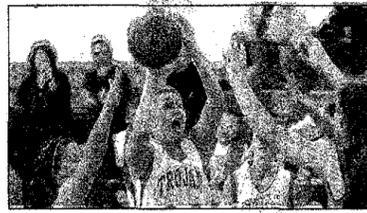


Don't let the depressing economic news diminish your holiday spirit
Our views, A6



Fourth-quarter run results in victory
Sports, B1

Dancing Dolls
filler - Section D



THURSDAY
December 4, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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City seeks proposals for curbside recycling

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland city leaders should learn within a few weeks how much it will cost to start up a long-awaited curbside recycling program — one that will allow residents to help the environment and receive financial incentives without paying any new service fees.

In a decision that furthers the Mission Green goal of Mayor William Wild, a united Westland City Council voted Monday to allow Ann Arbor-based Resource Recycling Systems Inc. to seek proposals and prices for a curbside recycling program.

The company also will include in the proposal a plan to implement RecycleBank, a

program that allows residents to accumulate points for the amount of materials they recycle and then redeem points for discounts to places like grocery stores, pharmacies, movie theaters and retail outlets.

Wild predicted that RRSI will have its proposals within a month or so, allowing the city to move ahead with a plan by late March to supply recycling carts

to 28,000 households that now have city garbage collection.

"We look forward to those bids coming back," Wild said Monday, during a council meeting.

City leaders eventually plan to expand the program to apartment buildings and other multifamily dwellings.

Westland has twice failed at a pay-to-participate curbside

recycling program, but officials believe the new plan will succeed because it contains financial incentives. Moreover, they plan to use revenues already in place from a garbage-disposal tax that once paid for trash being sent to a now-defunct incinerator.

Officials believe that recycling ultimately will result in revenues for the city.

Meanwhile, Councilman Charles Pickering has asked for a council session to discuss the possibility of having city workers pick up recyclable materials rather than having an outside company do it. He indicated the alternative could at least be discussed as officials await the report from RRSI.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Churchill senior wins Junior Miss title

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alyssa Simpson admits that she wasn't all that surprised in winning the 2009 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss scholarship program, but she was surprised to hear how well she had done in the different judging categories.

"Pretty much after the categories were announced, I figured I had to have won," said Simpson. "I won talent, fitness, poise, interview, community involvement and scholastics. I won everything but Be Yourself."

A senior at Livonia Churchill High School, the Westland teen was among 14 high school seniors who competed in the annual scholarship program. Simpson decided to give the program a try after hearing about "what a wonderful experience it was" from program director Carol Baker and daughter Kelsey, who was the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, and Raven Rickard, the 2008 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss. Since she attends a Livonia public school, she knew no one going into the program. Coming out, she had made "13 new friends."

"I was really nervous the first week, but Kelsey was there and helped me," she said. "I got to know a lot of new people. It was so much fun."

Participants rehearsed for the program on Sunday evenings in preparation for the program. They also did individual interviews with the judges and a talent routine. Simpson's was a jazz dance to Whitney Houston's *How Will I Know*.

"The interview went well, but I was a little nervous," she said. "They asked questions that I didn't know how to answer."

Please see **SIMPSON, A2**



Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Alyssa Simpson shows off the medal she received after winning the 2009 scholarship program. A senior at Livonia Churchill High School, she's now headed for the state program that will be held in March in Ann Arbor.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Drivers will see differences in snow removal

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As winter settles in, Westland motorists will likely notice stark differences between snow-removal efforts of city workers and county crews due to a shortage of road salt and soaring prices faced by government officials.

City Public Services Director Kevin Buford said Westland has a healthy supply of road salt for residential streets and larger thoroughfares it clears, but Wayne County crews have less than half the stockpile they had last year to tackle wintry weather.

"I really feel the residents will see a difference," Buford said.

Westland workers are expecting normal road-clearing efforts on city streets and larger roads within the city's jurisdiction, such as Newburgh, Hix, Palmer, Ann Arbor Trail, Central City Parkway, Hunter, Farmington and Henry Ruff, he said.

But, problems could arise on county-maintained roads that are among the most heavily traveled, including Wayne, Middlebelt, Merriman, Venoy, Inkster, Joy, Warren, Ford, Cherry Hill and Michigan Avenue, he said.

Wayne County is expected to use less salt, plow roads less frequently and rely less on employee overtime — all due to a shortage of road salt and

efforts to tighten the reins on a budget that already has reached a critical deficit, officials predict.

"It's going to be tough trying to drive," Buford said, urging local motorists to use patience and drive as safely as they can when roads are snowy or icy.

In all, Westland has 221 miles of city- and county-maintained roads.

Buford credited Westland Purchasing Agent Jade Smith with having the foresight to help the city lock in on road salt prices of \$33 a ton and stock up early, avoiding problems that left some communities paying twice as much.

"We are still committed to making sure the roads we have jurisdiction over are cleared," Buford said.

Police Chief James Ridener said it's hard to predict whether the county's decision to cut back on salting roads will lead to a sharp increase in accidents.

"Drivers need to be more cautious and slow down, knowing that the county has made a decision that they're not going to take care of the roads as efficiently as they did before," Ridener said.

"It's going to fall down on the drivers to be careful out there and take extra precautions getting through, if we have the large storms."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Westland police to use radar trailers to slow down drivers

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police will soon have a new tool to help heavy-footed drivers avoid the cost and aggravation of getting pulled over for speeding.

City police early next year will have two roadside speed-radar trailers that electronically flash

motorists' speed as they drive by.

Police hope the new radar trailers will convince speeders to ease off the gas pedal and make roads a little safer.

"Hopefully just by people seeing it, they will slow down," Police Chief James Ridener said.

The new speed-fighting tools,

called Decatur Electronics Galaxy OnSite 350 Radar Trailers, come on two-wheel trailers that can easily be stood up alongside any major road or residential street.

They're also environmentally friendly because they include solar panels that help keep their batteries charged — a selling point for Mayor William Wild's

ongoing Mission Green program.

"We can deploy them where we get complaints about speeders," Ridener said. "We can put them out as a courtesy for compliance and to warn speeders to slow down."

The new radar trailers will be bought with \$16,850 from the city's drug-forfeiture money.

Ridener said those funds could be used because the trailers sometimes will be deployed near drug-deal scenes.

Authorities say the first reaction most drivers have when they see a black-and-white police squad car is to take their foot off the gas pedal and glance down at their speedometer.

Police believe the radar trailers

will have the same effect. The Westland City Council agreed to buy the radar trailers on Monday night, the same evening it also voted to spend \$148,304 to buy six new 2009 Ford Crown Victoria police cars, in the city's ongoing effort to replace aging vehicles.

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SPORTS B1

USA WEEKEND
Coming Sunday:
Superstar Beyonce Knowles

AROUND WESTLAND

Say cheese!

Celebrate the holiday season with your four-legged friends at the Westland Veterinary Hospital Saturday, Dec. 13.

Santa will be there from 12:30 to 3 p.m. to pose for pictures with pets. The cost is \$10 for a 5-by-7-inch photo. There also will be refreshments and treats for the pets.

A Pet Poo-tique also will open and offering poop-shaped plush squeak toys, poop candles, poop calendar, paw print purses, pet heating pads and more.

The veterinary hospital is at 7610 Wayne Road, north of Warren Road. For more information, call (734) 261-5900.

Historic holiday

The public is invited to visit the city's historic Octagon House 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, to enjoy refreshments and see Santa Claus. Cameras may be brought along. The house is located at the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne between Marquette and Cherry Hill. The historic museum on the same site will be open 1-4 p.m. that day.

Living Nativity

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will present a Living Nativity 3:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the church at 37775 Palmer, just west of Newburgh, in Westland.

There will be a narrated re-enactment at 4:45 p.m., hands-on experience with live animals, including a cow, donkey, sheep and mini horse. Indoor activities include games for children ages 2-9, crafts for children ages 4-9 and storytelling featuring Silent Night, The Donkey's Christmas Song, Once There Was a Christmas Tree, This Babe So Small, The Night Before Christmas and The Christmas Story. Food also will be available.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (734) 722-1735 or go online to princeofpeacewestland.com.

Holiday Cookie Walk

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold its Holiday Cookie Walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 3 Towne Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

Homemade holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies will be sold, as well as specialty gift baskets. Small containers cost \$5, medium containers \$9 and large containers \$13. Homemade candies will be sold by the pound.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 721-4801.

Christmas concert

The Westland Community Foundation will sponsor a Christmas reception featuring John Glenn High School's Glenn Singers 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. The event will be inside the school's media center on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh, and the public is invited.

Cost of admission is an unwrapped, new toy as a donation for the children helped this holiday season by The Salvation Army. Gifts for teenagers also are needed.

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be prepared by Chef Tony Paquette and stu-

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland/home page.

dents from the culinary arts department of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Attire is business or "nice casual." Anyone planning to attend is asked to call (734) 595-7727.

Safety promotion

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in Westland Shopping Center's Macy's Court, Westland Mayor William Wild will join other local dignitaries to encourage residents to "Tie One on for Safety." The MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) event is part of a public awareness campaign which reminds motorists to drive responsibly during the holidays. Non-alcoholic holiday drinks will be served and the winners of the "Mocktail Mixer Recipe Contest" will be named. Westland Center is at 35000 W. Warren Road at Wayne Road.

Scrapbooking benefit

The Westland Jaycees will hold a One Hot Crop scrapbooking event 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center behind Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road. The event will help raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for the Bailey Center.

Lisa Graham, a Creative Memories consultant from Westland, will be on hand to help with all things photo related - from organizing photos and memorabilia to preserving memories in scrapbooks (both traditional and digital versions) or displaying them in your home.

Cost for One Hot Crop is \$20 and includes lots of table space and uninterrupted time to work on your projects, a fantastic goodie bag, snacks, lunch, tons of ideas and much more. All attendees will receive a free gift just for stopping by.

To register for the crop or for more information, call Graham at (734) 718-5705 or go online to www.myspace.com/onehotcrop. For more information on the Westland Jaycees, call (734) 226-0400 or visit the club's Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

New Year's Eve

AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. The bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. There also will be dancing, a bottle of champagne for each table at midnight and pizza. Tickets cost is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple and are available at the post. For more information, call (734) 721-9440.

Card party

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a Breast Cancer Awareness and Card Party 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. Tickets for the smoke free event are \$8. There will be table prizes, 50/50 and door prizes. For tickets or reservations, call

(734) 722-1343.

Cooperative Preschool

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

Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, call Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at hope4healing@rocketmail.com.

Caregiver support

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

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

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

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

Nutcracker Ballet

More than 70 dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance will perform the Nutcracker holiday classic 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road just west of Farmington. Tickets are \$5. This special production features original choreography and costumes from the Nutcracker Ballet that formerly appeared at the Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.

Friends of Eloise

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

Siblings open diner with hope, hard work - and a funny name

BY REBECCA JONES
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Summer Alhabeil is in a "confused mind-set" these days. It's a mix of "What did I do?" and "We can do this!" She opened a business with her younger brother six weeks ago, betting their hard work against economic odds.

"Call it a big risk," said Summer Alhabeil, 27. "We can't get loans for anything. We're basically hanging on a cliff." She and her brother, Mo Alhabeil, 21, are both business majors, in addition to working 70 hours per week at their diner, L33T Cafe. Sometimes they take advantage of the cafe's free wireless service do homework during a break.

"We know about the markets and the economy," Mo Alhabeil said. "If we put our faith in anything, it wasn't the economy, it was God."

The way he sees it, they embody the American Dream. Summer was 10 and Mo was 4 when their parents moved them here from the Middle East, telling them to "take advantage of opportunities that are not available anywhere else in the world," Summer Alhabeil said.

"We came from basically nothing," Mo said. "We have a great house in Westland. We have our own business. We have more than we could ever want."

Summer Alhabeil thinks history may be on their side. Every 20 or 30 years, she figures, something bad happens, but the economy always recovers.

"We're smart. We're young, and we can do this because we're hard workers," she said.

With support - mostly emotional, but some financial as well - from friends, family and neighbors, they began mapping their business plan.

They serve wraps, burgers and smoothies at a location that was known as Rosco's Deli not long ago and Silverman's before that.

The siblings still needed to give their restaurant a name. Summer Alhabeil wanted something tropical. Mo Alhabeil pushed for something



Server Michelle McGregor serves Rob Demyan at the new L33T Cafe.

L33T CAFE

What: Diner serving sandwiches, salads and entrees with American, Middle Eastern, Asian influence

Where: 36480 Plymouth Road, just west of Levan, in Livonia

Phone: (734) 464-1144

Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday

"deeper" like an alternate spelling of virtue. His 12-year-old niece suggested L33T.

Pronounced "leet," the term is derived from "elite" and is a form of symbolic writing where numeric digits replace certain alphabetic letters.

Some people get it, Mo said. Others ask: "What is 'L thirty-three T'?"

He answered a few more questions for the Observer.

Q. How did you come up with the name for your business?

A. My niece came up with the name. We wanted a name that was short, easy to remember and generated interest.

Q. How did you get started in this field of work?

A. My sister has been in the food service industry for 10 years, and I have been in the food service industry for five years.

Q. Why are you located here?

A. We are located in the

heart of Livonia's industrial region, which has supplied us with a lot of blue- and white-collar guests. Also, the building and the people in the area are absolutely wonderful.

Q. What's your background?

A. I'm 21 and my sister is 27. We are proudly supported by our two wonderful parents, our two younger siblings and our beautiful niece. We have lived in Westland for less than a year. Our parents tell that they are seeing their dreams coming true through our successes and endeavors.

Q. Describe your business philosophy.

A. Small profit plus high volume, great service, great food, relaxing atmosphere and building relationships with our guests and fairness equals success and longevity.

Q. What hobbies do you enjoy?

A. I like playing basketball and interacting with people, and my sister likes writing poetry.

Q. Tell us about an interesting experience at work.

A. There isn't one that I can think of off the top of my head, but to me, every table is an interesting experience, because everyone is different. It's nice to see how so many people, with different views and backgrounds, can all come together in one place, and do the same thing ... eat!

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

SIMPSON

FROM PAGE A1

When they announced I was one of the top two finalists for interview, I was very surprised."

A large contingent of friends and family members were at the program, including her parents, Becky and Scott Simpson, and 14-year-old brother Doug. Her mother is the owner of the Point Counter Point Dance Studio in Garden City and choreographed Simpson's dance routine. She said it was "nerve wracking" watching her daughter on stage.

"It was very odd for me to be sitting in the audience for what I do," she said. "But it was nice to be able to sit back and watch. It was nice and surprising because we didn't know what she had learned."

Becky Simpson added that when the breakdown in the scoring was given, the family knew Simpson had to have finished "in first place or at least second."

"We're blessed, we're so lucky they liked her," Becky Simpson said. "It was a really nice program and she really enjoyed it."



Alyssa Simpson

Simpson had hoped she would do well in the program, since she was away from home quite a bit with dance practice four times a week, work on Friday and Saturday and the rehearsals on Sunday evening. She did do well and her mother is letting everyone know.

"She was really excited, she has it plastered all over the dance studio," Simpson said.

Simpson also got the chance to share her experience with her 6-year-old cousin, Amanda Towler, who partnered with her as part of

the Future Junior Miss fundraiser. Youngsters paid \$50 to be a part of the program and receive a little crown to wear. According to Becky Simpson, Amanda has said she wants to compete in the program when she's older.

"When Alyssa told her she doesn't get a crown, she gets a medal, Amanda said, 'The next time you come to dinner, I'll let you wear mine,'" Becky Simpson added.

In winning the pageant, Simpson received \$2,250 in scholarship money that will come in handy. She plans to attend Michigan State University to study journalism. She also has an opportunity to win more money at the Michigan Junior Miss Program which will be held in March in Ann Arbor.

Also receiving scholarship money was first runner-up Corine Eastman, who earned \$1,250, and second runner-up Carly Pitrago, who received \$700.

High school seniors who live in Wayne and Westland and who are interested in competing in the 2010 program can sign up online at www.ajm.org.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

CORRECTION

The headline on Rick Bloom's Money Matters column on Sunday, Nov. 30, misstated the content of the column.

The column does not say required IRA distributions can be invested in Roth IRA. We regret the error.

**GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
6000 MIDDLEBELT
GARDEN CITY, MI 48135**

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday December 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

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

Year	Make	Style	Vin #
1997	Chrysler	Sebring	4C3AU42N8VE084395
1985	Buick	4 Door	1G4BN69YXFFH854103
1976	Chevrolet	Suburban	CCL166F182266
1994	Chevrolet	Camaro	2G1FP22S6R2134676
2001	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JF52T317275709
1988	Ford	T-Bird	1FABP6040JH247909
1994	Ford	Van	1FMEE11N4RHA92702

Publish: December 04, 2008

OEOB694230 - 263

Filter PURE ENTERTAINMENT! SUNDAY THURSDAY!

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, various items of the City Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
4770377	2001	CHEVROLET	BLAZER	1GNCS18W81K153986
4688274	1997	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC1248VM145149

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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

Publish: December 4, 2008

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| <p>Alpine Lace Swiss Cheese
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3/99¢</p> | <p>California Sweet & Juicy Navel Oranges
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| <p>Uptown Pinot Noir 07 North Coast California
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\$14.99</p> | <p>San Silvestro "Ottonei" Barbara
\$9.99</p> | <p>Blackstar Farms 2008 Bubbly Nouveau
\$12.99
<small>(Limit 2 per person)</small></p> | <p>Urban Riesling Mosel
\$11.99</p> |
| <p>Stop By our Hot prepared foods for meals to go.</p> | <p>Chicken Parmesan
\$6.99 lb.</p> | <p>Grilled Chicken Caesar Pasta Salad
\$4.99 lb.</p> | <p>Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast
\$6.99 lb.</p> | <p>Crab Quiche
\$2.49 a slice
<i>Delicious!</i></p> |
| <p>Come into Joe's for your holiday decorating needs. We have a wide selection of wreaths, centerpieces, Poinsettias & Decorated mini trees</p> | <p>Long Danish Coffee Cakes
\$3.29 all flavors</p> | <p>Pre order your Holiday Cakes & Pies Before it's too late.</p> | <p>Holiday Cupcakes
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Mini Cupcakes \$4.99 ^{12 pack}</p> | <p>Housemade Seasonal Cookies
\$3.99 & up</p> |
| <p>Heartland Cereals
2/\$7.00</p> | <p>Olde Cape Cod Dressings
2/\$4.00</p> | <p>Holiday Tortilla Chips
2/\$4.00</p> | <p>Marzetti Cardini Dressings
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2/\$5.00</p> |

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Stock market is not a game; it's serious business

I received a letter to participate in a stock-picking contest. The organization sponsoring the contest was soliciting a variety of people in the financial world to participate. The premise was each participant would be given a \$1 million of play money. The player who had the most money at the end of a 90-day period would be the winner. According to the rules, a player could invest the money in anything and would have unlimited trades during the 90-day period.

I politely and respectfully turned down the invitation (not because it wouldn't have been fun) because it was billed as an investment contest when, in fact, it had nothing to do with investing.

I am not a fan of these so-called investment contests. As far as I am concerned, a contest like this is no different than entering a blackjack or a poker tournament. When it comes to investments, 90 days is nothing.

Many organizations have sponsored these types of investment contests and although they are fun, just as with gambling, I believe they can be dangerous. The stock market is not a game and it



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

investors think short term, it almost always leads to long-term problems.

Too many investors honestly don't know the difference between gambling and investing. Gambling is for the short run, while investing is for the long run. Investing is not an all or none proposition. Investing requires patience, something that most gamblers do not have.

There's no doubt that this has been a very difficult year for investors and certainly the conventional wisdom about investing has not panned out. However, I always remind people they are running a marathon, not a 50-yard dash. Unfortunately, stock contests promote the thought that investing is nothing more than a short race to the finish. In fact, investing is much more

difficult and challenging. Decisions made today have an impact on us many years into the future.

Of course, most people recognize that a stock market game is just that, a game. Many feel that particularly during these difficult times, we deserve to have some fun. However, there's a reason why we have warning signs on everything in our society. It seems obvious to me that people shouldn't stick their hand inside of a snow blower, however, there are warning signs to remind them of just that.

The issue regarding stock market games is that too many people may assume if the strategy wins an investment game, perhaps it will work in an individual portfolio.

