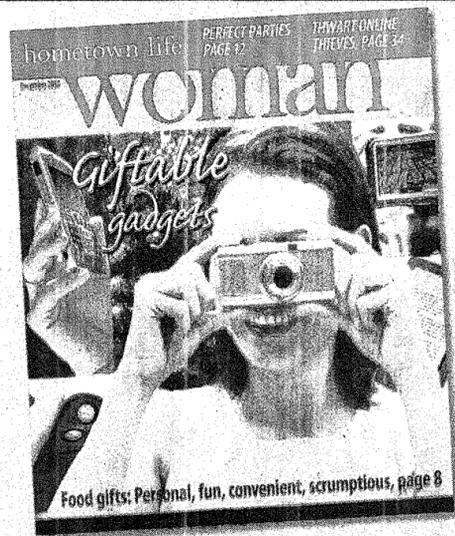


HASSLE-FREE
Suppers to Savor
FOOD, B&B

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WOMAN
SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



THURSDAY
December 2, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
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WESTLAND
OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

Healing Hearts

Attorney Thomas Novak will speak about Corrections, Law and the Family in a program Monday, Dec. 13, sponsored by Hope 4 Healing Hearts Inc.

The program will be at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland, and will include a question-and-answer session.

Novak first volunteered to work with offenders in 1984 as a college student. Since then he has continued to volunteer with offender-related organizations and has served on the board of two non-profit groups.

He also has worked for seven years as a parole/probation Officer for the Department of Corrections and earned a law degree in 2003. He has seen and felt the effects of his own brother-in-law's two prison terms. Questions for Novak, a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, can be submitted in advance so he can provide more complete answers.

Hope 4 Healing Hearts meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Kirk of Our Savior. For more information or to submit questions, call Bonnie Hlberer at (734) 734-646-2237 or by e-mail at Bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com.

Christmas benefit

The Westland Community Foundation is hosting its annual Christmas Reception at the John Glenn High School Media Center, featuring the John Glenn High School's Glenn Singers.

The event will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Tony Paquette and the students from the Culinary Arts Department of William D. Ford Career Technical Center will be provided.

Due to these very difficult times, the foundation is asking for a \$5 contribution along with two unwrapped, new toys as a donation for the children served by the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army. Don't forget the teenagers.

Reserve a spot by Dec. 3 by calling (734) 595-7727.

'Tie One On'

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day nationally more than 1,000 fatalities occur involving a driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher and thousands of individuals are injured. Join representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving Michigan, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Macomb County Sheriff's Department and State Farm Insurance at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road at Wayne Road, at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, to "Tie One on for Safety."

Come and get your "Holiday Red Ribbon" at the Tie One On for Safety Kick-Off event that will be held in the mall's Macy's Court. The MADD event is part of a public awareness campaign which reminds motorists to drive responsibly during the holidays. Refreshments will be served.



Kenneth Mehl of the Westland Veterans Association is working with the John Glenn Alumni Support Our Troops to sell calendars that will help fund a veterans memorial garden and pay to ship packages to the troops overseas.

Month by month

Calendars showcase and help support troops and veterans memorial

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They probably never thought they were calendar material, but Capt. Kathy McCloud, Pfc. Joseph Wilcox, Machine Accountant Third Class Darryl Memering Jr. and Sgt. Anna Wolfe are just that.

John Glenn High School alumni and their sons and daughters are the smiling faces on the pages of a calendar that aims to raise money for the Westland Veterans Memorial Garden and pay to ship for care packages to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by the John Glenn Alumni Support Our Troops.

"I'm very pleased with it, for the first time, it turned out pretty cool," said Karen Rousseau, who's the brainchild behind calendar and Support Our Troops. "It turned out really good, considering we did it in a time crunch and we've never done it before."

The calendars sell for \$10 each and if all 1,000 sell, they will raise \$10,000 that will be shared equally between the Westland Veterans Association and John



Local businesses bought ads that helped pay for printing the calendar.

Glenn Alumni Support Our Troops. Copies have been sold at fund-raising events staged by the alumni and veterans association and also are available in the

Please see **CALENDARS, A2**

City keeps close tabs on spending, revenue for 2010-11

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland city officials are well aware of the importance of numbers. That's why they're keeping a close eye on revenue and expenditures for the 18th District Court, the fire department and municipal golf course.

"The only concern from my standpoint is that the ones that have overspent are the ones that are under revenue," said Finance Director Steven Smith. "They bring down the savings that other departments have acquired."

Smith made the comment during a Westland City Council study session Monday evening. His report on the first quarter of the current budget year showed that the city is about

"Unless something happens, there will be a shortfall. It's only four months and we're projecting, but it looks like a trend."

STEVEN SMITH, *finance director*

where it should be in terms of its revenue and expenditures. It has trimmed spending by 1 percent for a savings of \$393,262, even with the court, fire and law departments and golf course going over budget. According to Smith, court fines and fees were down \$140,000 in the first quarter, while expenditures were over the 25 percent mark, coming in at 32 percent of the budget

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

Westland woman dies in crash in Livonia

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 73-year-old Westland woman died in a fatal crash Monday afternoon after the vehicle she was driving was struck by a tractor-trailer on Farmington Road south of Eight Mile Road in Livonia.

According to Livonia police, the tractor-trailer driven by a 43-year-old Southgate man was traveling northbound shortly before 3 p.m. in the curb lane of Farmington Road.

A 2003 Taurus driven by an 85-year-old Livonia woman exited a business on the east side of Farmington Road, pulling out in front of the tractor-trailer, Sgt. John Gibbs said.

"The tractor-trailer struck the vehicle just forward of the driver side door and then veered west, crossing into the southbound lanes of

Farmington Road," Gibbs said. It then collided with a 2003 Grand Marquis driven by Betty Antczak, 73, of Westland, as she traveled southbound on Farmington Road.

Antczak died at the scene. The drivers of the tractor-trailer and the other vehicle were transported to the hospital for minor injuries.

"Considering the crash, they are fortunate," Gibbs said. The tractor-trailer was carrying several pallets of merchandise, Gibbs said.

No alcohol or drugs are suspected in the crash. No tickets were issued.

Gibbs said the investigation is continuing and investigative reports, once completed by the traffic bureau, will be forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which is routine for fatal accident investigations.

W-W drivers aim to fill buses for Salvation Army

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two Wayne-Westland school buses will be waiting to be filled Saturday, not with passengers, but toys, clothing and nonperishable food for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

Employees of the district's transportation department will be holding Stuff A Bus in hopes of helping the Salvation Army to provide holiday cheer for needy families in its service area of Wayne, Westland, Inkster, Romulus and New Boston.

"This is the second year and we're hoping we can fill two buses," said Sherice Roark, the district's transportation director. "Times are hard and people are suffering."

Transportation employees will

have two 78-passenger buses — "the big ones," according to Roark — in the parking lot of the Kmart store at Wayne Road and Cherry Hill in Westland from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, to collect donations.

Santa Claus also will be there to pass out candy canes and some employees also will come dressed in costumes for the event.

People can drop off unwrapped new toys, warm weather new and gently used clothing like hats, gloves, clothes and boots as well as nonperishable food that will be used for food baskets that the Salvation Army also provides families. Blankets and throws also are welcome.

"Last year, there were ladies who brought handmade blankets and quilts," Roark said.

Stuff A Bus is also getting help from area businesses, which are donating items to put in the food baskets. In addition to letting its lot be used for the collection, Kmart will make in-store announcements, letting shoppers know about Stuff A Bus, as well as make donations and offer discount on toys for Stuff A Bus.

"The first year we thought about bringing a small bus, but decided to bring a big one," Roark said. "We filled it, we did really good, so we're bringing two this year. The same kids who get on our buses are the same one who need our help."

Helping out at the holidays is nothing new for the transportation department. In the past, it selected students from those who ride the buses and helped their families.

Employees also did collections for the Salvation Army. But with the need growing, they decided to go big with the Stuff A Bus.

In addition to Stuff A Bus, employees will use the money from the food and pop fund to help needy families within the transportation department.

Roark knows firsthand about the help provided by the Salvation Army. Divorced and working as a bus driver while raising two young children, she remembers the Salvation Army coming to her front door at Christmas with food, toys and warm coats.

"My kids wouldn't have had a Christmas without them," Roark said. "The people at the Salvation Army are wonderful, they're good people."

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A table in Kenneth Mehl's home is filled with gift bags being mailed to troops tomorrow.

CALENDARS

FROM PAGE A1

mayor's office in Westland City Hall.

"We've been selling them by word-of-mouth and members of the veterans groups have been helping," added Kenneth Mehl of the Westland Veterans Association.

FUND-RAISER

Rousseau came up with idea of the calendar as a way of putting a face on the troops the alumni has been supporting. Since it started in July, the group has sent 130 packages overseas. She enlisted the help of the veterans association when she discovered she had to pay the \$4,000 in printing costs up front. Mehl had told her the association would cover the expense and then be reimbursed with the proceeds from the sale, but Rousseau had another idea — selling ads — and had the cost covered before the calendars came off the presses.

For Mehl, the money puts the association one step closer to erecting the memorial by Friendship Lake in Central City Park by November 2012. He estimates the memorial will cost at least \$500,000 and pegs the granite panels that will be the focus of the display at \$150,000 each.

The group is selling brick pavers and has held a golf outing and a Veterans Day fund-raiser, but more money is needed. A lot of support has come from veterans who

think the memorial "is a good thing."

"If we could get a few corporate sponsors, we'd be in better shape," Mehl said. "We're not asking for a lot. And I know for sure there's nothing like this at all in this country."

For Rousseau, the hardest part of sending the packages is covering the mailing cost. The latest shipment of 33 boxes will be mailed on Friday and will go to eight different platoons. Four boxes will be sent to Iraq and the remainder to Afghanistan.

The shipping costs will use up most, if not all, of the \$1,000 raised at an Oct. 30 event at Buffalo Wild Wings that had calendar boys Pfc. Ryan Blanchard and Spf. Eric Ingram in attendance, Rousseau said.

"The last time we shipped packages it was \$436, this time I'll bet it's going to be close to a grand," she said. "We don't have a problem getting the stuff, it's hard keeping the money coming in."

Rousseau has an account set up, John Glenn Class of '79 at Bank of America to handle the monetary donations. People who'd like to help, can send checks, made payable to Class of '79, 1991 W. Williams Circle, Westland, MI 48186.

BIT OF HOME

The shipment going out tomorrow includes snack foods, DVDs, personal hygiene products and small gift bags filled with things like chewing gum, deodorant and lip balm, and jointed teddy bears that Rousseau decorated with wings and halos and tagged with a message: "May this lit-

tle Angel watch over you and keep you safe."

The gift bags aim to have the troops have something small to open on Christmas and many of them will be sent to Pfc. Ryan Blanchard's platoon in Afghanistan. Rousseau has become close to Blanchard and his family — she went to school with his father — and calls him "my soldier."

He was returning to Afghanistan after being home for rest and relaxation when he found out his platoon of about 62 soldiers had been ambushed while on patrol. Six soldiers were killed and 30 injured. Among the dead was his roommate whom he's known since boot camp.

"It was very gut-wrenching," Rousseau said. "Ryan feels that if he had been there he may have saved his friend."

With December's shipment out of the way, the alumni are now looking to January's packages. They're sent to the troops that the alumni know who in turn share it with their fellow soldiers. What's neat is that they call out and the others come running, Rousseau said.

"It's nice to afford them the opportunity to share, and it's nice for them to see the smiling faces when they share," she added.

The alumni will be holding a holiday get-together at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Beaver Creek on Wayne Road south of Ford. It's doesn't matter what year. Alumni from Wayne Memorial High School also are welcome.

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Probationers come clean for random alcohol testing

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For nine years, the probation department of Westland's 18th District Court has brought in randomly selected probationers in for alcohol testing the night before Thanksgiving.

And this year was no different.

