in to office at the Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

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### Coming Sunday in Health



Nia workout combines dance, the martial arts and yoga.

## Radio show gives gifts a 2nd chance

Christmas came twice for people who attended a local radio station's "regifting" party in Livonia Wednesday.

Ginny Hay of Dearborn brought four unwanted gifts to the party Wednesday morning at Burton Manor where Dick Purtan and Purtan's People hosted a remote broadcast for WOMC-FM.

About 50 people attended, hoping to trade up in the after-Christmas gift exchange.



People brought a wide range of unwanted presents — including books, DVDs and CDs — to the WOMC-FM regifting party, where they could trade for a better title, or a more useful item.

Hay brought bath towels, a foam snowman, a candy dish shaped like a bear and a stained glass candleholder.

She walked away with the seventh season of "MacGyver" on DVD, Mannheim Steamroller CDs, a cheese tray and a small angel calendar.

"Either I'll keep it for myself or I'll regift it," Hay said about the calendar.

One man, apparently not a hockey fan, brought an autographed Darren McCarty puck.

"He made some little girl who wanted it very happy," said Amy Berlin, WOMC promotions assistant.

The man took home the nine-part video of "Baseball: A Film by Ken Burns," which Purtan himself didn't want.

Unclaimed gifts were to be donated to Grace Centers of Hope, a Pontiac charity.

by Rebecca Jones



Alex Molnar, 13, of Redford and his mother, Deanna, looked over the gifts turned in at the WOMC-FM regifting party Wednesday at Burton Manor. Participants could swap an unwanted gift for something they liked better.



Radio show host Dick Purtan (left) and personality Big Al Muskavito, along with the rest of Purtan's People, broadcast live Wednesday from Burton Manor during the WOMC-FM regifting party.

## INFORMATION CENTRAL

### MARY TODD LINCOLN

Few would disagree that Abraham Lincoln remains among the United States' most revered and iconic Presidents. Our national fascination with the 16th president, his administration and assassination, spills over to his charismatic First Lady, Mary Todd. This past Dec. 13 marked the 188th anniversary of her birth (in 1818).

Mary Todd was daughter to a prominent slave-holding family in Lexington, Ky., a fact that would prompt controversy during the Civil War, when relatives fought for the Confederacy. Before marrying Lincoln, she seriously considered the attentions of Stephen Douglas, his Democratic rival for President in 1860.

Southern debutante to ardent abolitionist, beau to Douglas but married Lincoln: This duality is all over Mary's biography. She was self-involved: Mary was roundly criticized for overspending public funds to redecorate the White House, and indeed continued to have what would now be considered a "shopping problem" throughout her life.

And yet she was selflessly sacrificial, too, anonymously visiting and caring for the sick and dying Union soldiers who flooded Washington hospitals from Civil War battles in the East.

Mary's life, her marriage and her husband's Presidency are fascinating topics. Materials at the library tell the story. Start with Jean Baker's *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, or the WGBH PBS documentary *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*.

You might continue to the many excellent records of her husband's life and work — Pulitzer Prize-winning history Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. It has much to say about Mary Todd's ambition and its role in Lincoln's bid for the Presidency, and *Lincoln's Speeches and Writings, 1859-1865* includes some tantalizing glimpses into Lincoln's mind toward Mary and his children (one letter to her from the summer of 1863 displays his constant concern for his youngest surviving son; it consists of just two sentences: "Think you better put Tad's pistol away. I had an ugly dream about him.").

And there have been two novels in the last two years about Mary — Barbara Hambly's 2005 *The Emancipator's Wife* and Janis Cooke Newman's 2006 *Mary: A Novel*. Lincoln's legacy, of course, belongs to the entire nation, and there is a wealth of material online about Mary Todd and The Great Emancipator. Northern Illinois University curates the Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project at [lincoln.lib.niu.edu](http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu).

You can search for documents relating to Mary Todd at the Library of Congress's American Memory Project ([memory.loc.gov](http://memory.loc.gov); some 300+ letters, telegrams, and more are archived there). The privately funded Lincoln Institute maintains a detailed Mary Todd biography at its website, Mr. Lincoln's White House ([www.mrlincolnswhitehouse.org](http://www.mrlincolnswhitehouse.org)).

Information Central is compiled by Joshua Neds-Fox at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## ACHIEVERS

A Westland apartment community, Fountain Park Apartments, managed by The Brody Companies is the winner of the 2006 Best Overall Star Community Award.

The biggest and most prestigious of the GLASTAR awards, it's given each year to the best apartment community in the state of Michigan at the Property Management Association of Michigan's awards held recently at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University.

The honor follows recognition in 2005 as the Apartment Association of Michigan Property of the Year Award, Leasing Professional of the Year, Maintenance Supervisor of the Year and Best Decorated Model awards.

The recognition honors the office staff of resident manager Sharon Tyler, assistant manager Krystal Hamilton, leasing professional Stacie Rikard, leasing consultant Crystal Slavanish and administrative help, Sylvia Belanger. The maintenance service team at Fountain Park is led by supervisor Howard Goraj and includes Richard Cetnarowski, Maurice Delihue, Chris Currie, Dan Oaks and Keith Immel.

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# Livonia's U.S. Marine band vet performs at Ford funeral

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Far from the standard image of a Marine, members of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine band don't carry guns and don't get posted to war zones. But their regular assignment, to be wherever the music must swell perfectly and majestically, takes them all over the country and the world.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala, a 1979 Churchill High graduate, is the principal clarinetist for the band and a member since 1985.

She performed Tuesday with the rest of the band at the state funeral for former President Gerald Ford in Washington D.C.

"It was a beautiful service," she said. "It was an honor to be a part of such a significant event, to hear the speakers, the choir and the pipe organ."

In February, she will have been in the band 22 years.

She marched in President Reagan's funeral procession and has marched in all five inaugurations since joining.

She plays funerals in Arlington National Cemetery, as well as weekly performances at the capital's Marine barracks.

"Every week is different," Kadala said. "We play outdoors in the summer on the Capitol Grounds and the Monument Grounds. We march at the Marine barracks every Friday night with the drill teams."

Kadala, whose parents still live in Livonia, went through an audition very similar to the auditions for major symphony orchestras — playing for a panel while obscured behind a wall so judges must choose their players based on their playing and nothing else.

She's proud of the group she performs with.

"I work with the most terrific musicians," Kadala said. "We spend a lot of time together traveling, playing the White



Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala plays with the Marine Band at President Gerald Ford's funeral this week. The Livonia native is the first woman to be the principal clarinetist of the band.

**'Every week is different. We play outdoors in the summer on the Capitol Grounds and the Monument Grounds. We march at the Marine barracks every Friday night with the drill teams.'**

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala

House, going on tours, playing concerts."

The largest playing group, the full band, is 65 musicians. The smallest groups are 20 to 25 musicians.

She lives in Alexandria, Va., with her husband, a civilian employee of the Department of the Navy.

She said she's thinking of retiring once she's put in 26 years, to coincide with her husband's retirement.

Kadala's parents, James and Eunice Mitchell, still live in Livonia. Her mother said she still keeps a laminated copy of the 1985 *Observer* story of her daughter's acceptance into the Marine Band.

"She's done some outstanding things," Mitchell said. "She was the first female concert mistress, that means she sets the pitch for the band. She was also the first female clarinet section leader."

Kadala's mother said a lot has changed since her daughter was a shy, quiet stu-

dent at Webster Elementary.

"She's very dedicated to her music," Mitchell said. "She's very proud to serve her country in this capacity."

To become a member of "The President's Own," an individual must pass the audition/interview and meet the physical and mental criteria for enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps, according to Marine Public Affairs Specialist Staff Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali.

The person also must be a U.S. citizen in order to obtain the top secret security clearance with Category III White House access that is a prerequisite for duty with "The President's Own."

"Marines in 'The President's Own' are among the most expert musicians and professionals in the world and are recruited from renowned colleges, universities and conservatories worldwide," Ghadiali said.

The band was started in 1798 by an act of Congress with the single charge of providing music for the president. The band is the country's oldest professional musical organization and has performed for every sitting president since Thomas Jefferson.

Comprising the United States Marine Band, the Marine Chamber Orchestra and the Marine Chamber Ensembles, they perform regularly at the White House and at more than 500 public events every year.

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# Cardboard box bass is big hit in Nashville

For the inventor of the Bogdon Box Bass, a cardboard upright bass, a trip to Nashville meant more than just seeing the sights.

It meant rubbing elbows with guitar vendors, selling everything from a classic Kay electric upright bass selling for \$2,200 to vintage acoustic guitars for \$1,200, performing with bands at the Nashville Crossroads Bar and finding a business owner to see the box bass.

"We sold a few Bogdon Box Bases, we played onstage with a country band in Nashville, we met a few new friends, and we bonded as bands do when bands are on the road," Chris Badynee wrote about the experience.

The Westland resident was in the country music capital last month to market his Bogdon Box Bass at the Music City Winter Guitar Show.

The Bogdon Box Bass in kit form for \$49.95 and is made of cardboard, that can be plugged in and made electric. Assembly requires a screwdriver, hot glue gun, packing tape and a knife.

A late arrival at the show site, Tennessee State Fair Sports Arena, Badynee attracted stares as he carted in six of his cardboard box basses. By the time the show ended, he had regulars visiting his booth, and even had one vendor buy one and set it next to his \$23,000 custom guitar display.

"I looked around to see if someone brought the box bass and just left it there," he stated. "I asked the vendor who the box bass belonged to and he said, 'Me, I bought that.' I was floored, speechless, embarrassed."

"He was a 'Gibson Luthier.' I looked at his display of gorgeous woods, beautiful artwork carvings, and gold plated hardware."

Badynee also met up with a luthier from Waterford, Charlie Coen, whose electric guitars and hand-wound pickups are world class. They talked about music, gigging, guitars, and "of course," the resonance factor within corrugated cardboard." By the time they were done, Coen offered to sell the box bass in his store.

Badynee and his partners also enjoyed the Nashville music scene with friend Deb Ziemis, a country singer/songwriter, her husband and son, jamming with musicians at several bars and in front of several bars where bouncers chased him away because "I looked like I was pan-handling."

At one stop, the Nashville Crossroads Bar, he went onto the stage with the band, Carl D. and The 100 Proof Band.

"I slapped the hell outta my box bass as we played Johnny Cash's I Walk The Line, and the box bass sounded as sweet as sweet can sound," Badynee. "That was the most fun I've ever had improvising anywhere. We jammed as if it were New Years Eve."

The trip was everything Badynee had hoped for. "Everything felt perfect," he stated. "We were happy, exhilarated and exhausted."

For more information about the Bogdon Box Bass, visit the Web site, [www.bogdonmusic.com](http://www.bogdonmusic.com).

## PARK

FROM PAGE A1

"There are more reasons now to move forward boldly with this plan than there ever has been," Kangas said.

CFP leaders have done research which they said indicates that not just Central City Park — but the bulk of land stretching west from the park to Newburgh Road — was included in the 1978 lease agreement.

They provided copies of documents that describe the land as being south of Ford Road, east of Newburgh, north of Marquette and west of Carlson — an area that encompasses Central City Park and property to the west.

The documents also indicate that the land should be used for park and recreational purposes.

But City Attorney Angelo Plakas has raised questions about the lease agreement, saying it included some attached exhibits that are missing. Those exhibits, he said, could cast doubt on the status of land west of Central City Park.

Plakas said his research, including talks with former

Mayor Tom Taylor indicates that only Central City Park was included in the 1978 lease agreement, although he couldn't say with certainty without having access to the exhibits.

Plakas said he has checked with various offices in the city and county, and no one appears to have the missing exhibits. That is troubling to CFP leaders.

"The whole thing is baffling," Kangas said.

CFP leaders hope to talk with county officials to see what is their interpretation of the 1978 lease agreement.

Regardless, Plakas said he doubted that Frontier Park could be built before the city-county lease expires in late 2008. Any potential agreement to use land west of Central City Park would likely be better handled by starting fresh — if city and county officials deem the plan workable, he said.

Frontier Park leaders have had a lukewarm response, at best, from local elected officials as they seek support for their project.

The plan would almost certainly require some type of tax increase, and former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said last July

that "people out there are really struggling, and it might be difficult to get a (tax) passed."

CFP leaders have said they believe they could win community support for a tax increase, perhaps 1 mill or less. They have indicated they might ultimately circulate petitions to have the issue placed on an election ballot.

"We're trying to do something positive for the city," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, Kangas and DeMolay voiced concerns that potential new residents will shy away from moving to Westland as recreation options dwindle for children.

CFP leaders also fear that if they back away from their proposal, land west of Central City Park — land that is presumably not contaminated — could be developed for non-recreation purposes.

They believe that part of the funding for Frontier Park could come from a quarter-mill county tax that is specifically designated for parks and recreation.

"We still envision this as a need for the city," Kangas said.

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## STEVENSON HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the first marking period at Stevenson Middle School were:

Ashley Abbott, Susan Abbott, Michael Acerrano, Adedamola Adebisi, Keith Agee, Arika Agnew, Sean Albaron, Shannon Alcodray, Sydney Alioto, Omar Alkatie, Samia Alkatie, Cody Allen, Kali Aloisi, Marissa Alvarez, Nathan Alvord, Shane Anderson, Brittany Arledge, Josiah Ault, Michael Babler, Mary Bache, Megan Bache, Halie Baker, Kirstin Baker, Seth Baker.

Julie Bancroft, Juliana Bangura, Ashley Barker, Justin Bean, Samantha Begdorian, Jack Begley, Amelia Bennett, Sidney Bennett, Andrew Benyo, Jessica Berg, Caylin Best, Troy Beverley, Courtney Billings, Brandon Bleau, Hailey Blevins, Jeffery Bogedain, Casey Bone, Morgan Bone, Cody Borg, Zachary Bower, Dillon Bowies, Shelby Bray, Trudi Brothers, Aaron Brown.

Aljah Brown, Codie Buege, Jordan Buford, Jaly Bull, John Burger, Erica Burzlaff, Brenna Bush, Avery Byrom, Kameron Caldwell, Roxhensa Cami, Adrian Carey, Ashley Carey, Kendall Carter, Matthew Castaldini, Servina Ceno, Martha Cerda, Jacob Charron, Quintin Cheek, Sunroop Cheema, Ashley Christensen, Tasha Christensen, De'Janae Clark, Brittany Cobb.

Jared Coleman, Marisa Colosimo, Ashley Compton, Jordyn Coniam, Ashley Conley, Amanda Cook, Dylan Cook, Kendra Cornish, Brandon Coulter, Javon Crocker, Erin D'Arcy, Ian D'Arcy, Michael Dalton, Laura Darnell, Mona Darwish, Briana Davis, James Decker, Delani Derr, Tessa Diaz, Charity Dillard, Tyler Dingman, Alana Doe, Tyler Donbrock, Zachery Donbrock.

Carolyn Doyle, Alexander Driessche, Nickolas Duncan, Anthony Dunn, Corey Ellis, Megan Emery, Alysia Escobar, Erica Escobar, Natalie Escobar, Janette Evans, Brianna Everett, Emily Everett, Tanee Ewing, Wadie Farah, Brooke Femat, Jacob Ferguson, Shelby Fitzgerald, Karl Fletcher, Audra Flores, Luis Flores, Jessica Fontana, Travis Fontana, Chelsey Foster.

Zachary Franklin, Alex Fucik, Alexis Gagleard, Chloe Garbacz, Dylan Gartz, Tristan Gellert, Allyson Gibbs, Alec Gibson, Joseph Gierak, Katelyn Gierak, Alexa Girouard, Breanna Glasson, Breann Graca, Brooke Graham, Meghan Grainger, Joelle Green,

Lauren Green, Mashon Green, Sherry Green, Ashley Guldner, Eric Haase, Alexandra Hamlett, Christopher Hammel.

Matthew Hansen, Tiffany Harris, Austin Hartford, Meghan Hartman, Christopher Hatch, Marissa Hay, Taylor Hayton, Jessica Hensley, Megan Hernandez, Jamie Higgs, Jasmine Hitt, Madison Hodgkins, Natalie Hogue, Brandi Holbrook, Brooklyn Holbrook, David Hopkins, Katie Horton, Kerri Horton, Alannah Houston, Bryn Houston, Ediana Hoxhallari.

Niklas Hubbard, Tyler Hubbard, Jennifer Humbach, Michelle Hunt, Brandon Hunter, Robert Hurst, Daniel Iacoban, Nateanael Iacoban, Cody Iannetta, Maria Idunata, Catherine Ionescu, David Isaacs, Alia Ismail, Inas Ismail, David Jackson, Shelby Jackson, Christopher Janos, Andrew Jarema, Bailey Jarzamba, Chelsea Jenkins, Kavina Jhaveri, Samantha Jinkerson.

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William Messics, Rachel Michelsen, Erica Mifsud, Nicholas Mifsud, Jasmine Milewsky, Leanna Miller, Keonte Mitchell, Amanda Mominnee-Curmi, Conner Monroe, Khadejah Moore, Katherine Moran, Timothy Moran, Jonathan Mullinix, Allison Murphy, Thorin Murphy-Fahlgren, Sabrina Musselman, Ariana Mustafa, Kayla Myers, Jude Naber, Jeremy

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Keesa Stamper, Justin Staples, Michael Stewart, Austin Storm, Jason Suarez, Emily Swope, Nicholas Sypher, Brittany Tabangcura, Kaylee Taucher, Diamond Taylor, Kendall Taylor, Holly Teschke, Andrew Thorne, Kiara Thornton, Ashley Tinney, Jacob Toarmina, Sarah Toarmina, Amber Tolentino, Chloe Tooson, Bruno Trepshi, Claire Truskowski.

John Tufnell, Sommer Tuttle, Kiera Tyson, Kella Van Zandt, Tyler Van Zandt, Jake Vasher, Yuzi Vazquez, Ian Villaroman, Jamison Vincent, Joseph Wakeford, Danielle Waldrop, Brittany Walker, Marie Walker, Alyssia Warren, Patrick Warren, Miles Watson, Alston Weathers, Alexander Wells, Ashley White, Amy Wilcock, MeChelle Wilder, Dayra Williams.

Tammy Wilson, Melanie Winekoff, Evan Woody, Halie Woody, Larry Wright, Reynard Wright, Sherree Wurster and Kelsie Yax.

## TRW gift boosts reading, tech programs

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

The reading and technology curriculums in Livonia Public Schools will get a boost, with a \$5,000 gift from the TRW Foundation.

John Wilkerson, senior communication manager at TRW Automotive, presented the check at a recent school board meeting. It is the seventh consecutive year the corporation has given to LPS, bringing the total to \$45,000.

"When I give a gift to Livonia Public Schools, it is an investment. It is money that is well-spent. It is making an impact on teachers' lives," Wilkerson said.

The money will be used for elementary literacy and applied technology in the middle school

professional development program.

Last year's gift bought books and teaching resources for elementary schools. That effort will continue.

At the middle schools, funding will be used to purchase software and provide lessons that demonstrate the connection between technology and curriculum and the work world.

A new pilot program will also get underway teaching middle school students skills that make good employees, such as perseverance, responsibility and integrity.

"These programs would not be possible without TRW's funding," said Donna McDowell, coordinator of communications and partnerships. "This is corporate citizenship at its best."

TRW, which has 200 locations including Livonia, has donated \$100 million to the communities where it has plants.

"It goes a lot deeper than a monetary gift," Wilkerson said. "What we're doing here is building a base ... it continues to build year on year."

Although the auto industry is experiencing tough economic times, Wilkerson added, "I sure hope to be back again next year with another gift."

In addition to financial generosity, TRW has encouraged employee participation in LPS's teacher-business education program, McDowell said. Employees also volunteer time for needy families in the district.

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

## KITTENS

FROM PAGE A1

the spare bedroom for three days with a ailing kitten tucked under his arm, and has been able to socialize a group of kittens the shelter determined were feral.

"When you foster, you have to look at it from the standpoint that you have to socialize them and take care of their illnesses," Ivan said.

"Most have upper respiratory illnesses, so you have to know how to deal with the medicine."

"It's impossible for him to walk into the kitchen without being followed by four kittens," Dorothy added. "When he naps, the kittens are sleeping on his chest."

The Loves keep the kittens in the breezeway of their home for two days to make sure they use a litter box, then they introduce them to their two cats, Midnight, age 5, and Katie, age 15 and blind. They describe Midnight as the uncle, saying he licks and cleans the kittens. Katie, however, growls.

"She tells them I'm the queen, leave me alone," Ivan said. While the MHS provides supplies to care for the kittens, Ivan prefers to buy his

'We've had a lot of fun with them. The last 1 1/2 years since we lost our daughter, they've been more of a therapy for us than we've been for them.'

Ivan Love

own. He has nine litter boxes, four of which are top-of-the-line electric litter boxes, for his "guests" and serves them Tasty Treats at meal time.

Katie is the first to be fed, followed by the kittens. Midnight will come in and wake him at 5:30 a.m. Ignoring him is good for a kitty hit, Ivan said.

"They get spoiled rotten," Dorothy said. "It's like having kids, only we have four to nine kids at a time," Ivan said.

Age and weight determine how long the kittens stay with the Loves. The general rule is that the kittens must be eight weeks old and weigh two pounds, the minimum required for spaying and neutering, to become available for adoption. They did have a pair of calico cats that they turned in at 10 weeks who still weighed on 1 1/2 pounds.