Playing games should be for fun. Handling money is much more serious. Remember that experiences with a game have nothing to do with reality.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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10 am-7 pm Nov. 30	10 am-9 pm Dec. 1	10am-9pm Dec. 2	10am-9pm Dec. 3	10am-9pm Dec. 4	10am-9pm Dec. 5	10am-9pm Dec. 6
10am-8pm Dec. 7	10 am-9 pm Dec. 8	10am-9pm Dec. 9	9am-9pm Dec. 10	9am-9pm Dec. 11	9am-9pm Dec. 12	8am-10pm Dec. 13

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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

OUR VIEWS

LPS gets input from residents

The community focus groups have begun discussing long-term planning for use and upgrades of the Livonia Public Schools buildings, and it looks like the district will get valuable input as more than 300 people have registered to attend.

Most of the district's 40-55-year-old buildings are in good shape but need modernizing, according to Supt. Randy Liepa. Participants at the focus groups are discussing the buildings' energy efficiency, safety, curb appeal and building additions, along with the critical issues of classroom instruction upgrades and technology.

Education will be Job One, of course, but with all the focus on energy conservation, that will be front and center. It's a good time for the district to assess energy costs on the heels of bond improvements at many of the schools over the past few years, and seeing what needs to be renovated in the next round of improvements.

Education will be Job One, of course, but with all the focus on energy conservation, that will be front and center. It's a good time for the district to assess energy costs on the heels of bond improvements at many of the schools over the past few years, and seeing what needs to be renovated in the next round of improvements.

Once the focus groups finish their work and complete the meetings this week, all of the responses will be typed and posted online. The school board will receive a summary report in January. Sometime next year, the board will decide whether to put a sinking fund renewal, millage request or both on the ballot. The current sinking fund, which raises \$6 million per year for building and site repairs, expires in February and runs through the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Should trustees seek to place a ballot proposal before voters next year, it will be a tough sell in light of this economy. But with the input of 300 residents, students and staff, the board is getting plenty of input and ideas. And that can only help.

Christmas season glows with events

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Really, it is.

The often depressing economic news cannot diminish the holiday spirit. A rich combination of good times, generous giving and long-followed traditions make this an extra special time of year.

Wayne County Parks Lightfest was officially opened Nov. 20. The annual event turns a four-mile section of Hines Park into a fantasy land of animated lights. This always popular event includes Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale area, where children can meet the jolly fellow and post their letters in a giant mailbox. Dec. 9 and 16 will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children in the county. On these nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee for visiting the Lightfest. Enter Hines Park at Merriman.

Experience the reason for the season at a Living Nativity 3:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church in Westland. A narrated re-enactment takes place at 4:45 p.m. There also will be storytelling, games for youngsters ages 2-9 and crafts for ages 4-9. The church is on Palmer just west of Newburgh in Westland.

This Saturday, Redford is presenting an Old-fashioned Christmas. The event kicks off at 2 p.m. with a parade along Five Mile and will feature horse-and-carriage rides, a petting zoo, holiday music and refreshments. Santa Claus arrives at Township Hall at 2:45 p.m.

Canton will hold its third annual Family Holiday Fest from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at Willow Creek Plaza, north side of Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty. Santa will be the guest of honor and a photographer will take pictures. There will also be reindeer, carolers, contests and refreshments.

In Plymouth, Santa is holding court at his house on Main Street in Kellogg Park, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 5-8 p.m. Dec. 23.

Compassionate Friends' Candlelight Vigil, where friends and family gather to remember loved ones who died too soon, is set for 7 p.m. Dec. 14 in downtown Plymouth.

Go out and enjoy a hometown Christmas.



LETTERS

Revamp voter registration

America's voter registration system desperately needs an update. During this historic election year, thousands of voters waited in long lines at polling places across the nation only to find their registrations hadn't been processed, or their names had been purged from voter rolls, or they'd missed deadlines they may not even have been aware of.

We must improve our flawed registration system, replacing a labor-intensive and tedious process with one that's modern, accurate and efficient. The onus to register new voters shouldn't fall to citizens themselves, or third parties. The government must take responsibility for ensuring all of its citizens are eligible and able to vote.

Election Protection, the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection coalition, reports that about 40 percent of the complaints they've received about the voting process in 2008 have had to do with registration problems. Under automatic and permanent registration:

- Every citizen would be automatically registered to vote when they become eligible, either through birth or naturalization, and that registration would follow them throughout their lives, updated as they move from state to state. If there's a problem with the list, a voter can correct it on Election Day.

- Many of the voting problems seen in this election cycle, like overused provisional ballots and registration backlogs, would be eliminated. It would also ensure that no one is disenfranchised because of a failure of the voter registration system or a missed registration deadline.

- People could update their registration address when they change their mailing address with the U.S. Postal Service. One of the most common problems caused by our current system is that people don't bother to re-register — or don't know that it's required — when they move.

Automatic and permanent registration is a secure and accurate way to maintain voter registration databases, and a simple upgrade to our systems that won't create big and expensive new bureaucracies. It will also take the great weight of last minute voter registration off of election officials, providing them with the critical time and resources around an election to prevent other problems like under-trained poll workers and issues with resource distribution.

Americans deserve a voting system that is modern, fair and accurate. Automatic voter registration is an important first step towards ensuring that every eligible vote is cast and counted. Next year the 111th Congress and President Obama should make automatic voter registration a priority!

Joe Golonka
Westland

are going to stretch their ever-tightening budgets to cover their part of this year's "holiday cheer."

I'd like to reach out and remind everyone that the holidays are not about simply making purchases from stores, but coming together as one family, neighborhood or community and reaching out to lend a helping hand. Even though times are tough and money is tight, we need to be thankful for all that we have and all that we can offer. Simple things such as reaching out to help your neighbor rake the leaves or volunteering for a local community group boost our spirits and unite us in these cheerful, but difficult times.

Volunteering has been the backbone of the American way of life since the first settlers arrived in America. Times were tough then, and when people needed help, they banded together to overcome the challenges their new lives posed. Times are difficult now, and we are each facing our own individual challenges. If we reach out and support each other in any way that we can, as our ancestors did, we can begin to rebuild the bridges to take us into the future.

Right now, with the Michigan unemployment rate reaching upward toward 9 percent, volunteering can provide anyone with some much needed emotional relief. Unemployment can be a very depressing, isolated stage in anyone's life, and by simply volunteering you can make professional contacts, receive employment references, provide advice to an organization or keep practiced in your field, and even earn internship credit hours. Volunteering can also give you a bit of stability in this crazy world, or provide some much needed adult human contact.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home is an organization located in Plymouth which is dedicated to the rescue and adoption of domestic rabbits. Currently, with over 140 rabbits in the shelter, and 60 more in foster care, they need all the help they can get. Midwest is a no-kill shelter run entirely by volunteers who care about rabbits. Rabbits are playful, loving animals, and very common house pets! With the money troubles we are all facing, animals tend to be overlooked. Together we can reach and expand our networks to make sure they are not forgotten!

As you prepare your holiday feast this year, please remember the old adage "what goes around comes around." Every act of kindness will echo out and bring you not only personal satisfaction but it will leave a long lasting impression on what you helped to accomplish. Let your efforts be an oasis to someone or something in this harsh world.

Sometimes we all need a little rescuing. Reach out and help this holiday season in any way that you can.

Lisa Powell
Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home volunteer

the state of education in Michigan: polyglot1947 wrote:

Tom Watkins paints with a broad brush, making sweeping statements without knowing facts. Watkins calls Wayne-Westland superintendent "thoughtful" as he (Baracy) makes "sensible decisions." Watkins calls the WW recall efforts a "travesty." Watkins makes silly, uninformed comments about serious matters that effect 13,000 children and adults.

Since when is it "thoughtful" to overload classes in order to build/maintain a huge fund equity that gets carried over year by year? Is it "thoughtful" to deprive students of contact time with their teacher when the room is too full of needy faces, because Baracy wants to be Daddy Warbucks?

Somehow, the word "travesty" should be used to describe board members approving budgets and Baracy's sweetheart over the top contract — all without any efforts at oversight or fine-tooth comb inspection! Maybe Mr. Martin's shape-shifting budget is just too hard to grasp, what with all those numbers and such. Baracy has a flock of sheep — A REAL TRAVESTY!

opine4utoo wrote:
It is completely clear to all who read your posts that with you it is personal. Look around you. Plymouth Canton is out of money. Garden City is on the brink of bankruptcy. Livonia has closed neighborhood schools and laid off teachers. Your district actually has a fund balance to argue about. You call it huge. In a district with 850 teachers like W-W, taking one student from a classroom would require an additional number of teachers costing the district upwards of \$1M each year. Ask teachers if one would be enough. They would say no. So raise the number to four. Now you're talking over \$4M a year, and your fund balance is spent never to be regained. Wait a minute! Cut maintenance! Cut books! Cut supplies! Cut extra-curricular activities! Cut programs! Cut bussing! Privatize custodians! Now you have money to put into classrooms (read teachers' pockets). Would your graduation rates and test scores go up? Would the MEA guarantee it? No! They will then blame parents and kids. Guaranteed!

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.

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Volunteer in bad times

With the holidays quickly approaching and the economy quickly failing, many people are wondering exactly how they

From the Web

The following comments were posted on the Westland Observer home page of our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

- Regarding Tom Watkins' column on

QUOTABLE

"They take me shopping, if I need to go. I work at the Library for the Blind on Michigan Avenue each week and they take me there. It's literally been a blessing to me."

— Nancy Kukulka about using the transportation services provided by Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County

WESTLAND
Observer

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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.

My day of giving thanks wasn't on the calendar

My hardwood kitchen floors, dotted with evidence that my 3-year-old son had, at some point, juggled juice and cookies to no avail, never looked so radiant.

My Ford Escape, tinged with a light coating of road salt and dirt, never looked to sparkly and nice.

Everything in my view somehow seemed brighter after a recent trip that started at a curb next to a muddy, vacant lot at Third and Martin Luther King in downtown Detroit.

That's where the old school bus I was riding on, called "God's Favor" pulled up on a bitter-cold, gray morning a little over a week ago.

To my right, a partially snow covered, blue tarp was piled under a lone, dead tree in a muddy lot. I knew that someone had called that pile home.

We rumbled up in the bus, driven by God's Favor founder Louise Fincher, a really pretty, petite woman with unusual bus-maneuvering skills, who decided she must help the homeless in Detroit because her father was once among them, when she was young.

He ended up dying on the streets.

It was about 10 seconds after the bus stopped at the curb when word quickly spread to dozens of homeless people who were sitting inside the shelter at the Neighborhood Services Organization. They came out in droves — hands out, eyes dark and postures slumping.

One woman stood toward the back of the crowd, dazed and shivering. The thin jacket she wore was no match for the 28-degree morning air.

They came to the windows of the bus, wondering what God's Favor had for them this month.

Thankfully, we had a lot.

We handed sub sandwiches, chips and bottles of water out the windows to the hungry people. The bus was stuffed with warm coats, boots, mittens, scarves, socks and sweaters — all that had been collected from the closets of people who are more fortunate.

A few of us went into the shelter, where a crowd of people were sitting in metal fold-up chairs, in rows. They were just sitting, staying out of the cold. Their belongings — everything they had in the world — were stored in a different room, to make way for more chairs and more homeless.

Five or six people, all in wheelchairs or propped up on walkers, were in one area. They couldn't get out to the bus to grab a sandwich, so we brought the stuff to them.

One woman fumbled around and clumsily landed in one of those cold, metal chairs. I looked down and saw that she only had three wheels on her walker. My heart hurt for her.

It's almost embarrassing to have so much. Several coats in the closets, cupboards and fridge filled with food, warm air filling the house and my husband and two beautiful kids welcoming me home. Being thankful is so very humbling.

I handed her a sandwich, and she smiled and thanked me.

From Third Street and MLK, we headed to the area of Peterboro, near Woodward, where the COTS shelter is located. We stopped at the curb, and again, people came out to us.

A quiet woman, who looked like she may have recently been a soccer mom, was standing off to the side, as if this whole homeless scene was new to her. She was clean; her hair was brushed and she carried a purse. She wore a light green spring coat. Her eyes were tired and sad. She was homeless.

On the sidewalk, we met a man who reminded me a bit of Bill Cosby. He had a warm jacket and a nice backpack and tennis shoes. He stood there, with a couple of the God's Favor volunteers — and prayed and cried. His big body shook with pain. He was homeless.

Moving along, the bus headed to the old train station on Michigan Ave. Just like the desperate people I had met, the once vibrant, beautiful building stood cold, vacant and gutted.

We pulled up to a couple of homeless men, who were friendly and gave us information about another shelter Louise can add to the route next month.

Although my heart was heavy, I was encouraged by small things on this trip. We visited Pilgrim Church, where a shelter is open for the homeless on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Small dorm rooms are set up with crude accommodations. The church opens its doors to feed and shelter the homeless, a mission that continues despite the awful financial situation they're in. The heat has been turned off, because the bill was too large to pay. They're praying they'll find the money soon. I hope they do.

My day wrapped up and I returned to the suburbs, where my world awaited me. It was a different world, though, from that which I had left that morning.

It's almost embarrassing to have so much. Several coats in the closets, cupboards and fridge filled with food, warm air filling the house and my husband and two beautiful kids welcoming me home.

Being thankful is so very humbling.

Stacy Jenkins is the editor of the Farmington Observer. She can be reached at (734) 953-2131 or via email at sjenkins@hometownlife.com.

Time for mandatory retirement at age 65 for truck drivers

Traffic fatalities can be reduced dramatically if we concentrate our efforts on the target that has the best opportunity for success. And that target, in my opinion, should be an all-out campaign to reduce roadway deaths caused by trucks.

As an attorney specializing in vehicle accident liability cases, I have argued in the past that truck related deaths can be reduced by paying more attention to highway safety and driver fatigue. In recent months I have become convinced the effort should now involve a three-prong approach — safer roads, less driver fatigue, and a mandatory retirement age for truck drivers.



Terry Cochran

My concern about mandatory retirement ages for truckers was elevated in July 2008 when a 71-year-old truck driver on I-75 in Michigan slammed into vehicles in the southbound lanes, causing the death of 19-year-old Kara Joan Larivee of Rochester Hills. The 71-year-old driver, already driving at a high rate of speed, failed to react quickly enough to the fact that traffic had come to a standstill because of merging traffic.

When trucks are on the road and something goes wrong, the laws of physics dictate that something very bad will happen. The combination of mass plus speed can lead to loss of human lives or permanent disability, and destruction of freeway overpasses, costing thousands of dollars, and traffic backed up for hours and hours.

Truck accidents occur because of fatigue, highway design faults and driver error. Some causes are predictable; others are not. The result is always predictable, though — the sheer volume of a truck traveling 40 mph or faster will always create havoc.

The biggest killer on our highways is fatigue. Federal transportation officials must come up with stricter guidelines to make sure that log-books are properly kept and that commercial carriers ensure their drivers get the rest they need between trips.

State highway departments throughout the U.S. must adopt an aggressive program to widen two-lane highways throughout areas to make high-speed travel safer for all. Law enforcement officials must police our highways to enforce speed limits rather than tolerating drivers traveling 80 mph or higher.

My law firm, Cochran, Foley & Associates, went on record as a truck accident law firm in Michigan and an advocate for reforms to reduce the number of car-truck collisions after representing the family of a 5-year-old boy who was killed when a semi-tractor truck struck from behind a vehicle being driven by his mother.

The minimum reforms I championed then were: paving construction to widen our two-lane highways or at least provide for more left-turn flare lanes, increased speed enforcement on two-lane highways, and stricter enforcement of truck driver's driving time limits to prevent deaths.

I now add to my call for reform the need to lower the maximum driving age for all truckers

to 65. Because we cannot predict with any certainty the age when a driver's physical and mental reactions begin to slow, then 65 becomes the best standard because at that age the driver can draw Social Security and Medicare in addition to any retirement benefits or 401(k) investments.

Age 65 also is the mandatory retirement age for airline pilots thanks to a bill signed in February 2007 raising the mandatory retirement age to 65. Going back to the 1960s airline pilots were forced to retire at age 60 by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Think about that. A pilot flies his plane in open air, without any other planes within visible sight, is aided by a co-pilot a seat away and by a controller on the ground, and often flies on auto-pilot. Not very often is a pilot required to make split-second decisions or quick reactions to conditions surrounding the plane. Yet the FAA for more than half a decade said it was unsafe for a pilot over 60 to continue on the job. Now it's considered unsafe at age 65.

So why in the world do we allow truckers to continue driving at age 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, etc.? Truck drivers at high speeds every day must make split-second decisions that require extraordinary quick reaction times. Common sense, if not physical exams, eye and hearing tests, and stress tests, tells us that a driver age 65-70 is not physically and mentally equipped for this challenge.

If a truck driver makes a mistake it is very hard to correct because of the mass and size of a truck. Most truck drivers are good drivers who drive defensively and are qualified and trained to be good drivers. But only a single driver error in a lifetime of driving can have tragic results. And as that driver nears the end of a career of driving the odds increase dramatically that a fatal mistake will occur.

I cannot rest at peace because I know with certainty that before the year ends someone else will needlessly die somewhere on a highway. I am certain of this because federal officials, state and county governments, and law enforcement won't take any actions beyond the civil and criminal judgments recorded. None of us should be at peace until certain actions are taken. And these actions are: widening our two-lane highways; adding left-turn flare lanes as needed; stricter enforcement to ensure log books reflect actual driving time and rest time; and establishing a mandatory retirement for truck drivers at age 65.

Join me in this campaign by writing letters to the Federal Transportation Agency, to the governor of your state, and to newspaper and television editors. Increased public awareness will result in the changes that are needed to save thousands of lives. What we say does matter and will count for change.

Terry Cochran of Livonia is a senior partner in Cochran, Foley & Associates, P.C., a Michigan law firm specializing in personal liability, medical malpractice, and auto and truck accidents. Cochran does not represent insurance companies or corporations but instead bases his practice upon representing individuals and families. For more, visit www.cochranfoley.com or call (800) 322-5543.

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Group sets goal to help friend battling cancer

The friends and family of Kevin Christesen are hoping people will take time out of their holiday shopping to attend a dinner-dance and silent auction Saturday, Dec. 13.

Called CareForKevin, The event will help raise money for the 28-year-old Canton resident who is battling Adult Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). The fundraiser will take place at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft,



Christesen

be a silent auction, featuring such themed baskets as Totally Thomas, Spa Getaway, Stuff-N-Fluff Birthday Party, Plentiful Pasta, Holidays

Livonia.

The event includes a deluxe open bar, appetizers at 6 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m., DJ and dancing.

There also will be a silent auction, featuring such themed baskets as Totally Thomas, Spa Getaway, Stuff-N-Fluff Birthday Party, Plentiful Pasta, Holidays

All Wrapped Up, Bountiful Baking and Carefree Cleaning as well as an Affinity Crossfire golf set.

A fish bowl raffle will have prizes such as Girls' Toy and Boy's Toy baskets, cordless drill set, poker party basket, coffee connoisseur's basket and baby basics basket.

The Sports Spectacular Drawing features a chance to win tickets to a Detroit Lions or Detroit Red Wings game, and there also will be a

drawing for a one week's stay at a condominium on Lake Missaukee.

Tickets cost \$60 and an order form is available on line at www.careforkevin.org.

Supporting Kevin, Beth and Carrie Christesen Christesen went to the doctor on July 28 due to a pain in his leg. After doing blood work it was obvious to the doctors that he had a much bigger problem. He was diagnosed with ALL on July 29 and has

been undergoing chemotherapy.

Married to his high school sweetheart, Beth and the father of Carrie Elizabeth, 3, Christesen has been undergoing chemotherapy. Both he and his wife were both born and raised in Canton and had just purchased their first home in Canton three months before he was diagnosed.

His condition is very serious, but hopeful. According to his friends, the doctors were very

honest with him, telling him that "it is going to be hell, you are going to have to fight."

The goal of those "who care and love Kevin" is to ensure that he receives the best possible treatment regardless of cost, as well as support for him, his wife and daughter.

For more information about their cause and to register for the dinner dance, visit the Web site, www.careforkevin.org. CareForKevin is a Michigan nonprofit organization.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nutcracker Ballet

More than 70 dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance perform the holiday classic at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road (just west of Farmington). Tickets are available for \$5. This special production features original choreography and costumes from the Nutcracker Ballet that formerly appeared at the Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.