Some 650 probationers received letters, asking them to stop by the court 6:30-11:30 p.m. Nov. 24 to be tested.

According to Probation Officer Eric Lange, 622 showed up, and all of those who did tested negative for alcohol.

"Every one came in clean," Lange said. "We gave them a Breathalyzer test and they all registered zero. That's our goal."

The random testing is done Thanksgiving Eve because it is probably the busiest bar night of the year with people coming

home for the holiday weekend. The intent is not to stop probationers from going out and having fun, but to remind them not to drink, Lange said.

"We do a lot of testing as a reminder. The goal isn't to catch them drinking, but to use it as a deterrent not to drink," he said.

The department will try to come up with a solution for the 28 probationers who did not come in for the testing. He'll try to figure out why they were no-shows and if they can't respond, they'll appear before the judge. Some could get a fine, some could get extended work program time. A determination will be on a case-by-case situation, Lange said.

District Judges Sandra Cicirelli and Mark McConnell are supportive of the random testing. Cicirelli said the court "has found the program to be a

good deterrent against drinking and driving and also a good way to rehabilitate individuals who have alcohol addiction."

"The holidays can be a triggering point for people who have issues with alcohol," McConnell said. "We hope this program will serve as an incentive for those who stay away from the problems that alcohol can cause."

Other holidays that the court can and has done random alcohol testing includes St. Patrick's Day and New Year's Eve, but this latest one is "probably our highest number in compliance," Lange said.

"We usually get one or two that register that they're drinking," he added. "It's the first time to get nobody testing for alcohol and that's a good thing."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Paving wraps up

The first section of the Glenwood repaving project between Hannan and Newburgh has been completed. The \$3.4 million resurfacing project is funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation and federal aid.

The total project is from Hannan to Venoy, which is three miles of major road. The road is jurisdictionally split between the City of Wayne and the City of Westland.

The project, an Intergovernmental Agreement between Wayne County, the City of Wayne and the City of Westland, includes a \$4 mil-

lion water main that is being installed and funded by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. DWSD has also agreed to pay the local share match monies for Wayne and Westland, totaling \$494,000, for allowing them to include the water main as part of this federally funded road project.

The entire project is scheduled to continue through the fall of 2011.

Plans approved

The Westland City Council recently approved a special land use and a revised site plan for a planned renovation of the BP Service Station at 31411 Joy. Located on the southwest cor-

ner of Joy and Merriman, the business is currently vacant and had four working service bays.

Plans call for one of the bays to be used for an expanded convenience store.

A special land use was approved for a proposed independent retail pharmacy at 244 N. Wayne Road. The 1,690-square foot building is located on the east side of Wayne Road, north of Cherry Hill.

Appointment

The mayoral reappointment of Tracey Sabotchick to the Westland Board of Review has been confirmed by the city council. Her new term will expire Dec. 1, 2013.

AROUND WESTLAND

Craft show

Looking for that special Christmas present? Lutheran High School Westland will hold its annual Winter Wonderland Arts and Craft Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4. The high school is at 33300 Cowan, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 422-2090.

Service of remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home is holding its 20th annual Service of

Remembrance at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the funeral home at 31551 Ford, Garden City, for families who have lost a loved one during this last year and in past years.

At the service, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's name on a tree, where it will remain until after Jan. 1. A popular Children's Table is available for the kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Helpful thoughts on getting through the holidays

after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read. Refreshments will be served.

The funeral home also will begin accepting canned and non-perishable food items for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank. Donations can be brought in anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. any day of the week throughout the month of December.

For more information, call the funeral home at (734) 425-9200.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

allocation. The overage, according to Smith, is due to in part excess fringe benefits related to employee retirements.

The city had budgeted court revenue at \$4.6 million for the year, but "if we keep on this pace, we would collect \$4.2 million," said Smith.

"Unless something hap-

pens, there will be a shortfall," Smith said. "It's only four months and we're projecting, but it looks like a trend."

The fire department is at 27 percent of budget after the first quarter and like the court, it relates to fringe benefits due to early retirements.

"Several fire and police personnel took advantage of buyouts that were not paid out until July," Smith said. "It was one big lump some, so the numbers are overin-

flated. They should level out over time."

Golf course expenditures were at 36 percent for the first quarter, due to the July payment to the Municipal Service Bureau which manages the golf course. MSB receives its fees twice yearly, in July and January. Revenue collected by the parks and recreation department is at 21 percent of budget and with the golf course fees factored in, puts it at 33 percent. Revenue for the ice arena is just starting

to come in and stands at 5 percent. The best-case scenario is that the arena will make a revenue projection of \$300,000 with its adjusted rates, Smith said.

"We've cut expenses there by closing the arena during the summer," Mayor William Wild told the council. "Figure skating is going well and the hockey program is holding its own. Concessions are up quite a bit and energy costs are down because of the energy upgrades. Our first bill was down close to 30 percent."

Another area on the watch list is license and permit fees which are at 22 percent, below the 25 percent of budget hoped for and well off the mark of 33 percent col-

lected by this time last year.

And Smith also is keeping a close eye on what will happen in Lansing. The state has yet to take action on a 3 percent cut in shared revenue. The city budgeted for the cut, but if shared revenue is left alone, it could see a revenue increase of \$340,000.

Revenue for the Water and Sewer Department came at 27 percent with expenditures at 19 percent, but the latter figure may be misleading, according to Smith, "partly because it takes Detroit time to bill us." Nor does the balance reflect any "rain expenditure," the \$2.2 million the city spent to help homeowners clean up after their basements flooded in June.

Smith said the auditors have yet to determine how to charge those costs which will be part of the 2009-10 budget year, and the determination could affect the overall balance of the sewer and water fund. Last March, the city raised its water and sewer rates and instituted a \$5 charge to cover the fixed rates it receives from the Wayne County and the city of Detroit for water and sewer services. The decision came after Moody's downgraded the city's bond rating.

"We said at the time we would look at this twice a year and if we have to, make adjustments to get that bond rating back," said Council President James Godbout. The library also is doing well with 60 percent of its revenue collected and expenditures at 23 percent. However, maintenance costs are concern with the aging nature of the facility.

"We're going to stay where we've got to be (with the budget)," said Interim Library Director Marilyn Kwik. "We're doing things piecemeal right now."

The council will take another look at the budget in a study session tentatively scheduled for Jan. 24, so any adjustments that are needed can be made before the end of the third quarter.

"I request that shortly after this quarter ends, we look and see where these departments are," said Councilman Bill Johnson. "If we have to make corrections, I prefer we do it in January."

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INKSTER

Ford Road

Cherry Hill



The steps of Garden City Hall were full of city officials and student singers from Farmington Elementary School Nov. 29 who wanted to wish everyone, "Happy Holidays."

Organization helps keep shoppers safe from crime

Help Eliminate Auto Thefts (H.E.A.T.), an organization in its 25th year of combating auto theft-related crimes in Michigan, wants to ensure shoppers are making safety a part of their holiday to-do lists this year.

With thoughts tuned to family, friends and celebrations, preoccupied bargain hunters provide an unnecessary amount of opportunity for thieves during the busy shopping season.

"It's so easy for people to get distracted and overwhelmed by holiday plans," said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. "Distractions cause people to let their guard down, providing thieves a prime opportunity. Fortunately, there are a number of simple steps that shoppers can take to make sure they, their vehicles and their possessions are protected."

To keep safe this holiday season, H.E.A.T. recommends the following tips:

- Stay alert and watchful. While walking to your car, take a moment to observe the surroundings. Talking or texting on cell phones, digging for keys or juggling multiple packages can be a distraction, all of which make you an easy target.
- Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. Try to avoid shopping alone after dark. If possible, avoid parking near objects that block your view of the surrounding area such as dumpsters, bushes, large vans or trucks. Avoid parking next to cars with dark tinted windows that you cannot see through.
- Place valuables and pur-

chases in the trunk or out of view. Before leaving your car, make sure anything of value is locked in the trunk or out of sight.

- Remember where your car is parked. Walk directly to your car and do not spend unnecessary time wandering around the parking lot. Walk confidently and with purpose.

- Move your car. If you return to your car in the middle of a shopping trip, move to another area of the parking lot, deterring a thief who may have been watching you unload and then leave your purchases.

- If threatened by a car-jacker with a weapon, give up the car. Don't resist or argue. A life is more important than any vehicle.

- If you witness an auto theft or carjacking, call the police immediately. If you have any information regarding auto theft, insurance fraud or carjacking, call the 24/7 H.E.A.T. tip reward line at 1-800-242-H.E.A.T.

H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow-up on tips. Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000, if the tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft-related insurance fraud.

Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued if a tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators. H.E.A.T. also give rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

Community groups decorate 16 trees



Amber Grand, Garden City's own popular singer, entertained the crowd at the annual tree lighting.

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER-STAFF WRITER

Mackenzie Thomsen waited anxiously on the front steps of Garden City Hall Monday.

Clutching a list of Christmas carols, the Farmington Elementary School sixth-grader was among 25 students from the school selected to entertain.

"We are going to sing all of these songs," Thomsen said, pointing to her stapled list.

The students got a chance to sing Christmas carols with Amber Grand, a well-known area singer who shares her singing talents with the community at different events.

Specially selected by their music teacher, the students entertained the crowd of about 50 people who gathered in the dark to watch each tree be turned on in the front lawn of city hall.

"We want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday," said Garden City Mayor Randy Walker.

For about the third year, Garden City city employees did not decorate trees in order to allow more community groups to be involved.

Sixteen trees were decorated and included the community groups of the American Legion Post 396 and American Legion Riders, Maplewood Senior Center, Goodfellows and the Mayor's Committee for Underprivileged Children, the Moose Lodge, the Rotary, the Lions Club, Kiwanis, the Garden City Garden Club, the Knights of Columbus, VFW Post 7575 and all of the Garden City Public Schools. Garden City High School and the Garden City Middle School shared a tree.

The trees will light up the lawn throughout the holiday season.

Margo Ciecierski, administrative assistant to the Garden City manager, explained that having many trees works out better because different groups can work on their own themes. In the past, the city had youngsters decorate one large tree, but switched about five years ago to several smaller trees.

Ciecierski got the idea after seeing the Christmas Tree Walk in downtown Plymouth.

"When we had one big tree, the children only could decorate four or five feet up and the top of the tree was undecorated," Ciecierski said.

Community groups and schools had to sign up to decorate one of the 16 trees. Both those who worked on the trees and their supporters showed up for the ceremony.

Cindy Walker, who helped to decorate the Lions Club tree, swayed back and forth to the music with her grandson, Lucan, who is 20 months old.

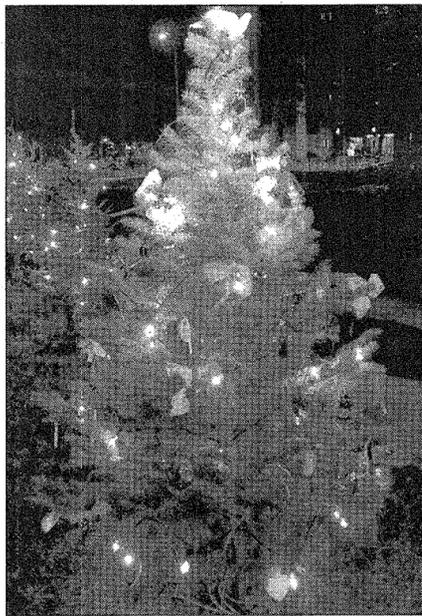
"He likes to dance," she said.



Cassie Leleniewski and her sister, Brooke, were among the crowd who came out Nov. 29 to enjoy the tree lighting in front of Garden City Hall.



Haleigh Maszatics was among 25 students from Farmington Elementary School who was chosen to help entertain at the annual Garden City tree lighting Nov. 29.