The Loves at first hesitated to name the kittens, figuring

that they would end up keeping them, if they did. They now do and none of their guests have the same name.

"We have two kittens that look like twins, so we call them Pete and Repeat," Dorothy said.

So committed to their fostering, the Loves plan their vacations around the kittens.

And they're proud of what they've accomplished with the kittens, pointing out that theirs are "first picks" when they become available for adoption. Three kittens in one litter had homes before they came back to the shelter, and one orange cat ended up being adopted by a clinic worker.

Fostering the kittens is important to MHS, and Ivan, who just turned 69, figures he has another 20 years, and will have kittens "as long as I'm physically able."

But the Loves say the work is just as important to them. "We've had a lot of fun with them," Ivan said. "The last 1 1/2 years since we lost our daughter, they've been more of a therapy for us than we've been for them."

"No matter how sad we are, you just have to laugh when you see what they do," Dorothy added.

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## Volunteers important part of work at MHS

Volunteers are an integral part of what the Michigan Humane Society does for homeless and unwanted animals.

Volunteer opportunities include doing adoption center animal care and serving as greeters/adoption assistants, online Pets Program writers and photographers and in-shelter dog trainers.

MHS also has an urgent need for foster families to temporarily house animals, providing them extra care and love so they can ultimately be adopted into good homes.

Volunteers foster animals

which cannot immediately be placed for adoption but are considered highly adoptable. The animals may be injured, ill, too young to be adopted, or animals who have been abused and are in need of extended care.

Once the animals are healthy, they are either returned to the adoption center and placed for adoption or kept in the foster home and placed on Petfinder until they are adopted.

People interested in being foster parents can contact Janell Timko at (248) 799-7400, Ext. 136, or by e-mail at

jtinko@michiganhumane.org.

MHS requires volunteers be at least 14 years old. Those between 14-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult mentor who is at least 25 years of age every time he or she volunteers. They also must be willing to make a minimum six-month commitment, attend the general orientation and any other required training, depending on the volunteer position.

For more information on volunteering, visit the Michigan Humane Society Web site at www.michiganhumane.org.

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## Toys and Trains

Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, the church hall at 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free.

There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. Dealer setup is 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

## In concert

The Wisconsin Lutheran College Concert Band will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland.

The performance is part of the band's 2007 Vigil's Keep Midwest Tour. The band will appear with the Huron Valley Lutheran High School Concert Band.

Under the direction of Professor Terry Treuden, the 60-piece concert band will perform a variety of works, including *Allegro Barbaro* by Béla Bartók and arranged by Tom Wallace, *An American Elegy* by Frank Ticheli and directed by student conductor David Neubauer, *Suite on Celtic Folk Songs* by Tomohiro Tatebe, *Madrigalum* by Philip Sparke, *The National Game* by John Philip Sousa and arranged by Keith Brion and *Vigils Keep*.

## Society holds youth music competition

Wayne-Westland students interested in music have until Monday, Jan. 22, to apply for the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society's Youth Artist Competition.

The competition will take place on Sunday, Feb. 4, at Evola Music, 7170 N. Haggerty, Canton.

The competition is composed of three divisions - senior instrumental for grades 10-12, senior piano for grades 10-12 and junior combined for grades 7-9.

Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students living in the Wayne-Westland school district. The competition also is open to students in the Clarenceville, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren school districts.

Members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra or students at Evola Music also are eligible.

The distribution of scholarship funds for the first-place winners in each division is senior instrumental, \$500; senior piano, \$500, and junior combined, \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions also will be acknowledged.

Applications, available through the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, are due on or before Jan. 22. Past participants are encouraged to reapply, however, musicians are eligible to win only one first prize award in each division. Winners may have the opportunity to perform with the PSO and Orchestra Canton. Applicants must be available to perform at the competition.

For an application and/or further information, call Ellen Elliott at (734) 451-2112, or by e-mail at ellen@plymouthsymphony.org. Applications also are available on the Plymouth Symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society is a non-profit organization.

by Julie Giroux.

The concert is free and open to the public. Huron Valley Lutheran High School is at 33740 Cowan, east of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. For more information, call (734) 525-0160.

## Bowling benefit

Veteran's Haven and Towne & Country Lanes will hold a Bowling for Homeless Veterans benefit 12:30-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the bowling alley at 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost will be \$20 per person which includes three games of bowling, shoe rental and raffle ticket for drawings going on

throughout the event.

Veteran's Haven and Towne & Country Lanes are dedicated to combating the problem of homelessness among veterans. With more than 500,000 veterans homeless at any given time in this country and nearly 5,000 homeless veterans in the Detroit metropolitan area, a serious problem exists. Veteran's Haven has assisted more than 10,000 veterans since its inception, providing food, clothing, counseling, job connections, transportation and supportive/transitional housing to disadvantaged, homeless and needy Veterans.

For more information on how to help or about Veteran's Haven,

visit the Web site at www.vet-shaveninfo.org or call (734) 728-0527.

## Book group

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Discussion Group at the William P. Faust Public Library will be poring over the pages of *Variable Star* by Robert Heinlein and Spider Robinson when it meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, in meeting room A.

For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

## Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in

Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 and includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Jan. 7, 5, 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16.

For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

## Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

## Praise and worship

Westwood Community

Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

## Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multigrain pancakes, coffee, juice, lowfat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar-free syrup will be available.

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OUR VIEWS

## State must deal with tax problem

Gov. Jennifer Granholm sounded positive notes Monday in her second inaugural address.

In the election, Granholm was challenged by a well-financed campaign by businessman Dick DeVos. The state's continuing economic problems made her vulnerable, but voters were willing to give her another chance.

In her address, Granholm said that Michigan is uniquely challenged, but "will rise to meet the challenge because it's who we are and it's who we will be."

Those are fine sentiments, but Granholm and the state Legislature need a strong political will to do what needs to be done to both stimulate the state's lagging, auto-dominated economy while preserving the state's necessary public services.

At the top of the agenda immediately is finding a way to replace most, if not all, of the revenue that will be lost when the Single Business Tax expires late this year. But the state has a more fundamental problem. The state's budget is structurally unbalanced. The state doesn't take in enough revenue to meet its obligations.

The governor and the state Legislature need to move boldly to address the broader issues of the state's tax structure, beyond finding an appropriate business tax to replace the \$1.9 billion of revenue from the SBT.

This will include some more trimming of state government, but here the options are limited. The state has commitments to K-12 education, higher education, environmental protection, land management, public safety, roads, health care and many other services that are vital to providing an attractive environment for economic growth. Inefficiencies exist in state government as they do in private business, but in some areas cutbacks have already hurt services at the state and local levels of government.

Granholm has said that being a "lame-duck" governor will be liberating. The question is whether it will liberating enough for her to push through a tax plan that will include tax increases for some segments and may include taxes that will have an impact on everyone.

No one likes to pay taxes and no one likes to have state services cut. That's the problem.

Any change in the tax structure also has to balance the state's revenue needs with providing a tax environment that is attractive to businesses, especially the new, cutting-edge technology businesses that the state is trying to lure from other states.

But studies show that low taxes are only one of many factors that businesses look at when choosing to locate facilities. Good state and local government services, good roads and other transportation, a healthy environment, top universities and recreational opportunities are also high on the list.

This is a challenge and an opportunity to set the state on a solid footing for the future.

## Nation owes debt to our own Gerald Ford

Michigan's only president returned home Wednesday to be buried in his boyhood hometown of Grand Rapids. The private ceremony for former President Gerald R. Ford capped a week of remembrances and tributes for the nation's 38th commander in chief.

While Ford's brief, two-year presidency was anything but normal, it appears certain that his legacy finally will focus on how he helped heal a troubled nation instead of how he pardoned a disgraced president.

Ford oftentimes was referred to as the "accidental president," who aspired politically to be Speaker of the House, but instead was thrust into the White House as a result of the Watergate scandal and subsequent resignation of then-President Richard Nixon.

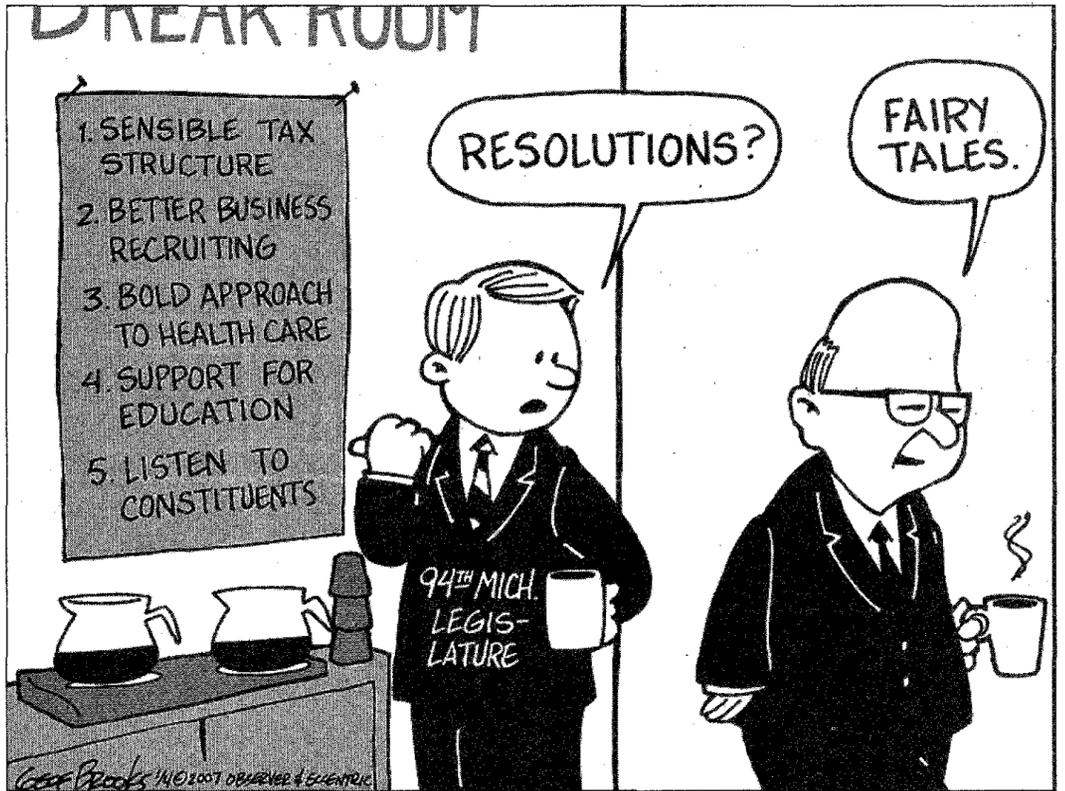
And while Ford was vilified by many for his pardon of Nixon, which likely ended his political career, even many of his staunchest critics at the time now admit that Ford was correct in ending the country's "long, national nightmare."

Politicians today could learn a lot from President Ford. He put the good of the country ahead of his own interests and served the state of Michigan well as both a member of Congress for more than 20 years and as president.

Words like honest, honorable, straightforward, warm and noble have been used over and over this past week to describe Gerald R. Ford. These are words not usually used to describe politicians today.

Although he moved to California many years ago, President Ford never forgot his roots, or his alma mater, the University of Michigan, where he starred on the football team. He returned to the state many times, and always spoke fondly of his years at the university. It seems fitting that the U-M marching band was scheduled to play *Hail to the Victors* at the final funeral service Wednesday in Grand Rapids.

President Ford was living testimony that nice guys can finish first, and that we can all benefit from a dose of humility from time to time.



LETTERS

### Require a paper ballot

I join the call for a paper ballot for every vote cast in America. It is time for Congress to finally pass an election reform bill in which the American people can have confidence.

Any such legislation must require a paper ballot — not a "paper trail" nor a "paper record" — for every vote cast.

Please make this a top priority in the upcoming legislative session.

Ronnie Sullivan  
Westland

### Story disappoints Brownies

I read the article, "Kids' homemade ornaments decorate trees," in the Dec. 17 edition of the *Observer*. It was a very nice article. As the troop leader for P.D. Graham Brownie Troop 14, I was quite disappointed to see that there was no mention of our troop at this event. I would be remiss, if I didn't write the *Observer* and let them know.

I'm sure the Brownies and their families are wondering why our troop wasn't mentioned, as am I. Our Brownie girls and their parents had such a wonderful time decorating the tree, meeting Mayor Cicirelli, visiting Santa Claus, making crafts, and enjoying cookies and hot chocolate. We were some of the last to leave that evening.

Troop 14 is a new troop at P.D. Graham Elementary as of October 2006, so perhaps that is why we went unnoticed. We have 16 Brownies and welcome more to join us at any time.

Troop members include Leader Laurel Peterson, co-leaders Laura Franklin and Leigh Rogiero, treasurer Amy Cizauskas, Cookie Mom Becky Knaub, Brownies Faith Allen, Hannah Cizauskas, Hailey Doyle, Bridget Ebert, Chloe Franklin, Leah Hailey, Kaily Kiedrowski, Viktorya Knaub, Kaylan Kolasa, Makaylah Liddell, Caitlynn Lumley, Tessa Milne, Emily Orsette, Nicole Owens, Brianna Rogiero and Julia Sutton.

Laurel Peterson  
Northville

### Volunteer deserves honor

Virginia Braun, a longtime community volunteer, was appointed to the Westland Historical Commission in 1983 and has served an impressive 23 consecutive years. She announced her retirement from the commission and at the last City Council meeting was presented a certificate of appreciation by Councilman Charles Pickering who had appointed her 23 years ago at which time he was mayor. Much to her surprise she received a standing ovation by all of those in attendance.

Eleven months in the year the Historical Commission holds a monthly meeting. Only in the last five years has the commission been compensated for those. A majority of the Historical Commissioners give up Saturday afternoons to hold open house at the museum site to see that the buildings, including the archives, are available to the public.

Let us honor a volunteer who has worn two hats for historic preservation in our community for 18 years, for Virginia joined the Friends of the Museum at the onset of that organization in 1988. She has always had impeccable standards on preservation and supports preservation for all of

Westland's historic structures. She has said the high point of her 23 years was serving as chairperson of the Perrinsville School Restoration Committee. She was appointed by Thomas H. Brown who at the time was chairman of the commission.

Virginia persevered for seven years as chair, at which time the restoration was completed and a dedication was held in 1997. She still has her little blue notebook in which notes were kept on restoration of the 1856 schoolhouse.

Since restoration of the historic school Virginia has been in charge of scheduling school classes, seeing that the schoolroom is cleaned before and after visitations, opening and closing the schoolhouse for not only school classes, but for the Sunday open house held in the spring and summer months.

Another time Virginia undertook the task of tracing two misplaced gravestones that had been turned in at the museum complex. One had been found along Hix Road by a jogger, and the other had been buried in a back yard until one day a man decided to dig up a stone that was always in the way in his garden area. Appreciation was expressed by two neighboring communities for return of the missing stones.

With her expertise in genealogy, she lectured a few genealogy classes at the museum to let the public know what resources were available in the Museum Archives. Because of lack of space at the museum, she gave genealogy classes at the library.

Virginia has served on many, many committees. She was one of four members of the Perrinsville School Teachers Manual, researching materials not only for reading, writing, and arithmetic, but songs, games, geography, etc., so a teacher would have a manual to authentically plan an 1890's day at the one-room schoolhouse in Westland.

She was one of the inventory committee members who helped with the first inventory of accessions at the museum after 19 years of collecting items donated to the museum. Just this year she served on three important committees.

On the textile committee, she was one of four people who gave a total of some 500 hours to sew in permanent tags into textile accessions. She stepped up to the plate for the cookbook fund-raiser and the *Cooking With Friends* cookbook was a success.

For annual Flea Market fund-raisers the past three years held on the grounds of the one-room schoolhouse, she was not only a committee member, but rounded up numerous relatives who helped the day of the sale.

All of these activities are just a drop in the bucket of her endeavors. I will treasure the years that I have shared with Virginia on the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum. She has brought pride to the community by all she has accomplished on the two historical groups.

Thank you, Virginia Braun.

Ruth Dale  
Westland

### Toy sounds like sore loser

I was slightly amused by the recent op-ed column by outgoing state Sen. Laura Toy. There were two clear messages from the former senator. One is that she is a sore loser. While she complains about the nega-

tive attacks by her opponent, she is silent about her state Republican Party's on the winner of the senate election, Glenn Anderson.

Toy suggests that the attack against her was unfair because it singled a small percentage of the thousands of votes cast by a senator. Well, Ms. Toy, the same argument can be made by Mr. Anderson who was singled out by the state Republican Party during the campaign for a few votes out of the thousands he cast as a state representative.

On another level, it is clear that Ms. Toy is trying to seek another political office. She has served as a community college trustee, city council member, state representative and state senator. Maybe it's time to give politics a rest. Or will the Republican Party find a place for her as a staff member somewhere in the state legislature?

As I have said before in *Observer* letters, the term limits amendment to the state Constitution doesn't really limit an individual's opportunities to run for office since a person typically moves from one public position to another, usually without a hitch.

Leonard Pogor  
Westland

### Common ground

An illustration of the universality and commonality of the monotheistic faiths — namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in the order of their creation — is the fact that as a high school girl in Israel I used to sing in our school choir the famous Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah with no inking on our part that this is not a Jewish song but a Christian song and a staple of the Christmas-New Year's period. We sang it in our native Hebrew and the words were praise to God, the creator and king of the universe and I can easily hear it sung in Arabic as praise to the same God who is called Allah by an Islamic choir.

With all due respect to the individual traditions of each and every of the three Abrahamic religions, a close examination would reveal that the commonalities between them far exceed the differences, and there is nothing like the Christmas season of peace on earth and goodwill to mankind to implement these beautiful shared values.

Rachel Kapen  
West Bloomfield

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

Mail: Letters to the editor  
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### QUOTABLE

"The fire marshal's office in no way wants to give the impression that just because someone has a mental illness they will start a fire or cause a problem. We know that most of the patients live very normal lives and cause no problem."

Westland Fire Capt. Colleen Pennington about Neighborhood Service Organization using an apartment at Hunters West

**WESTLAND Observer**  
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

**GANNETT**

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Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Marty Carry Advertising Director	

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## LETTERS

## Formal investigation needed

I attended the public study session on the Central City Park contamination issue. The MDEQ passed out a flyer which was helpful. I think additional copies are available at the City Clerk's office. I recommend that the residents go to the MDEQ Web site and look up "Due Care" Requirements. This was mentioned in the MDEQ flyer.

Section 20107a of Part 201 of Act 451 "requires that owners and operators (city of Westland) take due care measures to ensure that existing contamination on a property does not cause unacceptable risks and is not exacerbated. An owner (Wayne County) or operator (city of Westland) of a site of environmental contamination must prevent exacerbation of the existing contamination ... examples of exacerbation include ... soil goes off-site from blowing winds (how about a ballfield?)."

"Owners/operators must exercise due care by undertaking response activities that are necessary to prevent unacceptable exposures to contamination. ... The existing contamination must be evaluated to determine if the people using or working at the property would be exposed to contamination at levels above the appropriate criteria. ... An owner/operator must take reasonable precautions or steps needed to prevent exposure to an unacceptable risk for a third party ... e.g., neighborhood kids playing in a vacant industrial yard that has direct contact hazards (ballfields?)."

The Due Care Rules require notification within 45 days of becoming the owner/operator or of having knowledge of the conditions. "Persons required to provide notice under Section 21309z(3) of Act 451.

Owners/Operators must take reasonable precautions against the reasonably foreseeable acts or omissions of a third party. Also, the owner/operator must prevent unacceptable human exposure ... in a manner that protects the public health and safety."

I now ask every resident, taxpayer and voter of Westland: Was the law followed? Reread the press coverage, read the MDEQ documents and check the dates. Did your mayor order the park closed within 45 days? Did your mayor notify residents? Did your mayor put up a barrier to prevent exposure or entrance onto the site? What about the directors? Did they follow the law?

In addition, there is 7.3.1 Due Diligence and 7.3.2 Baseline Environmental Assessments. The city of Westland and Wayne County are required by law to test the soils and water of Central City Park. So were tests already done for the water and soil outside of those done by the DEQ? Interesting thing to find out.

What is the environmental testing plan for our parks? Who oversees it? Ponds and water in public parks should be regularly tested. Time for an investigation. Wouldn't our planning director also play into this with the soil issue? Or our department of public works director? Let the finger pointing begin.

The buck stops at our mayor and if directors are not being leaders and offering push back, it is time to clean house. If the law isn't understood, followed or enforced, wouldn't that be negligence? Will our City Council step up to the plate and follow the City Charter and ordinances in this regard? After all, that's the law. Will they follow the law? Will they contact the attorney general's office directly for an investigation? Wouldn't that be the prudent thing to do? Are they not elected to represent the residents?

Our city ordinance under Section 2.5 says that records shall be at all times subject to inspection by any member of the Council, or by any person employed or designated by the Council for that purpose. All such books, papers, records, files and accounts shall be kept in such place as may be designated by the Council.

The City Charter clearly spells out that the mayor, City Council and others are responsible for the health and safety of the residents. Our water and soil is a health and safety issue. The Due Diligence Law clearly states this. Not notifying the people ... hmmm. The fact that the planning director, parks director, city attorney and others knew about the contamination elevates this issue, doesn't it? It is a violation of the City Charter, city ordinances, public trust and other related laws. Seems to me if one is a director they should know the laws that relate to that position.