Craft Shows

Crafters and vendors are being sought for Lathers Elementary School's second annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. The cost of an 8-foot space is \$20. All of the proceeds go toward new playground equipment. Contact Lisa at crafter2007@yahoo.com.

St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road at Cherry Hill, Canton, will host its Christmas craft show from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday Dec. 6. The event will feature more than 85 crafters, a bake sale, and lunch will be available. Admission is \$2. Children under 12 will be admitted free. For more information, contact the church at (734) 981-1333.

New Year's Eve

AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. The bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. There also will be dancing, a bottle of champagne for each table at midnight and pizza. Tickets cost is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple and are available at the post. For more information, call (734) 721-9440.

Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through. Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn

from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com.

Friends of Rouge

The Friends of the Rouge are looking for people interested in helping with two programs taking place in 2009. The first is the Rouge Winter Stonefly Search 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Join a team to search Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonely. The program takes place at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Preregistration required. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mail at monitoring@therouge.org. For more information and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic_Monitoring%20events.html

Petrella also is accepting signups for the Rouge Frog and Toad Survey training workshops. Volunteer to survey wetlands for frogs and toads by listening for their calls. Surveys are done independently on warm damp evenings March through July. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at Southfield Parks and Recreation, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield; 7-9 p.m. March 4 at Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton; 10 a.m. to noon March 14 in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, and 10 a.m. to noon March 21 at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth. Sign up to attend one workshop; preregistration required. For more information or to obtain a and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog_and_toad_Workshops.htm

Charity casino

If you are looking for a place to show your skills at Texas Hold 'Em, the hottest game in town, the Canton Charity Casino, Western Wayne County's only charity poker room at the Shark Club on Ford in Canton every Thursday through Sunday. The Canton Charity Casino offers nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games and a venue for players of all skill levels. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the State of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. The hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.) and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.) The Shark Club is at 42070 Ford,

just west of Haggerty in Canton. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend can call (734) 502-7033 or send an e-mail to scpokertb@gmail.com.

Class reunion

Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gch-s1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

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 offers more information. 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.

Senior fitness

Seniors can get in shape through some programs offered at the

Maplewood Center. The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

Substance abuse support

A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

Counterpoint

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

Toughlove

A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.

EDUCATION

St. Raphael

St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade. Programs include 3-4-year-old preschool, technology updates and a host of extra-curricular activities. Computer labs, new classroom technology, Japanese class, and chess club are some of the school's newest additions. The school has a strong academic program and also offers religion class, weekly Mass and sacramental preparation including Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Latchkey and bussing is

available, and all faiths are welcome. For registration information or to learn more about St. Raphael Catholic School, contact the school office at (734) 425-9771 or visit the Web site at www.straphael-gc.org.

Willow Creek

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

St. Damian

St. Damian Catholic School at 29891 Joy, Westland, offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680 or check out the school's Web site at www.stdamian.com.

Academic Pathways

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

YWCA preschool

The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2+ to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step

First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities

for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

VNA Hospice

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

Seasons Hospice

Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. For more information please call Ruth at (800) 370-8592.

Literacy Council

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Heartland Hospice

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

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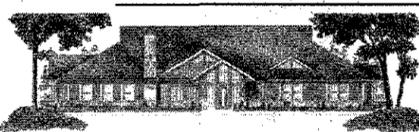
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SPORTS

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Thursday, December 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Raising eyebrows

Franklin routs Blazers in opener

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This girls basketball season opener was an eye-opener for sure.

Livonia Franklin raced out of the gates to a 9-0 lead Tuesday night and rolled to a 48-24 victory to blindsided visiting Livonia Ladywood in a battle of Class A district champions.

Senior forward Briana Taylor, hitting three triples, led the Patriots and all scorers with a game-high 21 points, while forward Chelsea Williams chipped in with 11 points. Briana's twin sister Brittany also added eight.

Franklin won handily despite committing 31 turnovers, but Ladywood returned the favor with 30 of its own while shooting just 8-of-42 from the floor (19 percent).

The Patriots, meanwhile, shot a respectable 16-of-33 from the field (48.4 percent) and 13-of-19 from the foul line (68.4 percent).

Franklin, coming off an 18-5 season, stymied Ladywood's offense by coming out in an active zone defense.

Franklin, connecting on its first four shots, including three by Briana Taylor, led 19-8 at halftime and by as many as 24 in the third quarter.

"I'd say you're a liar if you told me we'd have that many turnovers and win by that score," Franklin second-year coach Dave McCall said. "We were worried about Ladywood's size and we did a great job fronting the ball and helping weak side."

The Blazers showed some life in the fourth quarter, when they cut the deficit to 34-21 with 6:14 to go on a pair of free throws by senior guard Caitlin Szczyпка.

"I told my girls at halftime that they (Ladywood) were a good ballclub and they were going to make a run," McCall said. "I knew that they wouldn't give up and would not quit. We had to realize they wouldn't back off and we had to protect the ball. We just had to keep our composure and ride it out. We fought through it. We did a great job and did not quit."

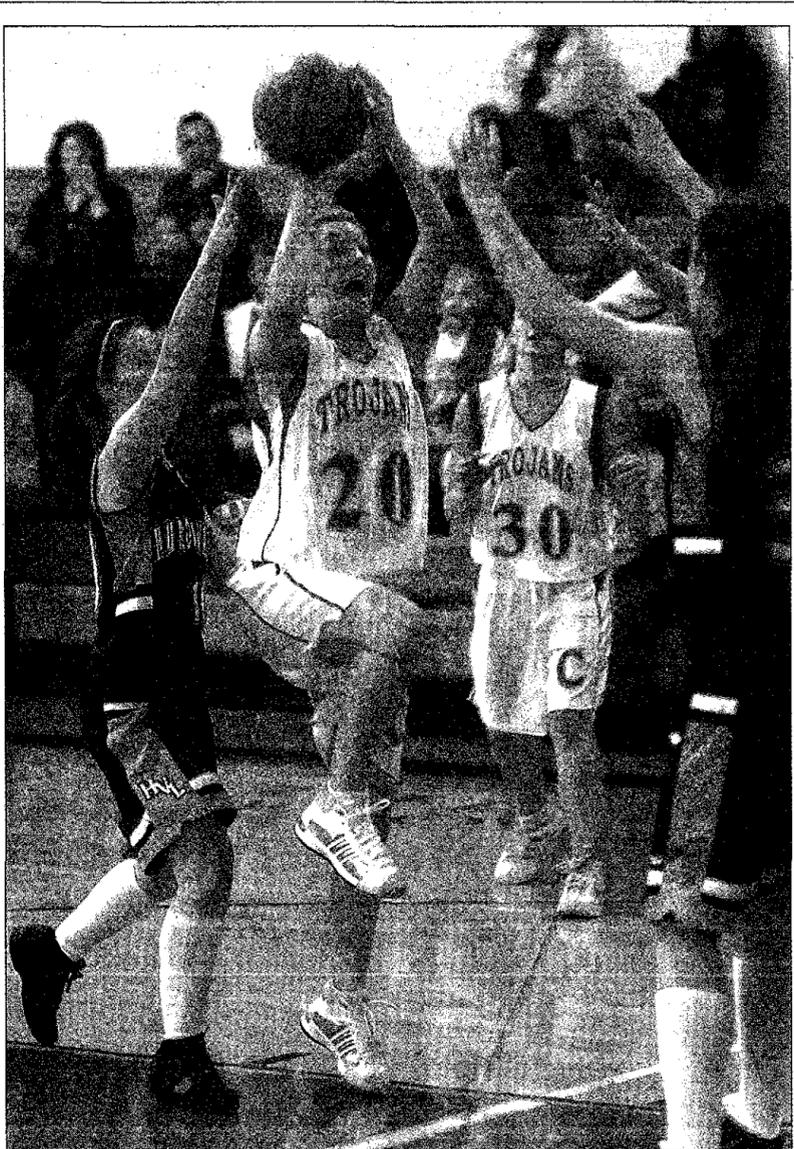
Williams, a long-armed 5-foot-8 sophomore, then came up with a pair of back-to-back steals and converted twice, one on a layup and the other on a short banker, to stem the Ladywood tide midway through the final quarter and seal the victory.

"That was the turning point," McCall said. "She (Williams) missed two easy layups in the first half. There were definite signs of her first game. She was a lot nervous and was second-guessing herself, but she came back strong and made a couple of great plays."

Ladywood, 20-4 a year ago, had a decided height advantage, but couldn't dent the Patriots' defense.

"We didn't come to play," Ladywood first-year coach Pat Cannon said. "We couldn't hit a shot early and that got us down. We would not penetrate their zone. They got into the passing lanes and picked off passes. We didn't expect them to

Please see **FRANKLIN, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eye on the hoop

Clarenceville's Ashley Devon goes up through the middle for two points. Attempting the stop for Huron Valley Lutheran is Kayla Stockdale (left) and Samantha Barber. The 2008-09 girls basketball season was launched Tuesday. For roundup of area games, see page B2.

Sidelines

MAC hails Treppa

Eastern Michigan University red-shirt sophomore punter Patrick Treppa (Livonia Stevenson) was named Mid-American Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following the Eagles' upset 56-52 win Friday at Rynearson Stadium over Central Michigan.

The 5-foot-10, 157-pound Treppa punted four times for a 40-yard average with a long of 49, including one punt downed inside the 20-yard line vs. CMU. His 30-yard punt, under extreme pressure with less than two minutes left in the game, went out-of-bounds at the CMU 29, letting the defense set up a stand that helped the Eagles preserve the win.

Clasgens All-MIAA

Olivet College junior running back Pat Clasgens (Livonia Stevenson) was named to the first-team All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association football team.

Clasgens ranked second in the MIAA in rushing at 100.2 yards per game and fifth in all-purpose yards (663). He had 925 net yards rushing averaging 5.3 per carry and eight touchdowns.

Alger signs letter

Livonia Ryan Alger, a senior at the University of Detroit-Jesuit High, has signed an NCAA letter-of-intent to play golf next year for Houston Baptist University.

Alger was the Cubs' team captain and MVP, while earning honorable mention All-State honors after tying for eighth in the Division I state finals last spring.

He also is a top-10 state-ranked player with six junior event wins and 20 top-three finishes while playing on the Adams (Power Bilt) and American Junior Golf Association tours. Alger recently recorded top-25 finishes at the AJGA Coca-Cola Junior Championship and the Randy Wise Junior Open.

Alger, who attended St. Edith Grade School in Livonia, carries a 4.08 grade-point average. He has caddied since he was 13.

Area wrestling teams ready for action

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As the 2008-09 wrestling season unfolds, it's a good bet some new and old faces will emerge to influence the balance of power in Observerland. The new Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division should be a battle between Division 1 team state quarterfinalist and Observerland Invitational champ Canton, along with perennial area powers Livonia Franklin (21-5) and



Stephens

Carl Lucke (119) also returns. "Anytime you have two state placers like that, you can build a team around them,"

Westland John Glenn (21-7).

Canton lost state placer Steve Cox (graduated), but returns sixth-place finisher Donnie Watkins (125) and seventh-place finisher Brent Winekoff (140) for new coach Cory Mancuso. First-team All-Area pick

Capsule outlook of area wrestling teams, B3.

said Franklin coach Dave Chiola, who must replace two state placers of his own in Dan Woodall (171) and Jared Pieknik (112).

Seven Franklin seniors, however, return with 29 or more wins from a year ago. "The senior core was on JV when we had some really good teams and I know it's important to them to keep that tradition

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

Nebus ties goal mark as K-Wing

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mark Nebus might be even at a loss himself to explain his new-found scoring prowess.

The 26-year-old right winger and Livonia native has to harken back to his AA Mite days.

"I know I've never scored more than four in a game," said the 6-foot, 200-pound forward from the International Hockey League's Kalamazoo Wings. "I had a hat trick or two in AAA. In juniors one year, I had a bunch of goals (31) one season."

On the night of Nov. 23, the former Stevenson High All-Stater and All-Observer performer etched his name

Nebus

Please see **NEBUS, B5**

Glenn grad Eberhardt returns home with Billikens

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was Barry Eberhardt's only homecoming as a St. Louis Billiken and he got plenty of cheers Saturday afternoon from a vocal section of family and friends at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

But unfortunately for the 6-foot-6 senior power forward from Westland John Glenn High grad, the numbers came up all wrong. Eberhardt started and played 21 minutes, took just two shots (made one) and had two free throws (made one) with four rebounds in a 62-57 setback to the host Titans.

The Billikens are 2-4 overall with wins over Boston College and Missouri-St. Louis. Losses have come against Nebraska, Kent State, UDM

and Southern Illinois (64-48 Tuesday night). But despite the less than stellar start to the season, it was a happy Thanksgiving weekend.

"It's good to be home, a good feeling," said Eberhardt, who is averaging a modest 3.6 points and 3.8 rebounds per game.

Eberhardt was one of Rick Majerus' inaugural recruits when he took the job prior to 2007-08 season. Last year, the Billikens went 16-15 as the Glenn grad averaged six points and 3.8 rebounds per game while making 11 starts.

Majerus had spent 15 seasons at Utah, including a trip to the NCAA finals in 1997-98 (led by Andre Miller, Keith Van Horn and Michael Doleac) before stepping down during the 2003-04 season because of health reasons.

Please see **EBERHARDT, B5**



ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY

John Glenn grad Barry Eberhardt is adjusting to his blue collar role as a power forward for the St. Louis University Billikens.

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FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE B1

come out and play zone, but they (Franklin) played it very well. They're impressive and a very good basketball team. They came to play."

Junior guard Mary Fitzgerald scored 10 to pace the Blazers, who were coming off a trip to the regional. Szczypka, a senior, added five, all on free throws.

"I thought the freshman (Cara Miller) gave us some good minutes," Cannon said. "We're still searching for the right combination of players. We have two options — go big or small (lineups). We have to figure it out quick because we have Flint Powers Thursday (at home) in another tough one."

McCall and the Patriots, meanwhile, also have a formidable foe Friday at home in Redford Thurston.

"This gave us a list of things to work on," the second-year coach said. "It was the first game and our girls got winded. We've worked on conditioning, but it's a different animal when you play a ballgame."

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Spartans stalled in season opener, 57-44

A late comeback bid fell short Tuesday night as host Dearborn High held on for a season-opening 57-44 girls basketball victory over Livonia Stevenson.

Sophomore guard Meredith Berce led the victorious Pioneers with 19 points.

Sophomore forward Kristen Balhorn led Stevenson with 11 points and nine rebounds, while senior center Kaylee McGrath added eight points and seven boards.

Dearborn jumped out

KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL

a 28-16 halftime lead before Stevenson rallied within six with just over two minutes to play.

"We had them reeling, but then we kind of shot ourselves in the foot," said Stevenson's Paul Tripp, who was making his coaching debut with the Spartans. "We just missed opportunities, but we played tremendously hard and that's what

we're trying to do.

"We had good contributions from our underclassmen and our seniors showed great leadership."

Senior Samantha Kliman came off the bench early in the fourth quarter and helped give the Spartans a spark.

"She spotted in a couple of minutes, but she did a nice job defensively and offensively even though it did not show up in the scorebook," Tripp said.

Stevenson was 7-of-13 from

the foul line, had 17 steals and committed 14 turnovers.

MILFORD 43, JOHN GLENN 20: Melissa Bageris connected on five 3-pointers Tuesday as the host Highland Milford (1-0) downed Westland John Glenn (0-1) in the season opener for both teams.

Bageris hit a pair of triples in opening quarter as the Mavericks bolted out to an 18-4 advantage and never looked back.

"We knew they would run the 'flex' offense and we

worked on it," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said. "When we turned the ball over they converted."

Brandi Holbrook and Chanel Payne each scored seven for the Rockets.

"We went from a man-to-man to a zone defense in the second quarter and we did a nice job," Schuette said. "But the first quarter dug us a deep hole."

Milford made 6-of-8 free throws, while Glenn was 5-of-13.

Clarenceville fourth-quarter run results in victory

Livonia Clarenceville's constant defensive pressure proved too much for Westland Huron Valley Lutheran Tuesday night, as the visiting Hawks were trounced 51-20 in a non-conference girls basketball opener.

Clarenceville led 20-10 at halftime and 26-16 after three quarters before going on a 25-7 fourth-period run to put the game away.

Leading the charge was junior guard Ashley Devon,

GIRLS BASKETBALL

with 12 points (10 in the fourth) along with nine steals. Senior forward Miranda Cummings chimed in with 10 points and eight rebounds, while sophomore guard Brittany Tallman's 10-point effort included eight in the final frame.

"The girls were tense coming out, we blew wide-open layups off steals," Clarenceville coach Julie Patterson said. "Then we

started to relax and started knocking down shots."

For the Hawks (0-1), who committed 29 turnovers due to the Trojans' man-to-man defense, junior Claire Wood collected seven points and 10 boards.

"We need to work on taking care of the basketball," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said.

Clarenceville was only 5-of-19 from the foul line, while the Hawks were 2-of-4.

CABRINI 48, LUTH. WESTLAND

39: Lutheran High Westland (1-0) opened the season Tuesday falling to host Allen Park Cabrini (1-0) in a non-conference matchup.

"It was a good, hustling game by us," Warriors' coach Bill Strang said. "But there were just too many turnovers due to the press."

The Warriors led 10-9 after the first quarter, but fell behind 24-19 at halftime and never threatened in the second half. Sarah Arnone and Billie

McCall registered 13 and 10 points, respectively, for Cabrini.

Top scorers for the Warriors were junior forward Rachel Storck and senior forward Allyson Yanke with 10 points each. Senior forward Katey Ramthun added seven.

One stat of note was the Warriors' 43 percent foul shooting (7-of-16), something that needs more attention, according to the first-year coach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 4
Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.
A.P. Inter-City at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Flint Powers at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 5
Clarenceville at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
Brighton at Wayne, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 5
Ladywood at Suburban Ice Rink Classic, TBA.

Stevenson vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Ladywood at Suburban Ice Rink Classic, TBA.

Churchill vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 4:45 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 6
Flushing Duals Invitational, 9 a.m.
Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Clarenceville Team Tourney, 10 a.m.
John Glenn Invitational, 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 5
(WHAC-MIAA Challenge at Alma)
Madonna vs. Olivet College, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6
(WHAC-MIAA Challenge at Alma)
Madonna vs. Alma, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 5
(Schoolcraft College Invitational)
K'zoo Valley vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 5:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft vs. Lakeland (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Schoolcraft College Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

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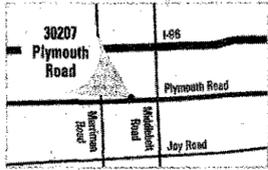
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NAA pool play starts: Crusaders denied in 5

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Madonna University women's volleyball team now finds itself behind the eight-ball following Tuesday's setback in five games to Lewis-Clark State College (Id.) in the opening round of the NAA National Championships held at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Ia.

Julie Maciboba racked up 21 kills, while Anile Clemente and Dana Christianson added 15 and 12, respectively, to lead the unseeded Warriors to a come-from-behind 23-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-20, 15-13 triumph over No. 11-seeded MU. Clemente also had 20 digs, while Lindsay Scott and Katie Hinrichs added 18 and 11 for Lewis-Clark, which improved to 30-2 overall. Setters Abby

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Bruya and Lisa Davis combined for 48 assists.

MU, which fell to 35-5 overall, got a game-high 23 kills from senior Lubovj Tihomirova. Mary McGinnis added 18, while Karie Altman and Whitney Fuelling added 13 each.

Setter Inta Grinvalds finished with 54 assist-to-kills, while Brynn Kerr (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College) had 33 digs. Abby Long added 14.

The Crusaders return to action Wednesday night in Pool B against 33-5 Lubbock (Tex.) Christian, which fell in four games to No. 2-seed Biola (Calif.).

"It was a great match, we had a big lead in the fifth

For more on Wednesday's and Thursday's Madonna matches, visit www.hometownlife.com

game (8-3), but they came back and they were on fire," MU coach Jerry Abraham said. "They (Lewis-Clark) are very good. The first two games were battles. It went back and forth, both evenly matched teams. But when you're winning 2-0 (games) you should close out match and win . . . and we didn't."

Madonna needs a win Wednesday to stay alive for the elimination round, which begins Friday.