The seniors from the Maplewood Senior Center decorated one of 16 trees in front of Garden City Hall hoping that everyone's holiday will be merry and bright.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, December 2, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason
 Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751
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Report: Thief's calling card is fabric softener, grape juice

Break-in

On Nov. 28, police responded to an alarm call at a home in the 27000 block of Powers about 2:30 a.m. The officer found the side door window glass had been broken and the door frame was damaged. On the step outside the door, the officer found a jug of fabric softener and an unopened bottle of grape juice in a plastic bag.

The officer attempted to enter the home to check for suspects but said that a metal blind frame had apparently fallen and became wedged against the door, keeping it from easily opening.

The officer forced the frame out of the way and was able to enter the house where nothing appeared to be disturbed. The homeowner arrived and confirmed nothing was missing.

A witness told police he was outside, putting up holiday lights, and saw a minivan parked in front of the home. A woman, described as a white female in her mid-20s

WESTLAND

with brown hair, walked up the driveway carrying fabric softener and a white bag. The witness said he thought the woman was a relative who came over to do some laundry.

Officers checking the area located a white plastic bag, containing numerous canned food items, along with a cardboard box of canned food and bottles of grape juice on the rear door step at a second home in the 27000 block of Powers. Fresh pry marks were found on the door above the dead bolt and the patio door trim was bent.

Dearborn Heights police had a break-in reported Nov. 26 involving a similar suspect and minivan, which had been reported stolen from Detroit.

Attempted break-in

Police were called to Tinkham Alternative School, 450 S. Venoy, early Nov. 27

after someone apparently tried to break in by crashing a vehicle into a set of exterior doors. A Wayne-Westland Community Schools employee called police after an alarm was triggered on the doors.

The double doors on the main entrance were found damaged. The police officer also noticed part of a broken headlight on the ground near the doors along with blue paint on the doors themselves. No entry was made to the building.

Police were awaiting a surveillance video from the school.

Break-in

A resident in the 35000 block of Farragut told police that someone had entered her home through a kitchen window. Reported missing were a laptop computer, a camera, Game Cube and assorted games valued at \$1,650. She said \$30 in cash was also taken.

-By LeAnne Rogers

Wayne man charged in failed robbery attempt

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne man is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond on charges that he robbed a man at gunpoint near the Westland Meadows Mobile Home Park clubhouse Nov. 29.



Charles Edward Drummer

Charles Edward Drummer, 25, had been charged in Westland 18th District Court with assault with intent to rob while armed, a concealed weapons violation, felony firearm and being a felon in possession of firearm. He also is facing enhanced penalties as a fourth-degree habitual offender due to prior convictions for felonious assault and felony firearm.

The victim, 65, told officers he was outside his resident in the 100 block of Vanilla, smoking, about 7:45 p.m. when he was approached by a man in black hoodie who demanded money. Since the man kept his hand in his pocket, the victim said he believed the man had a gun.

When the victim responded he had no money on him, he said the suspect then began saying that his sister had been raped at the mobile home park and he was looking for revenge. At this point, the victim said he flicked his cigarette at the suspect and hit him on the head with an open hand. The victim said he turned to go inside as the suspect fled on foot.

Based on the description of the suspect provided by

the victim, police located him walking nearby. A 38-caliber handgun, loaded with six rounds and the hammer cocked, was recovered from the suspect's pants pocket.

Drummer initially told police a lengthy story about his 9-year-old sister being raped, stealing a handgun from his stepfather and going to seek revenge but the story was untrue. Police talked to Drummer's mother, who reported there was no 9-year-old sister and no gun owned by his stepfather.

Drummer then told police he made up a story that would force police to call his mother which would notify her that he was in jail. Police said he then told them another story that involved the victim that also appeared to have a lot of holes in it.

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

Regular customers are suspected of breaking into store

Break-in

The suspects who broke into the New Generations, 173 Inkster Road, are considered to be regular customers at the store.

When the owner reviewed the surveillance tape Nov. 23, the two suspects, believed to be an Inkster man and his nephew, he recognized them not only as regular customers but also the last customers in the store that day.

GARDEN CITY

The police were called to the store after a report of a business alarm which went off.

The police found the back door propped open upon their arrival. The security bars were on the ground. The police later learned that the bars hadn't been secured to the door previously.

Two pairs of Gucci boots

were stolen along with about 15 cell phones.

The police could only review the security tape once initially because of technical difficulties. It showed the two males inside the store and prior to closing. The report said that one of the males was about 14 years old.

Police continue to investigate.

Strong arm robbery

A robbery occurred about

1:30 p.m. Nov. 28 outside of the Garden City Exchange, 32555 Ford.

Two men came to the store to pawn a jacket but found it closed. A man who they recognized and who was walking in the area came up to the men and asked what they were doing.

He expressed interest in purchasing the jacket but said that he only had a \$100 bill.

The seller said told the man that it was OK, he had change to make the sale. When the seller pulled out \$75 from his pocket, the

buyer grabbed the money and ran off.

Disorderly conduct

A disorderly patron inside of Albert's on the Alley caused a ruckus inside the establishment and outside on Middlebelt.

The bouncer removed the 30-year-old Southfield man, when he caused a disturbance on the dance floor, escorting him out through a side door. The man returned through the main entrance and continued to cause problems, including pulling down Christmas ornaments.

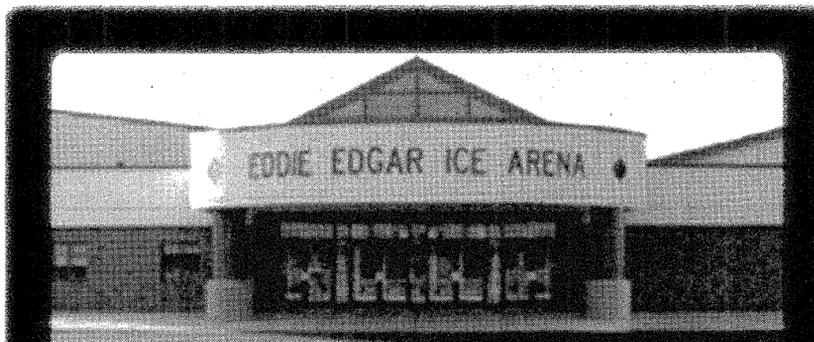
When the manager called the police, they found the suspect running across Middlebelt. The ordered the man to stop and at first, he complied and sat down on the ground. But, then, he continued to not follow directions as the police tried to handcuff him. He held his body in a manner which made handcuffing difficult and pushed himself into the officer.

Extra police help arrived and the man was restrained and handcuffed. Inside the police station during processing, the man refused to give his correct name and gave several false names.

He later told police that he didn't want to give them his correct name because he had several warrants against him and he didn't want to help the police in any way.

He also told the police that he took several prescription drugs before drinking at Albert's that night.

-By Sue Buck



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 Friday - 5:30 - 6:50 pm
 Saturday & Sunday - 2:00 - 3:20 pm
 (Check www.livoniahockey.org for schedule changes & prices)

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Hundreds of People Cash In at the Livonia Roadshow Yesterday!

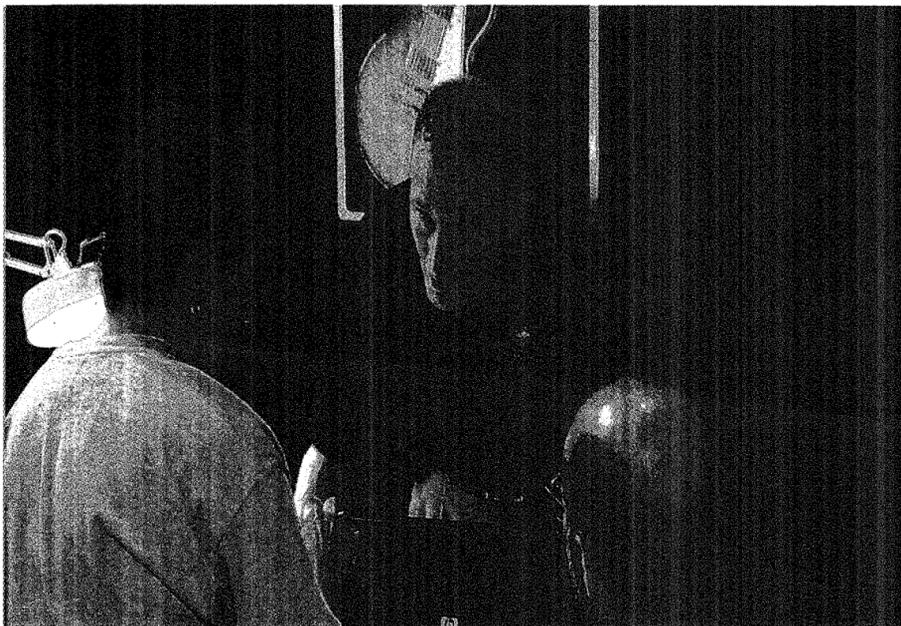
By Jason Delong
Treasure Hunters Roadshow
STAFF WRITER

Gold and Silver pour into yesterdays Roadshow due to highest prices in 40 years.

Yesterday at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, hundreds lined up to cash antiques, collectibles, gold and jewelry in at the Roadshow. The free event is in Livonia all week buying gold, silver antiques and collectibles. One visitor I spoke with

"It is unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37."

yesterday said "It's unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37. That stuff has been in my jewelry box and dresser for at least 20 years." Another gentlemen brought an old Fender guitar his father bought years ago. "Dad had less than fifty bucks in that guitar." The Roadshow expert that assisted him, made a few phone calls and a Veterinarian in Seattle, Washington bought the guitar for \$5700.00. The seller continued, "I got another \$150.00 for a broken necklace and an old class ring, it's



Above • A couple waits with anticipation while Roadshow expert examines their antiques and gold items. The Roadshow is at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center this week.

not everyday someone brings six thousand dollars to town with your name on it."

Jeff Parsons, President of the Treasure Hunters Roadshow commented, "Lots of people have items that they know are valuable but just don't know where to sell them.

Old toys, trains, swords, guitars, pocket watches or just about anything old is valuable to collectors. These collectors are willing to pay big money for those items they are looking for." This week's Roadshow is the place to get connected with those collectors. The process is free and anyone can

brings items down to the event. If the Roadshow experts find items their collectors are interested in, offers will be made to purchase those items. About 80% of the guests that attend the show end up selling one or more items at the event. Antiques and collectibles are

not the only items the Roadshow is buying. "Gold and silver markets are soaring," says Archie Davis, a Roadshow representative. "Broken jewelry and gold or silver coins add up very quickly. I just finished working with a gentleman that had an old class

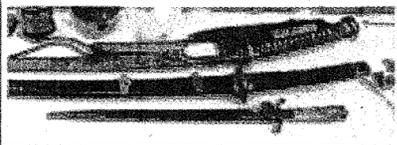
"If you go to the Roadshow, you can cash-in your items for top dollar. Roadshow representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center through Saturday in Livonia."

ring, two bracelets, and handful of silver dollars... his check was for over \$650.00. I would say that there were well over 100 people in here yesterday that sold their scrap gold."

One gentleman holding his check for over \$1250.00 in the lobby of the event yesterday had this comment, "I am so happy I decided to come to the Roadshow. I saw the newspaper ad for the event and brought in an old German sword I brought back from World War II and some old coins and here is my check. What a great thing for our community. I am heading home now to see what else I have they might be interested in."

The Roadshow continues today starting at 9am. The event is free and no appointment is needed.

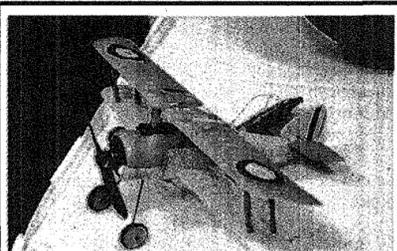
Collectors desire vintage military items, items from both U.S. and foreign origins from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Spanish-American War, Revolutionary War and Calvary times have great value. Items such as swords, daggers, medals, hardware bayonets, etc.