Citizens of Westland, contact the DEQ and see if they are going to investigate and file a violation notice. Take the legal steps. Have we been violated? Our water, land and the air we breathe must be held with the highest respect of protection. Residents must be valued. The City Charter and ordinances must be enforced or they mean nothing. Is it up to you and I to contact the appropriate parties for the enforcement of these laws? Will the City Council contact the attorney general? Will they vote to initiate a formal investigation? Stay tuned ...

Michael Smith  
Westland

## Accommodations for what

Recently I was made aware of an Iraqi vet who needed our help by Roger Kehrier, senior vice commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I won't use names for obvious

reason, I will use only initials, but I wanted to make the public aware how the system works, even when you're trying to simplify matters and help. The MOPH will be sending this family a \$1,000 check from its welfare fund.

Roger made contact with E.D., a social worker at the Detroit VA, to inquire about this vet who was being treated there and waiting to be transported to the Indianapolis VA for further treatment.

His wife and three children wanted to accompany and visit their father for Christmas week. This vet was a combat engineer and injured when a girder snapped and made him a quadriplegic. E.D. did not make contact with Roger for over a week. Finally, they talked and we thought this matter was well under way until today.

Roger contacted us and explained the story that accommodation for the family was needed for approximately 17 days — Christmas week and six additional weekends thereafter. We were more than willing to help. To get this ball rolling, considering E.D. was MIA, Roger contacted volunteer services at the VA in Detroit and spoke to W.S., who I also know and have dealt with on various issues for more than 10 years. W.S. understood the story and contacted M.W. in Indianapolis at the VA to locate a nice hotel/motel for the family's stay.

He had located a Comfort Inn that was more than willing to accommodate this family's needs with a suite, food, grocery shopping, swimming pool and transportation for wherever they needed to go. The VA Hospital is approximately six miles from this location. The cost per night was \$69, and this hotel was very willing to keep the price low for all vets' families that might have the same needs.

Today, E.D. called me and informed me that he has made his own arrangements at a place called The Residence on the Canal at \$93 per night.

I explained that I needed to talk to the vet's wife to confirm and get the paperwork we need for our files, showing the money had been expended for wounded vets. Well, E.D. told me he wanted to act as a liaison between the family and us, I still explained that I needed to talk to Mrs. W.

Apparently, no one was real concerned about contacting us and making this a done deal, so I could call the hotel and lock up these accommodations for the family. I hadn't heard from anyone.

This afternoon I called the director's office at the Detroit VA and explained the story to his assistant.

She told me she would find out what's going on and get back with me. Well, she

called me back on a conference call with E.D. on the line.

I explained to both that my concern was that all arrangements were made up until yesterday and all I needed to do was talk to the wife.

I went on to explain that I was not pleased that E.D. went behind the backs of Roger, W.S., M.W. and myself and made his own deal at this other resort. After all our time and effort, the deal was going up in smoke. This little venture would cost \$1,173 at the Comfort Inn and \$1,581 at The Residence on the Canal.

This is the part that I like. Considering I explained that we will be more than willing to confirm reservations for Mrs. W. and her family at this Comfort Inn, I was asked by the director's assistant and E.D. if our offer to help this family was still good.

I told them yes, but at the Comfort Inn. I was then informed by both of these individuals that Mrs. W. has the right to pick where she and the family wants to stay. Not on our nickel! To conclude our phone conversation, I told both that I would make my final decision after I speak to Mrs. W., if she ever calls me.

This is why Veterans Haven, along with Sandra Cicirelli, Bob Stottlemeyer and many others, volunteered time and effort to raise money to help the wounded warriors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Not once, but twice, in 2005, we had "The Back to the '40s Dinner/Dance" and the Lee Greenwood concert. We have the funds to help all wounded vets that qualify and have an immediate need.

But we will not be foolish spending this money on perks along the way, trying to help and do something good.

We will be good stewards of this cash in our account set aside for these types of situations.

If our goodwill and gestures to help are rejected because more is expected than we are willing to logically give, I'm sorry. Perhaps, Mrs. W. will find accommodations at Salvation Army more to her liking. We can't win for losing!

Unfortunately, the vet can only communicate by blinking his eyes, so he is out of the box in making any decisions. He has enough problems.

Sounds to me like the family wants to go on a vacation and, at the same time, if they have time, visit their father. Perhaps, I'm wrong. I truly hope so.

Vince Berna  
director  
Veterans Haven Inc.  
vetshaveninfo.org

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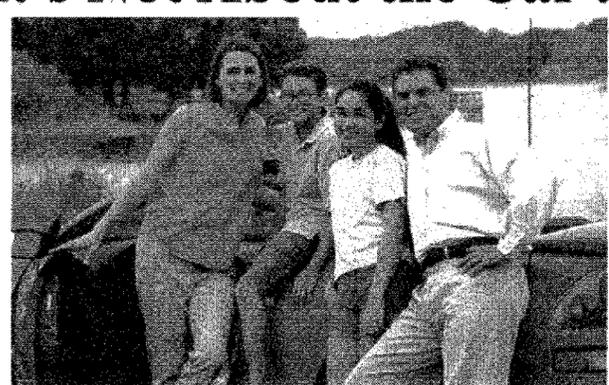
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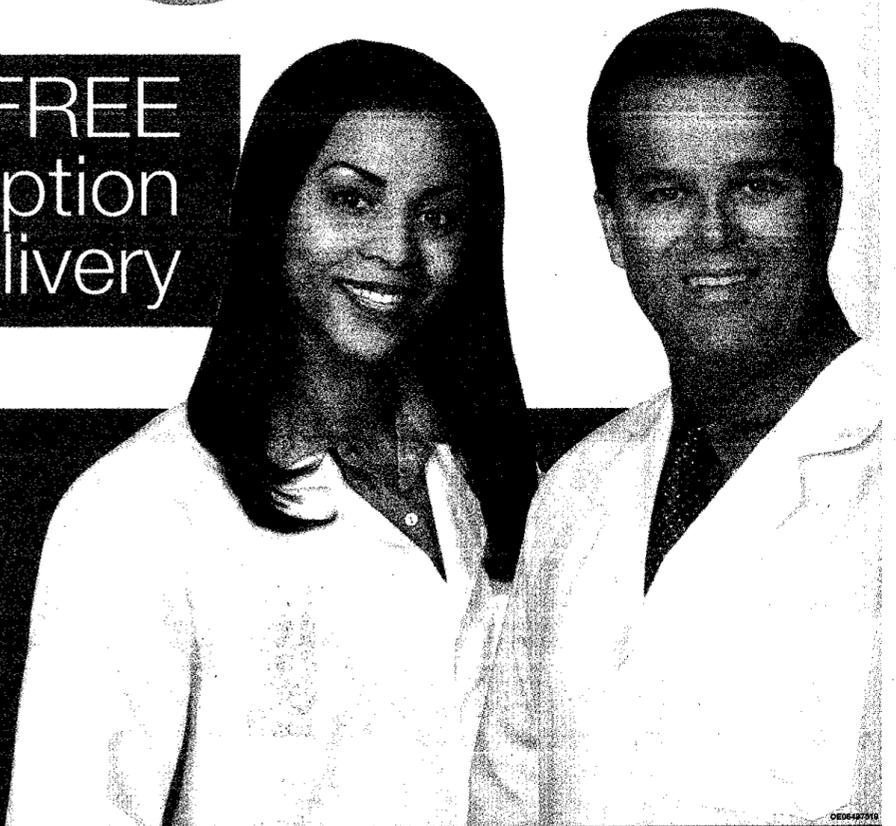


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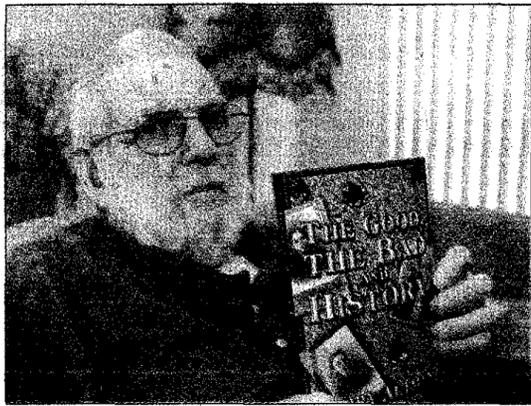
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Rochester Hills resident Larry Altman's new book highlights 11 figures or events that helped shape American history.

## Author highlights obscure pieces of our nation's past

BY GARY WINKELMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Two of Larry Altman's favorite pastimes are history and writing.

So it's no surprise he's drawing on those dual interests and putting together books these days.

A retired newspaperman and Rochester Hills resident, Altman's most recent book is a collection of obscure true tales called *The Good, The Bad and History*.

And though it's not bound for any best-seller lists, the author hopes readers inclined toward little-known but unique facts and figures may find it worth searching out.

The 149-page book highlights 11 different stories that Altman, 79, says helped shape American history.

Included are accounts about individuals with notable experiences but who failed to capture widespread acclaim. For instance, Altman reveals the story of Deborah Sampson, a New England "schoolmarm" who disguised herself as a man and fought in several skirmishes during the Revolutionary War.

Then there's the story of William Walker, a Tennessee native whose toughness and tenacity helped him become the ruler of Nicaragua for a brief time in the mid-19th century.

Although the bulk of Altman's subjects probably fall far below the historical radar of most people, *The Good, The Bad and History* features at least one name local readers may recognize — William Beaumont.

The namesake of hospitals in Troy and Royal Oak, Altman recaps circumstances that led to Beaumont's pioneering peek into the human stomach.

Serving as a surgeon at Fort Mackinac in 1822, Beaumont was treating a young French-Canadian fur trapper who had accidentally been shot in the abdomen. Instead of succumbing, the victim's injury became Beaumont's window into a

world medical science had not yet understood.

"The wound had healed to a point where a little flap formed over the hole," Altman says. "(Beaumont) found out he could open the flap and actually observe digestion at work. How food was digested, how long it took.

"And he did experiments on it and he wrote a book (*Experiments and Observations in the Gastric Juice and Physiology of Digestion*). As far as I know, it's still the bible in medical schools."

### INSPIRATION

The historical stories in Altman's book started out as freelance magazine articles he penned years ago. He stumbled across his subjects while reading an almanac during lunch breaks when he worked at the now-defunct *Detroit Times*.

He used his favorite research tool — the Internet — when preparing the long-dormant pieces for this year's compilation.

"If you're ever going to write, whether fiction or non-fiction, and you need research, the Internet is the place to go," he says.

Next up for Altman, who retired as a *Detroit News* copy editor in 1991, is finding an agent who will champion his recently completed novel, *Coney Island, 1943*. It's a family saga that draws on the author's experiences growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y. Altman's first novel, a small-press spy thriller called *The Chocolate Formula*, came out in 2005.

Although finding widespread success or acclaim as a "new" author with an 80th birthday on the horizon is a long shot, Altman aims to continue telling his stories and searching for an audience. His motivation is simple and straightforward.

"I like to write," he says. "I enjoy writing."

Larry Altman's book, *The Good, The Bad and History* is available on Amazon.com for \$19.95.

# Mercy plugs into paperless classroom

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, about 200 freshmen at Mercy High School put down their pens and pencils and picked up their styluses.

They are now all using the Hewlett Packard Tablet PC, a computer notebook, which was a requirement for all incoming freshman.

Instead of using pen and paper to take notes, the students at the all-girls, Catholic school in Farmington Hills use the stylus connected to the computer to write on the screen.

They can convert their handwriting to text and even create electronic "sticky notes."

The wireless notebook also has built-in speech recognition capabilities.

The school views the wireless computer as a productivity tool and a way for students to problem-solve together.

"This is all part of the bigger picture at Mercy and its mission and what we are trying to accomplish," said Will Gervais, an associate principal. "Our motto is, 'Educating Women Who Make a Difference.'"

Gervais, who has worked at Mercy High School for 37 years, has seen many changes. He started as a science teacher before moving into administration.

Gervais, part of team, was instrumental in bringing the computer tablets to Mercy. The team wants to prepare the students for a global society by integrating technology into the curriculum.

Each freshman was required to purchase the \$2,100 computer which can be financed over four years. The school worked with Credit Union One so that parents could obtain low-interest loans, Gervais said.

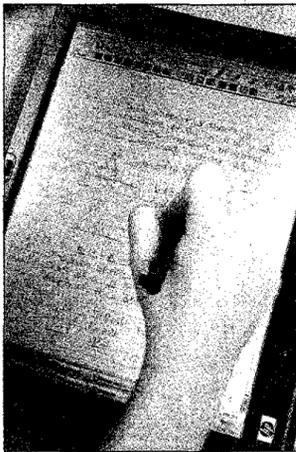
The computers are not included in the annual \$9,000 tuition.

The school has about 800 students and draws from 60



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy High School ninth grader Christina Lehman works on her tablet computer in class.



Mercy High School students use their tablet PCs for a variety of tasks, including taking notes and reading on-line textbooks.

communities in metro-Detroit. Mercy has gone wireless and some textbooks are offered on-line.

"We wanted our students to be competitive in their related

fields when they go on to college," said Maureen Stirling, an Admissions Office coordinator.

Mercy is the only private school in the area using these type of tablets, Stirling said.

"Many colleges are moving to this as well," she said. "When you look at the careers out there right now, so many are computer related."

Students Rosie O'Malley, a Farmington Hills resident, Danielle Monette of Rochester, and Lauren Richards of Farmington Hills are enthusiastic about the computers.

They said that it didn't take them long to learn how to use them.

O'Malley said she can turn a written equation into a typed equation on the computer and copy and paste graphics.

"It goes right into your notebook," she said.

Monette said that she likes not having to carry a lot of binders and notebooks.

"It eliminates everything else you could have had in your backpack," she said.

With on-line textbooks, the tablet "lightens your load," Richards said.

"I have my Biology book on-line," she said.

All freshmen take a one-semester class called Technology Overview, which helps them learn more about technology.

They use their notebooks to read textbooks on-line, take paperless notes in class, make flash cards, transfer media and create valuable study aids.

"It's so 21st Century," said Nadine Maynard, director of development.

Taking care of their computers is simple. The students have to charge their batteries every night to make sure they are functioning for the day, Gervais said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2014

## Read Rick Bloom on money matters in the O&E beginning Jan. 7

Read about how to invest and safeguard your money along with planning for the future in Rick Bloom's column which debuts Sunday, Jan. 7 in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Look for Bloom's column every Sunday and Thursday. On Thursdays, Bloom will cover a variety of topics on investments, college planning, retirement and 401Ks. On Sundays, Bloom will answer questions from O&E readers.

Bloom is a founding partner in Bloom Asset Management, Inc., Farmington Hills, a Registered Investment Advisor firm that manages more than \$600 million in assets and is ranked No. 16 on Crain's *Detroit Business*' list of Largest Money Managers. He is also a

partner in the law firm of Bloom, Bloom & Associates.

He hosts *The Rick Bloom Show* on 1400 WTDK-AM, and was also

host of the popular *Money Talk* radio show on WXYT-AM 1270 for 16 years and *The Rick Bloom Show* on WXDZ-1310 AM. His twice-daily Business Updates are also heard throughout the state on the Michigan Radio Network.

Bloom has been selected as one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by *Worth* magazine, and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other national publications on financial planning and the stock market. He is

also a frequent spokesperson regarding financial matters on local TV news and radio shows.

Bloom gives numerous seminars and speeches on financial planning and investments at a number of local libraries as well as many professional, civic and business organizations.

An honors graduate of both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan

Law School, Bloom is a licensed attorney and Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Bloom will present a free seminar on "Investing 101" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 in the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road. Call 248-932-5200 or e-mail him at seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com to register or for more information.

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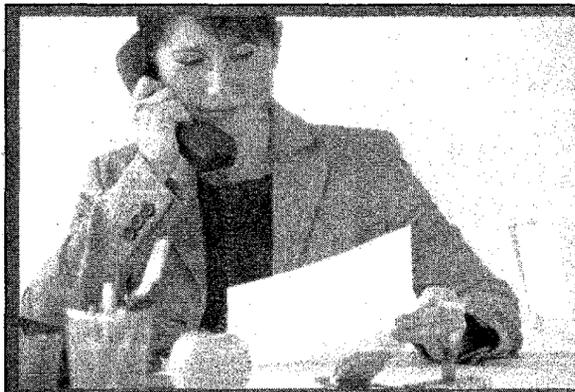
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NEWSPAPERS

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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### Health lectures

Dr. Carol A. Fischer, a member of the Doctor's Speaker Bureau will present "The 5 Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at Contours Express, 6558 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Learn why diets won't work, ways to avoid weight gain, how to lose weight with diet/nutrition and exercise and what to eat to lose weight. There is no charge for class, however, seating is limited. Call (734) 425-8588 for reservation.

Fischer also will present "Weight Loss 101" at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, and a lecture on "Depression and Sleep Disorders" at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, both at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. In "Weight Loss 101," learn what, when and how to eat, how to avoid adult onset Diabetes and how to reduce your chance of breast cancer by 70 percent. The depression program will cover reasons why you may suffer from such symptoms feeling depressed or living without sleep and offer information on natural alternatives to pharmaceuticals. There is no charge for classes, however, seating is limited. Call (734) 425-8588 for reservation.

##### Treatment lecture

Dr. William H. Karl of the Doctor's Speaker Bureau will discuss "Treating Thyroid Disorders Naturally" at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at the Civic Center Library in Livonia. If you suffer from hair loss, cold hands or feet, stubborn weight gain, or unwanted pain, there may be help. Learn hidden reasons behind these health concerns and the safe natural, effective alternatives to naturally help yourself. There is no charge for classes, however, seating is limited. Call (734) 425-8588 for reservation.

##### Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

#### FOR SENIORS

##### Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site [www.ci.westland.mi.us](http://www.ci.westland.mi.us) offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

##### Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

##### Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

##### Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

##### Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

##### Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

##### Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, descrip-

tion of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

##### Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m.; bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

##### Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at

Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

##### Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at [www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA](http://www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA) for more information.

##### Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during reg-

ular library hours at the library.

##### In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

##### Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021

or visit the Web site [www.members.home.net/capliberators/](http://www.members.home.net/capliberators/).

##### Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

##### Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

##### Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne

County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920

##### Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community.

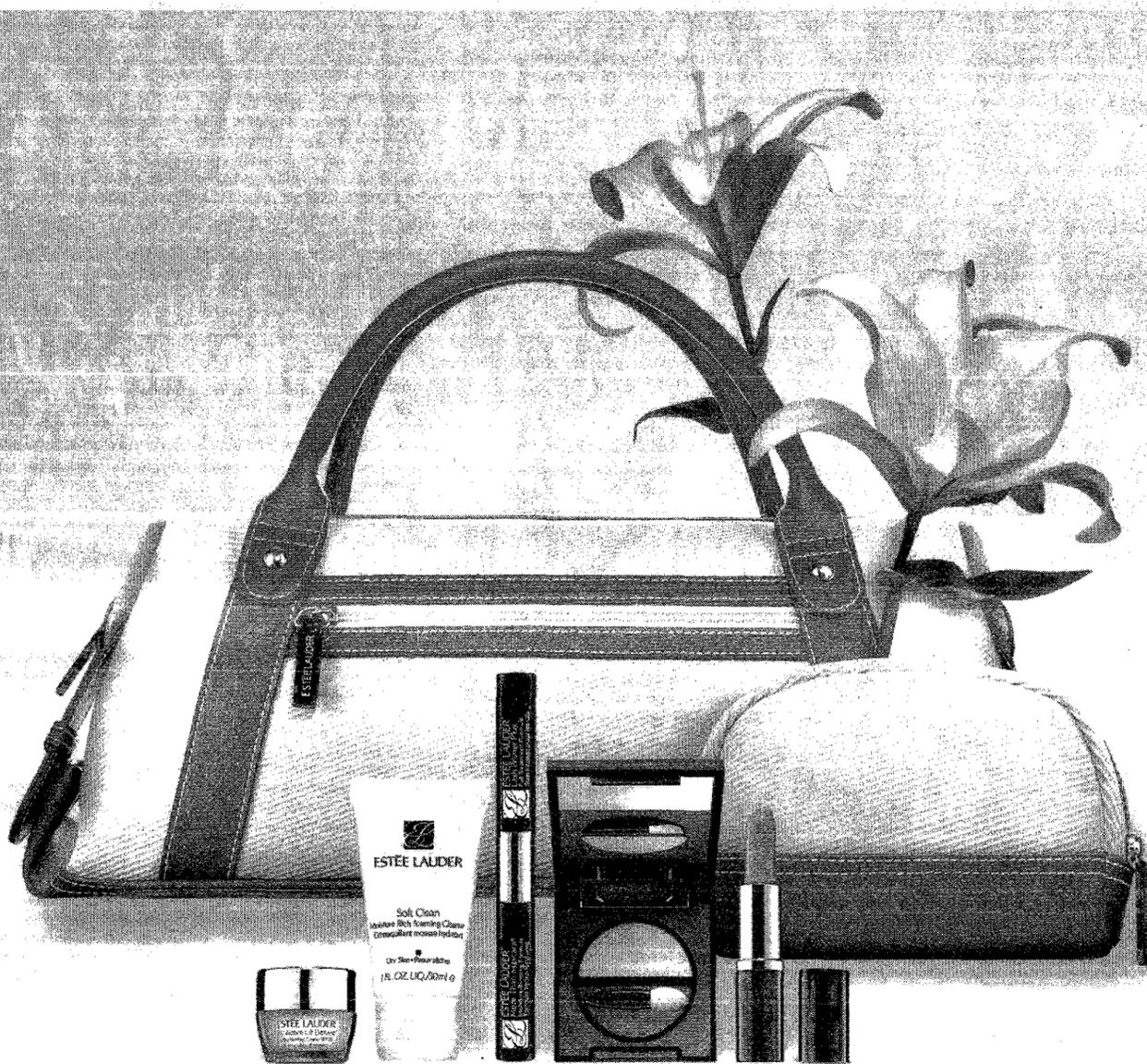
Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

##### Tutorial program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. Call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

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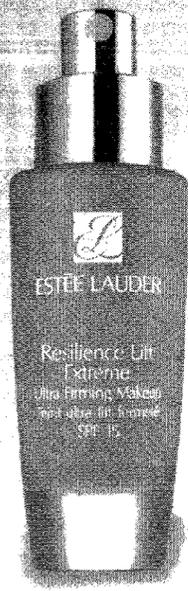
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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

**JANUARY**

**Monthly dance**

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) Saturday, Jan. 6, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

**Grief support**

Widowed friends, a peer group, is offering a six week series covering phases of grief, dealing with loneliness and coping with the loss of a spouse beginning 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Prince of Peace Parish, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, west of Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. A \$20 fee is payable at the first meeting and covers all materials. Call (248) 681-9424 to register by Jan. 4.