"We're in a really powerful pool," Abraham said. "The competition gets harder every match. They (Lubbock) are very fast, very talented. Then we play the second-best team in the country (Biola). We'll see."

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

going," Chiola added. "We have great leadership on this team. We'll find out early on how good we are and then know what we need to work on. I think we're going to have an exciting, successful season."

Glenn coach Bill Polk must replace state runner-up Jeremiah Austin (125), who is red-shirting at Michigan State.

The Rockets, however, return two other state placers in junior Anthony Pavlich, who went 52-4 en route to a third-place in D1 at 103 pounds, and junior Jared Stephens, who went 47-9 while taking fifth at 130.

Pavlich moves up to either the 112- or 119-pound class, while Stephens is now anchored at 135.

"I look forward to what the season brings and am very excited to see how it all plays out," Polk said. "We have a promising group of smart kids that will be prepared to step on the mat. As for what our actual goals are, I will leave that within our own walls."

Two other KLAASouth teams, Livonia Churchill (13-6) and Wayne Memorial (3-16), are playing the numbers game.

Churchill has been beset by injuries and defections in the early going, while Wayne is bolstered by a large incoming freshman class which needs seasoning.

"Our team is young, but very hungry," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "It will be great to see what we can do this season, and how this will translate into even more success in the future."

Livonia Stevenson (19-9)

should show great promise in the KLAASouth despite the loss of D1 state placer Ziad Kharbush (fourth at 160) to Brown University.

The Spartans will rely on first-team All-Area selections Raz Markosian, a senior at 145, and Matt Greenman, a senior at 215.

In the Metro Conference, Livonia Clarenceville (18-11) will try to defend its team title led by junior Brent Gilman (119), Cody Sillanpaa (140), Derek Robbins (160) and Andrew Jasmer (189), all individual conference champions.

One of the area's top wrestlers also returns in first-team All-Area selection Stephen Kemp, a 160-pound senior from Lutheran High Westland who placed fifth in Division 4 last year at 152. Kemp was 51-5 a year ago and Observerland champion.

PREP WRESTLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK



Stephen Kemp
Lutheran Westland



Raz Markosian
Stevenson



Matt Greenman
Stevenson

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Marty Altounian, 12th year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 13-6.
Notable losses to graduation: Andrew Murray (second-team All-Area); J.P. Gaffke (second-team All-Area); Gramos Pallaska (third-team All-Area); Danny Small (second-team All-Area); Brian Ziemba (second-team All-Area); Mark Parrish (second-team All-Area); Keith Roberts.
Leading returns: Curtis Castleberry, Jr. (captain), 160; John Shavel, Jr., 215; Grant Morgan, Sr. (captain), 152; Matt Hecksel, Sr., 119; Bryan Fortney, Sr. (captain), 130; Joshua Gustitus, Sr. (captain), 145; Brett Appel, Sr., 135; Jacob Meadows, Soph., 103; Ben Hesskamp, Jr., 152.
Promising newcomers: To be determined.
Aitounian's 2008-09 outlook: "Depth is a concern. It's one of the smaller teams we've had numbers-wise. With injuries and people quitting, it will be tough to fill a lineup right now. We have four key guys out with injuries who won't wrestle this Saturday. We expect some good things from our four captains. It's going to be an interesting year, that's for sure. It will take us until January before everybody is healthy in our lineup. Once we get those guys back, we'll be a solid team."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Dave Chiola, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 21-5.
Titles won last year: Division 1 team district, Livonia City, Trenton, Franklin and South Lyon tournament champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Dan Woodall (first-team All-Area); Jared Plekniek (first-team All-Area); Brandon Smith (third-team All-Area); Matt Hintz.
Leading returns: Brandon Billiau, Sr. (captain), 145 (36 wins); Ervin Ferreira, Sr. (captain), 152 (third-team All-Area; 39 wins); Don Stratz, Sr. (captain), 160 (third-team All-Area; 40 wins); Garrett Hay, Sr. (captain), 171 (39 wins); Cody Hay, Sr. (captain), 189 (29 wins); Mike Modes, Sr., 285 (36 wins); Justin Jacobsen, Sr., 125 (second-team All-Area; 36 wins); Steve Tuvo, Soph., 119 (third-team All-Area; 33 wins).
Promising newcomers: Paul Hanni, Jr., 112 (transfer from Sterling Heights, 46 wins); Rian Klein, Soph., 103; Erik Czech, Jr., 119; Nick Clendenning, Sr., 135; Josh Hatfield, Soph., 140; Ryan Haaraia, Sr., 135; Zach Leuenberger, Soph., 189; Alex O'Connor, Soph., 152; Brandon Conger, Sr., 145; Matt Roos, Soph., 171; Nick Simmons, Jr., 189.
Chiola's 2008-09 outlook: "If we stay healthy, we should be very competitive this year. The guys worked really hard in the off-season and they have a very positive attitude going into the season. Obviously we need to avoid injuries and hope everybody stays at a weight so we can use all of our experience. We have no state qualifiers on the team, but we have a lot of guys that are motivated and have high goals. I beefed up the schedule this year and we're going to see how the team responds. I know how the city meet is always important to us. We have a new league that we would like to do well at. I'm hoping that the new guys will pick up on all the experience in the room, and by the end of the year we'll be peaking. All of my assistants are young, enthusiastic former wrestlers - Josh Billiau, Greg Schuyler, Matt Hintz, Dennis Tullio, Brandon Smith, Jared Plekniek. Not a ton of coaching or coaching experience, but eager to learn and very good at teaching."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Dan Vaughan, fifth year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 19-9.
Titles won last year: Grand Blanc and Avondale team duals.
Notable losses to graduation: Ziad Kharbush (first-team All-Area); Emmanuel Onueme (first-team All-Area); Michael Fobar (second-team All-Area); Tommy Myshock (second-team All-Area); Brent Cetnar (second-team All-Area); Anthony Maimela, Ken Foisy.
Leading returns: Raz Markosian, Sr., 145.

(first-team All-Area; state qualifier; 39-17); Matt Greenman, Sr., 215 (first-team All-Area; two-time regional qualifier; 32-7); Mitch Gonzales, Sr., 135; Dustin Poisson, Sr., 140; Jonny Myshock, Sr., 145-152; Charlie Kokenakes, Jr., 135-140; Dan McCarthy, Jr., 152-160; Josh Siebert, Jr., 152-160; Jake Burns, Jr., 171; Andrew Schramm, Jr., 171-189; Nathan Keeble, Jr., 285.
Promising newcomers: Jay Bishop, Soph., 130; Cory Zanger, Soph., 125-130; David Bernier, Jr., 125; Ash Alhaj, Soph., 103.
Vaughan's 2008-09 outlook: "We lost a lot to graduation last year. The new guys are working hard and had a productive off-season lifting and wrestling freestyle through USA Wrestling. They are motivated and looking forward to the challenges of competing at the varsity level on a full-time basis. This is a young team with strong senior leadership. Raz Markosian, Mitch Gonzales, Dustin Poisson and Matt Greenman will provide the direction this young team needs to compete in the new KLAASouth Division."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Bill Polk, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 21-7.
Titles won last year: WLAALakes Division, Troy Invitational and Woodhaven dual champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Jeremiah Austin (first-team All-Area); Gary Lawrence (second-team All-Area); Dan McCanill and James Kelly.
Leading returns: Jared Stephens, Jr., 135 (first-team All-Area; fifth place Division 1 at 130; 47-9); Anthony Pavlich, Jr., 112-119 (first-team All-Area; third in Division 1 at 103; 52-4); Steve Wakeford, Jr., 103-113 (regional qualifier); Zaid Ammari, Sr. (captain), 152 (second-team All-Area); Josh Austin, Jr., 119.
Promising newcomers: Jimmy Mann, Sr., 145 (three-time Division 2 state qualifier; transfer New Boston Huron).
Polk's 2008-09 outlook: "We are ready to start the season. Our guys have wrestled a good portion of the season and are ready to battle. We want to compete among the state's elite as a team. If we work harder than our opponents in practice and competition, we feel that those goals can be accomplished. Every year has challenges that are faced and if we can overcome those challenges the possibilities are endless for us. Great teams are exactly that - TEAMS - guys that have come together to accomplish a goal. We have had good teams and individuals over the past few seasons, but you can have 14 great individuals and a team that hasn't put it all together. If we can put it all together we'll be tough."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Steve Vasiloff, fourth year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 3-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Chad Dunn (third-team All-Area); Ryan Nesbitt, Robert Walsh, Andy Morton.
Leading returns: Tevin Hines, Sr., 140; Adam Lull, Sr., 171; Dylan Korzetic, Jr., 285; Josh Mills, Jr., 160; Brandon Whittenberg, Jr., 152; Darryl Ison, Soph., 112; Mike Wallace, Soph., 125; Jalen Jones, Soph., 140.
Promising newcomers: The 25-member freshman class.
Vasiloff's 2008-09 outlook: "This is the most exciting time in my coaching career thus far. Everything is finally falling into place for the Wolfpack. I've got great assistant coaches like former John Glenn standout Rich Donahue and Churchill standout Robert Freeman. We are all on the same page, and have been working hard since the end of last season. We were able to get a large percentage of our wrestlers to camp at EMU this summer, and they were able to see a lot of competition throughout the off-season. I was offered a position with the freshman football team this past season, which I decided to take. Because of this, and because of support from the new head football coach Kevin Weber, my numbers went from 15 to 45. We've tripled our numbers in a single season. As a coach, I could not be more excited."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Anthony Saliciccoli, sixth year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's dual match record: 18-11.
Titles won last year: Metro Conference.
Notable losses to graduation: Scott Convery, Mauser Mesinovic, Matt Neal.
Leading returns: Zavia Ferguson, Jr., 103; Brent Gilman, Jr., 119 (Metro champ at 103); Jake Ruth, Sr., 125 (captain, 31 wins last year); Patrick Walker, Sr., 130; Tony Brandt, Sr., 135; Cody Sillanpaa, Sr., 140 (Metro champ); Derek Robbins, Sr., 160 (captain, Metro champ); Tim Siccinski, Jr., 171; Andrew Jasmer, Sr., 189 (captain, Metro champ); Joe Haapala (Sr., 215); Anthony Giordano, Soph., 285.
Promising newcomers: Brendan Groves, Soph., 145.
Saliciccoli's 2008-09 outlook: "This is my most experienced team I have ever coached and they are a wonderful group of young men to work with. We attended the Eastern Michigan camp as a team and that allowed us to bond and improve. Our team goal is to win the Metro Conference and improve greatly upon our Observerland performance, which was abysmal. Individual goals vary but are high and attainable. We are competing against a higher caliber of team than last year but I know we can be competitive. This area has some very talented wrestlers and outstanding programs and we are hoping to be on par with them instead of the little school that produces one or two good wrestlers every year."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND
Head coach: Dennis Tuomi, 22nd year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's dual match record: 10-11.
Notable losses to graduation: Bill Vancey, Bill Meier, Nathan Mizzi, Phillip Dickerson.
Leading returns: Stephen Kemp, Sr., 160 (first-team All-Area; fifth in Division 4; 51-5); Brad Larose, Sr., 119; Craig Kowalski, Jr., 215; Justin Palka, Jr., 130; Breck Crandell, Sr., 135; Lath Francis, Jr., 125.
Promising newcomers: Sean Rowe, Jr., 140; Jeremy Koltz, Jr., 135; Bob Schwartz, Sr., 160; Garrett Wilson, Sr., 135; Drew Maynard, Sr., 145.
Tuomi's 2008-09 outlook: "It's a fun group to be with. You never know, you'd like to be 500. Some of these young kids have to come through and we have to fill all the weights (the team begins the year voiding out at 103 and 189, for example). The early part of the season will help determine which athletes, including several first-year seniors, who will plug those holes. One reason we always come back as a team is we have such great kids and parents."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Bill Polk, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 21-7.
Titles won last year: WLAALakes Division, Troy Invitational and Woodhaven dual champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Jeremiah Austin (first-team All-Area); Gary Lawrence (second-team All-Area); Dan McCanill and James Kelly.
Leading returns: Jared Stephens, Jr., 135 (first-team All-Area; fifth place Division 1 at 130; 47-9); Anthony Pavlich, Jr., 112-119 (first-team All-Area; third in Division 1 at 103; 52-4); Steve Wakeford, Jr., 103-113 (regional qualifier); Zaid Ammari, Sr. (captain), 152 (second-team All-Area); Josh Austin, Jr., 119.
Promising newcomers: Jimmy Mann, Sr., 145 (three-time Division 2 state qualifier; transfer New Boston Huron).
Polk's 2008-09 outlook: "We are ready to start the season. Our guys have wrestled a good portion of the season and are ready to battle. We want to compete among the state's elite as a team. If we work harder than our opponents in practice and competition, we feel that those goals can be accomplished. Every year has challenges that are faced and if we can overcome those challenges the possibilities are endless for us. Great teams are exactly that - TEAMS - guys that have come together to accomplish a goal. We have had good teams and individuals over the past few seasons, but you can have 14 great individuals and a team that hasn't put it all together. If we can put it all together we'll be tough."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
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League affiliation: KLAASouth Division.
Last year's dual match record: 3-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Chad Dunn (third-team All-Area); Ryan Nesbitt, Robert Walsh, Andy Morton.
Leading returns: Tevin Hines, Sr., 140; Adam Lull, Sr., 171; Dylan Korzetic, Jr., 285; Josh Mills, Jr., 160; Brandon Whittenberg, Jr., 152; Darryl Ison, Soph., 112; Mike Wallace, Soph., 125; Jalen Jones, Soph., 140.
Promising newcomers: The 25-member freshman class.
Vasiloff's 2008-09 outlook: "This is the most exciting time in my coaching career thus far. Everything is finally falling into place for the Wolfpack. I've got great assistant coaches like former John Glenn standout Rich Donahue and Churchill standout Robert Freeman. We are all on the same page, and have been working hard since the end of last season. We were able to get a large percentage of our wrestlers to camp at EMU this summer, and they were able to see a lot of competition throughout the off-season. I was offered a position with the freshman football team this past season, which I decided to take. Because of this, and because of support from the new head football coach Kevin Weber, my numbers went from 15 to 45. We've tripled our numbers in a single season. As a coach, I could not be more excited."

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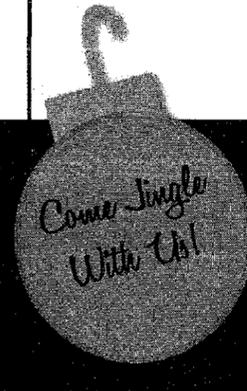
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Northwood men rout MU

Madonna University lost its shooting touch on its trip Monday night to the Bennett Center in Midland. The Crusaders shot just 29.4 percent from the field (15-of-51) in a 80-47 men's basketball setback to host Northwood University. MU, which slipped to 0-8 with the loss, had nobody score in double figures. Kevin McLoughlin and Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) each finished with nine, while Leroy

Allen added eight points and seven rebounds. Sims, the senior guard and team's leading scorer, struggled from the field (1-for-11) as MU was outscored 48-23 in the second half after trailing 32-24 at intermission. Mark Barnes came off the bench to score a game-high 17 points for the Timberwolves (3-1). Lionel Sullivan added 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Marcus Moore contributed 11 points and four assists.

Lady Ocelots rebound from first loss of season

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team went 2-1 at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Turkey Shootout, which was held this past weekend at the Cougar Gym in Kalamazoo. The Ocelots (5-1) entered the tournament as the No. 3-ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II. Schoolcraft opened the event on Friday with a 73-72 setback to Owens CC (Ohio). It was the Ocelots' first loss to Owens since Nov. 28, 2004. Angela Burrell led the

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ocelots balanced scoring ledger with 14 points and seven rebounds. Sheray Brown (12 points, nine rebounds) and Amber Avery (11 points) also turned in double-digit scoring nights for SC, which out-rebounded Owens, 44-35, but was hampered by shaky shooting (37 percent from the field; 60 percent from the charity stripe). Schoolcraft led 33-32 at the half. On Saturday, the Ocelots

handed Kennedy-King (Ill.) its fifth loss in six games this season, 103-73. Schoolcraft, which led 46-38 at the half, was led by Salem grad Tayler Langham, who poured in 18 points. Six other players also scored in double-figures: Antania Shepherd (13); Avery and April-Goins (12 each); Shannon Collins and Jasmine Brown (11 each) and Brittany Collins, who twined 10. Avery and Sheray Brown both yanked down a team-high 10 boards while Brittany Collins dished out a game-

high 12 assists. The Ocelots routed Columbus State (Ohio), 93-59, on Sunday. Led by Jasmine Brown's 17, six Ocelots cracked the double-figures scoring barrier. Goins notched a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Shanika Morman scored just one point, but she recorded a game-high 11 assists. Schoolcraft was red-hot from the floor, hitting 52 percent of its field-goal attempts and 57 percent of its triple tries. Jasmine Brown was 3-for-3 from beyond the arc.

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WEEK #14 GAMES

Thursday, December 4, 2008

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Sunday, December 7, 2008

Minnesota at Detroit
Houston at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Chicago
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Tennessee
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Atlanta at New Orleans
Miami at Buffalo
Kansas City at Denver
New York Jets at San Francisco
New England at Seattle
St. Louis at Arizona
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Washington at Baltimore
Monday, December 8, 2008

Tampa Bay at Carolina

NEBUS

FROM PAGE B1

in the K-Wings record books in a 6-1 win over visiting Port Huron with five goals. Nebus tied a 25-year franchise mark held by Jim McRae (Nov. 16, 1983, vs. Fort Wayne) and Tom Ross (Nov. 21, 1979, vs. Fort Wayne).

And after posting eight goals and two assists in the last five games — four of them K-Wings triumphs — Nebus now ranks tied for 17th overall in IHL scoring with 11 goals and six assists for 17 points.

Needless to say, the IHL Player of the Month received some good-old fashioned ribbing for his five-goal effort.

"Everybody was pretty excited for me and were pretty cool about it," said the right winger, who ranks only behind teammate Lucas Drake on the K-Wings in points (with 19). "They made it hard on me in practice. There were a few jokes. The boys were into a few gifts. (Teammate) Ryan Kindret bought me a chicken sandwich at Hooters. And I don't think I paid for a drink at the bar."

In 40 games last season with the Port Huron Ice Hawks of the IHL, Nebus had a paltry total of two assists and no goals.

After playing four years at Wayne State, where he compiled 24 goals and 35 assists in 129 games, Nebus signed his first pro contract with the Muskegon Fury before moving to the Chicago Hounds of the United Hockey League, where he combined to have just one goal and one assist in 11 games (2006-07).

So what does he account for his new-found touch?

"I've been doing a lot of extra things," Nebus said. "I've been

working with Joel Martin, one of our goalies, on shooting drills. We're usually the last guys off the ice four days per week. And just the chance to play on the top two lines has helped me out."

Nebus also credits the mentoring of 34-year-old left winger Jeremy Stevenson, who just retired Saturday night from pro hockey to become a police officer in Canada.

"He inspired my game and took the time to give me pointers," Nebus said. "He's helped slow my game down and helped me make smart decisions on the ice."

Nebus' hockey career as a youth, however, nearly ended before it started.

At age 15, riding to school as a passenger with his brother in a 1988 Astro van, he was involved in a serious car accident, suffering a head injury which left him in a coma for two weeks and in the hospital for 38 days.

"It was a snowy night, it happened at Six Mile and Wayne," said Nebus, who now calls South Lyon his home. "I lost 45 pounds. I had short-term memory loss. I had to re-learn how to play. I couldn't flip a puck."

After graduating from Stevenson in 2000, Nebus spent three seasons with the Texas Tornado, a junior team in the North American Hockey League, where he tallied 41 goals and 47 assists in 99 games.

During the past summer, Nebus contemplated his next career move.

He painted houses in Ann Arbor with a cousin and spent time in New York City with his fiancée Hannah Risner, a pilates instructor and dancer, while skating three times per week at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan.

Nebus then ventured to an

East Coast Hockey League training camp in Wheeling, W.Va., before signing a contract (Oct. 16) with the K-Wings.

"I've been bouncing all over, but of all the places I've played, this is a great spot to be," Nebus said of Kalamazoo. "This is the biggest hockey atmosphere. We get about 3,000 (fans) per night."