All sports memorabilia is in high demand including: Pre 1970's baseball cards; autographed baseballs, footballs & basketballs; jerseys; signed photos; etc...



Roadshow Coin and gold expert Paul Dichraff examines a large presentation of coins, gold and collectibles.



Here is how it works:

- Gather items of interest from your attic, garage, basement, etc There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
- No appointment necessary
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector's database to see if a buyer exists. 90% of all items have offers in our database
- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees



The entire process only takes a few minutes
The Treasure Hunter's Roadshow event continues through Saturday in Livonia.

www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

The Roadshow is featured this week:

Nov. 30th - Dec. 4th

Tuesday - Friday: 9AM - 6PM and Saturday: 9AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION

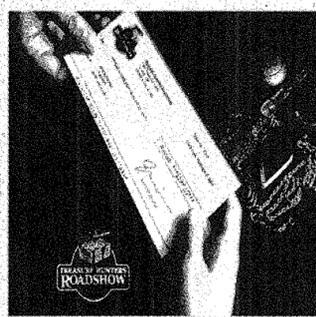
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center

17123 Laurel Park Dr. N, Livonia, MI 48152

Directions: (734) 464-1300 Show Info: (217) 726-7590

Cash in with the power of the International Collectors Association
Treasure Hunters Roadshow represents over 5000 members worldwide who are paying **TOP DOLLAR** the following types of items.

- **COINS** - Any and all coins made before 1964. This includes all silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!
- **GOLD & SILVER** - PRICES AT 40 YEAR HIGH! for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken jewelry, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Kruggerands, Gold bars Canadian Maple Leafs, etc.
- **JEWELRY** - Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.
- **WATCHES & POCKET WATCHES** - Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.
- **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** - All types of toys made before 1965 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains, Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.
- **MILITARY ITEMS, SWORDS** - Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters, The older the swords, the better. All types wanted.
- **ADVERTISING ITEMS** - Metal and Porcelain signs, gas companies, beer and liquor makers, automobile, implements, etc.



Silver and Gold Coin Prices Up During Poor Economy.

Collectors and Enthusiasts in Livonia with \$200,000 to Purchase Yours! Got Coin? It might be just the time to cash in. This week starting Tuesday and continuing through Saturday, the International Collectors Association in conjunction with Treasure Hunters Roadshow will be purchasing all types of silver and gold coins direct from the public. All are welcome and the event is free.



We represent many of the world's top numismatic coin collectors

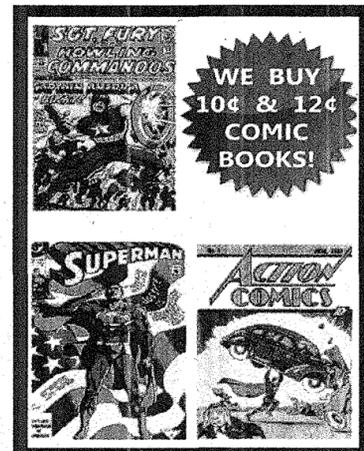
We have been directly involved in millions of dollars worth of rare cash and coin sales over the past 15 years.

Our private collectors are seeking all types of rare coins and currency.

We have the resources available to pay you top prices for all types of rare coins or entire collections. We can arrange a private discreet meeting with you at your bank or in one of our private suites. Whether you are ready to sell your life long collection or you are settling an estate we are at your service. We are professional, honest and discreet.

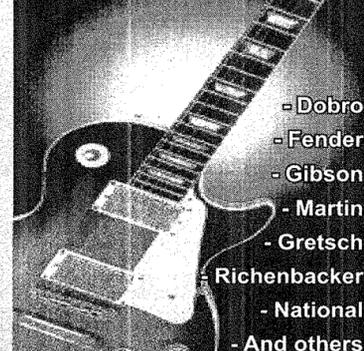
From a single item to complete collections, the most sought after types of coins are:

- Any coins dated prior to 1820, especially those dated 1700's
- High Grade Early Coins
- Graded Coins
- Proof Coins
- Gold Coins with C, D, O and CC mint marks
- Rare Dates
- Complete Coin Type sets
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Coin collecting

'The hobby of kings' is actually for everyone

America has a fascination with history. Bookstore shelves are lined with volumes about the great events of the past, museums draw crowds with exhibitions of historic artifacts, and an entire TV channel is devoted to history, in addition to all the history-oriented programming available on other stations.

But how often are we able to hold history in our hands? These days, we're more likely to be hanging onto a high-tech gadget, but something as small as a coin can bring the past to life in the palm of your hand. Looking at the prices that coin collectors pay for rare specimens is a good indication of how exciting these beautiful fragments of history are.

Coin collecting is sometimes called "the hobby of kings," but it shouldn't put anyone off from starting a collection. By seeking

out museum-quality reproductions of rare coins you can add the allure of the world's most valued coins to your collection without spending a fortune.

Rare and ancient coins are often priced in the thousands of dollars on the low end, with the most in-demand examples selling for stratospheric prices. During a recent event at Heritage Auctions in Boston, a 1652 New England Shilling, the first coin struck in British Colonial America, sold for \$416,875. The coin, simply marked with "NE" on one side and the Roman numeral XII on the other, wasn't in production too long, making it extremely rare. However, a precisely crafted replica of that coin can be found at www.coinreplicas.com for about \$20.

While collections can include coins of all vintages and from countries across the globe, adding a historic element is

important. It helps to give context to later coins, which makes your collection tell a story. For instance, the 1652 New England Shilling that sold for more than \$400,000 was quickly replaced by a more intricate coin because the sides of the original could be clipped off. However, historic coins can also be appreciated simply for their aesthetics.

It's been said that the intricate designs on many ancient coins would be almost impossible to replicate today when using the same tools and resources that were used by the cultures that made them. The adept artistry displayed in this tiny format can often turn art lovers into coin collectors, too.

Whether you want to add replicas of ancient and rare coins to your own collection or help a friend or loved one expand theirs, it's important to find the most accu-

rate examples available. Coin Replicas Inc. is one great source. They have been reproducing ancient Greek, Roman, biblical and colonial and early American coins since 1955 and are highly regarded by collectors, art historians and numismatists.

Coin collecting is a lifelong hobby that is still quietly going strong, attracting enthusiasts by giving them a fascinating and beautiful way to connect to the past. Getting young people started by giving them the gift of a historic replica coin can spark their imaginations, or even supplement what they're learning in school. For more information about collecting coins and how museum-quality replicas fit into any collection — as a starting point or as a way to expand — visit www.coinreplicas.com.

— Courtesy ARA

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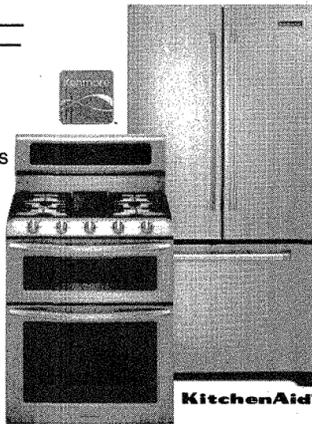
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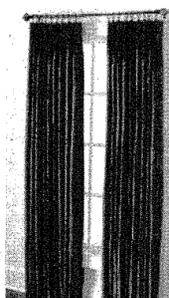
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Friends to gather for candlelight vigil

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Compassionate Friends know the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children.

In an effort to help with the grief, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor their 14th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Sunday, Dec. 12, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memory live on."

The ceremony will include the dedication of at least two trees decorated with ornaments featuring the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the worldwide candle-lighting. The idea

is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

"Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon," Lafferty said.

The vigil annually includes the reading of the names of those lost too soon. Organizers are recommending people arrive by 6:30 p.m.

Friends and family are invited to the remembrance and candles will be provided. You do not have to attend to register your child. Anyone with a name they'd like read, or who wants more information about the event, can call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty or Rhonda Temple, tefcandlelight@yahoo.com or (734) 778-0800.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

Enjoy breakfast with Santa at the Zoo

Old St. Nick will take a breather from his busy holiday schedule to host a series of buffet-style waffle breakfasts at the Detroit Zoo. Breakfast with Santa will be held in the Zoo's Wildlife Interpretive Gallery on three consecutive Saturdays, Dec. 11 and 18, 8-10 a.m. The cost, which includes Zoo admission and parking, is \$30 for adults (ages 15 and older) and \$25 for children (ages 14 and younger). The cost for Detroit Zoological Society members is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children. Tickets must be purchased for all children regardless of age as seating is limited. Advance reservations are necessary by calling (248) 541-5717 (press 3). The jolly old elf

himself will visit with guests, and every good little girl and boy will receive a holiday gift. The family event will also feature costumed characters, arts and crafts and holiday movies in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery Theater.

Photos with Santa will be available at an additional cost. The Detroit Zoological Society is a non-profit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 Ext. 3750 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 2, 2010

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Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

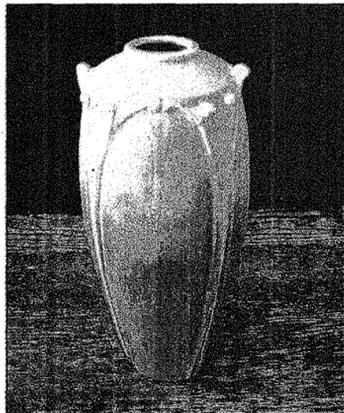
E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



New additions

Materials Unlimited has partnered with a select group of American artisans to complement its antiques and architectural salvage collection. The exclusive, high quality pieces are unique holiday gifts shoppers won't find at the mall. During Materials Unlimited's Holiday Sale, going on now through Jan. 4, save 25 percent off their storewide inventory, including their exclusive line of Lundberg Studios contemporary art glass vases and hand-crafted Door Pottery. Made in Davenport, California, the hand-crafted art glass pieces feature designs ranging from Art Deco to Contemporary and Tiffany-inspired creations. Materials Unlimited is at 2 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sundays and closed on Mondays. Door Pottery is made in southern Wisconsin and feature Arts and Crafts style details and earth-inspired glazes.



MILESTONES

Toys for Tots

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland
Details: Charles Davis of Joe Billingslea's Contours and Bill Spencer of WXYZ-TV will host a fund-raiser for Toys for Tots. The event will feature performances by Mark Scott of The Miracles, Willie Jones, Julian Provone, the "world's youngest drummer," Enflyte, Valeri Samuels and other guests celebrities. Tickets are \$15.
Contact: Tickets are available by calling Joy Manor at (734) 525-0960 or at the door.

Christmas Luncheon

Time/Date: noon Tuesday, Dec. 14
Location: Antonio's Cucina Italiana, 26356 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights
Details: Reservations must be made by Dec. 9 for the Garden City and Dearborn Heights Chambers of Commerce's annual Christmas luncheon. There also will be a 50/50 raffle and gift baskets with proceeds to benefit Forgotten Harvest. Tickets cost \$20 per person.
Contact: To reserve a seat, call the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448

Holiday Taste Fest

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7
Location: Hellenic Cultural Center,

36375 Joy, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland
Details: The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Holiday Taste Fest, featuring food from Famous Dave's, Knox Restaurant and Catering, Longhorn Steakhouse, Maria's Italian Bakery, Marvaso's Italian Grille, McDonald's, O & W Miller Beer, Rose Catering, Odoba Mexican Grill, Red Robin, Texas Roadhouse, Toarina's Pizza, Vintage Market and the Culinary Arts Department of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. There also will be an auction. Tickets are \$25 per person.
Contact: For more information or for tickets, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222

Preview Party

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 4-5
Location: The Glass Academy, 25331 Trowbridge St., Dearborn
Details: The academy's our annual Holiday Show is a great place to buy local and give fabulous Michigan products for the holidays. Live glassblowing demonstrations and custom orders made all day. Admission is free.
Contact: For more information, call (313) 561-4527

Food Drive

Time/Date: Now through Sunday,

Dec. 12
Location: Art Van, 8300 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Join Art Van Furniture and WXYZ-TV/Channel 7 to help feed the hungry this holiday season by collecting food for Gleaners dropping off food at Art Van now through Dec. 12 by dropping off nonperishable food donations at the Westland store. The food will go to Gleaners Community Food Bank. Last year Art Van collected 85,000 pounds of food, the equivalent of 69,000 meals - enough to feed a sell-out crowd at Ford Field.
Contact: For information, call (734) 425-9600.