**Bible study series**

St. Theodore Catholic Church presents the Catholic Interpretation of the Book of Revelation beginning 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 and continuing for eight weeks, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-7310.

**Nativity ball**

Sponsored by St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, the ball

takes place 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Jan. 12, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. The evening includes cocktails, dinner with champagne toast, dancing, music, entertainment, contests, cash bar, theme is Feast in the Time of Ivan the Terrible. Historical costumes/details welcome. Tickets are \$60. For information, visit www.stvladimirraam.org or call (734) 761-7311, (734) 222-9812, or (734) 669-8712.

**Chili cook-off**

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, if you have a good recipe bring a pot full to be judged and shared along with the recipe 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. For details, call (734) 513-9479.

**Homeschool seminar**

Israel Wayne, author of Home School from a Biblical Worldview, will speak at a free seminar on Christian home schooling, Biblical Worldview training and family transformation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, west of I-275 and Haggerty roads, Northville. Wayne will cover basics, address common misconceptions about such understandable concerns as child socialization, and what a Biblical Worldview looks like. There will also be information about area home school support groups. The meeting is free and open to everyone from teenagers on up. Sorry, no child care. Pre-registration is suggested. For more information, call (734) 427-3302.

**Concert**

Amahl and the Night Visitors, a concert presentation of Gian Carlo Menotti's delightful one-act opera featuring boy treble Jonah Yousif in the title role, and the rest of the cast and chorus comprised of members of the Kirk Chancel, Boys and Girls Choirs 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$18, \$15 for senior citizens, \$12 for students, \$30 for families of four or more. For details, call (248) 626, 2515. This program is of particular appeal to families.

**A beautiful day**

In the Neighborhood features the music of Mister Rogers 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. Mr. McFeeley (David Newell) is joined by local vocalists Judie Cochill, Marc Meyers and Tom Trenney and the Neighborhood Jazz Combo. No tickets required, no admission, but a freewill offering will be collected. Proceeds benefit Variety FAR Conservator, a nonprofit that provides creative arts therapy and recreation services for children with autism and other disabilities. Audience members are also encouraged to bring new or gently-used sweaters to contribute to the Mister Rogers' Sweater Drive for families who need extra warmth this winter. A meet the artists reception follows the concert. For more information, call (248) 540-9124.

**Monthly breakfast meeting**

For Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For more information, call (734) 513-9479.

**Bethany Together Dance**

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 20, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service, drive near Inkster Road), Redford. Limited to first 450 paid admissions only. Proper attire. Admission is \$12. For details, call (586) 264-0284.

**Volunteer night**

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, Monday, Jan. 29. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

**UPCOMING**

**Education pilgrimage**

The third annual education pilgrimage of faith and hope to El Salvador is being organized by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, assisted by CRISPAP (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). The pilgrimage will take place from Feb. 11-18, 2007. This is an intensive learning experience with special emphasis given to the voice and experience of the poor and marginalized. You will visit martyr sites, grassroots organizations, a rural community, and hear speakers on the history, politics, and economy of El Salvador. For details, call coordinator Richard Dahlke at (734) 455-6474.

**ONGOING**

**Worship service**

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

**Worship services**

Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160.

**Worship service**

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16775 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

**Adult literacy classes**

Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained

tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.

**Ladies Bible studies**

Began Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Women of the Word offer the Life Change Study of the book of Genesis by NavPress from 9:30-11:15 a.m. (\$15 registration fee includes interdenominational materials and free child care for ages through 5, and a study of the Patriarchs by Beth Moor from 6:45-8:15 p.m. (\$20 fee and no child care).

**Personal ministry**

Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

**Farmington Women Aglow**

Meets from 5-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

**Scripture studies**

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

**TOPS**

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

**Learner's Bible study**

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

**Church service**

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

**Senior activities**

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

**Church activities**

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro, The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

**Eucharistic adoration**

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

**Worship services**

All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour for all ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

**Unity of Livonia**

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

**Shabbat services**

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

**Beth Chaverim**

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.bethchaverim.com.

**Detroit World Outreach**

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month). Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue),

Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

**Shabbat Rocks**

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

**English classes**

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

**Sunday school**

Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

**Services**

St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

**Single Point Ministries**

For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults at 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

**Bible talks**

4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

**Worship services**

All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

**The Gap**

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn-making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

**Qigong**

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

**Worship services**

At 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

**Community Bible study**

Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast at 7 a.m. or Bible study from 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

**Contemporary service**

New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

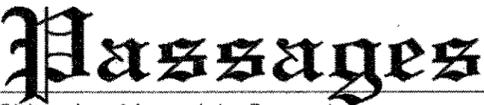
Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

**New contemporary service**

9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

**Prayer group**

Join in 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer and friendship at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church, enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.



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**LAWRENCE J. VONBUSKIRK**

Age 63 on December 31, 2006. Loving husband of Dora. Caring father of Renee Tobin, Scott, and Donald. Dear grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of one. Lawrence was a 30-year veteran of the Livonia Police Department. Visitation will be 2-9pm Wednesday at The Livonia Chapel of The Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road. Funeral services 7pm, Wednesday at the funeral home.

**VIRGINIA HASCALL**

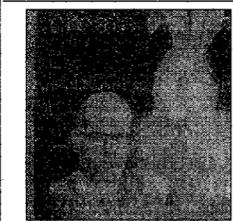
Beloved wife of the late Richard C. Hascall. Dear mother of Richard Thomas "Tom" (Mary) Hascall & Kent (Patty) Hascall. Loving grandmother of Kimberly, Traci & Grayson Hascall. Sister-in-law of Allan P. (Virginia) Hascall Jr. Also survived by her caregiver & friend Kisha Jackson. PRIVATE FAMILY SERVICE WAS HELD. INTERMENT: WOODLAWN CEMETERY. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL 248-549-0020.

**SARA VILLARREAL**

Age 81, died December 29, 2006. Loving sister to Louis (Obdulia) Romano, Matthew (Lilly) Villarreal and the late Connie Leos and Isadore Castro. Survived by many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Memorial Service at 6:00 pm, January 5, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 38301 Middlebelt Road, (north of 12 Mile) Farmington Hills, MI 48334. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Farmington Hills Baptist Church Missionary Fund at the address above.

**BRIGID A. KENNEY**

Age 59, December 30, 2006. Beloved daughter of the late Gerald and Anna Mae; loving sister of Gerald F. (Stephanie); Aunt of Brittany, Ryan, Kelsey and Moira. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800, Thursday, 2-4pm & 6-9pm. In state at Our Lady of Good Council Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, Friday, 10:00am until the funeral, liturgy at 10:30. Donations to Angela Hospice Home Care, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Online sympathy at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



**ROBERT HARMON SMITH**

Memorial Service, January 6, 2007, 2 p.m. Redwood Terrace-Dittus Hall, 710 W. 13th Ave., Esccondido, CA. Memory Book, call Pat 817-370-2985

**ROBERT R. SCHULTZ**

Age 79, of Plymouth, died December 28, 2006. He was born March 28, 1927, in Detroit. He was the retired owner of Vico Products in Plymouth. He is survived by his children, Caryn Leah (Timothy) Williams and Curt Randall (Laurie) Schultz; and his grandchildren, Carly Anne Williams, Rachael Faye Schultz, Lindsay Nicole Schultz, Sarah Francis Schultz, and Bryan Scott Williams. He is preceded in death by his wife, Myrlene F., and his son, Craig Robert Schultz. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 30, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

**ROBERT WARREN HAMILTON II**

Age 57, passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada, of complications following surgery. Robert graduated from Groves High School, attended the Naval Academy and Wayne State University. He worked for the United States Post Office as a letter carrier in Rochester, Michigan and later served as a supervisor in the Colorado Springs, Colorado Mail Distribution Center. Robert retired from the Postal Service in 2004. He is survived by his mother, Mable Guthrie Hamilton Schuster of Southfield, Michigan and a sister, Susan Hamilton Schaub of Frisco, Texas.

**JOSEPH CARLTON**

January 1, 2007. Age 78. Beloved husband of Edith for 57 years. Loving father of Joe (Sharon), Martha, Pat (John) Dombrowski, Marianne (Jim) Wahlers and Janice (James) George. Dear grandfather of 17 and great-grandfather of 4. Joe served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and was a proud Police Officer on the Redford Township Police Department for 26 years. After retirement, he served as Court Administrator for the 17th District Court for 11 years. Funeral Service Friday, 10:00am at the Neely-Turovski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile (between Middlebelt and Merriman Roads), Livonia. Visitation Wednesday 5-9pm with an American Legion Honor/Color Guard Ceremony at 7pm, and Thursday visitation from 1-9pm. Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or The Salvation Army. Please share your memories or condolences with the family, by signing their online guest book, at www.neely-turovski.com

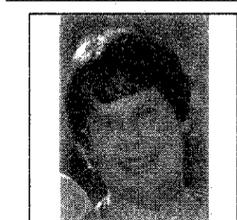
**DOUGLAS STEINHOFF**

Age 56, passed away on December 24, 2006 at Riverside Nursing Home in Grand Haven, Michigan following a two-year battle with the complications of diabetes. Born in Northville, Michigan to Karl and Caroline Steinhoff, he was the youngest of four children. He attended Stevenson High School and Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Doug was preceded in death by his Father Karl in 2004 and a sister Jean in 2005. He is survived by his sisters: Joan Steinhoff of Holland, Michigan, Janelle Clemente of Rossford, Ohio, Several nephews and nieces. Doug led a talented and colorful life with many jobs. He loved the outdoors, his friends, and animals, especially cats and horses. A wonderful and vital spirit will be missed by his family and those who loved him. Arrangements are by Lakeshore Memorial Services. No services are scheduled at this time. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice. An on-line registry book is available at www.lakeshorememorial.com.

**DAVID QUINLAN MOUNT**

Age 48 died suddenly December 16, 2006. He was a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey, former resident of Bingham Farms, Michigan. David graduated from Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, New York. He attended Villanova University and graduated from Madonna College in Livonia, Michigan in 1984. David worked in collections for Ford Motor Credit and Volkswagen while in Detroit and did the same work with a law firm in New Jersey for three years. He is survived by his daughter, Rachael Mount; parents, Joan and Bert Mount; sisters, Corinne Foster, Jennifer Bombardi and Jody Vorenberg; nieces and nephews, Matthew, Robin, Molly, Melissa, Madeline, Abby, Clay, Quinn, and Claire. Family will receive friends at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse, Friday, January 5, 2007, 2-6pm. Memorials appreciated to The American Heart Association or The Sierra Club.

Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com



**ELLEN L. TRUESDELL**

Age 70, of Plymouth, died December 28, 2006. She was born May 3, 1936, in Detroit. She came to the Plymouth community in 1970, from Grosse Pointe. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority at U of M. She graduated from U of M with a Masters Degree in Education. She was a retired teacher from the Grosse Pointe School District. She loved gardening, baking, and entertaining. She is survived by her husband, Louis; her children, James (Denise), David (Mary Anne), and Lynn Truesdell; and her grandchildren, Kathryn, Melaney, and John "J.P." Funeral from First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth, was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007. Interment Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

**ORVEY J. RYDIN**

Date of Birth April 19, 1924  
Died December 29, 2006

**WILLIAM P. MAUCK**

Age 87 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Bloomfield Township, MI, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Jeannette and his children, Kathy Mauck Farkas of Chicago, Karen Kellogg of Grand Rapids, Kristi Dewey of Bellaire, MI, Kimberly Moore of Mountain View, MO and William Mauck of Denver, Co. and seven grandchildren. Visitation will be at Metcalf & Jonkhoff of Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00pm and Friday from 1:00 to 2:00pm followed by a private family service. Memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter, 213 Sheldon Blvd., S.E. Grand Rapids, MI would be appreciated. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, 4291 Cascade Rd., S.E. of Kenmoor, East of I-96 metcalfandjonkhoff.com



**HELEN JOSEPHINE PARRISH**

Brooklyn met Helen Josephine Parrish on April 4, 1921 and it hasn't been the same since. Born into a difficult neighborhood under challenging circumstances, Helen was called upon by her ailing parents, mother Mary Zilincar and father Edwin Ferguson, to care for her younger siblings, Edwin and Dorothy, and succeeded with a determination that would ultimately serve countless others throughout her lifetime. Helen discovered her acting talent during high school and was offered a drama scholarship which she declined in order to take care of her family. When her country called, Helen joined the Army as a WAC and met her future husband, artist Douglas Parrish, in Paris at the end of the war. They moved to

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.  
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# SPORTS

# B

(LW)  
Thursday, January 4, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

## Onslaught

### Churchill peppers Franklin netminder en route to 6-0 win

BY RYAN DOHERTY  
CORRESPONDENT

The Livonia Churchill Chargers showed everyone at Eddie Edgar Arena on Friday night why persistence pays off, especially when you come across an opposing netminder who's playing at the top of his game.

Churchill got points from seven different players in a 6-0 shutout win over a struggling Livonia Franklin team that's dropped its last two games.

With the win, the state-ranked Chargers improve to 5-1-0 overall.

Churchill's Matt Heinzelman recorded his first hat trick of the season, while Dustin Wischmeyer added five points to fuel the Chargers' offense.

And although the score doesn't reflect the way he played, Franklin netminder Austin Mesler kept the Patriots in the game. The Chargers peppered Mesler with 19 shots in the first period and the Patriots goalie stood tall, and sometimes almost on his head, as he made one acrobat save after another.

"He's (Mesler) an all-league candidate," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Mesler's tough to beat on the first shot, and I think we wore him down a little bit tonight."

Ironically, Mesler is the only goalie currently on the Franklin roster, which means he'll continue to see a lot of shots as the Patriots gear up for WLA division play to begin.

"Austin played fabulous tonight and we're very fortunate to have him," Patriots coach Terry Jobbitt said.

Churchill outshot Franklin, 40-13. "Our problem was that we weren't playing within our systems and I think we played a little undisciplined tonight," said Jobbitt, whose team dropped to 2-5-2 overall.

Meanwhile, after a scoreless first period, Churchill's offense erupted midway through the second period.

The Chargers scored four goals in five minutes and, in the process, displayed the type of offensive power that

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B2



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson's Dylan Green sits on the field while the Traverse City West Titans celebrate a 1-0 victory following the Division 1 state boys soccer championship held in November at Troy High School. Stevenson, making its first state finals appearance in over 10 years, finished the season 18-3-4 overall.

## 2006 retrospective

### Sports season featured many memorable moments

If somebody had asked me to sum up the 2006 year in Livonia-Westland sports — I'd have to say, "different." It wasn't an Olympic year, so it was somewhat quiet as opposed to 2004, when three Livonia natives (Paul Terek, Sheila Taormina and Steve Warner) made it to Athens.

It may have not been as scintillating as 2005, but as Frank Sinatra used to sing, "It was (still) a very good year."

Here's some of the highlights (or lowlights) for 2006.

#### January

■ Rick Larson named as new Schoolcraft men's soccer coach, replacing Dominic Scicluna.

■ Livonia Franklin repeats as Observerland Invitational wrestling champion.

#### February

■ The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team finishes 24-6, but is banned for the second straight season from post-



Brad Emons

season play because of NJCAA rules violations. Coach Carlos Briggs ends his Ocelot career with a record of 248-36 in nine seasons and three trips to the NJCAA Division I Nationals.

#### March

■ Livonia Stevenson boys swim team, coached by Jeff Shoemaker, finishes third in the Division 1 state finals at the University of Michigan's Canham Natatorium.

■ Wayne Memorial's 1981 and 1983 Class A state championship volleyball teams, coached by Doris Busuito, are honored at the state finals held at Western Michigan University.

■ Livonia Unified gymnastics places runner-up to Tri-Farmington for the second straight year in the state finals at Troy Athens. Paige Albers wins the individual Division II floor exercise with a

score of 9.525. Coach Christa Hinderliter steps down following the season.

■ Livonia Churchill's volleyball team, coached by Mark Grenier, earns its first regional title since 1991 and finishes 59-4 before being eliminated in four games by Temperance-Bedford in the state quarterfinals.

■ Madonna University women's basketball coach Mary Lou Jansen resigns after 10 seasons with a record of 156-148.

■ Lutheran High Westland's wrestling team is ousted by Rogers City, 56-12, in the Division 4 team wrestling state quarterfinals at the Kellogg Center in Battle Creek. The Warriors finish the year 25-4 overall.

■ Livonia Clarenceville wins its first boys basketball district final in over four decades as Donnie Carson (now at Idaho State) scores 23 points in a 49-44 win over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

PLEASE SEE YEAR IN REVIEW, B3

## Schoolcraft stumbles in Arizona tourney

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team stands an uncharacteristic 5-5 overall after losing Tuesday to South Plains (Texas) College, 74-69, in the opening round of the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College Charro Classic.

The Ocelots, on a two-game losing skid, couldn't solve the Texans' zone defense after leading 40-37 at halftime.

Schoolcraft shot only 27-of-69 from the floor (39 percent).

"I felt we were the better team, but we never got our offense going," first-year Schoolcraft coach Mike Brown said. "We were stagnant against their zone. We didn't do a good job of entering the ball in the post or getting to the basket even though we outrebounded them (47-38)." Purdue University transfers Korey

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Spates and Nate Minnoy led the Ocelots with 21 and 17 points, respectively. Spates, a guard from Warrensville Heights, Ohio, also had six rebounds and three steals.

Minnoy, making his first appearance as an Ocelot after being ineligible first semester, added 10 rebounds and four assists. But the product from Hales Franciscan (Ill.) High shot only 8-of-21 from the floor.

Josh Samarco (Belleville) chipped in with 14 points, while Jerome Hutchins contributed 10 points and seven rebounds.

Nebraska signee Steven Harley led the unranked Texans (9-2) with 17 points, while Russian Constantin Motnii added 16 points and 10 rebounds.

South Plains shot 45 percent from the floor (31-of-69) and 8-of-12 from the foul line (75 percent). Schoolcraft was 11-of-16 from the foul line (68.7 percent).

The Ocelots met Chandler-Gilbert (Ariz.) in Wednesday's consolation round of the three-day tournament.

**ALPENA 97, SCHOOLCRAFT 96:** On Dec. 20, Matt Ponik and Aaron Hincka combined for 51 points as host Alpena CC (5-5, 1-2) upended the Ocelots (5-4, 1-2) in a Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference game.

Ponik, a guard, finished with 26 points, while the 6-foot-6 Hincka added 25.

Korey Spates led the Ocelots, who led 48-45 at intermission, with a game-high 27 points. He also had 11 assists, six rebounds and six steals.

Kenyawn Patterson chipped in with 24 points.

## Patriots name Fournier new varsity coach

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Matt Fournier assumed he'd be back for his fifth season as junior varsity baseball coach at Livonia Franklin.

But the 32-year-old Fournier never dreamed he'd be elevated to the varsity position after the recent resignation of Paul Newitt, who cited family considerations "due to the schedule it demands."

Newitt went 73-79 in five seasons, including records of 22-10 and 20-10 during the 2005 and 2004 campaigns. He was named Observerland Coach of the Year in 2005.

Fournier graduated in 1993 from Franklin, where he ran cross country under Bob Holmes and played baseball under Jim Karoub. He also played JV basketball.

"I'm excited, it's a neat opportunity to come back and coach at your alma mater," Fournier said. "It's always been one of my goals to become a varsity coach. It came as a shock to me because Paul held it only for five years. I knew it was something down that road that I wanted to do. I didn't think it would be as soon, but it's where I ultimately wanted to be and I'm fortunate to get the opportunity."