The K-Wings are currently in second place behind Muskegon with a 10-7 record. And although things have been going well, Nebus knows his role can change from game-to-game.

"I did not get a whole lot of ice time the other night. I was on the third line, which was kind of weird," Nebus said following a 1-0 setback to the Bloomington (Ill.) Prairie Thunder. "I play mostly right wing, a little bit of left wing. I'd say I'm a versatile, fill-in guy."

With the K-Wings on the upswing, Nebus is even more committed to the game and his future with the team.

"Coach (Nick) Bootland is very good with the players," he said. "Our team had some personnel issues right away, but I think we're back on the right track. We've gone from last (place) to second."

Nebus plans to eventually do his student teaching and coach some day, but would like to continue his pro hockey career "another two to four years" and eventually get a look from the American Hockey League.

"Grand Rapids — anybody, who calls," Nebus said. "The goal is to keep getting better. And by starting to succeed a lot, you rather keep playing hockey."

And those five-goal games won't hurt the long-term future as well.

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EBERHARDT

FROM PAGE B1

He is known as a defensive-minded tactician, a well-read man with a quirky and hilarious personality who sometimes displays a salty side with his players.

"I have a better understanding of Coach Majerus," Eberhardt said. "I've seen it all. My relationship with Coach is somewhat better. You just have to get through the punches and get ready to take them. I know his tendencies. He's a good guy with a different approach the way he talks to people. You have to take the good with the bad."

Eberhardt's role is radi-

cally different than his days as third-team junior college All-American at Coffeyville (Kan.), where he played the small forward spot and was able to step out beyond the 3-point line. As a sophomore, Eberhardt averaged 17.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game as Coffeyville reached the NJCAA Division I national semifinals.

Eberhardt scored a season-high nine points in a 76-74 overtime loss to Kent State, but has taken just 15 shots in five games while averaging 21.4 minutes.

"To be in this offense, I have to be blue-collar, a tough man," Eberhardt said. "I'm playing more the 'four' and 'five' position. I just have to be more aggressive, a better rebounder. My job is to pass

the ball, screen and rebound."

Eberhardt prepared for the upcoming season by spending the summer in St. Louis, where his team captured the Pro-Am championship.

And with the help of a conditioning coach, Eberhardt's lost 25 pounds.

"I'm around 237," he said. "I was a late-night snacker. I've told myself that when I'm really hungry, I wasn't. Now I just go to sleep."

St. Louis was picked in the preseason poll to finish seventh in the tough Atlantic 10.

"I think we're better than that," Eberhardt said. "It's a learning process, it's coming slow, it's early. We're getting everything tuned up for the conference. We just have to stay focused. We're a young team."

Patriots peppered by South Lyon, 8-0

Livonia Franklin freshman goaltender Matt Slinder held the fort for two periods — stopping 32-of-34 shots — before host South Lyon erupted for six third-period goals en route to an 8-0 boys hockey win Monday night at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

South Lyon, getting two goals apiece from Kyle Betz and Dan Diroff, improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in the Central Division of the KLA's Kensington Conference with the mercy-rule win.

South Lyon outshot the Patriots, 50-8.

Franklin sophomore goal-

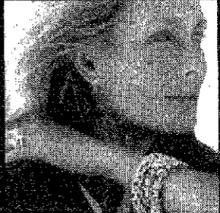
tender Brandon Hawkins finished up the final eight minutes and allowed two goals.

"It's always disappointing with losses, but we're not going to hide from it," said Franklin coach Scott Wirgau, whose team is 0-2 overall and 0-2 in the KLA South Division.

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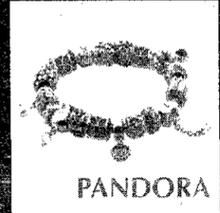
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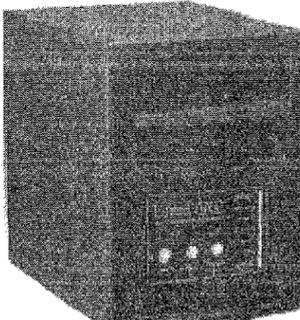
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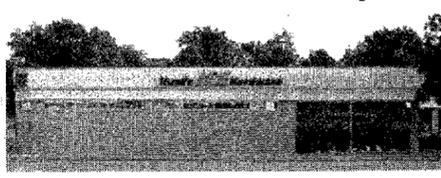


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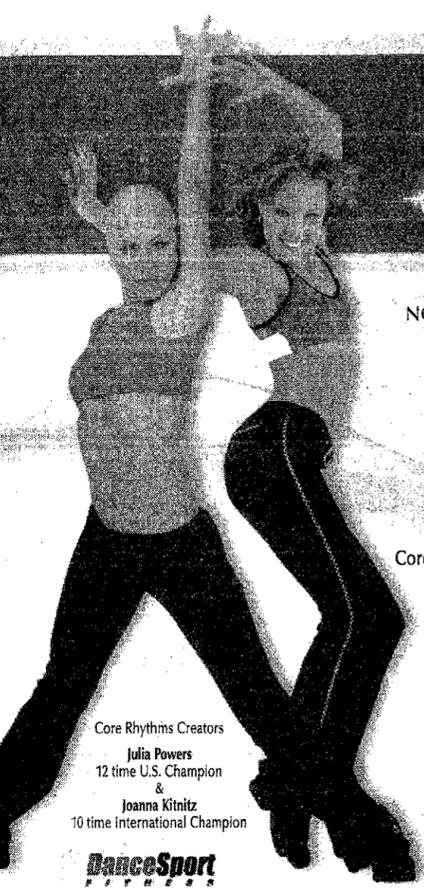


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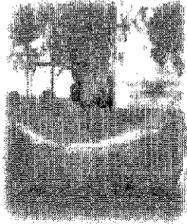
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SBF seeks down-to-earth SM, 25-65, with morals and values, who knows how to have fun in life, is family-oriented. **☎229422**

IN THIS BOX U CAN FIND...
A 42-year-old SWF, ISO SWM, 38-45, for friendship and possibly more. I'm sociable, affectionate 5'7", 120lbs, long dark curly hair, N/D, N/S, DID-free, never married, no children. Interested? Call **☎271890**

COULD IT BE YOU?
SBF, 44, professional, hard-working, independent, enjoys church, shopping, more. Looking for a SM, 44, employed, open-minded, warm-hearted and considerate, to share all life has to offer. **☎234598**

HI I AM GUY
Loving, sexy SBF, 34, caramel complexion, 5'5", 156lbs, brown eyes, independent, employed, secure, Seeking warm-hearted intelligent, commitment-minded man who wants to have fun. **☎233307**

HELLO OUT THERE
SBF, 39 years young, seeks SWM, who enjoys life simple pleasures. I enjoy dining out, computers, movies, the parks, walks, travel and life in general. Friendship first. **☎224128**

JUST A NICE PERSON...
looking for a nice man, tall SBF, 45, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-65, WM a plus. **☎234620**

HONESTY A MUST
BF, 42, 5'4", 165lbs, shapely, brown/brown, seeking an honest man, 40-50, ND/Drugs, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dancing, dining out, good company and working out. **☎235608**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...
While Knight, spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor. I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. **☎236620**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Sexy SBF, 40, N/S, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-50, for friendship first, maybe more. **☎270132**

LOVELY VIRGO
SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for SF, 30-65, with same interests. **☎239138**

BEAUTIFUL
SBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BF, 25-40, race open, DID free, HW proportionate. You must be confident with who you are. **☎271890**

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'6", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking attractive, active SM, 30-42, 6'+, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **☎236942**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST
SBF, 36, 5'10", N/S, short hair, no children. Looking for SM, 35-50, who enjoys festivals, travel, spending time together. **☎228950**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!
Petite SBF, 36, 5'0lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **☎281372**

GREAT-LOOKING BT...
35, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me, you won't be disappointed! **☎235172**

BEAUTIFUL SBF
37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. **☎2271863**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT
SBF, 47, 5'7", full-figured, N/S, likes roller skating, canoeing, exercise, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **☎2287305**

A POLISHED DIAMOND
Attractive, sexy BF, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **☎2287057**

VERY SERIOUS NEED REPLY
Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, serious SM, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. **☎237503**

A NEW BEGINNING
SBF, 47, 5'4", like action movies, swimming, dancing, plays, outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship or more. **☎229915**

PEITTE AND CUTE
SWF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SWM, 36-45, who will love me for me. **☎234943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE
SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, clubs, just chilling. Looking for SM, 39-45, for possible relationship. **☎229026**

SEEKING STRONG BM
Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, tall BM, 40-60, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, gentle, soft. **☎238586**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **☎230694**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 51, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/brn, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, many gentleman. **☎232549**

MATURE MAN WANTED
SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SM, 25-40, who enjoys lookstoes, movies, dining, water. **☎2287858**

WARM SMILE
SBF, 21, N/S, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other! **☎227187**

AWAITING YOUR CALL
Honest, attractive SBF, 25, 5'2", 150lbs, mother, employed, caring, looking to meet outgoing, chlo-friendly, respectful Christian tall BM, 40-60, who knows how to talk, family, friendship and fun. **☎237322**

LET'S HAVE FUN
SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SWM, 38-63, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. **☎234465**

LIVE LIFE 2 THE FULLEST
SF, 18, enjoys music, architectural design and trying new things. Seeking SM, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? **☎247152**

ACTIVE WOMAN
SWF, dark hair and eyes, N/S, social drinker, likes bowling, bingo, garage sales, funny movies and more. If you would like to meet for coffee, let me know. **☎232161**

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'2", 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, N/S, enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **☎113901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 60, looking younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **☎217085**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, being outdoors. Seeking similar SWM, 23-45, for companionship. **☎226378**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SBF, 54, 5'8", N/S, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SBWM, 48-62, N/S, for friendship or more. **☎226244**

OUTGOING
BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **☎232940**

PRETTY EYES
SBF, 33, voluptuous, all the good things, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. **☎229870**

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 55, 5'6", N/S, HW proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike riding, reading, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SWM, 45-63, for dating, possible LTR. **☎236774**

HEY GUYS
SBF, 20, 5'9", slim, long black hair, enjoys movies, comedy, and just hanging out. Seeking an SM, 20-30, who is fun, intelligent, and has a good sense of humor. **☎235810**

TRY THIS ONE
Loving, sincere SBF, 55, easygoing, looking for a good-hearted, Christian gentleman with The Lord in his heart to share life, laughter, happiness and possible LTR. **☎242234**

TRYING A CALL
SWF, 55, loves movies, going to new things, sporting events, motorcros, sewing and more. Seeking sociable SM, with similar interests, to share the special times in life. Friendship first, possible LTR. **☎235406**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
SBF, 53", long hair, student, seeking a SM, 19-23, handsome, honest, fun, good personality, for friendship and more. **☎248842**

WORTH A LOOK
SBF, 30, 5'7", 125lbs, fun-loving, music, trying new things and just having fun. Looking for good-hearted, open-minded man to share the good times in life, friendship and maybe more. **☎239294**

TAKING A PEEK
Attractive SWF, 20 years old, loves to be outdoors and have fun, enjoys clubs, movies, relaxing at home, ISO male who likes the same, and wishes for friendship, maybe more. **☎235447**

IT'S WORTH THE CALL
SBF, 20, 5'3", 250lbs, hard-working, student, no kids, seeking a cool guy, to chill with, get to know, have good times and see where it goes. **☎235979**

GORGEOUS SMILE!
SBF, 26, 5'6", 130lbs, slim build, smoker, DID-free, seeks BF, 18-60, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. I enjoy movies, dining, television, cooking. **☎257889**

FUN & OUTGOING
SBF, 18, 190lbs, athletic, love walks on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. **☎235908**

GET TO KNOW ME
BF, 57", full-figured, N/S, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. **☎260758**

SEEKING SAVED MAN
SBF, 27, N/S, seeks one good man, 29-51, N/S, no games, who enjoys movies, bowling, church, for friendship first. **☎226505**

HI THERE!
Mature SBF, 50, seeks sexy, handsome SWM, to develop a lasting relationship and maybe more. Let's meet soon! **☎228278**

MUST LOVE WRESTLING!
Full-figured, shapely SBF, 33, lonely, seeks SWM (only) who enjoys wrestling, football, hockey, fishing, going to the movies for friendship first and maybe more. **☎228659**

VERY LOVING PERSON
Looking for a spontaneous, professional male, 25-40, race open, who is willing to go and have fun. **☎237204**

COUNTRY GIRL
Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving SWPF, 54, platinum/blonde, 5'5", HW-proportionate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing. Seeking SWM, 50-65, N/S, ND/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. **☎759845**

ARE YOU HERE?
SBF, 61, enjoys going out, having fun, dancing, playing, singing, and enjoying life. Seeking an honest SM, 58-62, with varied interests, for possible LTR. **☎226970**

TAKE A CHANCE!
SWF, 30, middle school art teacher, likes nature, music, dining and more. Would like to meet a man to enjoy life with. **☎228418**

CHOCOLATE TREAT
Refined, romantic, creative decorator, enjoys a eclectic life style. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving, 60s, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking fit non-smoking gentleman, 50+. **☎226197**

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Asian woman, 5'2", 110lbs, slim, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome WAM, 47-56, N/S, clean-shaven, HW proportionate, for friendship first. **☎221228**

IN SEARCH OF
a man with a positive outlook for dating, dining out and companionship. I'm a SWF, 55, 5'5", HWF and I enjoy walks, going skiing, snowboarding, and more. **☎228896**

ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS
BF, 55", 150lbs, like cooking, listening to music, camping and more. Would like to meet a man to enjoy life with. **☎267598**

KEEP COOL
SBF, 19, 5'9", looking for cool, down-to-earth, attractive SBHM, 18-25, who keeps it real. **☎2267598**

Ready to meet great new people?

ZOOMER SEEKS ADDED ZIP
SWF, 55, passionate about life, enjoys the outdoors, good political discussions, dancing, more. Would love to meet a man engaged in life. **☎2284371**

SINCERE AND HONEST
Happy SF, loves country music, dancing. Looking for honest, sincere SWM/BM, 30-60, children ok, for friendship first. **☎2294932**

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST
Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'8", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship/LTR. **☎242846**

SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?
SBPF, 65, 5'4", interested in developing new friendships, maybe more. Seeks energetic, N/S SM, 40-65, that loves reading, midnight picnics, walking, and exciting conversations. Must have good SOI and self-worth. **☎226218**

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-85, N/S. Possible LTR. **☎963760**

STILL SEEKING
Very cute SBF, 57, 5'2", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident males, 46-59, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **☎113138**

ARE YOU SEEKING?
DWF, 69, 5'2", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 60-72, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for friendship. **☎233088**

I NEED A LOVE...
to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming W/F, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. **☎968039**

HARD-WORKER
SWM, 45, 5'5", short brown hair, grows kids, enjoys music, playing guitar, travel. Looking for similar SF, 35-45. **☎259097**

TALL, DARK, HANDSOME
SM, 39, seeks quiet, artistically creative woman, 48-61, with a beautiful mind. I hope you are the right one! **☎230709**

IMMATURE
WM, 61, good-looking, good sense of humor, interested in politics, sports, the arts, food. Seeking BF, 45-63. Glasses a plus. **☎227882**

RETIRED
SWM, 65, smoker, wants to meet a SWF, 48-67, prefer newsworthy, for friendship first. I love cooking, devoting time to a loving companion. **☎239475**

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest SDW/F, wise, of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. **☎236946**

LOOKING FOR YOU
SWM, 50, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks SWF, 35-52, who enjoys Backgammon/Chess, dancing, working out at the gym, piano, cards, comedy clubs, coffee houses, art galleries. Must be social drinker, N/S, HW proportionate. **☎218827**

SEEKING THE RIGHT WOMAN
Male, 59", 165lbs, brown/brn, likes horseback riding, camping, long walks, more. Would like to meet a woman for friendship first, possibly leading to LTR. **☎257398**

HOW ARE YOU?



Passages

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CHARLES E. LOWE

A Southern gentleman, a real Kentucky Colonel, died Dec. 1st amongst his family. He succumbed to a combination of his 93 years and a great desire to join his wife of 64 years, Betty, who predeceased him on January 2, 2007. He is survived by generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and decades of friends, associates, companions and admirers. He was born dirt poor in Inez, Kentucky, in 1915, son of a lumberman, raised with his siblings by a widowed mother. He served his country in WWII and for 22 years after in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Amongst his numerous accomplishments, he was Mayor of Garden City from 1960-62, City Attorney of Plymouth for 18 years, Past Master of Metropolitan Lodge #519, and co-founder of the Kentuckians of Michigan. His children, Rebecca Ponte (Glen), Ronald W. Lowe (Jeanine), and Charles E. Lowe Jr. (Tonya) were at his bedside. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure to have known him. A memorial visitation will be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Saturday, December 27, 2008, 1-5pm. A Masonic Service will take place at 4pm. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.



DOROTHY "DOTTIE" SHARER (NEE WIKEL)

November 29, 2008. Age 93 of Birmingham. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Dear mother of Richard (Serena) and Diana. Loving grandmother of Daniel Chichester and Sarah Chichester. Sister of Howard Wikel (Betty). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 4-8 p.m. Funeral service Sunday 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation begins at church 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to Many Voices. One Song, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009 or Little Stone Church, Mackinac Island, MI 49757. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



DR. ALDEN EARLE VAN ORNUM, DDS

Of Batavia, NY, went to be with his Lord and Savior on November 29, 2008. Age 95. Dr. Van Ornum had a dental practice in Plymouth, MI for forty years and was active in Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Christian Businessmen and the Wayne Baptist Church. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth Helen (Sellman) Van Ornum of Batavia; two children, Ann (Mark) Van Ornum Fackler of Grand Rapids and David (Trudie) Van Ornum of Batavia; two brothers, Rev. Carlton (Jean) Van Ornum and Paul Van Ornum; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Calling 5-6 p.m. Thursday at H.E. Turner & Co. Funeral Home of Batavia, NY where services will follow at 6 p.m. Condolences to www.bataviainfuneralhomes.com



IN MEMORY OF MELISSA (Williams) LAMBAREN

7-7-74 to 12-3-07

Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing, no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Misty



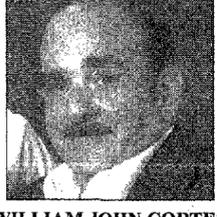
LEO E. HARRAWOOD

Of Novi. Passed away November 29, 2008 at the age of 88. Beloved husband of Beatrice, loving father of Diana (Brent) Canup and Debra (Zack) Fishman. Predeceased by Bernice who died in 1991 after 51 years of marriage. Loving grandfather of Brent Jr. (Ginger) Canup & Brenda (Michael) Daray. Great-grandfather of Morgan & Margaux Canup and Skylar & Tamer Daray. Leo is survived by one sister Laura Wofford and predeceased by three brothers and two sisters Francis, Paul, Everett, Gladys Petri & Nellie. Beloved uncle to Pam and Art. Leo was a founder and active member of numerous organizations and businesses in Novi and the State of Michigan. He was a WWII veteran and recipient of two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star w/ Arrowhead, and the WWII Victory Medal. He was a life time member of the Disabled American Veterans, Amvets and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Leo served the village of Novi in several capacities including city planning board member, Councilman and Past President Pro-Tem. He was instrumental in making Novi into a city. Mr. Harrawood was a charter member, director and Past President of the Novi Rotary Club District Governor for Rotary District Number 638. A charter member of the Farmington Elks Lodge, a charter member of St. John's Lutheran Church Farmington, Past President of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Leo served as the illustrious Potentate of the Standard Oil/Amoco gas station on Grand River & Novi Road for 44 years. He was also the owner of the BP station at Novi Road and 12 mile. He was the co-owner of Shirley Cash Realty of Novi, Owner Founder of Sales Training Institute of Detroit. Leo was an avid outdoor sportsman, a licensed pilot and successful motivator and sales trainer. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-1800, Wednesday 5-9pm. Masonic Service Wednesday 7:00pm and Thursday 1-9pm. In state at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills Friday 9:00am until the funeral service at 10:00. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. John Lutheran Church. Online sympathy messages at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



WANDA M. BRACISZEWSKI

Age 80, of Westland, formerly of Plymouth passed away November 28, 2008. Born in Salem Twp. on November 1, 1928. Worked for Whitman & Barnes in Plymouth for 25 years and then for the City of Plymouth for 12 years. Loving wife of the late Frank. Devoted mother of Michele D. (Warren) Grisamer and Darryl Bingner. Proud grandmother of Brett (Kara) Grisamer, Susan and Katelin Bingner. Dear sister of Russell (Carol) Merritt and Rodger (Carol) Merritt. Services were held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, on December 2, 2008. Interment Thayer Cemetery, Northville. Share memories at schrader-howell.com



WILLIAM JOHN CORTEZ

Age 71, passed away December 1, 2008. Bill was born on August 10, 1937 in Detroit to the late John and Angeline (Urso) Cortez. He worked in quality control for Ford Motor Company for 33 years. Bill is survived by his wife Jackie; children Bill Jr. and daughter-in-law Tracy, John, Kathy, and Angela; grandchildren Andrew, Nicolas, Samantha, Zachary, Rachel, Cheryl, and Joey; great-granddaughter Autumn; and sister Rosemary Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Frank Cortez. A Memorial Service will be held at Brighton Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 11:00 am with memorial gathering beginning at 10:00 am. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942. Arrangements by Phillips Funeral Home Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



ROBERT E. SNYDER

November 24, 2008. Beloved husband of Joan. Dear father of Carol Jarocha (William), Susan Keller (Mike), and Robert Jr. (deceased). Loving grandfather of Stacey and Heather Jarocha, Amy, Jeffrey, Julie, and Tommy Keller and Ashley, Steven, Matthew and Andrew Snyder. Retired from Ford Motor Co. A family memorial service was held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.