New Year's Eve Bash

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31
Location: Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, east of Warren Road, Westland.
Details: Join Mr. B's Salute to the Superstars and Hawthorne Valley for the second annual New Year's Eve Bash. Tributes include Jackie Wilson, Aretha Franklin, Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Elvis Presley, all backed by the Radio City Band. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner is at 7:30 p.m., followed by the show at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person with payment due at time of reservation. Save \$50 by purchasing a table of 10 tickets.
Contact: (734) 422-3440

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Food collection

Dr. Dale Petrusa and the team at Petrusa Family Dentistry will be collecting canned food to donate to Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. Each can donated by patients and friends will be matched by the dental practice. To further celebrate this season of giving, Dr. Petrusa and his staff also plan volunteer their time to serve food to those who visit the soup kitchen. Petrusa Family Dentistry has been serving area since 1987 and has participated with the Toys for Tots for the past 10 years and active with the Goodfellows program. Throughout the year, Dr. Petrusa donates his time each month to treat two patients who are referred to his office from both the Tri-County Dental Society and Salvation Army. People interested in having their food donations doubled by participating in the drive can drop off items at 25908 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights. Donations must be received by Friday, Dec. 23, 2010. For information, call (313) 277-0050 to inquire about acceptable items.

Grand opening

Career Transitions, Inc. is celebrating the grand opening of Project ACE (Access to College for Everyone), a unique community based college access program, designed to open up the channels to post-secondary education for everyone. The program targets first generation and low-income students.

This project is funded by the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) and supported by United Way for Southeastern Michigan. MCAN was established in 2009 in collaboration with Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan Department of Treasury, and a working group of key stakeholders representing K-12, higher education, youth-serving non-profit organizations, State government, philanthropy and the business community.

"The Michigan College Access Network is mobilizing assets for communities across the State to help make higher education accessible and affordable for every Michigan citizen," Granholm said.

"In order to prepare students for today's jobs, they need higher education; and

accessing college information can be a huge barrier for students," added Joy Mason, the manager for Project ACE. "Project ACE will help students to navigate through the daunting process of selecting and applying for college."

Project ACE is the result of a community collaboration including the Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, Inkster, Wayne-Westland, and Melvindale schools, University of Michigan - Dearborn, Wayne County Community College District, Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA), City of Westland, Oakwood Hospital, Fifth Third Bank and other area businesses and non-profit organizations. The goal is to promote a "college-going culture" in Western Wayne County.

Project ACE is located in Suite 3693 of Metro Place Mall at 35425 W. Michigan Ave., west of Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call (734) 858-1587.

Diabetes Resource Fair

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will host a Diabetes Resource Fair at Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the hospital's

Auditorium.

The fair is open to the community. Diabetes information and resources from St. Mary Mercy physicians, certified diabetes educators, Wound Care Center, Heart & Vascular Center, Behavioral Medicine, as well as the Livonia YMCA, Mercy Home Care, Running Fit, Lifeline, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry and Great Lakes Medical Supply will be in attendance.

According to the American Diabetes Association, 23.6 million children and adults in the United States - 7.8 percent of the population - have diabetes. It affects men, women, and children, putting them at risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease and lower-limb amputation.

For more information, call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8950 or (800) 494-1650 or visit stmarymercy.org and click on classes and events.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia. A 304-bed hospital, it provides acute-care medical and health services to the community by board-certified doctors and registered nurses.

Don't let excuses block your potential

Today's motto is No More Excuses! That's the kick-in-the-pants Sam Silverstein gave all of us who attended the recent Yes Network seminar in Novi. Eliminating excuses is essential to being accountable and...

Being accountable is essential to being successful. Sam pointed out that it's easier to be accountable to others than to be accountable to ourselves. Why? Because the easiest person to make excuses to is one's self. And until we stop making excuses to ourselves, we can't truly be accountable to anyone else.

Ready to laugh ... or gag? Here are some (surprisingly) common late-to-work excuses

A SUNNY NOTE

Sam shared:

1. I dropped my car keys in the snow and I'm waiting for the temperature to warm and melt the snow.
2. I'm sorry I was late but it was foggy and I missed the building.
3. My house is on fire and the fire engine is blocking the driveway.
4. My wife is going to get pregnant and I want to be there.

Of course, we would never say anything like that, right? But perhaps we have our own excuses we give ourselves for why we can't do things, and our excuses are keeping us from living up to our potential.

Here's a sobering thought, "The difference between what we know and what we don't know, isn't nearly as great as the difference between what

we KNOW and what we DO."

Right now, each of us can think of something we know we need to do, so let's jump into action - and have a sunny day!

Clarity Patton Newhouse

P.S. "When we eliminate excuses we're taking the first step into the Accountability Zone, and when we're in the Zone, amazing things happen." Sam Silverstein - SamSilverstein.com P.P.S. Thank you for sharing Sunny Notes with others. New readers can visit clarity.tv to read prior notes or add an e-mail address to receive Sunny Notes directly from me by e-mail each Friday.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is Quality and Business Development Manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond.

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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.

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Holiday spending

By shopping locally, you can help the economy

For many people, the economic struggles of this state — and the country — continue to have debilitating effects. Loss of jobs and loss of income will have many people cutting back on spending this holiday season.

They have less money for gifts, decorations and festive foods than they have had in past years. Some may even be cutting out gift-giving entirely.

Local businesses also support the local community, donating money and/or services to local schools and service organizations benefiting local children and residents. And, customer service is usually better.

That isn't all bad. Simpler celebrations may mean people will focus more on the true meaning of each holiday.

However, people still need to purchase food, even if they don't host extravagant parties. And, many people invariably will still buy gifts for their loved ones, even if they spend less than they have in the past.

We encourage readers to shop locally this holiday season, whether it be for food or gifts or both.

By doing so, they will help local businesses, which, in turn, will benefit them.

If every Michigan household spent \$10 each week on Michigan-made products, \$37 million would be put back into the local economy on a weekly basis, according to the grassroots Made in Michigan Movement.

More money is kept in the community because locally owned businesses purchase from other locally owned businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing locally helps other local businesses to grow.

When businesses grow, they hire more people. Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally.

Local businesses also support the local community, donating money and/or services to local schools and service organizations benefiting local children and residents.

And, customer service is usually better. Local businesses often are willing to order items specially for customers or offer more services than national chains.

More and more local stores are putting together at least a portion of their inventory from products made in Michigan. Local retailers know it makes good economic sense to buy locally.

With the official start to the Christmas shopping season, plan to buy as many gifts on your list as possible from local merchants. You can start by subscribing to the Observer, the local newspaper that has supported local businesses for decades.

By shopping locally, your gifts will not only benefit your loved ones, they'll also help the local economy and put local merchants in a better position to survive and, we hope, thrive in the new year.

COMMUNITY VOICE

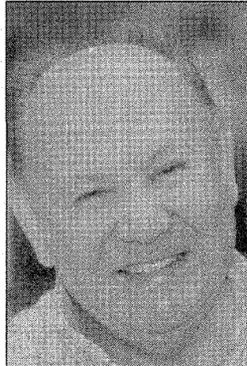
Who is your hero?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"My hero has got to be my momma. She had eight of us. I don't know how she did it."

Althea Morgan
Westland



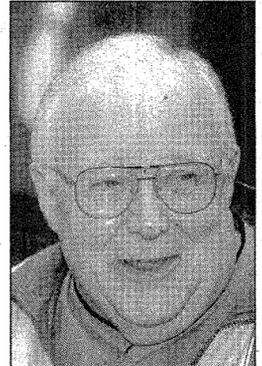
"General Motors is my hero. I've been with them a long time."

John Lakatos
Westland



"My mom, she's been there for me for everything. I find I call her to tell her everything. She's always there if I need her, no matter what the situation is."

Aisha Baker
Livonia



"Bill Clinton. I thought his presidency was awesome. The U.S. was moving forward and we had a balanced budget."

Tom Presnell
Westland

LETTERS

Citizens must be protected

It was disheartening to read the recent article in the Observer about the jump in crime in the Deerpark area. This area showcases some of the better senior citizen housing in Westland and it's sad to hear the residence in this picturesque setting are living in fear. Stories like this are what will drive future senior citizens away from Westland.

Westland is set near Ann Arbor, a city AARP recently selected as a top city to retire in. I think Westland offers retiree services as good as Ann Arbor. But our mayor and police chief must remain vigilant and continue to protect the safety of our senior citizens and make sure our senior citizens feel secure in their homes or we will lose our senior citizens to alternate cities.

We must protect the ideal reputation that has attracted many retirees to our city in the past.

C. Manzo
Westland

Raise a 'slap in the face'

Giving Dr. Liepa a \$50,000 raise in this economy is simply a slap in the face to all the Livonia Public Schools employees who were laid off, took pay cuts, or pay more toward health insurance to help eliminate the deficit our school district is in. Our children and LPS employees have given until it hurts. The only ethical thing to do now is for Dr. Liepa to refuse to accept the raise at this time! He personally assured me in an e-mail only six months ago that he took a reduction in pay to help with our struggling budget; now, he is taking it back with this raise. We are still struggling.

I was shocked to find out that his contract does not expire until June 2014 and if he chooses to walk away from LPS there is no penalty. If the school board were to terminate him, according to his contract, LPS would owe

all future earnings until June 2014 in one lump sum! The people in this community who are not angered by the raise should see the injustice in this contract! Do you realize that means that even if he were doing a horrible job and the board wanted to fire him for doing a terrible job, he would still get paid. We gave him this money so he wouldn't walk away. Now he can still walk away and put more money in his pocket before he leaves.

As Mrs. Mang stated at the board meeting, this sets a terrible precedent for the negotiations that are to occur this year! There is no way any union is going to bargain with these people who just slapped them in the face. Get ready, Livonia; I predict a teacher's strike that will delay the start of school next year. And I do not blame them one bit.

Angela Lepper
Livonia

Remember these 10 things

When the great powers of the time were in the midst of World War I, a young man named William Boetcker published a paper called 10 Things You Cannot Do. He was a religious leader and influential public speaker of the time. Although his list is almost a century old, the message is timeless:

- You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- You cannot help little men by tearing down big men.
- You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
- You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
- You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

• You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

• You cannot build character and courage by destroying men's initiative and independence.

• You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they can and should do for themselves.

As the 112th Congress of the United States prepares to be sworn in, they would do well to look back 95 years into our history, and remember these 10 things you cannot do.

I'll add to that my list of "10 Things You Should Not Do":

- You should not put peers, PACs and special interest groups before your constituents.
 - You should not declare something non-negotiable while saying you are willing to compromise.
 - You should not deny the other party a voice when demonstrating bipartisanship.
 - You should not meet behind closed doors while touting transparency.
 - You should not refer to a bill as insignificant because it will cost "only a few billion dollars."
 - You should not promise lower health care costs without doing something to reduce the cost.
 - You should not promise change while continuing to do "business as usual."
 - You should not spend more than you take in, while promising to reduce the budget deficit.
 - You should not promise smaller government while creating countless new public sector jobs.
 - You should not put more effort into keeping your job than doing your job.
- Voters delivered an unmistakable message on Nov. 2: Stop wasting money and work together for the good of the country.

Richard Lerner
Farmington Hills

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: Woman charged with embezzlement

Oh, wow, I live in Westland and could never do anything like that. How about ... the nerves of some people. Where you reside don't determine actions.