Fournier played at Wayne State as an infielder before switching positions. Although he never pitched in high school, he became the Tartars' closer his junior and senior seasons

PLEASE SEE FOURNIER, B2

## Ocelots' Tolstedt call it quits

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

If someone were to make a film or write a book about Bill Tolstedt's coaching tenure at Schoolcraft College, it very well might be titled *Ten Good Years*.

The 60-year-old Tolstedt, a Brighton resident, recently stepped down from his position as Schoolcraft's women's soccer coach despite an overall mark of 174-29-20 since 1997.

Although fulfilled with his duties of coaching and mentoring, Tolstedt said family considerations ultimately spearheaded his decision to leave the Lady Ocelots.

"I was not spending the time with my grandchildren that I wanted to, not spending time with my family and friends that I wanted to," Tolstedt said. "I just turned 60 and I thought it was time to spend more time with

the people I love."

Tolstedt and his wife, Trish, have seven children (including former Schoolcraft players Lisa and Cindi Tolstedt) and three grandchildren — with a fourth due in May.

Schoolcraft Athletic Director Sid Fox said interviews for Tolstedt's coaching job will take place the week of Jan. 15-19, with the selection expected soon thereafter. Tolstedt, who served as Schoolcraft's interim A.D. before Fox was hired, said he will help with the transition, including following through on recruitment efforts.

"Bill had an illustrious coaching career" at Schoolcraft, Fox said in a press release. "... However, his greatest gratification always surfaced when his graduates moved on to four-year institutions to further their academic and athletic pursuits.

PLEASE SEE TOLSTEDT, B2



Longtime Schoolcraft College women's soccer coach Bill Tolstedt is leaving the sidelines to enjoy more time with his family, including daughter Lisa Tolstedt (right) — a former SC All-American and member of her dad's coaching staff.

## Sidelines

### Shaw in Hula Bowl

Penn State University senior defensive end Tim Shaw (Livonia Clarenceville), playing his final collegiate game, had a total of seven tackles, including five solo with one sack, in the Nittany Lions' 20-10 football win Monday over Tennessee in the Outback Bowl before 65,601 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

The 6-foot-2, 237-pound Shaw, an honorable mention All-Big Ten selection, finished his senior year with 26 solo tackles and 18 assists. He had eight tackles for loss and seven sacks.

On Jan. 14 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Shaw will play in the Hula Bowl for top college senior.

### Cincy keeps Guess

Former Wayne Memorial High standout Lorenzo Guess has been retained on football staff by new University of Cincinnati Brian Kelly.

Guess, who played football and basketball at Michigan State, remains video coordinator and defensive backs coach for the Bearcats (7-5), who will play Saturday against Western Michigan (8-4) in the first International Bowl at the SkyDome in Toronto.

Before joining Cincinnati's staff in June 2006, Guess coached and earned a Master's Degree from Tiffin University (Ohio).

### Stef's a keeper

University of Wisconsin senior goalkeeper Stefani Szczechowski (Livonia Ladywood) received several honors recently at the women's soccer banquet.

The senior captain received the Coaches Award, voted on by her teammates and coaches for work ethic, leadership and positive attitude.

The Plymouth resident also earned the Big Ten All-Academic Award for the third straight year and was named the Conference's Defensive Player of the Week for her shutout against Wisconsin.

The Consumer Science major also was featured in Wisconsin's 25th Anniversary video for winning a shootout during her freshman year against No. 1 seed and Big Ten champion Penn State in the Conference Tournament. Szczechowski played seven seasons of club soccer for the Michigan Hawks and was an All-State keeper at Ladywood.

### Axon sparks EMU

Former Schoolcraft College guard Jarred Axon (Jackson) scored a team-high 15 points to lift the Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team to a 63-51 non-conference victory last Thursday afternoon over Eastern Illinois at the Convocation Center in Ypsilanti.

On Sunday, Axon scored four points and had two assists in EMU's 62-61 victory over IUPUI-Fort Wayne at the Convocation Center. EMU is 4-8 overall.

THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
 Thursday, Jan. 4  
 Light & Life at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 5**  
 M.H. Madison at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
 Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**  
 Thursday, Jan. 4  
 Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.  
 Light & Life at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Macomb CC Tournament, 8 a.m.  
 Clawson Tournament, 8 a.m.  
 Grand Valley Invitational, 8 a.m.  
 W.L. Central Invitational, 9 a.m.  
**PREP HOCKEY**  
 Thursday, Jan. 4  
 Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Detroit City Arena, 7:30 p.m.  
**(Pioneer Tourney at A.A. Ice Cube)**  
 Churchill vs. Milford, 5 p.m.  
 Birm. Unified vs. A.A. Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 5**  
 Pioneer Tourney at Ice Cube, 5 & 7:30 p.m.  
 Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at Lakeland Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m.  
 Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.  
**PREP WRESTLING**  
 Thursday, Jan. 4  
 Churchill at Salem, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.  
 Stevenson at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Fordson Invitational, 8:45 a.m.  
 Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.  
 South Lyon Invitational, 10 a.m.  
 Troy Invitational, 10 a.m.  
**BOYS SWIMMING**  
 Thursday, Jan. 4

U-D Jesuit, Saline at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 W.L. Northern Invitational, 1 p.m.  
**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 3**  
 Liv. Red-Blue at Hartland vs. Milford-Lakeland, 7 p.m.  
**PREP BOWLING**  
**Friday, Jan. 5**  
 Clarenceville vs. Farmington-Harrison, Ladywood vs. N. Farmington at Thunderbird Lanes, 3:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Ladywood Holiday Tournament at Westland's Oak Lanes, 10 a.m.  
**GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Berkley Invitational, TBA.  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Thursday, Jan. 4**  
 S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 3 p.m.  
 Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 3 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.  
 Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 1 p.m.  
**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**Friday, Jan. 5**  
 Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.  
**Sunday, Jan. 7**  
 Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 2 p.m.  
**MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**  
**Friday, Jan. 5**  
 Ignition vs. Chicago Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
 Ignition at Baltimore Blast, 7:35 p.m.  
 TBA - time to be announced.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

**GIRLS RESULTS**  
**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 17**  
**NORTHVILLE 13**  
 Dec. 18 at Royal Lanes  
 Baker games: Northville, 144-161-305 (6 points); Clarenceville, 156-145-301 (4 points).  
 Clarenceville regular games: Danielle Fecso, 212-194-404; Sara Brown, 181-174-355; Kayia Barber, 163; Erica Carbonneau, 152; Danielle Maples, 151; Elizabeth Sinclair, 143.  
 Clarenceville's match record: 4-0.

**BOYS RESULTS**  
**NORTHVILLE 20**  
**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 10**  
 Dec. 18 at Royal Lanes  
 Baker games: Clarenceville, 232-213-445 (6 points); Northville, 204-224-426 (4 points).  
 Clarenceville regular games: Jason Bertera, 199-232-431; Andrew Abbott, 181-236-417; Robert Ion, 206.  
 Clarenceville's match record: 2-1-1.

OVER 30 HOCKEY

**LIVONIA MEN'S OVER 30 HOCKEY STANDINGS**  
 (as of Dec. 21)  
 Livonia Auto Body 14-7-4/32 points  
 Hunt's Ace Hardware 14-9-2/30 points  
 Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumb. 12-8-4/28 points  
 Zaszak Enterprises, LLC 9-11-5/23 points  
 D&G Heating & Cooling 9-10-4/22 points  
 Daly Restaurant 8-12-6/22 points  
 Stante Excavating 9-13-2/20 points  
 LaSalle Bank 8-13-3/19 points

FOURNIER

FROM PAGE B1

under the late coach Rod George.  
 "Both Rod George and Jim Karoub are two of the big influences," Fournier said. "They're both quality guys who I very much admired."  
 Fournier graduated in December 1998 from Wayne State, where he majored in physical education with a minor in health.  
 After one season as a varsity assistant under Newitt, Fournier spent the past four years as Franklin's JV baseball coach following the tragic death of Dave Susalla. The past two JV seasons, Fournier guided the Patriots to records of 17-9 and 21-8.  
 Fournier currently teaches physical education at both Randolph and Cass elementary schools in Livonia.  
 "I knew him when I was at Wayne State and I think he's a great fit for Franklin High School," Athletic Director Ron Hammye said. "We've tried to

get him involved in other sports at our school. He's a student of the game and the kids relate well to him. He likes to coach and knows the game. He's gotten high praise from his colleagues where he teaches at. We're fortunate to have him."  
 Fournier and his wife, the former Tammy Schaffer (also a Franklin grad), have three children — Katie, 6; Cal, 5; and Caden, 2.  
 "We'll be competitive and play the game the way it's supposed to be played," Fournier said. "We can hit, but we'll also play small ball when needed. We'll hit and run and try and be aggressive on the bases. We'll take what the other team gives us. We'll throw first-pitch strikes and play good defense. I'll teach the fundamentals."  
 Newitt, meanwhile, gives his replacement a ringing endorsement.  
 "I believe it is one of his dreams to be a head coach at his former school," Newitt said. "Matt is a tremendous person and coach."

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TOLSTEDT

FROM PAGE B1

"I felt one of his greatest attributes was his ability to manage young people in their day-to-day affairs, thereby, serving as an outstanding role model for them to learn practical life skills."  
 Under Tolstedt's leadership, 34 All-America awards were presented to Schoolcraft players.  
 The latest to earn the awards were Sarah Davis and Stephanie Squires, selected to the 2006 National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Women's All-America Team. Davis and Squires sparked the Lady Ocelots to a 16-2-2 record, good for region and district titles.  
 According to Tolstedt, building up the Schoolcraft women's

soccer program — almost from scratch — is something he takes great pride in.  
 When he took over the job in 1997, "we had six (recruiting) candidates and five weeks to get a team together."  
 With just 10 players, and following a start of 0-5-1, Schoolcraft won its first game for Tolstedt and wound up with a mark of 8-8-1 that season.  
 Tolstedt then vowed to never again have such a season of uncertainty and, drawing on his connections in Premier Soccer League circles, began assembling and then priming what would become a well-oiled recruiting machine.  
 "Now, I have 26 candidates to come in and I haven't gotten all the responses back," he said. "It (recruiting class) could be in the mid-30s. There are a lot of good players and they believe in us."

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Churchill girls bring home title from UM-Dearborn Invitational

Livonia Churchill made the most of its holiday break last Thursday by winning the University of Michigan-Dearborn Invitational girls volleyball tournament.  
 The Chargers, now 11-1-1 overall, defeated Chelsea in the finals, 25-20, 25-13.

In pool play, Churchill split with nemesis Dearborn High, 25-20, 21-25, after beating Mount Clemens Clintondale, 25-13, 25-8, and Wayne Memorial, 25-9, 25-6.

In the quarterfinals, the Chargers downed Dearborn, 25-23, 25-23, and advanced to the championship match with a 25-16, 25-16 triumph over Riverview.

Churchill is now 2-1-1 this season against Dearborn.  
 "They (Dearborn) played great defense and don't make a lot of errors," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "They're small, but they're tough because they dig the ball and force you into unforced errors. You got to be patient against them."

Senior Lauren Krupsky, bound for Central Michigan University, led the Churchill hitting attack with 72 kills on the day. Junior Kyndra Abron finished with 52 kills and six blocks.

Senior setter Kelsey McKenzie had 110 assist-to-kills, while senior Anna Gatt had 54 digs and 11 ace serves.  
 Other Churchill standouts included junior Shannon Warner, who was 92 percent serve receive and 93 percent serving; junior Jordan Kerr, 18 digs and 100 percent serving (five aces); and sophomore

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Kristy DeClercq, 100 percent serving and 22 assists.

Glenn captures pool

Westland John Glenn reached the quarterfinals of last Thursday's UM-Dearborn Invitational before losing to eventual runner-up Chelsea, 17-25, 13-25.

In pool play, Glenn defeated Dearborn Heights Annapolis (25-10, 25-10) and Monroe-Jefferson (25-17, 25-19), while splitting with Farmington Hills Mercy (18-25, 25-17).

"We had some steady performances throughout pool play, but we did not exhibit enough ball control to move on in the elimination round," Glenn first-year coach Julian Wargo said.  
 Senior setter Katie Trater earned All-Tournament honors, but the Rockets lost senior middle hitter Virginia Butler for this weekend's Walled Lake Central Invitational to a strained tendon in her right ankle.

"Obviously we have some retooling to do offensively and defensively," Glenn, now 4-3-1 overall, went 2-2-1 in the Madonna Invitational, Dec. 9 at Plymouth.

Mercy ousted the Rockets in the quarterfinals, 25-14, 25-7.

In pool play, Glenn defeated Allen Park Cabrini (25-20, 25-23) and Belleville (25-23, 25-18), while losing to Monroe (20-25, 22-25).

Glenn split with rival Wayne, 25-11, 17-25.

Neuvirth, Brophy key Whalers' 5-0 triumph

The Plymouth Whalers welcomed 2007 in high style with a 5-0 triumph over Owen Sound on New Year's Day.

Michal Neuvirth recorded a 27-save shutout for the Whalers, who received two goals from Evan Brophy and singles from Dan Collins, Joe McCann and Kaine Geldart.

The win moved Plymouth back into first place in the OHL West Division with a record of 24-10-1-2, one point ahead of Saginaw (24-12-0-2) with a game in hand.

Brophy opened the scoring with seven seconds left in the first period when he worked with Chris Terry behind the Owen Sound net to pick the puck clean from an Attack defender and score on a wrap-around from the right wing side.

McCann scored a shorthanded goal early in the second period when A.J. Jenks picked off a loose pass along the boards in neutral territory and found McCann skating hard in the Owen Sound zone.  
 McCann's quick shot from the left hash mark beat Anthony Guadagnolo.

Plymouth made it 3-0 when Wes Cunningham found Andrew Fournier with a quick

hand-manning pass out of the Plymouth zone.

Brophy scored his second lamp-lighter of the afternoon when he intercepted a bad Owen Sound clearing pass at the mid-point of the Attack blue line and ripped a shot by Guadagnolo.

"We definitely have talent and depth," McCann said. "If the first line isn't scoring, the second line is chipping in. If the third line doesn't score, than some other line is scoring. The coaches tell us know all the time to win our battles and good things will happen."  
 The Whalers are proof of that.

On Saturday, the Guelph Storm received shootout goals from rookies Tyler Melancon and Anthony Nigro to come all the way back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 3-2, in an OHL game played Saturday night before 2,727 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

At 7:05 p.m. Friday, Plymouth plays at London before returning Saturday to Compuware to face the Saginaw Spirit in another 7:05 p.m. start. The Whalers complete a busy weekend Sunday afternoon in Windsor.

Ignition fall to California, 12-10

The Detroit Ignition was defeated, 12-10, by the California Cougars in Major Indoor Soccer League action Dec. 29 at Stockton (Calif.) Arena.

The Ignition falls to 5-6 in the MISL, while the Cougars are 4-7.

Midfielder Brian Farber registered the game-winning goal two-point goal for the Cougars at the 6:00 mark of the fourth quarter.

Forward Vicente Figueroa put the Cougars on the board first with a two-point goal off a pass from Matt Caution at 1:18.

Rookie Worth Sampson (Madonna University) scored first for the Ignition with a two-point goal at 3:33 of the first quarter.

The Cougars took a 4-2 lead in the second quarter thanks to a two-point goal from Jorge Martinez at 1:04.

The MISL's leading scorer, Jamar Beasley, scored his first goal of the night, a two-pointer, at 3:04 tie the game at 4-4. He followed quickly with another two-point tally at 4:06 to give the Ignition the 6-4 advantage.

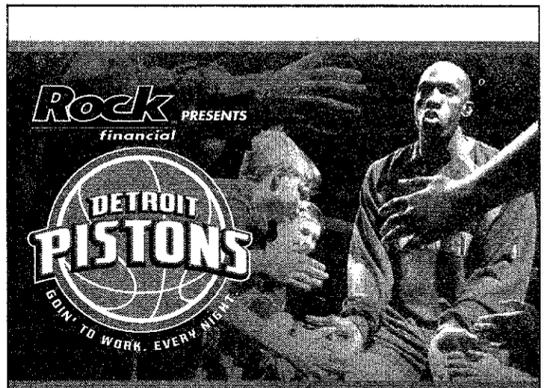
Cougars forward Bernie Lilavois slid a header past Ignition goalkeeper Danny Waltman to knot the game at 6-6 at the half.

Martinez registered his second two-point goal of the night at 3:17 of the third quarter of play to give the Cougars an 8-6 lead. The Cougars' offense continued with a two-point tally from Nelson Santana at 7:48, extending its lead to 10-6 at the end of the third quarter.

Detroit defender Druo Callahan registered his first points of the season with a two-point goal at 4:12 of the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 10-8.

The Cougars responded quickly as Brian Farber capitalized on an error by Ignition netminder Danny Waltman and tallied a two-point goal at 6:00 to make it 12-8. Beasley recorded another two-point goal at 10:05 to close out the scoring.

At 7:35 p.m. Friday, the Ignition returns home to host the Chicago Storm at Compuware Sports Arena. They play again at 7:35 p.m. Saturday at the Baltimore Blast.



Upcoming Home Games

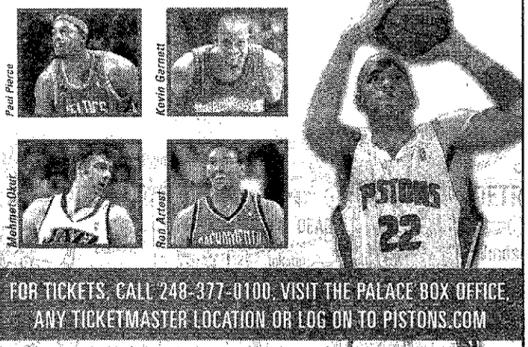
**WEDNESDAY - 1/10 VS. CHARLOTTE BOBCATS • 7:30 PM**  
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**MONDAY - 1/15 VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES • 3:30 PM**  
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**WEDNESDAY - 1/17 VS. UTAH JAZZ • 7:30 PM**  
 PISTONS PLAYER SCHEDULE CARD TO FIRST 10,000 FANS COURTESY OF

**SATURDAY - 1/20 VS. SACRAMENTO KINGS • 7:30 PM**  
 PISTONS BASEBALL STYLE HAT TO FIRST 5,000 FANS COURTESY OF National City



HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

has them ranked among the state's best teams.

"They're a well-coached, well-disciplined team, and they played a great game," Jobbitt said.

Heinzelman recorded two of his goals during the scoring barrage, while Phil Wendecker and Wischmeyer netted the other two.

"A lot of our goals come from good teamwork and by not playing selfish hockey," Wischmeyer said.

The Chargers added two insurance goals in the third as Wischmeyer and Heinzelman finished up the scoring.  
 "We have a lot of guys that

can score on a nightly basis, and since we're a team that thrives on momentum, that's a nice advantage to have," Mazzoni said.

Churchill's Josh Proben and Kody Strong each chipped in with two assists, while Tony Ross, Kyle Burke and Steve Greco had one apiece.

Scott Lewan recorded his second shutout of the season for the Chargers.

Meanwhile, 12 of the 18 players on the Patriots roster are playing their first season with the team, and the rest of the lineup is mostly underclassmen as Jobbitt only has two seniors this year.

"The majority of our players haven't played at this level before, but they're still working hard and improving," he said.

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# MU women split in Vegas Classic

Madonna University's women's basketball team showed last weekend that all rallies aren't created equally, with late comebacks earning just a 1-1 record at the Las Vegas Classic held at Sierra Vista High School.

On Friday, the Crusaders nearly fought back all the way from a 22-point halftime deficit before suffering a 92-82 setback to South Dakota Tech.

But things turned out better the next day, with MU erasing an 11-point second-half deficit to defeat NAIA-D1 Campbellsville (Ky.) 67-60.

The victory improved the Crusaders' record to 5-10.

Lindsay Klemmer (Salem) scored 24 points, knocking down three late free throws to give Madonna a 62-60 lead.

The Crusaders' defense clamped down from there, with another Plymouth Salem alum, Alyssa Guerin, canning

three foul shots and Klemmer hitting two more.

Guerin tallied nine points, as did Cali Crawford. Contributing 15 points was Stephanie Piotrowski.

Klemmer and Christie Carrico pulled down eight and six rebounds, respectively.

For Campbellsville (8-8), Julija Ilic scored 23 points while Priscilla Alves added 14.

Against South Dakota Tech (10-5) on Saturday, Carrico spearheaded Madonna's furious comeback bid with 16 of her game-high 25 points coming in the final 20 minutes.

The two-day tournament marked the season debut for Klemmer, who was ruled ineligible for the first half of the schedule. She scored 18 points and registered four steals against Campbellsville.

Piotrowski chipped in with 16 points while Guerin tallied 14.

**SCHOOLCRAFT 83, ALPENA 49:** On Dec. 20, Schoolcraft College scored early and scored often against host Alpena in a Michigan Community College Athletic Association-Eastern Conference women's basketball game.

The Lady Ocelots rolled out to a 51-19 halftime lead, while improving to 10-2 overall and 3-0 in the conference.

Pacing the Schoolcraft onslaught was sophomore forward Ashley Sibby, who tallied 16 points.

She was one of four Lady Ocelots to reach double digits in scoring. Others included sophomore forward-center Maricka Seay (13 points), freshman forward Janelle Harris (12 points) and sophomore center Lauren Braun (10 points).

Ten of 11 Schoolcraft players scored.