SALLY LEE BUSHA (nee Gyde)

Of Plymouth passed away from her long battle with cancer. She is survived by her best friend and husband of 52 years, Frank Busha. She has a beloved daughter and son, Susan Hoy and James Busha. Very loved are Richard Hoy, son-in-law and Lori Busha, daughter-in-law. Proud and loving grandmother of Amanda Busha, Kenny Busha, Sally Jo Hoy and Emma Hoy. She was born August 7, 1937, a sixth generation of the Plymouth-Canton area, predeceased by her father Kenneth Gyde and is survived by her mother Onale Gyde. Her favorite activities included biking, working on her flowers and golfing (hole in one 2006). She had many friends and special neighbors of Wedgewood Village and Florida. A celebration to her life will be held, with a Gathering of Family and Friends Friday 10:30 AM until the time of the Memorial Service at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Memorial contributions suggested to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Cancer Care Office of Development, PO Box 995, Ann Arbor MI, 48103. To share a memory with the family, please visit: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com



WANDA L. NORTHEN (NEE YATES)

Age 83. November 29, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Philip. Loving mother of Carol (Frederick) Smith, Diane (Michael) Burkhardt, and Gary Northen. Dear grandmother of James (Lana) Acitelli, Sharyl (Allan) Rubin, Barrie Burkhardt, step-grandmother of Chris (Crystal) and Matt Smith, and great-grandmother of Jacob, Joshua and Zachary Rubin. Wanda was an accomplished artist and a past member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters, Palette and Brush Club, and the Farmington Artists. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 3, 2008 4-9pm and today Thursday, December 4, 2008 10:00am until time of Service at 11:00am at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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ask for Jennifer or Charolette

OE08579123

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. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

UPCOMING

Christmas concert
The Silver Strings perform 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. No charge. Call (734) 427-3660.

Kids Christmas craft days
Deadline is today, Thursday, Dec. 4 to register for Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, for ages 5 years through 5th grade, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Kids will enjoy creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. All are welcome to attend. Suggested donation of \$3 per child. For more information or to sign-up, call (734) 422-1470.

Advent presentation
Through Scripture, food and drink, reflect on and delight in preparing for Christ's arrival 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

Caregiver's support group
St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Christmas craft show
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Thomas d'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Bake sale and lunch available at the show featuring more than 85 crafters. Admission \$2, children under age 12 free. Call (734) 981-1333.

Glory of Christmas
The theatrical production opens Thursday, Dec. 4, and runs week-ends through Sunday, Dec. 14, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Tickets \$16 and \$18. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit www.northridgechurch.com. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Holiday concert
Medrigal Chorale of Southfield performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the historic Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit's Greektown, 646 Monroe at St. Antoine. Tickets \$18 and available by calling (248) 229-7147 or \$20 at the door. www.mcs-notes.org.

Silent Night
An Advent service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0326. While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of our community, inspirational music, and scripture readings we will seek together the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of Christmas.

Christmas season events
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, is hosting events for the Christmas Season at no charge in the sanctuary. Events include Early Childhood Christmas Concert, 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. "Angel Alert," the children's Christmas pageant, takes place 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, reception to follow. "A Gift of Hope" Christmas concert featuring the Ward Chancel Choir, Teen Choir, Orchestra, Ensembles and Handbells is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, includes audience singalong of favorite Christmas carols. The Combined Choirs and Orchestra with guest conductors and soloists perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

Christmas music
"A Christmas Pageant" features The Praisemakers Choir (ages 4-5) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, and "Repeat the Resounding Joy" Christmas Dinner Theater Dec. 12-14, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. The Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, performances begin at 7 p.m. and a full dinner will be served. Sunday night's program, Dec. 14, begins at 6 p.m. with a dessert table only. For tickets, visit www.5milechurch.org or call (734) 464-6722.

Gift workshop
Getting Through the Holidays, a workshop for those grieving the loss of a

RELIGION CALENDAR

loved one at what can be an extremely difficult time of year, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Music at St. John's
A Festival of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, with the parish's music groups; Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

Detroit Lutheran Singers
Celebrate CHRISTMAS concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for seniors and students age 12 and older) and will be available at the door. For advance tickets, call (248) 988-6715. For more information, visit www.detroitlutheransingers.com.

Evenings of Evangelization
With Rev. Alex Kratz, 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The evening begins with a Holy Hour followed by small-group discussions, teaching and fellowship. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Holiday cookie walk
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne (across from Wayne Post Office). Holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies, specialty gift baskets. Cost is \$5 for small container, \$9 medium, \$13 large. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

Christmas Cookie Walk
Too busy to bake? Buy cookies by the pound from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Road, between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120.

Choirs concert
The Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites the public to a special Christmas concert, "Ring In The Holidays," 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. The concert features the Felician Sisters Choir as well as St. Michael's Handbell Choirs and the Mikapellas, a women's acappella choir. No charge. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Bethany monthly dance
8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Dance lesson this month, dancers choice, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call (734) 261-5716 for details.

Adult choir concert
The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, presents its 27th Annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. The cost is \$5 and two non perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission to aid those in need during the holiday season. Call (734)425-5950. Tickets will be available at the door on the day of event.

Christmas worship
Special Christmas service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with the choir at First United Methodist Church of Wayne singing "Music from around the World." All welcome. Church is located at 3 Towne Square, across from Wayne Post Office. Regular services 9 a.m. traditional, 10:30 a.m. contemporary. Call (734) 721-4801.

All-you-can-eat pancakes
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Eve services
7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City. All are welcome. Call (734) 427-3660.

Christmas worship
5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells

Wednesday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Clothing bank
Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Sunday school
Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental
Volkmars Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support
Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous
Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.ooa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service
Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverage, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW
St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course V, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals
Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule
Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study
St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change
Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livoniafaith.org.

Wednesday activities
Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace.

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CALENDAR

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Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Reformed Protestant services

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kocpzyński, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule

Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. **Adult Sunday School** at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to crcare@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Grief workshops help during the holidays

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is difficult at any time of the year, but especially during the holidays.

While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of the community, inspirational music, and scripture readings all can seek the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of

Christmas during Silent Night, an Advent Service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0326 for more information.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish holds a grief workshop as well, Getting Through the Holidays, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Blankets needed for homeless shelters

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is collecting blankets for the homeless through Monday, Dec. 15.

Once collected, the blankets will be distributed to homeless shelters in the Metro Detroit area with the assistance of the American Red Cross.

New or slightly used twin size

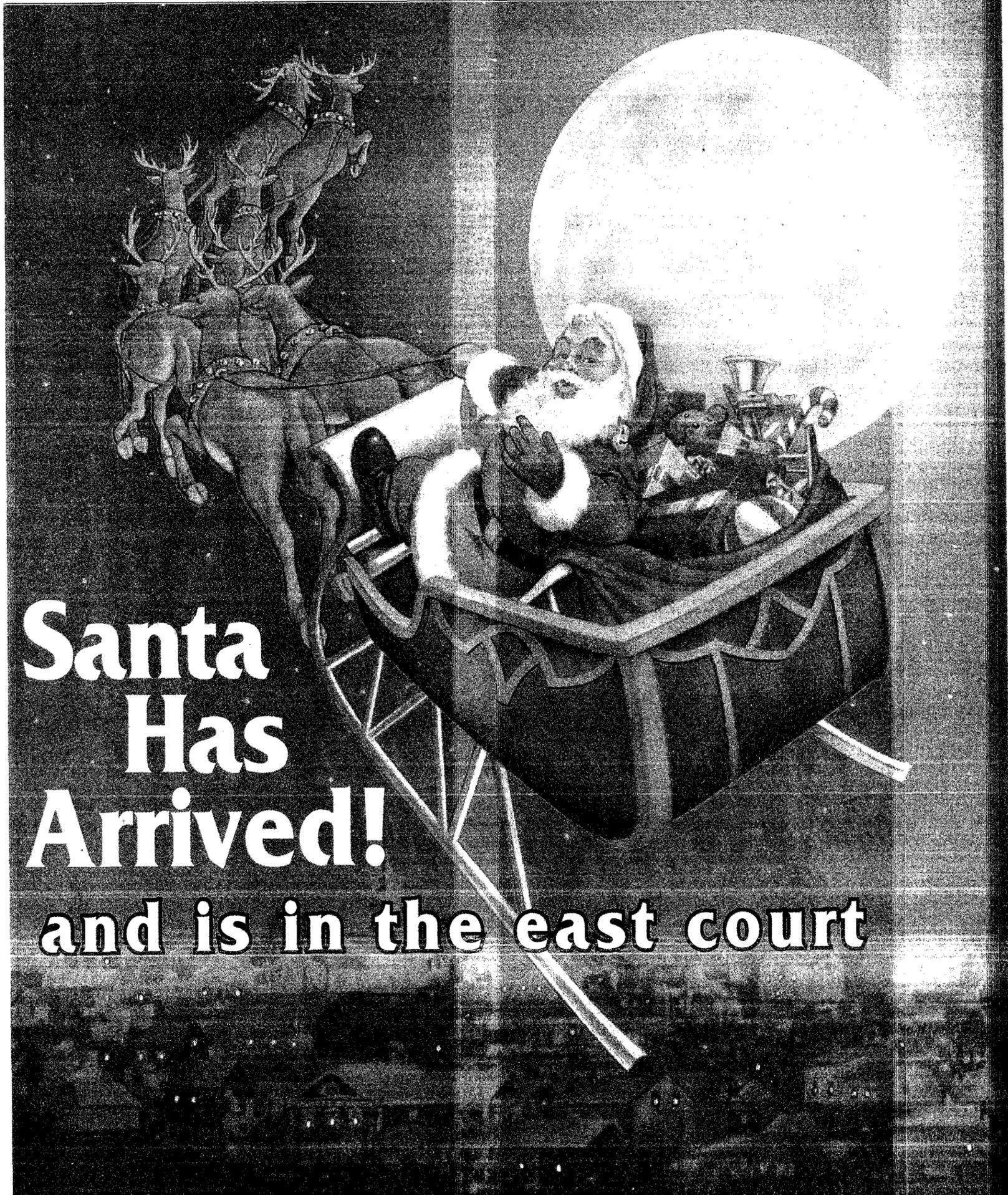
blankets may be placed in the plastic bins outside of the church. Blankets may also be dropped off inside the church from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located at 16360 Hubbard, between Farmington and Merriman roads, Livonia.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed, Thurs 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a</p> <p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p>Cherry Hill United Methodist 321 S. Ridge Road Canton, MI 734-495-0035 Rev. Merlin Pratt Worship 10:30 Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30 www.cherryhillumc.org</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45891 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p> <p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>	<p>"More than Sunday Services"</p> <p>Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert</p> <p>First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.ptumc.org</p>	<p>NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 a.m & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburghumc.org</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>	<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0454 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 8:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>
<p>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, PLYMOUTH 1180 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schemm 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (Just East of Inkerster Road) (313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m. http://ourchurch.com/members/immanuel.htm The Friendly Church on the Trail</p> <p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p> <p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 Worship Services SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 8:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com



Santa Has Arrived!

and is in the east court

Entertainment this Month...

December 5 Fri.	MADD Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11am - 1pm - East Court
December 6 Sat.	Safety While You Shop 12pm - 4pm - East Court
December 8 Mon.	Ladywood High School Choir Group 12.45pm - 1.30pm - JC Penney Court
December 9 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 10 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 12 Fri.	Our Lady of Good Counsel 10.45am - 11.30am - JC Penney Court
	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 16 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 17 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 19 Fri.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 23 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 25	Christmas Day

For all of your holiday shopping fun visit the

WESTLAND

SHOPPING CENTER

Where we have the right store for you

Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohls & Over 80 Specialty Stores

Warren & Wayne Roads (734) 421-0291

www.westlandcenter.com

PURE PICKS Check out our selections for this week in entertainment.

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RECIPES

Our readers have submitted easy cookie recipes

PAGE D5

The Whitney's Ghost Bar is the new trendy spot

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

My favorite new cocktail lounge is The Ghost Bar located inside Detroit's oldest restaurant — the magnificent, luxurious Whitney.

The recently opened Ghost Bar contains every element to mark itself as the new destination place and attract the hip, successful bar crowd of Oakland and Wayne counties. It's located in a mansion, it has an

GHOST BAR

Where: Third floor of The Whitney restaurant, 4421 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 832-5700
www.thewhitney.com or www.whitneyghostbar.com

Dress code: Business casual/stylish/eclectic

Special: Place to impress out-of-town guests, romantic atmosphere, gathering place with friends

Music: Jazz earlier in the night, danceable, low-key electronic music later in the evening by several notable Detroit DJs such as DJ Roc Boy Friday nights and DJ Jenny LaFemme on Saturdays

unpretentious, highly stylized, chichi flair that is already attracting successful, creative crowds. And, it's located inside one of the most prestigious Michigan restaurants. "The third floor has always been an elegant space with 20-foot ceilings, hand-painted panels and rich woods throughout. It was the original art gallery for the Whitney family," said Patrick Liebler, The Whitney's executive director. "What we wanted to accomplish was to add to its elegance, not overshadow or mask the original beauty of the space."

Four very important words about Ghost Bar: welcoming, secure, impressive, haunted.

HAUNTED
The Whitney is consistently discussed in Detroit's rich history as one of the most haunted locations in the city. Owners, father and son team, Bud and Patrick Liebler, of West Bloomfield, have fun with the name and slogan: *Ghost Bar. Chill out with*

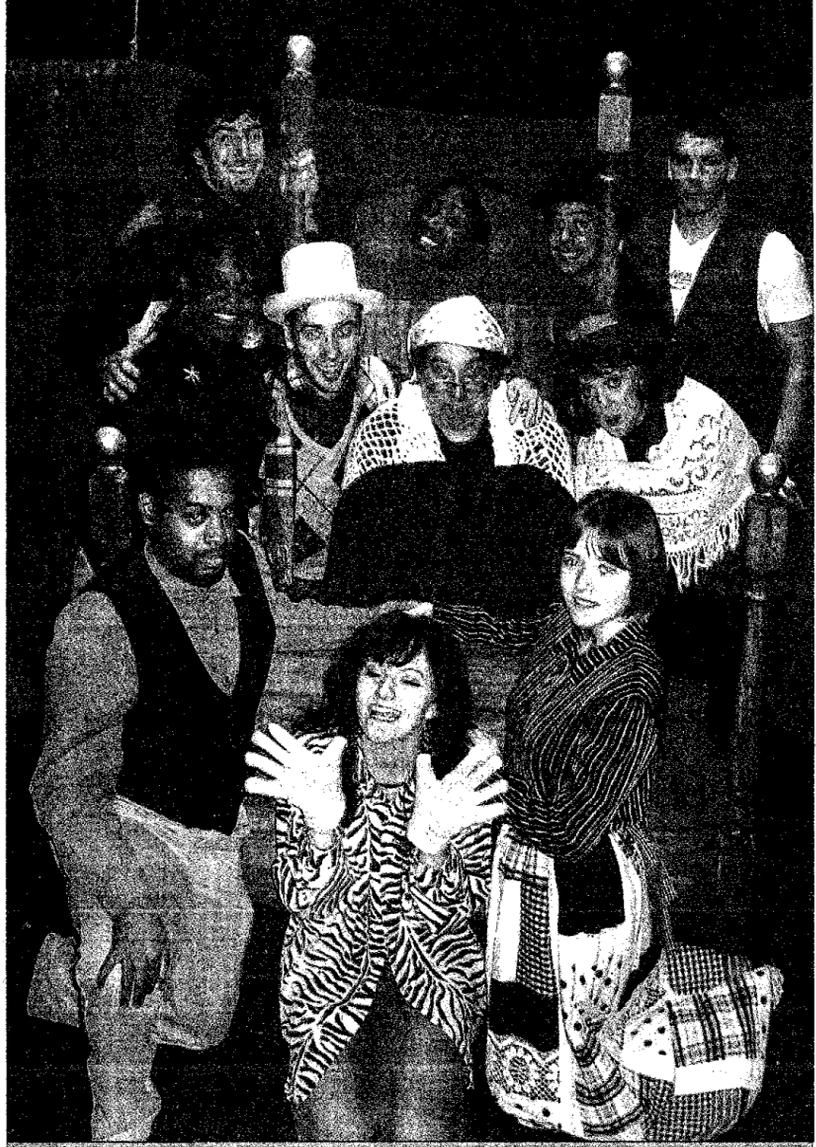
Detroit's favorite spirits. There are four rooms in Ghost Bar, one is known as the most haunted room in the mansion. Ask the Lieblers or a waitstaff member for an eerie tale and they have plenty to share.

WELCOMING
"We want to remove the 'stuffy factor' from The Whitney," Patrick Liebler said. "People rightfully know it as a high-end restaurant, but the clientele is all ages, all types of people and we have an incredibly friendly staff who work to make you feel instantly comfortable. "The Whitney doesn't just belong to my family," Liebler said. "It's a landmark in the city. We want everyone to feel that this is their restaurant and their bar." You don't need couture attire at the Whitney Ghost Bar; it's stylish, yet business casual. "More than ever before, the city of Detroit needs reasons to smile," said Bud Liebler. "We want the Ghost Bar to be a place where people can sit back and relax with their co-workers after a long day."

Please see **GHOST BAR, D2**



The Ghost Bar on the third floor of The Whitney restaurant is a new hip place — and it's said to be haunted.



Holiday Happenings

- Events**
- Christmas Walk:** The Friends of Greenmead presents its 20th annual event beginning at Hill House with hot chocolate and cookies, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets \$9 in advance — available at Livonia libraries, Greenmead and city hall — and \$10 on tour day; wear slip-on shoes. Profits go to restoration and preservation at Livonia's Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 466-3540.
- Noel Night:** From 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Detroit's University Cultural Center welcomes all for its annual holiday open house, museums will be open free of admission, horse and carriage rides, and music and theater performances, centered at Woodward and Warren avenues in Detroit. Visit www.detroitmidtown.com/05/noelnight.
- Christmas in the Village:** Tour decorated homes and enjoy carriage rides, hot cocoa, Santa Claus and carolers, all while raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Cherry Hill Village of Canton, 500 N. Ridge Road, Canton. Tickets \$15, visit www.cantonmi.org/villagetheatrer or call (734) 394-4660.
- The Big, Bright Light Show:** Downtown Rochester lights the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, through Jan. 4, 2009, attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam, but it's still a sight to behold.
- Wayne County LightFest:** Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.
- Winter Wonderland:** A cast of more than 100 performers celebrate the holidays, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Call (313) 833-4005 or visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.
- Holiday Nights:** Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14, Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood

Please see **HAPPENINGS, D4**

Holiday laughs

It's a humorous version of 'A Christmas Carol' at Trinity House

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

What: A humorous look at the classic tale, adapted by Doris Baizley

When: Through Friday, Dec. 21

Showtimes: 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays

Admission: \$15 general, \$12 for members, Sunday tickets are \$12 for seniors and students

Where: Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia (734) 464-6302, www.trinity-house.org

"Humorously chaotic! It's a mad dash through the story, with hasty costume-changes (maybe just a hat!) and zany characters. Everyone plays numerous parts, sings, makes sound effects, and dances badly." Those are the words of Rob Papineau, director of the new *Christmas Carol* performance every weekend between now and Dec. 21 at the Trinity House in Livonia. And he's kidding about the bad dancing. "Is that a correct or incorrect description? Does it have any of the serious tone of the original?" he asked. The serious tone of the Charles Dickens classic remains. Papineau said the audience knows the story but "not what's coming next." Why did they choose this version of the classic tale? "This show is comically downsized. Not an oversized production, it's about a small travelling theater-troupe, with too-few actors and very little 'stuff,' who still have a jolly time and a great show. It's big fun in a small package, and that's why we chose it."