ThatJeepGirl

The issue: Westland Employee of the Year

Congrats to Terry Martin. I agree with the Mayor he goes above and beyond his job, he is a great guy. It was a pleasure working with him on the Play Planet, and have been with him when EVERYONE was working on the baseball fields to get them ready for a tournament. He is deserving of employee of the year. Great Job, Terry.

Budder

The Issue: New Theater complex in city

I first moved to Westland in the early 90's and fell in love with the city. I have a great deal of respect for my city, it's mayor and residents. I know that MJR Digital Cinemas and Westland will be a perfect marriage. I have been dealing with MJR Theatres for over 10 years and no other theatre chain in the country compares. I will challenge to try going just one time when they open and if you still think the Emagine is better I will treat you and your family to a movie on me.

fyntyl

GUEST COLUMN

Financial luck is running out for schools

Once upon a time, the world mostly saw Latin American and African countries lined up for financial aid from wealthier nations. Eastern European countries did so as well, attempting to break the gravitational pull when the former Soviet Union went belly up.



Tom Watkins

Recently, Greece got a bailout. When France took tough action to rein in its pensions and enact retirement reforms it could no longer afford, street riots erupted.

Now Ireland has formally applied to Europe and the International Monetary Fund for a bailout package.

Like the stampede in the U.S. in 2008, people in "the know" say fear has grown that without swift and immediate action, "a full-fledged (Irish) banking panic might materialize."

Closer to home, Chrysler and GM took U.S. tax dollar government bailouts and now things are looking up for them.

There was a time when America could scold these "lesser countries" about their financial stewardship. Those days are long gone.

America, while lecturing China ("America's banker") about currency manipulation, is sitting on a \$14 trillion debt and is printing money to "stimulate" its economy. For every dollar our government is spending, we borrow 40 cents.

There are only three ways to balance a budget: increase revenues, decrease expenditures or a combination of the two.

President Barack Obama has declared, "For far too long, Washington has avoided the tough choices necessary to solve our fiscal problems."

He is absolutely right. Our elected leaders at the federal, state and local levels have been making

promises we cannot afford to keep.

The time is now — at all levels, be they international, national, state or local — to stop the insanity and get our houses in order.

The reality is setting in. Cutting a favorite program or raising taxes to pay for it is the only solution.

Forty-one school districts (including our largest, the Detroit Public Schools), along with the cities of Hamtramck and Detroit, are dead entities walking. For now, they are being propped up, with a big deficit bubble of schools and municipalities on the verge of popping.

As we are witnessing, even the luck of the Irish does not last forever. And Michigan's is running out.

Bold, decisive action is needed now.

Tom Watkins served as Michigan state superintendent of schools and was the president and CEO of the economic council of Palm Beach County, Fla. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

Check the details on holiday season 'bargains'

The holiday shopping season has arrived. Now that Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone, consumers can expect to be inundated with all sorts of deals over the next month.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Some deals really can save money while others have the opposite effect — costing more money than intended. Therefore, consumers need to be cautious before taking advantage of any so-called deals.

It seems that listening to radio or watching TV this time of year, advertisements claim consumers can buy now and pay in six months or even a year. Although that sounds great, the devil is in the detail. In some of these deals you may not have to make a payment for six months but

that doesn't mean the interest does not accumulate. In many of these deals interest rates are very high. In the no-payment-now deals, even if there is no interest, be extremely cautious of the terms. Some of these offers are written in a way that if you are one day late when the money is due, substantial interest and penalties kick in. Therefore, before taking advantage of one of these deals, understand the terms, particularly how interest accrues and the consequences of being late on a payment.

This also is the time of year that many retailers offer special discounts if you sign up for their charge card. Taking advantage of discounts is something to consider. However, when it comes to some charge card deals, be careful. Not all charge cards are the same and a one-time discount doesn't necessarily offset additional costs.

Whenever signing up for a new charge card, the primary focus should not be on the rewards. Rewards, just like discounts, are nice, but they are not the primary focus. First focus on how interest is calculated. Some charge cards no longer have a grace period which means that you start paying interest from the date of purchase. Interest charged on charge cards averages in the 18 percent range. Therefore, the interest that you could be charged could offset any discount you receive. In addition, know the annual fees. Some charge cards will have no annual fees where others can be expensive. Always know what the membership fee is prior to signing up for a charge card.

Some people sign up for charge cards just to take advantage of the rewards, but then never use the rewards. When some charge card companies say there are no black-out periods in regards to using rewards for airline tickets, that may be important for people who travel, but not for others. Obviously, when it comes to any type of rewards, it only makes sense if the rewards are something that you will use.

This time of year, retailers want consumers to buy, buy and then buy some more. They use aggressive tactics to encourage spending. There

is nothing wrong with that nor are they breaking any laws. However, that doesn't mean consumers can afford to let down their guard. Don't let good feelings about the holidays cloud financial judgment.

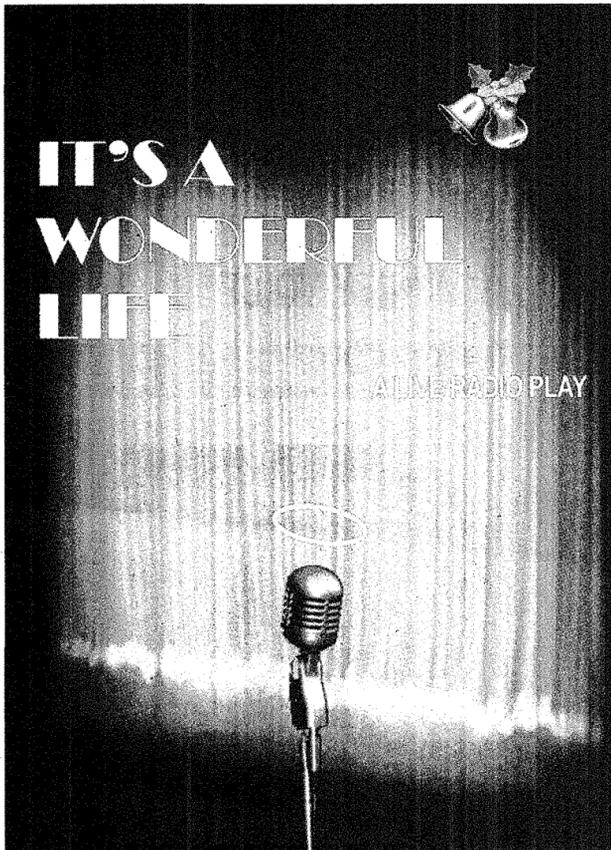
Don't get persuaded to overspend or take advantage of something that sounds too good to be true.

The holidays are not about who spends more money but rather about truly appreciating and spending time with those that we love.

Don't sign up for anything without reading the fine print.

Good luck!

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



A wonderful production

'Tis the season to do good. And to do good shows, according to Inspire Theatre of Westland.

Inspire Theatre will present the perennial classic, It's a Wonderful Life, with a twist. In addition to presenting a heartwarming story of a man's worth, Inspire Theatre is wants raise the hopes of local families this Christmas by collecting cash and gifts from attendees. Inspire Theatre also will designate a portion of each ticket sold toward the cause.

Originally broadcast on the Lux Radio Theatre on March 10, 1947, on the CBS network, It's a Wonderful Life is the story of a man who, tired of his life on Earth, finds out what it's like never to have been born, with the help of his guardian angel Clarence.

With Inspire Theatre's It's a Wonderful Life - A Radio Play, audiences will have a front row seat for all the lights and sounds that a live broadcast could bring. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. The Saturday night tickets include an hors d'oeuvres buffet donated by local restaurants.

Tickets for the Saturday night performance are \$15 and the matinee tickets are \$10.

The Inspire Theatre is located inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church at 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 751-7057.

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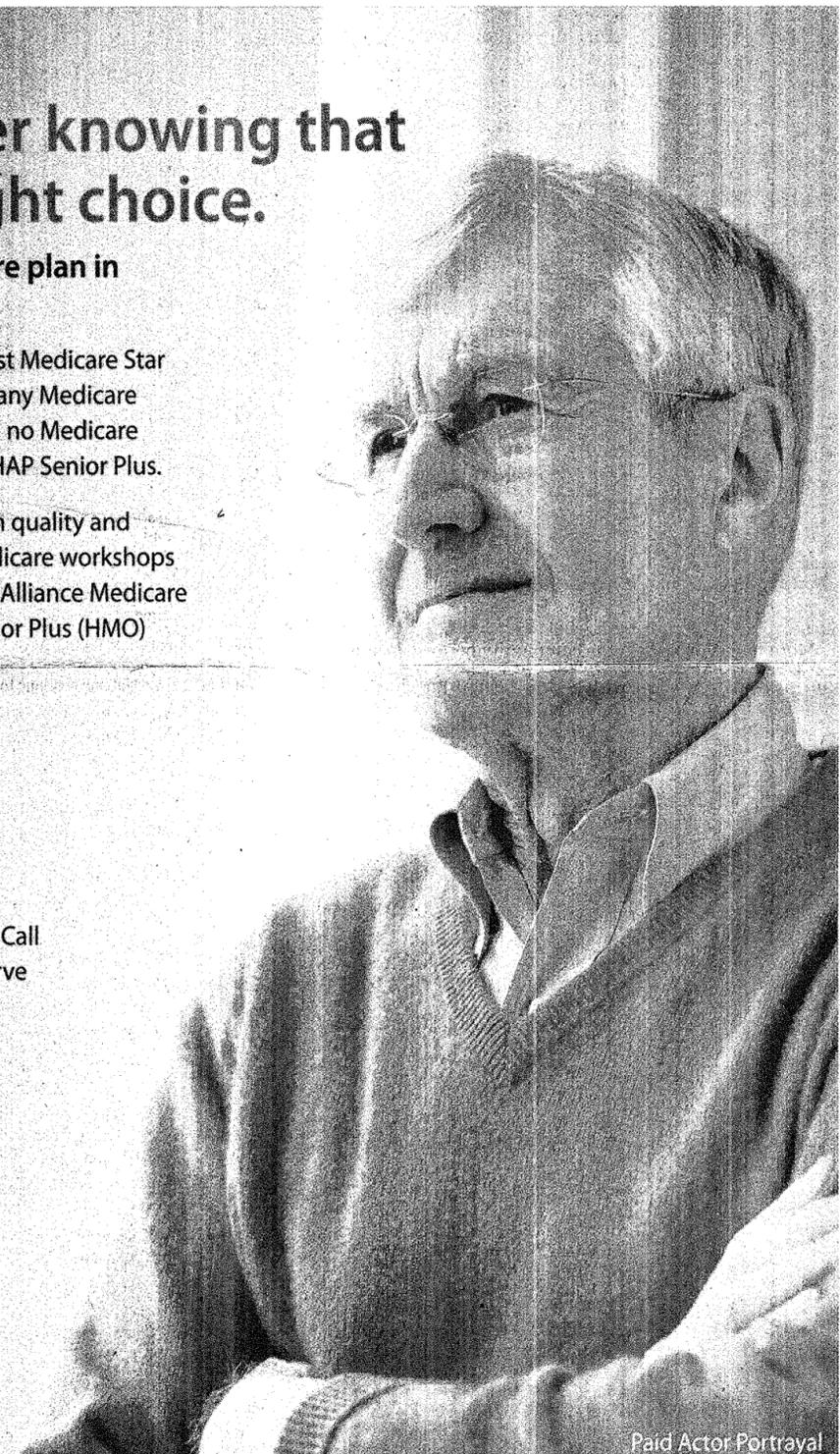
Livonia

December 16, 2010
December 28, 2010

Plymouth

December 10, 2010

HAP adds new workshop dates every day. Call for the latest workshop listing and to reserve your place: toll-free (800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Paid Actor Portrayal



Medicare Solutions

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A licensed, authorized representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call toll-free (800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325.

Workshops are for Medicare-eligible individuals who do not have benefits paid for by a former employer and who pay for their own health care coverage.

†Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program (2008-2009).