Harris and Seay led in rebounding, with 11 and 10, respectively, while freshman guard Brittney Ivey chipped in with six assists.

For Alpena (1-9, 0-3), Regina Robinson tallied 11 points while Tanya Domke had 10 points and eight rebounds.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM PAGE B1

■ Livonia Stevenson's 24-game unbeaten streak in hockey is snapped by Dearborn Unified, 4-3, in double overtime in the regional. The Spartans finished 23-2-1 overall.

### April

■ Brandie Reamy, 12, of Livonia, rolls a 300 game in the Sunday Youth Travel Classic at Country Lanes. She becomes the youngest ever to bowl a sanctioned perfect game.

### May

■ Canton edges Churchill, 64-63, to win the 32nd annual Observerland Relays boys track and field title.

■ The three Farmington schools — Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington — turn down an invitation to rejoin the Western Lakes Activities Association.

■ The Madonna University baseball team comes within three outs of going to the NAIA World Series after losing 7-6 to St. Xavier (Ill.) in the Heartland Super Regional. The Crusaders finish the year 35-21 overall.

### June

■ Churchill sophomore Shannon Warner shoots 69-67 to earn medalist honors at the Division 1 girls golf state finals held at Michigan State University's Forest Akers (East Course). She wins the tournament by a whopping 11 strokes.

■ Stevenson's 4 x 100-meter relay team of Nana Adomako, Kevin Murawski, Brian Chandler and Pat Clagsens wins the Division 1 state title at East Kentwood with a time of 42.79.

■ Two Livonians, defenseman Mark Mitera (University of Michigan) and forward Erik Condra (Notre Dame), go in the National Hockey League draft. Mitera is a first-round pick of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, while Condra is the sixth-round choice of the Ottawa Senators.

■ John Glenn's softball team

forfeits in the Division 1 district tourney at Birmingham Seaholm because it cannot field enough players.

■ Lutheran High Westland's Ron Gentz ends his girls basketball coaching career with a record of 221-134 in 14 seasons.

### July

■ Paul Soucy, 67, of Livonia, wins the 2006 Ringside Boxing National Championship in Kansas City, Mo., in the masters division (ages 55-75) at 167 pounds.

■ Mark Zathay steps down as MU women's soccer coach. He is replaced by Paul Thomas.

### August

■ Jim Omietanski of Livonia repeats as O&E men's golf champion.

■ Bob Lulek, who guided Livonia Ladywood to three straight Division 2 state quarterfinal berths in softball, is fired. He was 184-152 in 10 seasons. He was recently hired as the varsity coach at Novi.

■ The Michigan Synchro Masters, who train a Schoolcraft College and are coached by Joyce Lindemann, capture the FINA World Aquatic Masters Team title in Palo Alto, Calif.

■ The Michigan Bucks, led by owner and Livonia native Dan Duggan, capture the Premier Development League championship in Laredo, Texas.

### September

■ The undefeated 1955 Clarenceville High football team stages a reunion at the Trojans' Metro Conference game against Hamtramck.

### October

■ The Stevenson girls tennis team earns a trip to the Division 1 state finals in Midland after finishing third in the regional.

■ Greg Ambrose is named new athletic director at Wayne Memorial H.S., replacing Dewie Cole.

■ Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham earns his record 800th victory and now ranks second all time in the NAIA.

■ Three-time Olympian and former gold medal swimmer

Sheila Taormina, 37, wins her first U.S. National Modern Pentathlon title with 5,176 points in Colorado Springs, Colo.

### November

■ Stevenson's boys soccer team knocks off four top-10 ranked teams and reaches the Division 1 state final before losing to Traverse City West, 1-0, on University of Maryland recruit Casey Townsend's goal. The Spartans finished the year at 18-3-4 overall.

■ The Churchill girls cross country team places runner up in the Division 1 state finals at MIS in Brooklyn, losing on a sixth-runner tiebreaker to Rochester Adams after the two teams each scored 112 points. Coach Sue Tatro's squad boasted four All-State runners.

■ Both the Madonna and Schoolcraft College women's soccer teams earn trips to the nationals. Schoolcraft finishes seventh in the NJCAA Division II tournament in Scottsdale, Ariz., and goes 36-7 on the year. MU goes 38-5 after dropping all three matches in Columbia, Mo.

### December

■ The varsity boys and girls bowling squads at John Glenn and Wayne high schools launch their inaugural seasons.

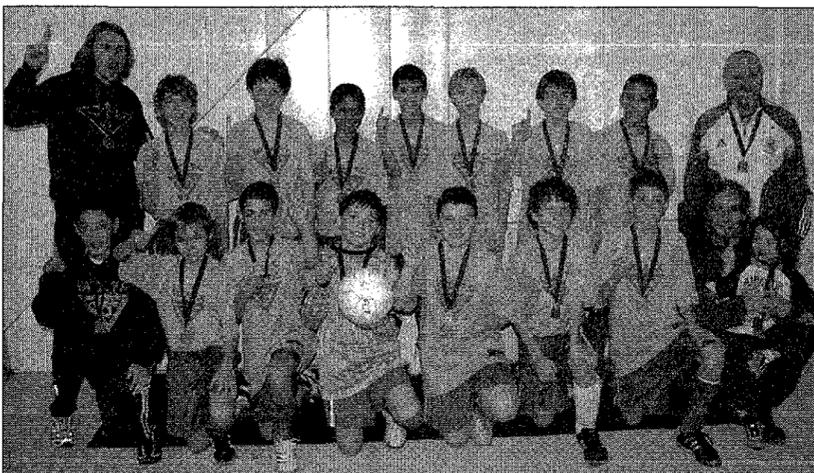
■ A proposed scheduling agreement/merger between the Western Lakes and Kensington Valley conferences falls through on a vote of the KVC principals. The WLAA extends invitations to both Novi and West Bloomfield to make it a 14-team league.

■ Livonia gymnastics defines as mandated by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Livonia Blue edges Livonia Red, 142.55-142.35, in a season-opening meet before a packed house at Churchill H.S.

■ Bill Tolsted, who won 174-29-20 in 10 seasons, steps down after guiding the Lady Ocelots to a berth in the NJCAA Division I national women's soccer tournament.

### 2007?

Happy New Year to all the avid and casual Observer sports readers.



## Soccer champs

The Waza FC '95 Boys Blue soccer team, currently ranked No. 2 in the state, won the National Indoor Championship Detroit Regional Tournament Dec. 3 at Total Soccer in Fraser. Waza 95 Blue defeated the following teams: No. 3-ranked FC Nova (3-2), No. 4 Michigan Wolves (4-2), No. 1 Michigan Future Stars (5-3) and No. 5 Vardar Stars Elite (4-2). The win qualifies the team for the National Indoor Championship Tournament to be played the last weekend in February at Total Soccer in Wixom and Fraser. Waza '95 Blue played up an age bracket during the fall season and captured the Western Suburban Soccer League Under-13 Division 1. Members of the Waza FC '95 Boys Blue soccer team are (front row, left to right) Matt McAuliffe, Livonia; Colin Warner, Northville; Danny Meltser, Commerce; Aaron Krupa, Ann Arbor; Tommy O'Connor, Farmington Hills; Jason Carmack, Saline; Matt Wilson, Novi; Waza FC Club President Mario Scicluna, Valentino Scicluna, Livonia; (back row, left to right) coach Chris King, Livonia; Trevor Nessel, Novi; Alex Arlin, Farmington Hills; David Braxton, West Bloomfield; Brent Winkler, Farmington Hills; Ron Basin, Farmington Hills; Ian Fox, Redford; Donald Payne, Ypsilanti; and Rocco Mitkov, Canton. Not pictured is Connor Shennan of Plymouth.



## Indoor champs

On Dec. 3, the under-8 Waza girls team captured a regional tournament to qualify for the National Indoor Tournament scheduled for late February in Wixom and Fraser. Waza defeated the Michigan Burn for the second time in the finals, along with wins over the Future Stars and Gators. Members of the Waza squad include (front row, from left): Danielle Kluz, Sterling Heights; Mariah Smythe, Novi; Julianna Ulla, Northville; Emily McGuire, Livonia; Elena Lippert, Northville; Jennifer Richmond, Plymouth; Haylee Renick, Belleville; (back row, from left) Karen Roggenkamp, Farmington Hills; Katarina Santavy, Belleville; Tara Ariin, Farmington Hills; Emily Debolski, Livonia; Madeleine Lucus, Plymouth; Natalie Nowicki, Plymouth; Mollie Barnard, Wixom; (far back) coach Mario Scicluna and son Valentino.



## Cage winners

The St. Genevieve JV2 girls basketball team recently captured their first-ever title at the St. Robert Bellarmine Thanksgiving Tournament. Team members include: Natalie Aguirre, Cheryl Setlock, Delaney Vida, Erin Young, Dominique Poliacchio, Laura Nemes, Rebecca Lobb, Lauren Tschirhart, Laquasha Kane, Antonia Ramon, Wrenna Werden and Sara Allmacher. The coaching staff includes Tom Young, Ramsey Abdulbaki and Kevin Allmacher.

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# Playoff time: And once again the Detroit

Do you remember the last time the Detroit Lions went to the postseason? It's now seven years ago. Bobby Ross coached the team to an 8-8 record and backed into a playoff spot against the Washington Redskins. The game was in D.C., where the Lions had never won. On Jan. 8, 2000, they didn't win there again.

The 'Skins pounded the Lions that day 27-13 in front of more than 79,000 people. They have played at Washington 20 times and lost all 20.

At least they didn't lose to Washington this year.

For the seventh year in a row, the Lions will be watching the NFL playoffs at home. Their 39-31 win over Dallas to end the season only took them out of the running for the top overall pick in the April draft. Oakland now gets that pick, while the Lions choose second.



Mark Wilson

The Cowboys blew their chance at winning the NFC East with that loss last Sunday. Dallas coach Bill Parcells sounded like a man who had just lost his best friend.

"I can't tell you how disappointed I am," Parcells said to reporters. "This is the low point for me in a long time."

Yeah, losing to the Lions will do that to you. Losing to the Lions in Texas was even more shocking. The Cowboys are getting ready for a trip to Seattle for the NFC wild card game. Two Super Bowl-winning coaches, Parcells and Mike Holmgren, will square off. "Our record isn't what we had hoped, but there's something about 9-7 being a lot better than 8-8 even though it's just one game,"

Holmgren said after the Seahawks beat Tampa last weekend.

Just 11 months ago, Holmgren brought his team to Ford Field for Super Bowl XL. At least the Seahawks made it back in. The champion Steelers weren't so fortunate. Despite a win over Cincinnati, Pittsburgh ended up 8-8 and missed out on a chance to defend its title.

Seattle finished the year losing three of the last four. Dallas ended the year losing three of the last four. These are two teams playing some bad football that will meet Saturday night at Qwest Field. The Cowboys' defense has allowed 132 points in the last four games. That's an average of 33 points a game in the last month. As we saw against the Lions, the 'Boys just can't stop anyone.

"We are definitely going in backward from the way we wanted to," Cowboys quarterback

Tony Romo said after the loss to the Lions.

The other wild card game in the NFC has the Giants playing in Philadelphia. The Eagles ended up as East champs with Jeff Garcia playing a stellar quarterback in place of the injured Donovan McNabb. It just hasn't looked like the same Garcia who replaced Joey Harrington in a Lions' uniform last season. Garcia is 5-1 since replacing McNabb.

"We expected to come out and earn the NFC East championship, but we were able to coast," Garcia said to reporters following Philly's win over Atlanta last Sunday. It gave the Eagles a 10-6 mark for 2006. Very few would have thought that possible once McNabb was lost for the year.

Garcia threw three passes only Sunday. Once it was announced on the big screen at Lincoln Financial Field that the Lions had upset the

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# It Lions are on the outside looking in

Cowboys, coach Andy Reid pulled his starters out. Backup guys went in and still beat Michael Vick and the Falcons.

"The Eagles are rolling and — don't laugh — but Garcia is the reason why."

"This is just the first step," Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter said. "We want the big one."

The "big one" would be Super Bowl XLI in Miami. Philadelphia may be the best choice to come out of the NFC. The Chicago Bears look horrible lately and the Saints were just 5-5 in their last 10 games. New Orleans may still be too fresh to be considered a Super Bowl favorite.

Garcia gives Philly a bona fide veteran presence under center. The Eagles have won their last five and the game against Eli Manning and the Giants is at home. Tiki Barber was unreal in what could be his final regular season game.

He rushed for 234 yards and three touchdowns in the Giants' win over Washington. Barber has said he will retire once this season is over.

"We won a game and got into the playoffs," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "Is that good enough?"

Coughlin was referring to keeping his job with the Giants. His act has grown thin in New York and rumors swirled that he was out if he didn't make the playoffs. Now, the hot rumor is that he must at least get to the NFC championship game to assure his return.

In the AFC, it all starts with New England. The Patriots are playoff-tested and Super Bowl-ready. Tom Brady and Bill Belichick simply know how to do it. A fourth trip to the "big one" in the last six years is not out of the question. They are at home and play the upstart Jets. There is no love lost between Belichick

and his protégé, Eric Mangini. The latter has done a masterful job getting the sad-sack Jets into the playoffs a year after they were 4-12.

"I'm hoping for a few more of those Gatorade showers," said Mangini, who finished his first year as head coach with 10 wins.

Kansas City goes to Indianapolis in the other AFC wild card game. If Tony Dungy doesn't get the Colts into the Super Bowl this year, he might as well just give up. Peyton Manning still had a terrific year despite losing four of his last seven games. He threw for more than 200 yards in 14 of his 16 contests. His 4,400 yards passing and 31 touchdowns with just nine interceptions would be MVP numbers in most other years.

"The idea, obviously, is to be playing some of your best football in January," Manning said.

LaDarian Tomlinson will prevent Manning

from any MVP notions. The Chargers and the Ravens have the byes from the first round of the playoffs. The Colts will face the Chiefs on Saturday afternoon in Indy.

"Some people in the locker room suggest that my father (Lamar) had a hand in that win (on Sunday)," said Clark Hunt, the son of the legendary K.C. owner who passed away three weeks ago. Larry Johnson set an NFL record with 416 rushing attempts this season.

So the playoffs begin. I like Philly, Seattle, New England and Indy to move on to Week 2. It's just too bad that, once again, the Lions will be like us ... watching from their sofas this weekend.

Mark Wilson is a former Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Michigan SportsCaster of the Year. He lives in West Bloomfield.



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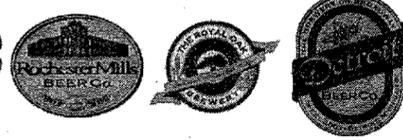
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Way back when
- 4 "Iliad" king
- 9 Concealed
- 12 Golf score
- 13 "Doonee"
- 14 Memorable time
- 15 Kind of living
- 17 Discussions
- 19 Classified section
- 20 Muslim mystic
- 21 M\*A\*S\*H transport
- 24 Insects' middles
- 28 Remove the stitches
- 30 Qatar ruler
- 31 You and I
- 32 FOX sitcom
- 33 Pismire
- 35 Oxford tutor
- 36 Informal assent
- 37 Endangered buffalo
- 38 Jerks
- 40 Pasta choice

- 43 Business encl.
- 44 Formerly, old-style
- 46 Jag
- 47 Early invention
- 49 Godzilla or Rodan
- 53 Dawn goddess
- 54 Comets, to an ancient
- 56 Huge container
- 57 Drone
- 58 Leipzig link
- 59 Seek damages

### DOWN

- 1 Showery mo. — pan
- 2 Moo goo — pan
- 3 El Dorado loot
- 4 Lumber along
- 5 Disturb
- 6 1040 agcy.
- 7 Lend — ear
- 8 Adulthood
- 9 Slinky toy shape
- 10 Harass

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	I	N	J	U	T	E	C	O	O	P
A	N	A	U	R	A	L	O	R	C	A
B	I	N	D	I	N	G	S	M	O	T
S	T	O	I	C	S	A	A	B		
T	E	A	G	O	A	D	S			
D	O	L	T	M	A	K	O	B	R	A
O	B	E	Y	M	I	L	A	L	A	I
E	O	N	P	O	L	E	M	E	W	L
R	E	A	C	H						
E	I	R	E	U	N	C	L	E		
P	L	E	S	L	A	P	S	H	O	T
R	O	V	E	V	I	C	E	O	P	T
O	W	E	D	P	E	T	E	P	E	A

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15		16					17	18		
		19					20			
21	22	23		24	25				26	27
28			29		30					31
32			33	34					35	
36			37				38	39		
40		41				42		43		
		44				45	46			
47	48					49			50	51
52						53			54	55
56						57			58	59

- 11 Pub. prosecu-tors
- 16 Use a cam-corder
- 18 In the distance
- 20 Several
- 21 Courtroom fig-ure
- 22 Japanese mushroom
- 23 PC button
- 25 Macho type (hyp.)
- 26 "Return of the Jedi" critters
- 27 Pick up on
- 29 Crept along (2 wds.)
- 34 Open to debate
- 35 Chromosome material
- 37 Berne's river
- 39 Deadly snakes
- 41 Formation fliers
- 42 Hair curlers
- 46 Scholarly org.
- 47 Amazon mlleiu
- 48 Furrow maker
- 49 Debussy subject
- 50 VCR hookups
- 51 — de cologne
- 52 Rural addr.
- 55 Greek letter

## SUDOKU

2	7		5	3		8		
4			8	9		6		3
8	9				4	1		
		4			8	3		
	8		4	1				6
	1	7	6		3			4
5	4	2						
7	3		1	4	5			6
			2					3
								5

Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |         |          |            |
|---------|----------|------------|
| WALRUS  | WHALE    | WOMBAT     |
| WARTHOG | WHIMBREL | WOODPECKER |
| WEASEL  | WOLF     | WREN       |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

W	R	W	O	O	D	P	E	C	K
W	E	A	S	E	L	W	R	I	W
A	K	W	S	W	O	L	L	F	H
R	C	E	U	W	O	M	B	A	E
T	E	W	R	E	N	W	O	O	M
H	P	W	L	F	F	G	W	W	B
O	D	W	A	L	W	J	H	H	R
G	O	K	W	O	M	B	A	T	E
L	O	M	N	W	W	B	L	C	L
W	W	H	I	M	B	R	E	L	B

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

3	8	7	6	7	8	9	1
8	9	2	5	4	1	6	7
1	6	7	8	9	3	4	5
4	8	9	2	9	7	1	6
7	2	6	1	7	1	8	3
7	1	8	9	6	4	4	2
2	7	1	6	8	9	7	3
3	8	7	9	2	6	1	4
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### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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# Real Estate

## 3000's Real Estate

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 3000.....Homes                     | 3370.....Royal Oak                      |
| 3039.....Open Houses               | 3380.....Salem-Salem Township           |
| 3040.....Ann Arbor                 | 3390.....Southfield-Lathrup             |
| 3043.....Auburn Hills              | 3400.....South Lyon                     |
| 3045.....Belleville & Van Buren    | 3405.....Stockbridge-Unadilla-Gragory   |
| 3047.....Berkley                   | 3410.....Troy                           |
| 3049.....Beverly Hills             | 3415.....Union Lake                     |
| 3060.....Birmingham                | 3420.....Walked Lake                    |
| 3065.....Bloomfield                | 3423.....Waterford                      |
| 3066.....Brighton                  | 3424.....Wayne                          |
| 3070.....Byron                     | 3430.....West Bloomfield                |
| 3080.....Canton                    | 3440.....West Bloomfield                |
| 3090.....Clarkston                 | 3445.....Westland                       |
| 3095.....Clemson                   | 3450.....White Lake                     |
| 3100.....Cochran                   | 3460.....Whitmore Lake                  |
| 3110.....Dearborn                  | 3460.....Williamston                    |
| 3115.....Dearborn Hgts             | 3480.....Wixom-Commerce                 |
| 3120.....Dearborn                  | 3480.....Ypsilanti                      |
| 3130.....Dearborn                  | 3500.....Genesee County                 |
| 3135.....Dearborn                  | 3510.....Ingham County                  |
| 3140.....Farmington                | 3515.....Lapeer County                  |
| 3145.....Farmington Hills          | 3520.....Livingston County              |
| 3150.....Farmton                   | 3530.....Macomb County                  |
| 3155.....Farmville                 | 3540.....Oakland County                 |
| 3160.....Farmville                 | 3550.....Shiawassee County              |
| 3165.....Farmville                 | 3560.....Washtenaw County               |
| 3170.....Farmville                 | 3570.....Wayne County                   |
| 3180.....Farmville                 | 3580.....Lakeland/Waterfront Homes      |
| 3190.....Farmville                 | 3590.....Other Suburban Homes           |
| 3200.....Farmville                 | 3600.....Out of State Homes/Property    |
| 3205.....Hazel Park & Madison Hgts | 3610.....Country Homes                  |
| 3210.....Hightland                 | 3620.....Real Estate Auction            |
| 3220.....Holly                     | 3630.....Farms/Horse Farms              |
| 3230.....Howell                    | 3640.....Real Estate Services           |
| 3240.....Huntington Woods          | 3700.....New Home Builders              |
| 3250.....Keego Harbor              | 3710.....Apartments For Sale            |
| 3260.....Lake Orion                | 3720.....Condos                         |
| 3270.....Lathrup Village           | 3730.....Duplexes & Townhouses          |
| 3280.....Livonia                   | 3740.....Manufactured Homes             |
| 3290.....Livonia                   | 3750.....Mobile Homes                   |
| 3300.....Livonia                   | 3755.....Commercial/Retail For Sale     |
| 3310.....Livonia                   | 3760.....Homes Under Construction       |
| 3320.....Livonia                   | 3770.....Lakeland Property              |
| 3330.....Livonia                   | 3780.....Lakes & River Resort Property  |
| 3340.....Livonia                   | 3790.....Northern Property              |
| 3350.....Livonia                   | 3800.....Resort & Vacation Property     |
| 3360.....Livonia                   | 3810.....Florida Homes & Property       |
| 3370.....Livonia                   | 3820.....Southern Property              |
| 3380.....Livonia                   | 3830.....Lakes & Acreage/Vacant         |
| 3390.....Livonia                   | 3840.....Times Share                    |
| 3400.....Livonia                   | 3850.....Lease/Option To Buy            |
| 3410.....Livonia                   | 3860.....Mortgage/Land Contracts        |
| 3420.....Livonia                   | 3870.....Money To Loan                  |
| 3430.....Livonia                   | 3880.....Real Estate Wanted             |
| 3440.....Livonia                   | 3890.....Cometary Lots                  |
| 3450.....Livonia                   | 3900.....Commercial/Industrial For Sale |