PUPPETS, GAMES
It's a family performance for kids over three years old.

Please see **CAROL, D8**

Concert Entertainment @ Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008

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THE REFLECTIONS "I HEAR A HEAVENLY BODY" "MY ADORABLE" "TODAY I BELIEVE" "THE MIRACLES"

MITCH RYDER AND THE DETROIT WHEELS "I HEAR A HEAVENLY BODY" "MY ADORABLE" "TODAY I BELIEVE" "THE MIRACLES"

THE CONTOURS "I HEAR A HEAVENLY BODY" "MY ADORABLE" "TODAY I BELIEVE" "THE MIRACLES"

THE DIAMONDS "I HEAR A HEAVENLY BODY" "MY ADORABLE" "TODAY I BELIEVE" "THE MIRACLES"

THE DRIFTERS "I HEAR A HEAVENLY BODY" "MY ADORABLE" "TODAY I BELIEVE" "THE MIRACLES"

Ticket Prices: \$37, \$47, \$57 & \$67 (Photo opportunities for all ticket holders.)
TICKET INFORMATION: ticketmaster 248.645.6666 or ticketmaster.com

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GHOST BAR

FROM PAGE D1

SECURE

Whether we want to admit it, some people are hesitant to drive into Detroit. The Whitney's driveway is located right on Woodward. Guests can park right near the front door, or valet. The restaurant and parking lot is surrounded by a pretty iron gate.

"We chose to purchase The Whitney and open Ghost Bar for two reasons: one because it's The Whitney," Liebler said. "The other is because we want to invest in Detroit."

"People feel cool hanging out here," he said. "It's historic and sophisticated."

IMPRESSIVE

If you want to impress out-of-town guests during the holidays. If you only have one night to do so, the Ghost Bar should be your destination.

It's that impressive. It's romantic, completely unique from any other establishment in the country, and feels so special, your guests will be impressed.

Earlier in the evening, sultry up-and-coming, respected jazz singers add to the sophisticated vibe.

Later at night, as the capacity fills to about 150, the energy is raised with electronic lounge music, yet it's still a romantic place to impress a date.

AMBIANCE

The main floor of the 115-year-old, 52-room mansion is still The Whitney restaurant. The second floor is where banquets and weddings are often held. Continue up the winding staircase to Ghost Bar and you will notice the new carpet, ornate wood carving, Tiffany stained glass; sofas in each room, and vaulted ceilings.

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



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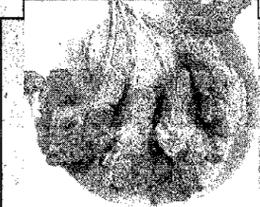
Sheesh

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Schoolcraft College

December 2008 Events at Schoolcraft College

Unless otherwise noted, events are at Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Maps and directions are available at www.schoolcraft.edu/maps/.

Friday, December 5 WRC Luncheon Series
"The Parade Company"
Renee Gonyeau offers a behind-the-scenes look at The Parade Company, the non-profit organization dedicated to creating the best family events in metro Detroit, including the annual America's Thanksgiving Day parade, held in Detroit since 1924.
11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Diponio Room inside VisTaTech Center
Admission: \$16 (prepaid, includes lunch)
Register by December 1, 2008
Information: 734-462-4443

Friday, December 5 Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble and Artist Ensemble Winter Concert
7:30 p.m.
Admission: Free; donations accepted at the door
Community Room (RC 115), Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St., Garden City
Information: 734-462-4403

Friday, December 12 Bach Piano Honors Recital
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Room inside the VisTaTech Center
Admission: Free
Information: 734-462-4403

Friday, December 12 Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble and Synthesizer Ensemble Winter Concert
7:30 p.m.
Diponio Room inside VisTaTech Center
Admission: Free
Information: 734-462-4400 ext. 5217

Sunday, December 14 "A Winter's Tale" Schoolcraft College Choral Union Concert
This performance is a benefit for the Gleaner's Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.
4 p.m.
Auditorium (F530) Inside Forum Building
Admission: One canned or boxed food donation per person
Information: 734-462-4403

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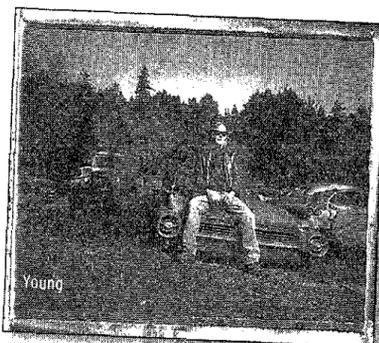
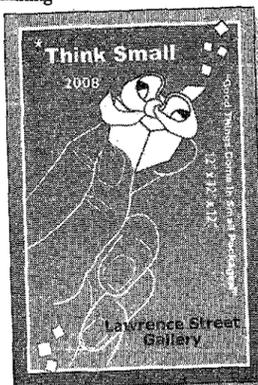
Pure Picks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Tickets \$27-\$47, call (313) 943-2354 or visit www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the weekend beginning Dec. 5, 2009:

5 Lawrence Street Gallery hosts an opening reception 6-9 tonight for **Think Small 2008**, an art competition featuring 12-inch by 12-inch by 12-inch pieces running through Dec. 24, at 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-0394 or visit www.lawrencestreetgallery.com. Check out the art and then head south to Planet Ant Theater for opening night of **A Very Ced n Teri Xmas** as this popular local Web sitcom series comes alive on stage, complete with musical guests, beginning at 8 p.m., at 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets \$10-\$15, call (313) 365-4948.



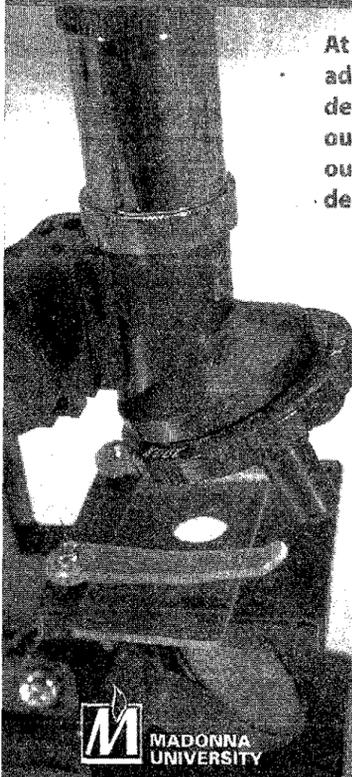
7 Back in the states after his mega-successful European Tour, **Neil Young** hits the stage tonight, with openers Wilco and Everest, 7 p.m. at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets \$78-\$178, call (248) 645-6666.

8 It's a wild ride of a holiday movie as Director Robert Zemeckis' 2004 animated spectacular **The Polar Express** returns in 3D IMAX format to the Henry Ford IMAX Theater. See it tonight, or throughout the month, at 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. Tickets \$8.25 to \$11.25, at (313) 271-1570 or visit www.thehenryford.com.

6 Beatles fans will want to hold your hand and head over for this one-night-only live performance by **The Beatle Maniacs**, the ultimate tribute to The Beatles. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center,

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HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE D1

Blvd. in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com.
With Music

A Christmas Festival: The Livonia Symphony Concert will be joined by dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance, the Karen Danke Singers and members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic,

4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt in Livonia. Tickets \$17, call (734) 421-1111 or www.livoniasymphony.com.

Holiday Brass: The Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents this rousing show 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church, Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 644-5210 or visit www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

Annual Carol Singing: St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of

Cranbrook invites the public to hear singers from the Motor City Lyric Opera Children's Choir and organist Dr. Norah Duncan perform an hour-long program complete with sing-a-longs. Children will read *The Night Before Christmas*, and Santa will be on hand for photos. The show is free, 3 p.m. Dec. 6, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road in Bloomfield Hills. Visit www.stdunstantheatre.com.
Messiah: The Oakland

Choral Society presents this classic, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$15, available by calling (248) 852-9395.

A Celtic Christmas: Natalie McMaster brings Celtic traditions to life, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra:

Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

Christmas in Concert: See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

A Prairie Home Christmas: Go A-Wassailing

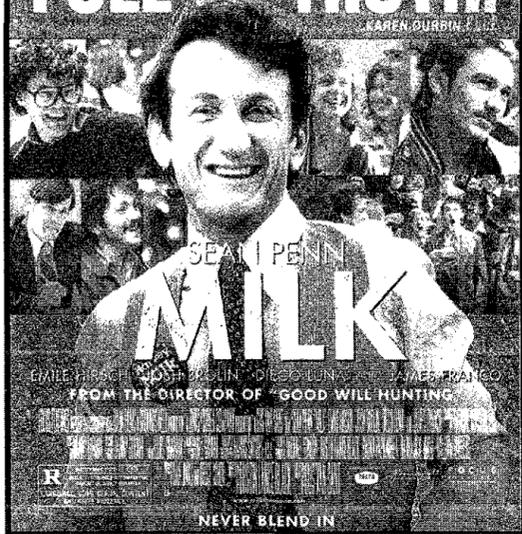
with Garrison Keillor and the DSO for this "Under the Mistletoe" presentation, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

With heart and soul: Hear The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, Dec. 18-19, The Masonic Temple Theatre, Cass and Temple streets, Detroit. Tickets \$25-\$68. (248) 645-6666.

"A TOTAL TRIUMPH! BRIMMING WITH HUMOR AND HEART IF THERE'S A BETTER MOVIE AROUND THIS YEAR, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT AN AMERICAN CLASSIC!"
PETER TRAVERS, *Rolling Stone*

A ROUSING CROWD-PLEASER!
STEPHEN REBELLO, *TV Guide*

FUNNY, MOVING AND FULL OF TRUTH!
KAREN DUBISH, *USA Today*



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KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in

SPORTS

today's **SPORTS** section

Readers submit their favorite easy cookie recipes

151 RUM BALLS

By Dean Henry of Livonia

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
4 cups flour
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 cup powdered sugar
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup ground nuts (I use ground pecans that I grind myself, you may want to use pecan meal)
¼ cup of 151 proof rum (or more if you prefer a stronger taste)
Powder sugar
2 tablespoons honey

Stir together. Consistency is right when all holds together. Pinch off small pieces, about one teaspoon, shape/roll in your hand, toss in powdered sugar. Set aside to ripen in covered container at least 12 hours.

AUNT DEE DEE'S SUGAR COOKIES

By Dean Henry of Livonia who said: I have literally made thousands if not a million of these, once you make and try it you will see why. Makes about 120.

1 cup powdered sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup butter
1 cup oil
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Preheat oven to 350.

Cream sugars and butter together until fluffy; slowly pour in oil while mixing. Add eggs, vanilla, salt, soda, tartar, mix to incorporate.

Scrape down bowl, add flour while mixing on low in stages. Scoop out small amount of dough about two tablespoons, (I use a Number 70 ice cream scoop. It's a medium-size scooper and it makes this part of the process really easy). Place dough on cookie sheet. Once you have the dough scooped onto your trays, you will need a cookie press or flat

surface such as the bottom of a jelly jar or glass, dip the press into sanding sugar, red, green, or white, and press/flatten the dough to one-quarter thickness. Bake 8-10 minutes.

CRISPY OATMEAL COOKIES

Submitted by The Baker's Loaf, a Commerce Township specialty bakery that specializes in cakes, pies and other sweet treats.

¼ pound (3 sticks) unsalted butter
1 cup light brown sugar
1 ½ cup granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups old-fashioned oats (not instant)
1 ½ cups all purpose flour
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
2 ½ teaspoons baking soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixer, cream the butter until fluffy. Add the sugars and cream together until light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla and mix well.

In a bowl, stir together the oats, flour, salt and baking soda. Mixing slowly, add the oat mixture to the butter mixture and mix until just combined.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Leave at least two inches between cookies (they will spread a lot). Bake until browned and crispy around the edges, about 8 to 10 minutes. Let cook on wire racks and store in an airtight container.

SHAKARISHEE -

ARMENIAN SUGAR COOKIES

Submitted by Eliza Neals (featured on Tim Gunns Guide to Style and will perform at The Crafoot in Pontiac on Dec. 18).

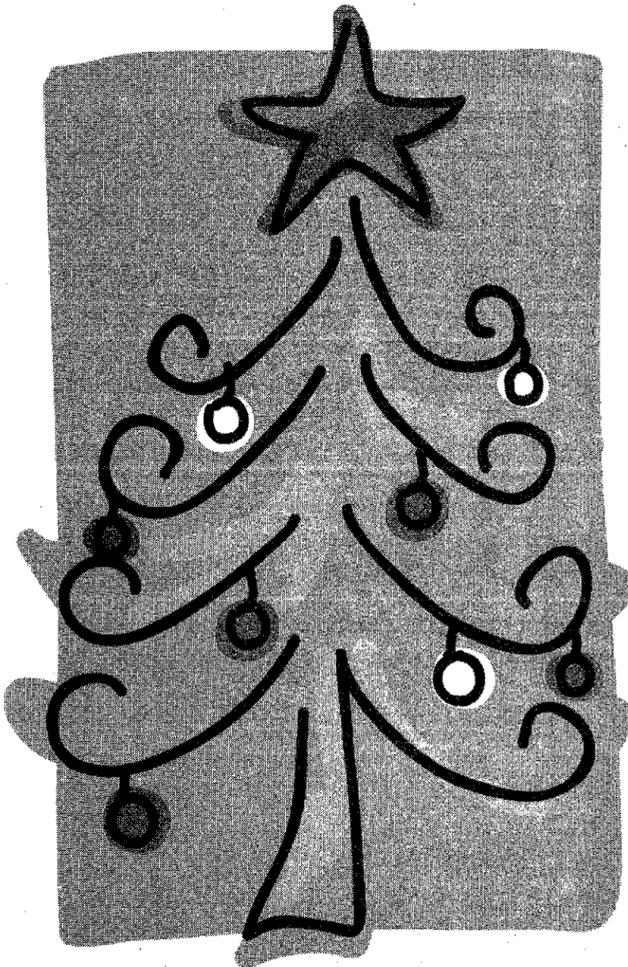
2 ½ cups flour
1 ¾ cups sugar
1 cup softened butter, unsalted
1 egg, yolk only
¼ cup finely chopped walnuts, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

In a large bowl, beat together the butter, egg yolk and the sugar until smooth and almost white in color. Add flour and blend well. If you are using the nuts, this is the time to add them in. Shape into small rectangles

about ¾-inches by 1½-inches. Bake in a 250-degree oven on an ungreased cookie sheet. Cookies are done when the bottoms turn pink in color 35-45 minutes.

NOTE: A blanched almond or walnut half can be placed on top of the cookie before baking.



Celebrate Sweet Afton's 20 years

Did you miss the party a few days ago celebrating the 20-year anniversary of Sweet Afton Tea Room in downtown Plymouth? Not to worry, you can still visit the elegant restaurant to honor its success — at your leisure.

The 'china and linen' tea experience at Sweet Afton's is a gathering place for bridal showers, baby showers and everyday high tea.

Try the tart plate, variety of four dainty tarts. Also try the Victorian Sponge Cake — airy cake with raspberry filling draped in lemon curd dusted with confectioners sugar.

Kids menu includes Ayrshire Cream, royalty high tea; or "The Wee Folk" four triangle-shaped tea sandwiches; and choice of strawberry cream cheese, peanut butter and/or jelly. It's served with applesauce, goldfish crackers, and animal crackers. Beverage includes choice of white or chocolate milk, apple juice, or soft drink served in a china teapot.

Adults may like Shepherd's Pie; tea and sandwich combos or the restaurant's home-made soups.

Voted in the Top 100 Tea Rooms in the U.S. by teamap.com, Afton Tea presents imported tea in British tradition; a lovely place for your tea party.

The original tea room opened on Dec. 1, 1988 by Sylvia Thacker, on Mill Street in Plymouth's Old Village.

Thacker later sold it to Christine Banion and Norma Reynolds. They moved it to the current gaslight street location at 450 Forest Avenue.

Today it's owned by Phyllis and Al Wilkerson, a retired teacher and a retired principal from the Plymouth Canton School District.

The Sweet Afton Tea Room and Restaurant was named after the Afton River in Ayrshire, Scotland; known through the writings of Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Sweet Afton's is located at 450 Forest Ave., Plymouth, (734) 454-0777. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. www.sweetaftontearoom.com

— By Lana Mini

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Recipes, food drive, new restaurants and more

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

RESTAURANTS EARN HONORS

The Lark restaurant received major honors in the *Zagat Survey (2009)* of American restaurants, cuisine, service and ambience.

Owned by Michigan natives Jim & Mary Lark, it remains Michigan's finest restaurant in the *Zagat Survey* poll.

The poll is a big deal because of its consistent opinion of thousands of people.

The Lark has also been voted as one of the best restaurants nationwide.

It equaled the score total of the world renowned French Laundry restaurant near San Francisco, Calif., and surpassed Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, Ill., and Guy Savoy's in Las Vegas, Nev.

And, Wine Enthusiast, praised The Lark with the award of Ultimate Distinction — less than 36 restaurants nationwide receive the annual award.

Two other Michigan restaurants also received high honors: Bacco Ristorante of Farmington Hills and Birmingham's Big Rock Chop House.

MORE MEZZAS

Mezza Mediterranean Grille owner Samir Saleh, of Rochester Hills, said he plans to open three more restaurants.

We always applaud new business especially in this struggling economy.

New Mezza restaurants are opening in Southfield, Rochester Hills and Hamburg Township by mid 2009 and, of course, there's the new Mezza in Livonia.

Projected growth is anticipated to produce over \$12 million in revenue next year.

Mezza serves traditional Mediterranean dishes like hummus, fattoush, and shawarma and more. A large wine and cocktail list is also available.

Current locations are 42050 Grand River Avenue, Novi; 4189 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard

Lake; and 37367 Six Mile, Livonia.

Visit <http://www.mezzagrille.com/>

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY MENU

We received this recipe from Felicia Palazzolo Shaw, owner of Felicia; a salon in Birmingham.

She wanted to share one of her favorite holiday recipes with you.

SICILIAN EGGPLANT PARMESAN

For Eggplants:

2 medium eggplants (large eggplant can be tough, too many seeds can be bitter)

1 large bowl of cold, heavily salted water
2 or 3 eggs
1 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs

Sauce:

2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons pepper
½ cup olive oil
3 or 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 large sweet onion, coarsely chopped
1 large can diced tomatoes or tomato sauce

1 small can tomato paste
1 tablespoon basil
1 tablespoon oregano
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons fennel seeds (optional)
1 cup red table wine (optional)
Sprinkle of red pepper flakes (optional)

For assembly:

1 cup grated Romano cheese
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Eggplant Prep:

Peel and slice eggplant to ¾ inch thick, soak slices in salted water for 20 minutes, rinse thoroughly and blot excess water. Dip slices in beaten egg and dredge in bread crumbs, coating both sides. Using 1/8 cup of olive oil, coat bottom of cookie sheet, lay slices of eggplant on cookie sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Turn slices as they

brown, approximately 15 minutes on each side. Remove from oven and let cool.



Sauce:
Sauté garlic and onion in remaining olive oil until translucent. Add canned tomato and tomato paste (diluted with one cup of warm water) and remaining ingredients. Simmer at least for 30 minutes.

Assembly:

Pour a thin layer of sauce in a 9- by 13-inch baking dish, line dish with layer of eggplant. Add more sauce on top of eggplant and sprinkle with cheese; continue this process until dish is full. Top off with extra mozzarella, bake 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees until bubbly. Let stand for a few minutes and enjoy!