HAP Senior Plus (HMO), HAP Senior Plus (HMO-POS) and Alliance Medicare PPO are health plans with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP), Alliance Medicare Supplement and Alliance Medicare PPO are products of Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Health Alliance Plan. Alliance Medicare Supplement is not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program.

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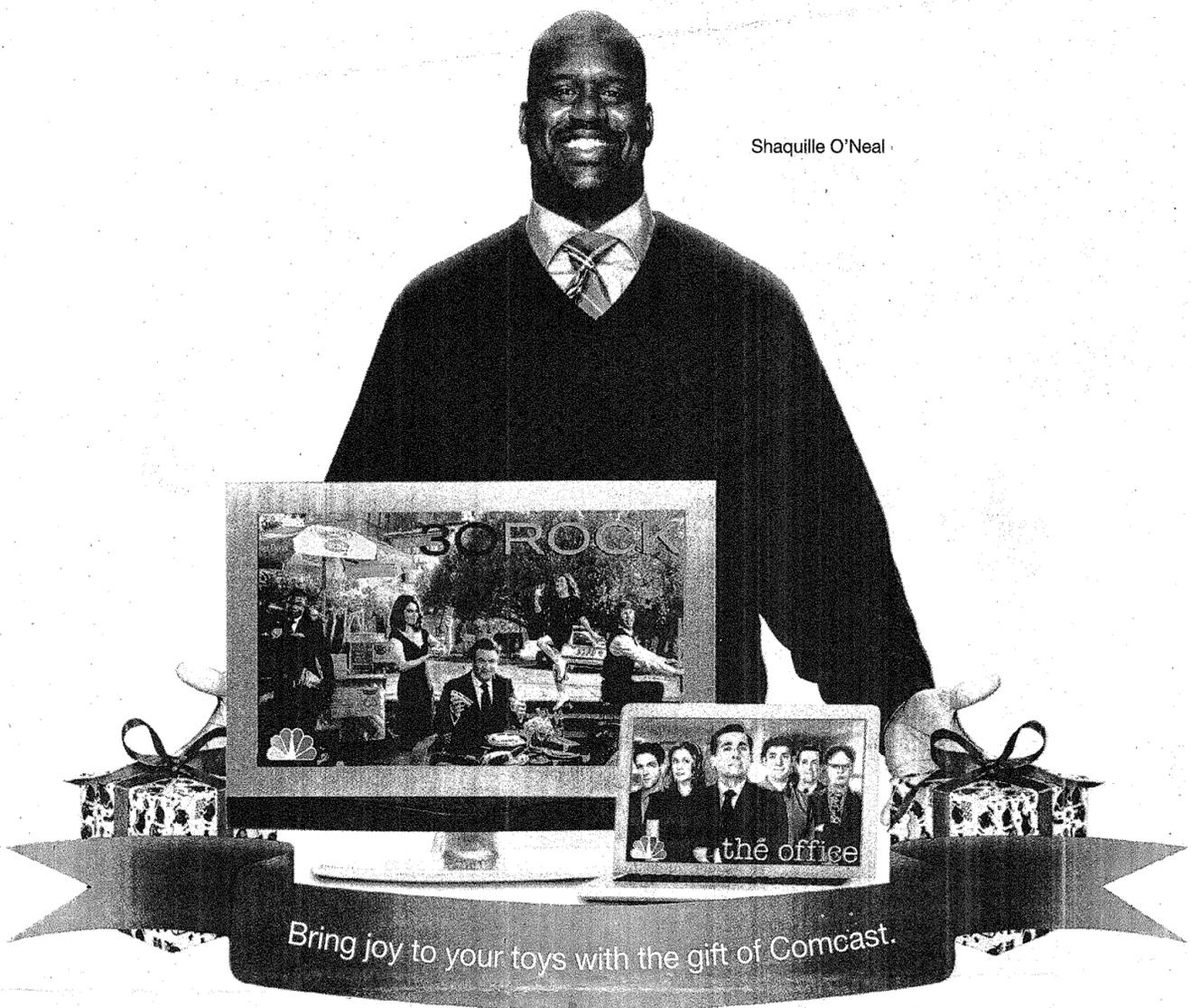
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SECTION B
(W L)

SPORTS

THURSDAY, December 2, 2010

hometownlife.com

LOCAL PERFORMANCES OF 'THE NUTCRACKER'
ENTERTAINMENT, B6

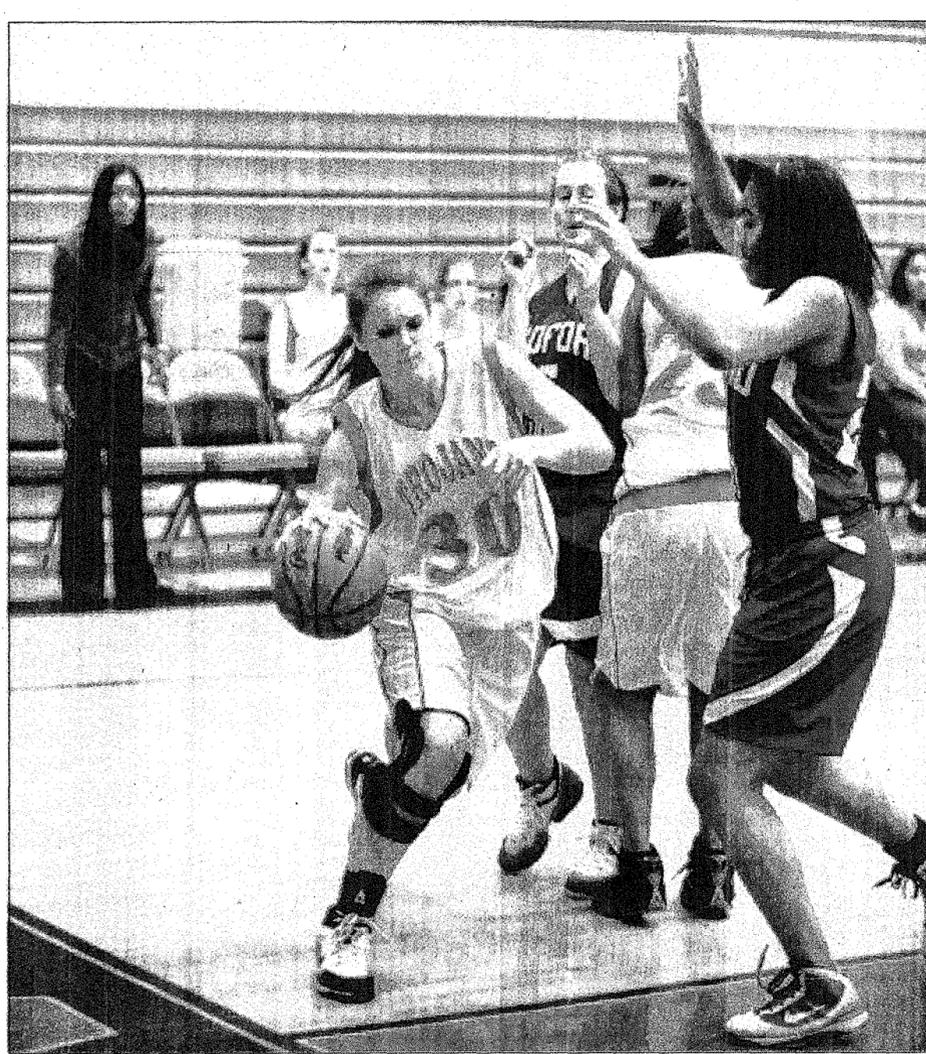


PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Season tips off

Senior guard Brittany Tallman tossed in a game-high 16 points Tuesday to lead Livonia Clarenceville to a season-opening 49-36 victory over visiting Redford Union. For a complete roundup of girls basketball games, see page B7?

Mat preview: Rockets, Pats lead the pack

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With two successive trips under their belts to the Division 1 state team finals, the Westland John Glenn wrestling team hopes the streak continues and three will be a charm.

Getting to Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena (Feb. 25-26), however, is a long ways off and the Rockets, 32-8 a year ago, are rebuilding after losing three individual state placers to graduation including 130-pound champion Anthony Pavlich (59-2).

Glenn coach Bill Polk has only four seniors on his roster, while relying on several underclassmen including 145-pound state qualifier Travis Mann, a junior, along with regional qualifiers Kyle Gillies (103), a sophomore, and Kameron Jones (171), a senior.

"I am confident in this group that they will be able to pick up and continue to show what our program is about," said Polk, now in his 11th season. "I am very excited to see what they are capable of."

The KLAAs always formidable South Division, which also includes Livonia Franklin, Canton, Plymouth, Wayne Memorial and Livonia Churchill, should be hotly contested once again in 2010-11.

Franklin, which captured a Division 1 district a year ago and took third at the Observerland Invitational, boasts a slew of returnees led by senior Steve Tuyu, who



Tuyu

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

SIDELINES

Taylor saluted

Grand Valley State sophomore forward Brianna Taylor (Livonia Franklin) helped lead the Lakers to a 2-0 record this past weekend averaging 19.0 ppg, and 6.5 rebounds per game en route to Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference North Division Player of the Week honors.

The 5-foot-10 Taylor scored 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting in just 19 minutes of play in a win over Rochester on Nov. 23, then added her second career double-double of 20 points and 10 rebounds in a 14-point win over 20th-ranked Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday.

Taylor is averaging 16.0 points and 5.3 rebounds per game this season.

Berger honored

Washington University (Mo.) senior forward Kathryn Berger (Livonia Ladywood) was named University Athletic Association Athlete of the Week after scoring 18 points in a 78-48 women's basketball victory Nov. 28 at home over Augustana College (Ill.).

Berger went 7-of-14 from the field, including a career-high four 3-pointers in 22 minutes. She also had five assists and one block for the 3-1 Bears, who are defending NCAA Division III national champions.

WYAA meets tonight

The Westland Youth Athletic Association's annual general membership meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the WYAA's Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Included on the agenda is election for the board of directors and other business items. Lifetime members are also welcome to attend.

For more information, contact the WYAA during regular business hours from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at (734) 421-0640.

CHS alumni hockey

The Livonia Churchill High School alumni hockey game will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Eddie Edgar Arena.

There will be a \$5 donation. For more information, e-mail Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni at Pmazzoni@livoniapublicschools.org or visit www.churchillhockey.com.

Elks Hoop Shoot

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation 2010 Elks Hoop Shoot contest will be Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

Free registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with age group competition for 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 year-olds starting at 9 a.m.

Each competitor will shoot 25 free throws with the winners advancing to district competition in January.

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

WYAA hoop signup

Registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association basketball program will be held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound, located at 6050 Ford Road.

The WYAA offers four age divisions including Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12) and Varsity (13-16). Age groups are determined as of Dec. 1, 2010.

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

For more information, e-mail Don Haas at anet326@gmail.com or call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours.

Latest Crusader setback proves tough to swallow

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE HOOPS

November is a month the Madonna University men's basketball team would likely not want to remember.

The Crusaders let another one slip away Monday night in their home opener as Lourdes (Ohio) College rallied from 15-point second-half deficit to earn a 60-58 triumph.

It was the third meeting between two teams with Lourdes taking the last two, including a 65-62 win last Tuesday in Toledo after MU squandered a 20-point advantage.

"Pretty similar — when we built a

lead in the last game they brought the pressure and we didn't handle it well," said MU coach Noel Emenhiser, whose team is 1-7 overall. "Kind of the same story again."

With 1:12 to go, MU freshman guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) fed 6-foot-8 senior center Geoff Gaylor for an easy two-pointer to give the Crusaders a 58-54 lead.

But just 11 seconds later, Lourdes guard John Washington, who led all scorers with 22 points, converted an

old-fashioned three-point play to pull the Gray Wolves within one, 58-57.

MU's Kevin Henry then missed a layup with 35 seconds left and Lourdes' Remy Fleurima was then fouled. The point-guard missed both foul shots.