## Commercial /Industrial 3900 through 3980

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3900.....Business Opportunities           | 3940.....Industrial & Warehouse For Sale   |
| 3910.....Business/Professional Building   | 3950.....Office Business For Lease         |
| 3920.....Commercial/Retail For Lease      | 3965.....Office Space For Sale             |
| 3930.....Income Property For Sale         | 3980.....Commercial & Industrial For Lease |
| 3935.....Industrial & Warehouse For Lease | 3970.....Investment Property               |
|   | 3980.....Land                              |

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www.hometownlife.com

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Homes 3000

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FAX..... 734-953-2232  
ONLINE..... hometownlife.com  
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Thursday (Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford) ..... 5:30 p.m. Tuesday  
Thursday (All other papers)..... 2:30 p.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:  
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Observer office .....36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia  
Hours .....8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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Just Reduced!  
4200 sq. ft. of custom luxury. 4 bdrms, 3.5 bath, 2 master suites, Gourmet kitchen \$605,000.  
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Family room, huge kitchen, finished bsmt., 2.5 car garage. \$148,000.  
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Large kitchen, 1.5 baths, full bsmt. Attached 2 car garage. \$189,900  
CENTURY 21 CASTELLI  
734-525-7900

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3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, fin. bsmt, sun room, 2 car garage. Terms flexible. 248-921-2432

## Rochester 3360

DUPLEX- 524 Ludlow. 3 bdrm down w/ 1 1/2 bath, full bsmt., 2 bdrm up w/1 bath. \$337,300. 248-656-3465

## Southfield/Lathrup 3390

ROCHESTER  
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ROCHESTER HILLS  
4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, \$360,000  
ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

## Westland 3445

BUY OR LEASE!  
Immediate occupancy on this 2 bdrm, possibly 3 bdrm ranch. Large kitchen. All appliances. Living room with wood burning stove. Newer windows. Garage plus storage shed. \$125,000  
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3 bdrm, brick ranch. Bsmt., 2 car garage, remodeled. No money down! Seller pays all costs. Payments \$818/mo. P&I or land contract available. Must see. Bad credit ok. Broker. 313-278-6745.

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• 2440 Berwick Dr, Canton, 3/1.5, 1793sf. For local info call Jack Brown, Ehmman & GreenSt/GMAC, 734-482-3484. Selling Saturday 1/20 at 1pm.  
• 125 Village Way Blvd Unit 4, Canton, 3/2.5, 1828sf. Call Laura Ford, Real Estate One, 734-604-2494. Selling Sunday 1/21 at 1pm.  
Call for details.

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5% or \$2500 dn, 5% buyer's premium on each sale. In Conjunction w/ Silver's Realty, Bk # 6603140790.

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Golf coast, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 3025 sq.ft., ocean front, new condo. \$1,450,000 negotiable. Call Jack 248-229-1072

## Lots & Acreage/Vacant 3820

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Only 7 lots left in Village Woods with 41 homesites on 20 rolling wooded acres from \$45,000, builder's terms. Call Allen at: (248) 881-1218

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Road Estate  
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Deluxe 1 & 2 bedrooms. Starting at \$999 a month. Quiet, private balcony's, storage, laundry, ceiling fans w/ lights & blinds. 313-386-6720

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\$470/MO. \$0 SEC DEP. (on approved credit) Call today before they are gone!  
**KENSINGTON PARK APARTMENTS**  
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**RENT STARTING AT \$449/MO**  
**ORCHARDS OF NEWBURGH**  
• 1 & 2 Bedroom plans  
• Playground Area  
• Pool & Clubhouse  
• Carport Included  
**(734) 729-5090**  
www.yorkcounties.com

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Lg 1 bdrm, 1 bath. Heat & water incl. \$650/mo. 24 hr. recorded message 866-237-2647 ext 21

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**SUNRISE STUDIOS \$25 OFF**  
With This Ad  
Brand NEW A/C Rooms. TV/Phone / HBO/CABLE LOW RATES  
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Livonia

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Move in Winter and benefit from our lowest prices of the year on all of our unique and beautifully decorated one and two bedroom apartments from only \$675. Updates galore, as most feature custom moldings, de-signer paint, covered parking and cherry wood flooring. EHO

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**Westland Park Apts. RENT A 2 BDRM. FOR THE SAME RATE AS A 1 BDRM. \$575**  
Security Deposit \$200  
2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath 936 sq. ft. 1 Bedroom 728 sq. ft. \$575 Heat/Water Included  
(New residents only with approved credit) 1 year lease. Very clean apartments. Excellent maintenance. Central air, intercom. Appliances include dishwasher and more. No pets  
Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4  
**(734) 729-6636**

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**SOUTHFIELD CONDOS FOR LEASE**  
2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouses, 1175 sq. ft., private entrance, wood burning fireplace, full basement.  
\$799. Short term available  
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CALL: 248-281-2200

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**DEARBORN** 3 bdrm, home in W. Dearborn. Great area. Cute home. \$0 down or rent to own. 734-521-0235

**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
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**4050**  
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**WAYNE** - 3645 S. Hubbard, Merriman/Michigan. 2 bdrm, 2 car garage, all appliances, \$725 + dep. 313-389-1741

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**TRIPLE A DELUXE MOTEL**  
A/C, Jacuzzi in rooms, maid service, HBO. Low daily/wkly rates. Sunrise Inn 734-427-1300  
Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100  
Royal Inn 248-544-1575  
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Relax Inn 734-596-9990

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Security Deposit \$200  
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(New residents only with approved credit) 1 year lease. Very clean apartments. Excellent maintenance. Central air, intercom. Appliances include dishwasher and more. No pets  
Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4  
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**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
**WAYNE** - 3645 S. Hubbard, Merriman/Michigan. 2 bdrm, 2 car garage, all appliances, \$725 + dep. 313-389-1741

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Homes For Rent  
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CANTON Retail, 1500-3000 sq. ft. retail space in new building on Michigan Ave. between Haggerty & Lilley. \$16.90/sq. ft. #2412466.  
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Huge Apartments & Town Homes  
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom  
From \$815  
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Rent Starting At \$595  
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• Clubhouse  
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**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
**LIVONIA** - 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft., finished bsmt, appliances, 2 car. \$1800. D&H Property, 248-888-9133

**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
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Homes For Rent  
**LIVONIA** - 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft., finished bsmt, appliances, 2 car. \$1800. D&H Property, 248-888-9133

**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
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**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
**WESTLAND** - 2 bdrm, 1 bath ranch, garage, c/a, appliances, fenced yard, pets nego. Sec 8 ok. \$875/deposit + 1st. Call Jamie, 734-891-5698

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**4050**  
Homes For Rent  
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Homes For Rent  
**WESTLAND** - 2 bdrm, 1 bath ranch, garage, c/a, appliances, fenced yard, pets nego. Sec 8 ok. \$875/deposit + 1st. Call Jamie, 734-891-5698

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1 Bdrm. \$570, 2 Bdrm., \$660 (734) 455-1215

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From russet to clay, modern colors look natural and comforting, particularly when compared to the jewel-toned burgundy or navy blue hues made popular in the 1990s.



Debra Volanski, of Debra Designs in Canton, combines warm earthtones in a playful way to create this artistic living room.

DEBRA VOLANSKI



BETH SINGER

Margaret Skinner, owner of Margeaux Interiors Inc., painted the ceiling of this foyer two shades darker than the walls, a current trend in home interiors.

# Think warm colors,

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to predicting the future, local interior designers say rich warm tones and clean-lined elegance will rule home decor in the new year.

Margaret Skinner, owner of Birmingham-based Margeaux Interiors Inc., focuses solely on residential interior design. She's been doing so for eight years.

Skinner said she's noticed that her clients tend to lean toward more environmentally-friendly materials these days, when renovating their living spaces. From bamboo to eucalyptus, flooring options are more interesting than ever.

"These are much more renewable," said Skinner. "I'm finding people are using more recyclable items. They are re-using items in a new way - salvaging tile or brick, recycling glass for mosaic tile."

Skinner attributed this trend to two things - the state of Michigan's sluggish economy and clients who are more environmentally aware. "I'm trying to promote that, too," she said, "more awareness of our own resources."

And Skinner said you don't have to sacrifice high-style to do so.

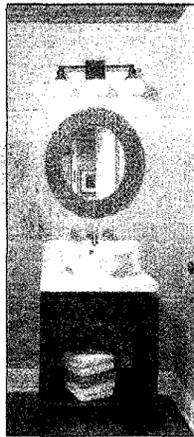
"People do want to hold onto what they have," said Debra Volanski, owner of Debra Designs in Canton. She too is seeing a trend toward re-using and re-mix-

# simple decor for 2007



BETH SINGER

Wainscoting, molding, and a window seat add detail in this living room, designed by Margaret Skinner.



BETH SINGER

Margaret Skinner enhanced this small powder room with tin ceiling.

PLEASE SEE DECOR, D2

## Full steam ahead for a tasty and healthy New Year

The festivities are officially over. Most of us will have to pay for the sins of holiday overindulgence - too many second helpings of rich, fatty foods, too many pastries and chocolate.

Enough! The good news is that mending your ways doesn't have to mean cutting out flavor. In fact, steaming food is a good way to retain not only flavor, but color and

nutrients as well, creating a festive-looking as well as healthful, diet-conscious entrée.

Steaming is one of the gentlest ways to cook. The even, moist heat of the steam envelops the food, allowing it to retain its natural juices and nutrients.

There are many different varieties of steamers in many sizes, shapes and price levels. If you don't

own one, you can easily fashion a steamer at home.

Start with a deep pot, deep enough to hold two to three inches of boiling water, a stand of some kind to hold a plate, and the plate of food to be steamed. The pot should be wide enough to allow about an inch of space between the plate and the pot, to allow steam to circulate evenly. A tight-fitting lid is also nec-

essary.

The plate that holds the food should be heatproof, with a little depth to it so it can hold any juices that might be produced as the food steams.

The plate of food can be set on any kind of heat-proof stand or rack that will keep it stable and high

PLEASE SEE HEALTHY, D3

## Let's examine intelligence of smartphones

Can a smartphone make you smarter? Probably not, but it can help you work smarter, and that's a goal worth pursuing.

I recently got the chance to try three of the latest and greatest models: the BlackBerry 8703e, the LG enV VX9900 and the Motorola Q.

All three came from Verizon Wireless, though the BlackBerry is also available from Cingular (as the 8700c) and T-Mobile (8700g), and Sprint is expected to offer the Q in the near future.

I tend to be a harsh critic when it comes to phones, mostly because I dislike their unintuitive, overcomplicated menu systems.

That's why I've always been partial to Palm's Treo line: the friendly, familiar Palm Operating System offers tap-and-go simplicity.

Not so the BlackBerry, enV and Q, which rely on scroll-wheel or number-pad navigation.

Still, despite their somewhat steep learning curves, these smartphones pack considerable power. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of each model.

### RIM BLACKBERRY 8703E

Not too different from the original e-mail-only BlackBerry, the 8703e combines savvy phone features with RIM's unsurpassed e-mail capabilities.

Put simply, new messages get "pushed" to the device as they arrive, meaning you don't have to manually retrieve your mail. For anyone whose life revolves around their inbox, it's easy to see how the nickname "Crackberry" came to be.

The 8703e's thumb keyboard features relatively large, rectangular keys, and though they seemed a bit cramped, I found I could type quite accurately.

I also liked the BlackBerry's bright, colorful screen, fast start-up and reasonably uncluttered interface. Once you learn the intricacies of scroll-wheel/back-button navigation, you should be able to zip along.

Unfortunately, the 8703e suffers from a somewhat weak Web browser (due in part to its small screen) and, surprisingly, a lack of instant-messaging software. For a device that so excels at e-mail, you'd think IM would be second nature.

### LG ENV VX9900

At first glance, the LG enV looks like a traditional candy-bar phone.

Open it up, however, and you're treated to a roomy screen and even roomier keyboard, by far the best of the bunch for composing messages.

The enV also boasts a two-megapixel camera that actually takes decent snapshots (provided you turn off the autofocus, which adds interminable shutter lag). It even has stereo speakers for listening to music without headphones.

I really wanted to like this phone. The design is just about perfect: comfortably curvy and narrow, but with that great QWERTY keyboard inside the clamshell. And I found voice quality and volume to be quite good.

Unfortunately, Verizon's costly, clumsy implementations of e-mail and instant messaging make this phone unworthy of envy.

To get mail, for instance, you have to download a special program and pay an extra \$20 per month, or install Verizon's Wireless Sync software on your PC, which forwards mail to the phone (and requires your PC to remain on at all times).

As for instant messaging, you can connect with AIM, MSN and Yahoo networks, but each message you send or receive is treated as a text message - and billed accordingly.

Much as I like the enV hardware, Verizon's service charges will quickly put me in the poorhouse. Thanks, but no thanks.

### MOTOROLA Q

Thin, sexy and more multimedia-savvy than either the BlackBerry or the enV, the Motorola Q turns heads like few other smartphones. It includes a 1.3-

The amazingly thin Motorola Q gets bogged down by its unfriendly, unintuitive Windows Mobile interface.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

## Purtan column to return

Off the Air with Dick Purtan & Purtan's People will return next week.

# This remedy usually fixes disposer

Mrs. Barringer writes: "I have a garbage disposer that didn't run when I turned it on. I heard a humming sound for 10 seconds or so and now when I turn it on, nothing happens. Do you think I should call a plumber, or go and purchase a new one?"

Thanks for writing. Before you go out shopping, let me have you try to do a little service on the one you have.



**Appliance Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

The humming sound you heard is normal whenever the cutter blade inside becomes jammed.

You may have dropped something like a little wire twist off a loaf of bread inside the disposer. Even a tab from a can of pop is enough to jam the disposer.

First you need a hand small enough to get into the thing, then start feeling around the edge of the base plate. Once you find the obstruction, use a flashlight and a pair of needle-nose pliers and pull it out.

Take note: You should always have the power in the off position whenever you work on something electrical.

Next, you should have a large Allen wrench, which came with the disposer, that inserts into a fitting on the very bottom of the dis-

poser. Turn it back and forth several times to see if it turns freely.

When you heard the humming sound, you popped the circuit breaker on the bottom of the disposer.

If you press it inwards with your finger, it will stay in and you are now ready to turn on the power switch to check it out.

In most cases, the disposer is repaired with this remedy. Please let me know.

Jason writes: "Our 8-year-old gas stove was not working properly the other day. The oven light was flashing and the heat was not on. When you looked inside, there was no light on, like it was not heating. If you turned it off and turned it back on in a minute or so it would work. Could the oven need a good cleaning?"

Thanks for the note, Jason. I think you have an igniter that is going bad on you.

There will come a time soon when it won't work at all, and you can replace this part yourself rather than call for a service technician.

It's mounted to a railing and located under the floor of the oven. It's in a wire cage.

Make sure you use the correct size screwdriver when removing the screws, or you will strip the screw heads.

Two wires come off the back of the igniter and need to be disconnected from the terminals they lead to.

Use extreme care with the new igniter, as they are very fragile

and rather expensive.

Igniters in a gas range are very common to fail. An oven that is dirty won't normally be the cause.

You will have to be the judge on whether your oven needs a good cleaning. Warm white vinegar is a good solution to loosen up the heavily soiled spots with a little elbow grease.

Ms. Carol wrote me and asked if I had come to a final conclusion on the Maytag Neptune front load washer we bought seven months ago.

Well, my darling Valerie still loves it, there are no odor or mold or water problems around the front door tub boot, and it hasn't needed any sort of service call.

I trusted the store when they told me that all past problems with the washer have been resolved, and so far it's running like a champ.

Keep in mind that the washer we had before this new one was something like 35 years old. I guess I'll come to a final conclusion on this new one if it should last anything close to 35 years. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to [mklemic@hometownlife.com](mailto:mklemic@hometownlife.com) and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

## DECOR

FROM PAGE D1

ing furniture and accents.

### SPLASH OF COLOR

Designers agree the easiest and least expensive way to transform a room, any time of year, is by adding or changing paint.

"If people are willing to do the labor themselves, it's one of the most high-impact ways to transform a room," said Volanski.

She suggests going bold and warm when adding color to a home. "It's nice to have a sense of place to go back to," said Volanski.

That's where the warm tones can make a difference. From russet to clay, modern colors look natural and comforting, particularly when compared to the jewel-toned burgundy or navy blue hues made popular in the 1990s.

Skinner agreed warm tones are tops. Instead of boring beige or off-white walls, Skinner said chocolate browns and earthy greens or blues can give a room a new feel.

"They tend to be a good route to go," she said. And color can set-off a room's natural appeal from its crown molding or columns.

When painting smaller private rooms, Skinner may opt to paint the ceiling or crown molding in a deep color like gray or brown, leaving the walls shades lighter. "It gives the illusion of a larger space," she said.

Volanski said another current color option is icy blue or seafoam green, complemented by those ever-present chocolate browns. The pairings offer a "sense of crispness" to any room, she said.

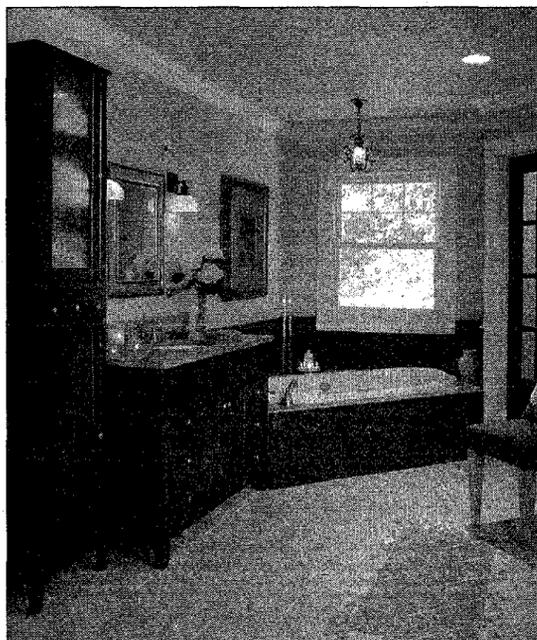
"These colors are so delicious, it's like describing food," she added.

While some people tend to steer away from pastels, a pale peach or strawberry pink pairs well with chocolate browns. And earthy greens are quite prevalent - though hunter green is "a no-no," according to Volanski.

### BEYOND THE WALLS

Updating a room can be as easy as changing small accessories like pillows or window treatments. Volanski said an affordable way to do so involves a quick visit to Lowe's for weighted Roman shades to update a window.

Volanski predicted a mix of retro and modern styles for 2007. She envisions a 1960s influence in furniture, and the boldness to combine several



BETH SINGER

This master bath, designed by Margaret Skinner, exhibits style with an espresso-stained wood tub surrounded by matching cabinetry and a French door.



DEBRA VOLANSKI

This bird's-eye view shows designer Debra Volanski's flair for warm tones and creative textures in home design.

types of fabrics.

When it comes to metal accents, on kitchen cabinetry for example, Volanski said brushed silver or copper will bring a modern feel. Gone are the days of shiny chrome and brass, she added.

The most-renovated of rooms, according to Skinner, might well be the kitchen, followed by the family room and the master bedroom suite.

In 2007, Skinner expects to see a lot of art deco influence in design.

"Clean lines are a must," she said. And, currently, it's daring and fresh to mix styles of furniture, rather than sticking to one look throughout an entire room.

This eclectic approach "is not so matchy-matchy," she explained. "And it looks fresh and original."

Try combining traditional furnishings with something hailing from the 1920s. Skinner works with clients across the metro area - from Bloomfield Hills to Milford, Rochester to Ann Arbor. As a result, she seen a bevy of challenges when designing in a variety of living spaces.

Newer homes lack detail, she noted. And a lot of design choices can depend on a homeowner's budget and style.

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## HOME CALENDAR

### Home decor

The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham, presents home decor classes. The schedule includes Faux Finish Techniques (7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10; cost is \$24) and Wildflower Painting (7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16; \$24, plus \$15 materials fee payable to the instructors in class).