TREATS FOR RUDOLPH

There's a new cookbook by Mrs. Claus herself titled *The Elf on the Shelf Cookbook* — see it at www.elfontheshelf.com

We couldn't resist sharing this recipe so the kids can feed Rudolph & the gang this Christmas Eve.

REINDEER NUGGETS

½ cup margarine or butter
1 (12 ounce) jar peanut butter (crunch or creamy)

1 (12 ounce) package semi-sweet chocolate morsels

1 teaspoon vanilla
1 (18 ounce) box Golden Grahams Cereal
1 pound box raisins
1 pound box powdered sugar
2 cups roasted peanuts
1 cup granola

Directions:

In large saucepan, melt margarine or butter, peanut butter and chocolate morsels over low heat stirring frequently. Stir in vanilla. In large bowl combine cereal, raisins, peanuts and granola. Pour chocolate mixture over cereal mixture. Combine well. Toss in powdered sugar until all ingredients are thoroughly coated. Store in airtight container. Enjoy!

MOVIE Guide

Where available by deadline, features are listed.

Call your local theatre for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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BOLT [PG]
QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13]
MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG]
ROLE MODELS [R]
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 [G]
SECRET LIFE OF BEES [PG13]
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[6-9]

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MORE CHAMPAGNE PICKS

Champagne Delamotte is the fifth-oldest champagne producer in the region and one of the leaders in the Cote des Blancs. Try: Delamotte NV Brut, \$50, and Delamotte NV Brut Rose, \$99. This latter is a standout with 80 percent pinot noir and 20 percent chardonnay in the blend. This year, Champagne Henriot celebrates its 200th anniversary. To celebrate, Henriot released Brut Millesime 1998 at \$95. It's a blend of approximately half pinot noir and chardonnay. A singular apple aroma greets the taster and is followed by citrus flavors, creamy texture and a rich, full finish. For its delicacy and refinement, Champagne Taittinger has long been one of our favorite champagne houses. Champagne Taittinger NV Cuvee Prestige Brut Rose, \$93, catches the eye with its light cherry hue and persistent fine bubbles. Subtle strawberry and cherry flavors last long into an extended finish.

Pommery stars as house of firsts

Being ahead of the curve and setting the curve are two different business strategies.

Champagne Pommery, in addition to being the first to introduce a pension and social security fund for its employees in the 19th century, was the first to create the Brut style of champagne, to open their domaine to the public and to introduce champagne in a single-serve bottle. Now Pommery has made an official commitment to go "green."

Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

It's on this latter point, that we've chosen to select Champagne Pommery as our Champagne of the Year.

POMMERY GOES GREEN

Deciding to "go green" does not happen overnight. Pommery made its early moves in 1996 with a special team to establish environmental accountability. Near the end of

1998, Pommery obtained the internationally respected double certification of ISO 9001 for quality and ISO 14001 for its environmental approaches.

You may have noticed that champagne bottles are generally quite heavy because they need to withstand the carbon dioxide pressure within the bottle that escapes as bubbles when the cork is removed. In 2003, Pommery decreased its bottle weights to new eco-friendly packaging, lowering the carbon footprint created in transporting its product.

Additionally, "green" energy is supplied by the French producer EDF, which is contractually obliged to produce an equal amount of "green" electricity, created by wind turbines, for every kilowatt consumed by Pommery.

BUYING FROM POMMERY

Pommery Brut Royal Non-Vintage (NV), \$42, sets the house style, having been aged three years in the bottle. As a blend of 35 percent chardonnay with the remainder divided equally between pinot noir and pinot meunier, it's pleasantly dry and classically rich

textured.

Pommery Brut Apanage NV, \$50, has a slightly higher percentage of grand cru chardonnay and four years of aging. Gentle citrus and white fruit aromas are apparent, followed by a layered and rich expression in the flavors.

Pommery Brut Rose NV, \$70, is one-third each of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. A

subtle hint of strawberry dominates the aroma, followed by distinct pinot noir characteristics of richness yet elegance.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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CAROL

FROM PAGE D1

And you can play games with the show such as *Count the Red Scarves* and *Name That Tune*.

The adaptation by Doris Baizley has actors rush, sing and tumble.

They use puppets and play numerous characters. A Clown Trio acts out everything from the fireplace to birds to Scrooge himself.

"And all I change is my hat and my voice," said Jonathon

Stanley, of Canton, a hiphop dancer who plays Jake the Fence and other characters. "Jake is unbelievably low-down. He buys up the dead Scrooge's effects, then his sheets and pillows, then his gold teeth, fingernails — it goes on right up until his heart — which is declared worthless," he said.

Laura Gumina, of Southfield, plays several characters including Mrs. Fezziwig. "I love the comedic bent of this show — the raucous physical humor," she said. "Yet, it is still true to the original."

Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Mini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail lmini@hometownlife.com.

ART

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Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.
Birmingham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham.
Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380.
Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohousse.htm.
Cary Gallery: Photographs by Nancy Stocking and by Ron Teachworth, through Dec. 13, 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656.
CPDP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpdp.com.
Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit.
D&H Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound stu-

GET OUT

dents, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.
Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856.
Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553-6261, www.suzannebauman.com.
First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.
Gallery@VTE: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village@theater, www.vsq-art.com.
Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345.
Habalat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habalat.com.
Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 432-5448.
Lawrence Street Gallery: Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, through Dec. 24, reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 5, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.
Lemberg Gallery: Jane Hammond "People, Places and Things," through November, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.
Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.
Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusarts-

galleria.com.
Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hillton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepsstudio.com.
Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.
Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.
Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery: Works in Oil & Pastel by Sharon Will, October, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 538-9021, www.orchardlakeframing.com.
Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.
Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.
Peawabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.peawabic.org.
Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.com.
Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.
Susanne Hilberry Gallery: 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com.
Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Miiwaukee St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com.
The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.
Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550.

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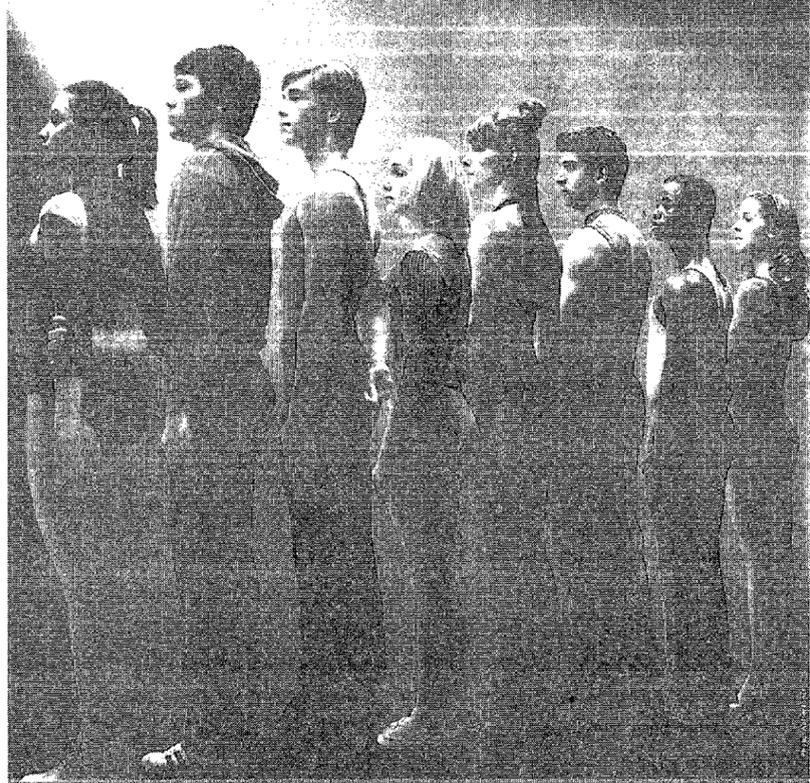
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Dancing dolls

Two local families cheer on twin daughters in 'The Nutcracker'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Patrons attending The Joffrey Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*, which opens today, might think they're seeing double. This year the holiday classic includes more than 80 young dancers from the metro area — and among them are twin sisters Jade and Jai Hatcher, age 10 of Southfield and Lizzie and Erika Ranck, age 9 of West Bloomfield.

The Ranck girls have been in dance shoes since the tender age of 2½. Their mother, Dori Ranck, teaches dance at The Pointe Academy Dance Center in Rochester Hills. "The girls definitely have a talent for it," she said. But that talent isn't limited to dance. They have auditioned for films, done commercials, even starred in *The White Stripes*' video for *My Doorbell*, at the age of 6. But this will be a first for Lizzie and Erika — performing with a giant cast on stage at the Detroit Opera House.

Fourth-graders at Keith Elementary in West Bloomfield, they will appear, dressed as little dolls, in two scenes: *The Battle* in Act One and *Clara's Dream* in Act Two. "I thought it was going to be hard," said Lizzie, "but it wasn't that hard."

Southfield residents Jayav and Glen Hatcher, parents to Jade and Jai, agreed that while this is their daughters' professional stage debut, they have worked long hours in rehearsal to prepare and to maintain a positive attitude.

"We're happy we're not the only set of twins," said Jai, who along with sister Jade began studying dance 4 years ago.

Jayav Hatcher said she noticed their interest in dance when the family attended a wedding and Jai danced the entire time. The girls are now

THE NUTCRACKER

What: The Joffrey Ballet presents this holiday dance classic, including 50 of the world's finest dancers and 80 local children
When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6; 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; noon and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Where: The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

Tickets: \$10-\$75, which includes student and group discounts, call (313) 237-SING or visit www.MichiganOpera.org.

What Else: See Erika and Lizzie Ranck during performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4; 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and noon on Sunday, Dec. 7. Cheer on Jade and Jai Hatcher during performances 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

members of a company called Draft at Motor City Dance Factory, housed at Youthville in Detroit. In 2007 they competed in *The Pulse* in New York City and they performed during Noel Night at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Last week, they performed in the Detroit Lions' halftime show on Ford Field on Thanksgiving Day.

"We saw our friend audition last year," said Jai, which inspired both of them to try out for *The Nutcracker* this time around.

Auditions for this production were held Sept. 27 — and ever since the young dancers have spent Saturdays and Sundays downtown, learning the routines and practicing for their star turns on stage. "A lot of how this was cast had

to do with size," said Ranck. "Certain sizes required certain costumes."

The Hatchers, students at Ealy Elementary in West Bloomfield, are portraying Snow Tree Angels in the show. "We told our teachers," said Jai. "Our teachers were very happy."

In each case the twin sisters' total time on stage will amount to about 6 minutes. As a doll, Erika will have a grand exit. At the end of the second act, she'll be lifted into the air by a Joffrey Ballet member.

Glen Hatcher was happy to see his daughters so invested in dance. "It's good to have them involved in something that keeps them occupied and it makes us really proud," he said.

For both families, this production is sure to bring out plenty of family and friends. The Hatchers plan to attend the Friday evening show as a family — and Jade and Jai were anticipating a dinner afterward at Hockeytown Cafe, like they did last year.

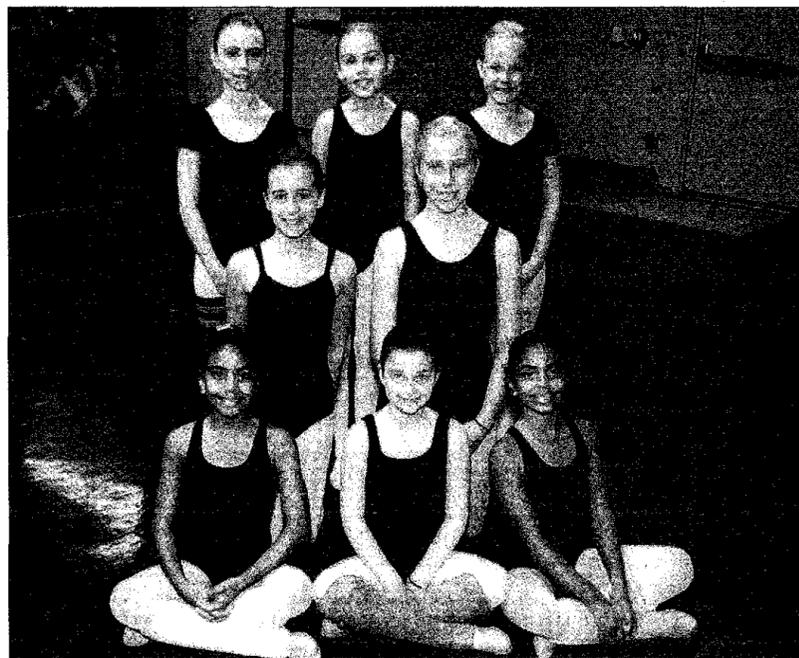
"It is such a tradition for Detroit," said Dori Ranck. "So many people go every year to see it."

The young dancers shared their advice for others interested in getting involved. Erika said: "Just have fun and know what you're doing." Due to the size of the cast, her sister Lizzie suggested "don't look at anybody else."

Jade Hatcher said it's important to remember to smile. Her mother considered the experience a good one overall. "The girls have made new friends," she said.

And Dori Ranck believes her daughters are likely to keep their toes tapping. "Dance is something no one can take away from you," she said.

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JOHN GRIGAITIS

Snow Tree Angels practice for "The Nutcracker." They include (from top left): Abigail Givens of Redford, Claire Olivia Golden of Plymouth, Jennifer Rousseau of Westland; (from center left) Maggie Favier of Bloomfield Township, Megan Lewan of Livonia; and (from bottom left) Jade Hatcher of Southfield, Megan Gargaro of Bloomfield Hills, Jai Hatcher of Southfield.

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Susan Steinmueller . Special Editor . (248) 901-2576 . ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com

Quest for the perfect post-partum PJs

In preparation for my second baby, I spent the last month before my maternity leave obsessed with finding the perfect pair of PJs to pack in my hospital bag. I wanted to look halfway decent receiving visitors with cameras in hand. Plus, I was sick of looking slouchy as I

Wensdy Von Buskirk

lounged around the house at night. I'd like to share my shopping finds with other moms-to-be.

At Von Maur Laurel Park Place, I waddled past trendy but oh-so-tiny Ed Hardy and Juicy brands to spot the cutest little sleepwear sets tailor made for maternity. By Olian, they include a robe and nightgown or pajamas for mom, along with a matching kimono for baby. You can pick up sets in pink, blue or turquoise, in solids (\$80) or prints (\$82) for yourself, or as a perfect baby shower gift.

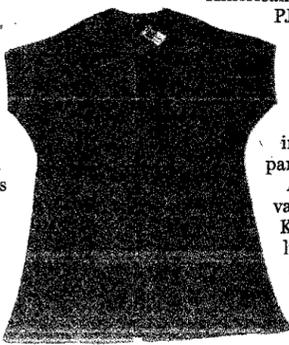
Target has a wide selection of lingerie and lounge wear at great prices, and I'm partial to the Nick & Nora line with its funky, bold novelty prints. Cozy flannel winter pajama sets feature fun themes like Flamingos on Ice or Snow Bunnies and retail for \$24.99.

Sunny J's in Plymouth carries tons of cotton sleep sets, including Scanty drawstring pants, sleepshirts and capris in fun designs. High-quality American-made Verena

PJs and 3/4-sleeve robes are durable through countless washings (so important post-partum). And the new, value-priced Katherine line is coming soon.

Inspired by my addiction to the show *Mad Men*, I dream of getting

dolled up in lacy negligees with filmy robes like the show's glamorous '60s housewife Betty. The upscale Mary Green line at Harp's Lingerie in Birmingham is perfect for upping the bedtime glam factor, but I'm afraid I'll have to wait until my nursing days are over before investing in chic sets like these, which can run



The Breanna Bed Jacket from RxPJs (\$50).



West Bloomfield-based RxPJs makes robes and bed jackets for use by hospital patients.

about \$100.

In the meantime, I must stick with something practical, like RxPJs. Designed by Paula Milgrom of West Bloomfield, the robes and bed jackets are made to be worn over hospital gowns. Pieces like the Breanna Bed Jacket (\$50) have zippers and ties strategically placed to preserve dignity and modesty, not easy to do in the maternity ward.

They're available at Zoe's Lace in West Bloomfield and Lori Karbal in Birmingham.

Wensdy Von Buskirk will be off work through the holidays, likely wearing her pajamas all day as she cares for her new daughter along with her 3-year-old toddler. In the meantime, contact interim editor Susan Steinmueller at ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com.



For guys and gals

Guys N Gals, a retail store in West Bloomfield, carries these fleece lounge pants by Love and Kisses to keep you warm and comfortable this winter. They currently carry designs that include sports, animals, and the Universities of Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin. They come in sizes 2-3 to adult and start at \$46.

pink picks

By Veronica and Lisa

Our PINK Picks contest included some amazing entries from local teens. To celebrate we chose some of the best entries from two teen readers. Veronica Allen, 16, of Livonia contributed the following:

Kick It!

Solid colored flats (so cute with boot cut jeans)

Face It!

New Neutrogena Pink Grapefruit line. Yum.

Mane It!

Herbal Essences Hello Hydration. It makes your hair smell fantastic.

The new season of *Greek* on ABC Family

Use It!

Foundation as eyeshadow primer

And Lia Andreassi, 13, of Livonia shared her fashionable picks:

Accessorize It!

Bangles

Smell It!

Ed Hardy perfume

See It!

Nights In Rodanthe

Drink It!

Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Coffee



Holiday Gifts

BBAC Holiday Shop

BIRMINGHAM - Master the art of giving at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's Holiday Shop, Dec. 5-20, featuring fiber, jewelry, ceramics, wood, home décor, children's wear, ornaments, glass and paintings.

The BBAC's Sunday Drop-In Workshops on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 focus on gift making. The fee is \$5 per person and includes all materials; free for children under 4. Those 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Most projects take 45 minutes to make and take. Block print design holiday cards will be made at the Dec. 7 workshop, The BBAC, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham, is between 14 Mile and 15 Mile roads. More information is available at BBACenter.org or by calling (248) 644-0866.

Winter Festival

FRANKLIN - Celebrate the season during Franklin Village's annual Winter Festival/Holly Day, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. All stores celebrate with special values and savings along

with all-day family-friendly events including choirs, mimes, kids activities, bracelet making, face painting, tea pot bingo, Santa's arrival, holiday cookie decorating, ice carving, old fashioned carriage rides, Candlelight Home Tour of fabulous Franklin homes, and a special holiday tree and menorah lighting at 5:30 p.m. at the Franklin Library.

Goodfellows

FARMINGTON - The Civic Theater in downtown Farmington, (Grand River Ave just east of Farmington Road), will show free holiday movies on Dec. 6 with a donation of new toys, canned goods, new books or cash/check to the Farmington Area Goodfellows. Also half of the concession proceeds will be donated by the Civic to the Goodfellows. The event supports the Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. The movie schedule is: noon and 2:45 p.m. "It's a Wonderful Life," 1:30 and 3 p.m. Mickey's Christmas Carol; 12:45 and 2:15 p.m. "How the

Grinch Stole Christmas."

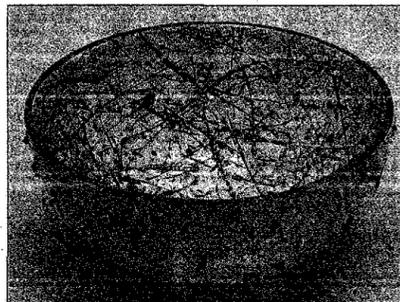
Photos for pets

NOVI - Bring your dog or cat to Twelve Oaks Mall from 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, so their photo can be taken with Santa. A portion of the proceeds will go to a local animal rescue organization. Reservations are a must; call (248) 348-9438. Twelve Oaks is at I-96 and Novi Road. Visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com for more information.

Helping kids with leukemia

SOUTHFIELD - Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan has partnered with Morley Candy to collect holiday toys at several of their area retail stores for distribution to Michigan children and teens affected by leukemia. The foundation (www.leukemiainchicago.org) will ship personalized toy packages during the holidays to child patients and their siblings and to the children of adult patients affected by leukemia, lymphoma and related blood cancers.

Anyone bringing a toy to one of the Morley retail locations for CLF's holiday toy program will receive a 10 percent discount on a purchase, excluding gift card or gift certificate purchases. Area locations serving as drop off points are in Rochester, Livonia and Birmingham.



Ceramics by Greg Laaton will be among the gifts available for purchase at the BBAC holiday gift shop.

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