To register and for more information, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832, or visit [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

In the faux finish class, learn creative and inexpensive decorating techniques and complete sample boards to take home. Wear old clothes and bring plastic gloves. Interior decorating professionals Bob and Esther Kerr will conduct the

wildflower painting workshop. Learn techniques of painting foliage, stir roses, backgrounds and petals that can be used on craft projects as well as furniture, and complete a wood plaque.

### Dog show

The Michigan Midwinter Classic Dog Show will take place Friday-Sunday, Jan. 19-21, at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, one mile west of Novi Road in Novi. Show times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is \$10, \$7 for seniors (over 65) and ages 6-12, \$25 for family day passes. Download a discount coupon at [www.ukcdogs.com/DEMetroClassic.htm](http://www.ukcdogs.com/DEMetroClassic.htm). Parking is \$5. Spectators may meet the dogs and ask owners about characteristics and care of

the different breeds. Don't bring dogs or pets; dogs not participating won't be allowed into the event area.

The show will feature dog and owner teams from across the country, representing many popular and rare breeds. The Novi-based Rock-N-Roll K-9s team will perform high-energy relay and obstacle competitions.

The show is licensed by the United Kennel Club. For information about UKC registration and events, call (269) 343-9020 or visit [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com).

Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Mary Klemic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail [mklemic@hometownlife.com](mailto:mklemic@hometownlife.com), fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

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## BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

megapixel camera, music and video players, and all the voice features you could want. And did I mention its deliciously svelte design?

Now for the bad news: the atrocious Windows Mobile interface.

Because the Q lacks a touchscreen, navigation requires a BlackBerry-like scroll wheel. That wouldn't be such a big deal if Microsoft made the interface usable by ordinary people.

For example, you'll find half a dozen program icons spread across the top of the screen, but they're all unlabeled.

Thankfully, programs are more clearly identified when you venture into the Start menu - but they're not alphabetized, so finding what you want is a chore.

Meanwhile, I tried to run the Pocket MSN instant-messaging applet but couldn't get past the setup screen. That's because my username includes a number, and for whatever reason, numbers are disabled in the username field. Sheesh!

These aren't insurmountable problems, but they sure are annoying. Same goes for Verizon's steep service plans.

### WHAT TO BUY

Needless to say, these three smartphones have middling intelligence at best.

If you're heavy into e-mail,

the BlackBerry doesn't disappoint, though I can't believe it lacks instant messaging capabilities.

I like the designs of both the enV and Motorola Q, but I can't abide the crippled e-mail capabilities of the former and the irksome interface of the latter.

Although I didn't review it here, the Palm Treo 700p earns my vote as the top smartphone available today. It's on the bulky side, but it's also the easiest phone to use and the most expandable.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books. He welcomes questions sent to [rick.broida@gmail.com](mailto:rick.broida@gmail.com).

## GARDEN CALENDAR

### Royal Oak Garden Club

The Royal Oak Garden Club will go on a field trip to Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R in Troy, 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8. Attendees will learn what's new for 2007.

### Tropical plants

English Gardens will host free gardening seminars 1 p.m. Saturdays this month at all six locations, including stores in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506; Royal Oak/Troy, (248) 280-9500; Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Caring for Tropical Plants will be the topic Jan. 13. House plants provide beauty and health benefits by cleaning the air. Learn how to care for plants that will thrive indoors.

English Gardens experts will give information on how to select a plant, tips to encourage flowering and suggestions on using plants to enhance a home's decor.

### Winter Interest

Michael Saint of Good Earth Landscape Institute of Clarkston (formerly Good

Earth Landscape & Interior Design) will present Creating Your Garden for Winter Interest, a slide show to benefit the Oakland County Master Gardener Program.

The presentation will take place 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road in Clarkston. Tickets are \$10. All of the money will go to the master gardener program. Call Saint at (248) 620-7188 or visit [www.goodearthlandscapelc.com](http://www.goodearthlandscapelc.com). Learn some fun ways to incorporate sculpture, yard art, summer perennials and ornamentals into a wonderful winter perspective.

### Pests, design

The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes for different levels. Register early. Seating is limited. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit [www.michigangardening.com](http://www.michigangardening.com).

The schedule includes: Solving Common Pest and Disease Problems, four ses-

sions beginning 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, or 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Michigan School of Gardening in Livonia, 29429 Six Mile, just west of Middlebelt (cost is \$137); and Landscape Design, seven Wednesdays beginning 6:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 17, in Troy through Troy Continuing Education (\$232; register at [www.troyceonline.com](http://www.troyceonline.com)).

### Hardy perennials

Gardening classes at The Community House in Birmingham include What are Hardy Perennials?, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$29, plus \$5 materials fee payable to instructor in class.

To register, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832, or visit [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com). The Community House is at 380 S. Bates.

Students will learn to mimic nature and make invasive plants garden-friendly. Breathtaking slides of tried and true perennials will be shown. Important design principles will be featured.

# This year get ready for Bordeaux 2005

Last year, all the Bordeaux wine buzz was about the excellence of the 2005 vintage. Top chateaux offered their wines at astronomical futures prices and many wine lovers got wine sticker shock.

This year, the less-hyped and heralded 2005 Bordeaux wines will begin to show up on wine retail shelves. You should consider buying. "From Bordeaux, 40 producers are extremely well known and command high prices, yet there's no excuse for rustic 2005 Bordeaux from any producer," said Alain Moueix, fourth-generation director of Château Fonroque in Saint-Emilion.

Our trip to Bordeaux last year and a tasting of more than 300 wines from the 2005 vintage more than proved this.

## BORDEAUX FACTS AND FIGURES

In the broader French region known as Bordeaux, there are 12,000 wine chateaux and more than a quarter million vineyard acres, producing 800 million bottles annually. Due to overproduction, there were endless reports last year of a wine crisis in France, including Bordeaux. *Sacrebleu!* Incentives via the EU may now make available monetary motivation for the least competitive producers to grub up their vineyards.

Through all this, however, Bordeaux remains California's biggest competitor for high-end wines. From the 2005 vintage, we discovered stellar values, because it has long been said, that in a great Bordeaux vintage, real value lies in seeking out the best from lesser-known chateaux. Especially true if you are not fond of the current style trend for many New World red wines — overtly jammy, overly extracted, over-ripe fruit characters, heavy-handed oak and alcohols soaring to 16 percent and higher, resulting in inellegant wines, lacking terroir characteristics.

Sylvie Courselle of Chateau Thieuley, a producer of Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur wines, adds a caution: "Red Bordeaux wines are best with food. They are not sipping wines."

Within the Bordeaux region, there are 57 appellations in the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) system. To simplify location and characteristics of wines produced, it's easiest to categorize them into six larger,



**Focus on Wine**

Ray and Eleanor Heald

roughly geographical areas. On the right bank of the Dordogne River, all producing principally plush Merlot-based wines, Saint-Emilion (where limestone soils significantly impact the wines' character) can be grouped with Pomerol and Fronsac. Most Saint-Emilion and Pomerol wines will be priced well above \$50. What delighted us most was the superiority of wines from Fronsac at prices well below \$50.

Premières Cotes de Blaye, Cotes de Bourg, Cotes de Castillon, Premières Cotes de Bordeaux and Cotes de Francs are also right bank and frequently dubbed Les Cinq Cotes de Bordeaux, deriving its name from the right banks of the Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne Rivers. On the left bank of the Garonne River and the Gironde estuary, Cabernet Sauvignon prospers in gravelly soils in the Médoc, Pessac-Léognan, Graves and Haut-Médoc. The largest category is labeled Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur and can originate from throughout the region. In 2005, weather conditions benefited cabernet franc, so Medoc and Haut-Medoc producers have potential to surpass plaudits given to only a few vintages in the last 100 years. "However, 2005 was an unusual vintage," cautioned Damien Berleureau of the Syndicat Cotes de Bordeaux. "Although ripe fruits are evident, tannins are also. These will tame with bottle age and the wines will be long-lived."

Read *Focus on Wine* next week (Jan. 11) to learn more about Bordeaux wines and what to buy from the 2005 Bordeaux vintage.

Eleanor and Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at [focusonwine@aol.com](mailto:focusonwine@aol.com).

## WINE PICKS

Disposable income for wine running a little short after the holidays? Try these values, all \$12 or less:

### RED WINES

- 2005 McManis Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2004 Meridian California Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2004 TwoTone Farm California Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2005 McManis Merlot \$10
- 2004 Canyon Road Merlot \$10
- 2005 McManis Petite Sirah \$11
- 2005 McManis Syrah \$10
- 2005 Bulletin Place Shiraz \$8
- 2005 McManis Zinfandel \$11
- 2005 Beauzeaux (bo-zo) \$10
- 2005 Goats do Roam RED (So. Africa) \$10

### WHITE WINES

- 2006 MAN Chenin Blanc \$10
- 2006 Goats do Roam WHITE \$10
- 2006 Simonsig South Africa Chenin Blanc \$11
- 2005 A by Acacia California Chardonnay \$11
- 2005 Estancia Pinnacles Ranches Chardonnay \$12
- 2005 Estancia Pinot Grigio \$12
- 2005 Gallo Family Twin Valley Moscato \$5 — sweet dessert pour

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

## HEALTHY

FROM PAGE D1

enough to prevent boiling water from splashing onto the food. You can improvise a stand by removing the ends of a large can that once held sweet potatoes, for example, or pumpkin.

This dish is as pleasing to the eye as it is to the palette.

### STEAMED CHICKEN WITH RED AND YELLOW BELL PEPPER

- 1/2 tablespoon sesame seed oil
- 1 teaspoon grated garlic
- 1 teaspoon grated, peeled fresh ginger
- 1/2 cup sliced spring onions
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 pound (8 ounces) skinned, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 1 large yellow bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 1/2 cup sliced canned bamboo shoots (drained and rinsed)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

per  
3 cups hot steamed rice, preferably brown

In a small cup, combine oil, garlic, ginger, spring onions and soy sauce. Pour marinade over chicken breasts and rub into meat. Set aside while completing other preparations or marinate for up to 2 hours in the refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before steaming.

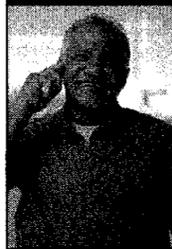
Steam until chicken is almost tender. Add bell peppers and bamboo shoots. Sprinkle any remaining marinade over vegetables. Continue steaming until chicken and peppers are tender.

Cut chicken into thin bite-sized slices, then combine with vegetables. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with rice.

Makes 4 servings. Per serving: 252 calories, 4 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 36 g. carbohydrate, 18 g. protein, 3 g. dietary fiber, 349 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy American Institute of Cancer Research. AICR's Web address is [www.aicr.org](http://www.aicr.org).

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## FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the food calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to your event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, e-mail [kabramcz@hometownlife.com](mailto:kabramcz@hometownlife.com), or fax (734) 591-7279.

### Wine Exploration Series

The Community House offers a variety of classes to learn more about wine, all seven sessions cost \$162, including An Introduction to Wine, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17; California and the Pacific Northwest, 7:30

p.m. Jan. 24; Wines of France (two sessions), Jan. 31 and Feb. 7; Italian Wines, Feb. 14; South of the Equator, Australia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand, Feb. 28; Fortified Wine: Ports, Sherries and Madeiras, March 7; to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

### Native Italian Cooking

Discover how to make paccheri al prosciutto e piselli (pasta with ham and

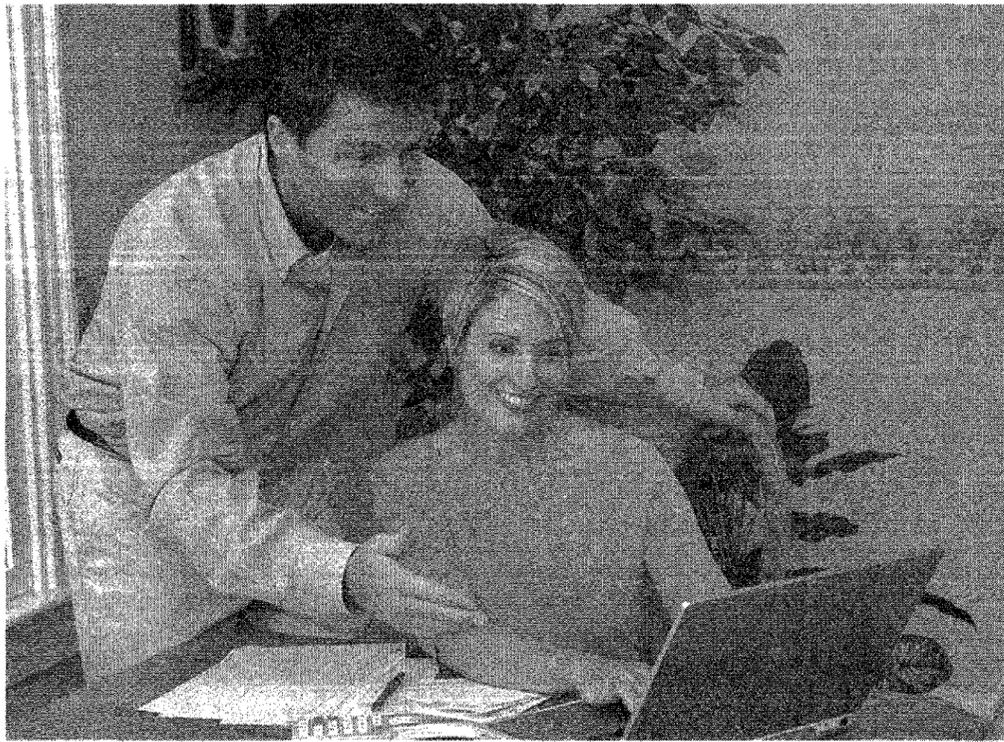
peas), spaghetti alla carbonara (spaghetti with eggs and pancetta) and bucatini alle zucchini. A \$6 materials fee is payable to the instructor in class. Instructor Giovanna Cappi was born and raised in Italy. Class is 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 23, \$26 for class, to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

### Sauces 101

Simple sauces can be made from things

you already have at home. Learn the keys to building your flavors for that rich taste in your food. Taste samples and take home recipes. A \$6 materials fee is payable to the instructor in class. Chef Christopher Jones brings with him a vast skill set from such places as The Hotel Pontchartrain, Marriott, Hilton, and Radisson. Class is 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22, cost is \$26, to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

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## Wheels and Treads

### Auto Show Fashion Through the Decades

By Maureen McDonald  
Special Correspondent

At the annual North American International Auto Show in Detroit, motor heads want to know how fast the Nissan Z will zoom from zero to 60, but fashionistas want to see the styles that show models wear.

If Margery Krevsky, CEO of Bingham Farms based Productions Plus calculates it right, the talented models will deliver fluent talks on Nissan's assets while sporting the latest outfits on the New York runway scene.

Krevsky oversees training, wardrobe and placement of 300 individuals working the bright lights of Cobo Center from Jan. 13-21.

"These individuals are far more than models," Krevsky said. "They are the eyes and ears of the vehicle brand whose wardrobe matches the spirit and style of the manufacturers they represent."

Clothing addresses the attitude of a contemporary home, an urban disco or the deep woods, much as it embodies a Toyota Avalon, a Lexus ES or a Nissan Pathfinder. Coordinating wardrobe is more daunting than finding bridesmaid dresses, according to Krevsky, who started her career in fashion merchandising for Hudson's. All product specialists assigned to a car line must look good in the same outfit, proportions and colors.

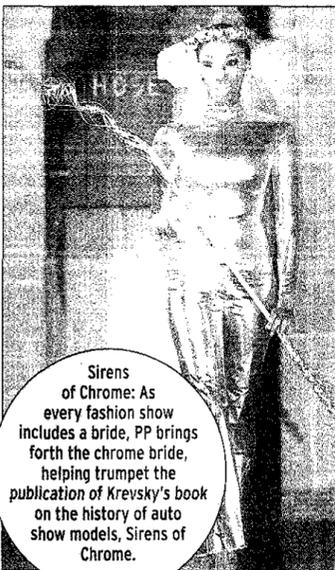
Clothing must be comfortable enough for models to empty boxes of product literature, stock information booths, move on and off turntables and demonstrate car features. And it has to last — models wear the same outfit 10 days in a row for up to 30 events in a regional circuit. At one time models referred to their outfits as "pain management," because they included chandelier earrings, waist cinchures, push-up bras and stilettos. Today's garments are made from breathable, beautiful fabrics that accent figures.

Krevsky maintains a full-time wardrobe department at Productions Plus to research historical styles and invent new outfits. She is currently working on a book about auto show fashion through the ages called *Sirens of Chrome*, due out this year.

Last May, Krevsky presented a runway show of auto show fashions to members of Women in Communications at the Players Club in Detroit. Here's a look at outfits from the Roaring 20s to the 21st century:



**Flapper Time:** With the advent of closed coupe automobiles in the 1920s, motorists could dress as they pleased without mud and dirt splashing all over them — including beaded flapper gowns and feather boas.



**Sirens of Chrome:** As every fashion show includes a bride, PP brings forth the chrome bride, helping trumpet the publication of Krevsky's book on the history of auto show models, *Sirens of Chrome*.



**Age of Elegance:** By the mid-1930s GM had its own design studio led by Harley Earl, and fashions reflected the elegance of styling and fine upholstery.



**Dawning of Aquarius:** The muscle car era of the 1960s brought young people into the purchasing arena, and models wore outfits that looked racy and captivating.



**Living Hood Ornaments:** Evoking images of ancient goddesses with gold boots, tiaras and tunics, models blessed their four wheeled chariots, often standing on car hoods to draw extra attention.

## Best of 2006 pink picks

- Wore It!** Skinny jeans and leggings
- Drank It!** Pom-tinis
- Toted It!** Oversized handbags — big was in!
- Smelled It!** Badgley Mischka Fragrance
- Kicked It!** Wedges
- Saw It!** *The Devil Wears Prada*
- Clicked It!** [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)
- DVDD It!** *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*
- Accessorized It!** Belts — skinny or wide, they made fashion a cinch!
- TIV'd It!** *Grey's Anatomy*



- Read It!** New mags: *OK* and *Blueprint* by Martha Stewart (national) & *Ambassador* (local)
- Heard It!** The Raconteurs — Jack White's new band hit it big
- Shopped It!** IKEA, Barney's Co-Op and H&M, finally arriving in Michigan!
- Ate at it!** Nomi sushi in Northville, Crush in Southfield, Tavern 1999 in Plymouth and Bentley's in WB
- Experienced It!** The Super Bowl in Detroit, and the Tigers in the World Series!
- Jeweled It!** Skulls
- Faced It!** Mineral makeup
- Waxed It!** The bob — everyone from Madonna to Britney rocked this timeless style



### Motor City Makeup Giveaway!

Want to rev up your look? In honor of the North American International Auto Show, Motor City Makeup has donated 25 tubes of 'Auto Show Model' lip gloss to PINK for a glamorous giveaway!

The Milford-based company produces adorable lip glosses and balms with Detroit-inspired monikers like 'Woodward Dream Angel,' 'She's a Tiger,' 'D-Town Diva,' 'Livin' Lodge' and '313 Knockout.'

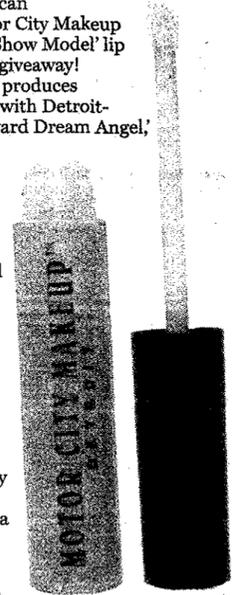
Motor City Makeup was founded by Natalie Hagopian, a registered nurse who ensures that the formulas are chock full of healthy ingredients, and Cindy Lehrer, a licensed esthetician who expertly picks the color palette.

Hagopian said Auto Show Model was inspired by all the lovely ladies who add a dash of panache to NAIAS every year. "We think today's auto show model is more than just a pretty face. These ladies really know their stuff, and they're actually a really important part of selling the cars," Hagopian said. "We wanted to pay homage to the models in a fun way. We picked a shimmering sheer ice pink color because it's an international show, and we wanted it to look good on all 'makes and models' of women."

Now, 24 lucky PINK readers can win a glamorous gloss of their own (we couldn't resist cracking open one tube for ourselves, and found it looks great alone or layered over lipstick.) To enter, simply send an e-mail to [pink@hometownlife.com](mailto:pink@hometownlife.com) with your name, address, age and phone number. And, in the spirit of NAIAS and the Motor City, tell us in 25 words or less about something you always carry in your car, and why you can't live without it.

Get your entry in by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. We will announce winners in an upcoming edition of PINK!

Meanwhile, check out Motor City Makeup at High Wire Girls in Novi, Shoe-La-La in Birmingham, the Henry Ford Museum Gift Store or online at [www.motorcitymakeup.com](http://www.motorcitymakeup.com).



### NURTURING LOCAL TALENT

Productions Plus is partnering with PINK to take 10 emerging fashion designers on a fashion-focused tour of the North American International Auto Show Jan. 17. The local designers will learn what it takes to wardrobe auto show talent, and may be invited to join the Productions Plus team in creating clothing lines to present to top automakers. Stay tuned to PINK for more, or visit [www.productions-plus.com](http://www.productions-plus.com).



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