But teammate Brett Young was snatch the rebound to set up the game-winning shot as guard Andy Borchardt nailed the a three-pointer from the left wing to seal MU's fate with only four seconds.

The Crusaders, forced to go the length of the court, got a running one-hander from Henry as time expired, but the shot caromed off the glass.

The victory improved Lourdes' over-

all record to 6-5.

"The block-out at there end of the game that gave them an extra possession — that was a big swing and missing some front ends of a one-and-one down the stretch," said Emenhiser, whose team was 6-of-11 from the line. "In the second half we built a 15-point lead and eventually gave it away."

Senior guard Bryant Slaughter, who got to the game shortly after tip-off and did not enter until 15:25 left in the first half, led MU with 16 points.

No other Crusader notched double figures as Henry and Gaylor each

Please see **HOOPS, B3**

World tumbler fights the pain

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cassandra Skinner's trip recently to Metz, France, was anything but a sightseeing tour.

It was all business for the 14-year-old from Livonia who finished just one place out of standing on the medals podium at the 20th World Age Group Trampoline and Tumbling Championships (Nov. 16-19).

Competing in the Girls 13-14 age division in tumbling, the sophomore from Stevenson High was hampered by an ankle injury which limited her to executing a more difficult routine.

Lucie Colebeck of Great Britain captured the gold with 32,300 points. American Shaylee Dunavin (Amarillo, Texas) and Yasmin Taite of England took the silver and bronze, respectively, with 31,400 each.

Skinner's degree of difficulty was 4.3 compared with 5.1 for Colebeck; 4.2 for Dunavin;

and 4.5 for Taite.

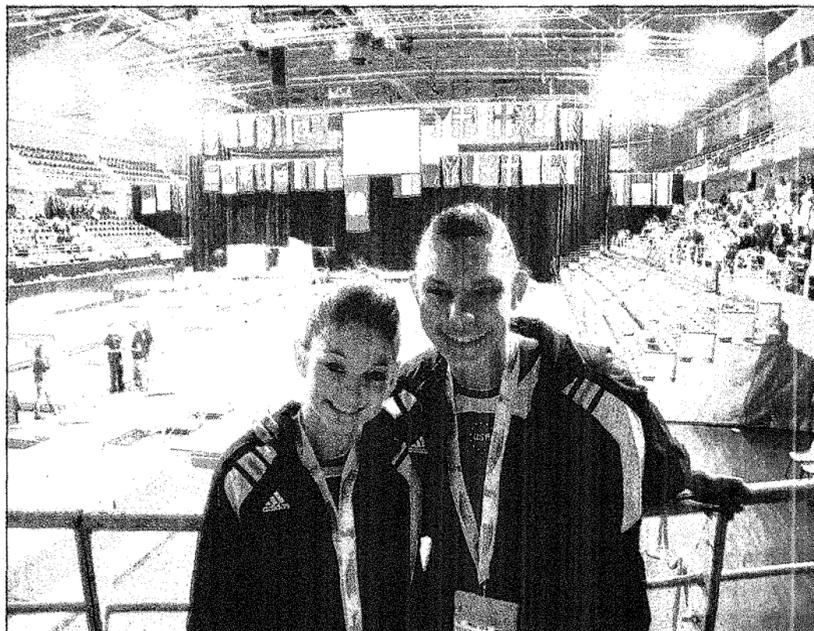
"I did not let it interfere, but there were some things you can't avoid," said Skinner, who finished with 31,200 points. "If I had done a full-out straight, I probably would have medaled. I was thinking long term instead of short term, and thinking about my future in gymnastics. I did not want to jerk it worse than it was."

"I sprained it over a month ago and for the last month and a half I was still in recovery and pushed through. I did not have a choice because it was not 100 percent."

Cassandra and her mother, Anita, flew into Paris, then traveled by speed train to Metz in four hours.

"I've been twice (to Europe) for competition and we went there once (France) for a vacation," Cassandra said. "It was pretty and stuff, but we did not have much time to see the city. We saw the triangles and the cobblestones. The (U.S.) team saw the Cathedral."

As a 13-year-old, Skinner got



Livonia's Cassandra Skinner (left) and silver medalist tumbler Shaylee Dunavin of Amarillo, Tex. recently competed in the 20th World Age Group Trampoline Gymnastics Championships in Metz, France.

her first taste of international competition by representing Team USA in the World Age Group Championships in St. Petersburg, Russia.

But now she'll be moving up to the 15-16 age division and competing next year as part of a national team, which includes Pan American Games in Mexico and the Worlds in

Birmingham, England.

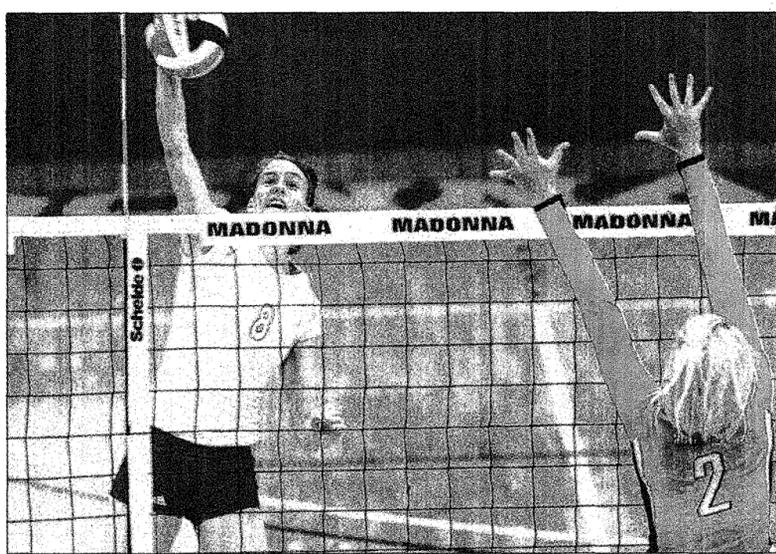
However, next up for Skinner is the Canadian Cup in January with the U.S. National Team.

"I'll have to train a lot harder because those (15-16-year-olds) have stepped up their game and I'll have to as well," said Cassandra, who practices out of AGT Flip City in Warren

under coach Peter Roberts.

"I have to learn new tricks while perfecting the old ones. There's never time off to train. I'll continue to go strong and harder. Hopefully my ankle will be getting stronger and I'll be ready for the national team camps."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851



MU's high achiever

Madonna University junior Karie Altman, a biology major carrying a 3.98 grade-point average, was named to the 2010 ESPN Academic All-America Volleyball Team as selected by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The Taylor native made the third-team in the College Division, which consists of NCAA Division II and III schools, along with NAIA member institutions in the U.S. and Canada. The 6-foot middle hitter from Allen Park Cabrini made first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and Academic All-WHAC. She led the WHAC with 466 kills (26th nationally) and was second with a .360 attack percentage (31st in the NAIA). Altman is the first MU volleyball student-athlete selected to an Academic All-America team since Natalja Tinina earned second-team honors in 2005.

C'ville's late spurt dooms RU

Rockets orbit in opener; Patriots survive OT test

It didn't take long for Livonia Clarenceville to get its first girls basketball win under new coach Katrina Vanover.

On Tuesday, the host Trojans broke a 36-all fourth-quarter deadlock with a 13-0 run to end the game to topple Redford Union, 49-36, in the 2010-11 season opener for both schools.

Senior guard Brittany Tallman and Jenna Burgess scored 16 and 12 points, respectively, to spark Clarenceville.

"We got eight to 10 points off their turnovers," said Vanover, who coached the previous three seasons at Academy of Oak Park.

For RU, senior Jordan Hebner turned in an outstanding effort by scoring 13 points, grabbing nine rebounds and blocking five shots. Junior Kayla Griffin followed Hebner in the scoring column with eight points.

"She (Hebner) just did an outstanding job for us," said RU coach Scott Bennett, who was ejected in the fourth quarter with two technical fouls. "We came roaring back from 11 down to tie it up, but just couldn't get it done down the stretch."

The Panthers, who trailed 19-11 at halftime and 28-22 after three quarters, went on a 14-8 run to knot the count at 36-all in the fourth.

JOHN GLENN 64, EDEL FORD 43: Sophomore guard Shakeya Graves scored a game-high 19 points to

GIRLS HOOPS

led four players in double figures Tuesday as host Westland John Glenn (1-0) ran away from Dearborn Edsel Ford (0-1) in the season opener for both teams.

Glenn led 32-24 at halftime before outscoring the Thunderbirds 32-19 in the second half.

Junior transfer Erica Coville added 17 points, while freshman Kaira Barnes and senior Andrea Gordon-McClain chipped in with 14 and 13, respectively, for the Rockets.

"One of the keys to our win is that we had a lot of success with our press," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "We created quite a few turnovers and got some easy basketball. Shakeya (Graves) came out and played with a lot of passion."

Marie Gaedke and Carly Koos tallied 16 and 10 points, respectively for Edsel Ford.

Glenn was 10-of-22 from the foul line, while Edsel hit 11-of-21.

FRANKLIN 45, FARMINGTON 43 (OT): Senior guard Chelsea Williams tallied a team-high 20 points Tuesday to propel host Livonia Franklin (1-0) past the Falcons (0-1) in overtime.

It was 37-all at the end of regulation as Farmington guard Cherrish Willis, who led all scorers with 23 points, nailed a three-pointer with only two seconds remaining to send the game in OT.

Six of Franklin's eight points during the four-minute extra session came at the foul line.

Williams had the only field goal, while Katelynn Devers and Jessica Emery each made two free throws. Amanda Borio and Williams also made foul shots.

Willis had all six of Farmington's points in OT before fouling out with

a minute to play.

Katie Neu added seven points and eight rebounds for Franklin.

Aaron Howell scored seven for Farmington.

"It was a very, very quick-paced game with missed opportunities on both sides," said Bob Ostrowski, who notched his first win as Franklin coach.

CRESTWOOD 58, LUTH. WESTLAND 42:

On Tuesday, junior center Amanda Terranella scored 20 points and grabbed six rebounds, but it wasn't enough as Lutheran High Westland (0-1) fell to host Dearborn Heights Crestwood (1-0) in the season opener.

Terranella made 8-of-16 field goals and was 4-of-4 from the foul line.

Hannah Conley added seven points and seven rebounds, while Shannon Abbott dished out five assists.

Wardell Alcodra tallied 13 and Sabrina Kent added nine points for the victorious Chargers, who led 27-19 at halftime before breaking it open with a 21-11 third-quarter run.

"We're glad to have the first game under our belt," Lutheran Westland first-year coach Sandi Wade said. "We did some good things and some not so good things. We'll learn from the mistakes and move into the next game. We'll keep working hard at practice and learning for experiences."

S'FIELD CHRISTIAN 51, HURON VALLEY 19:

Shayla Moore poured in 23 points Monday to propel host Southfield Christian (1-0) past Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-1) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference crossover game.

Senior guard Katie Nell scored a team-best 11 points for the Hawks, who trailed 36-14 at halftime.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 3
Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
Belleville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Flint Powers at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at S'Field Christian, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 3
Ladywood vs. Port Huron at Glacier Pointe, 6 p.m.
Churchill vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4

Franklin vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 2:30 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 2
Franklin at Woodhaven, 1 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Annapolis, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 4
Clarenceville Team Tourney, 9 a.m.
Rocket Inv. at John Glenn, 9 a.m.
Grand Blanc Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Berkeley Invitational, 10 a.m.

Luth. N'west Invitational, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 4
Madonna at Cornerstone, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 3
(Gillette Classic at Kalamazoo Valley)
Schoolcraft vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 5:30 p.m.
K'zoo Valley vs. Danville (Ill.), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 4
Cornerstone at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Gillette Classic at K'zoo Valley, TBA.
TBA - time to be announced.

SPORTS SHORT

Jingle Bell 5K

The Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell 5- and 10-kilometer Run-Walk will be at 9 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4 at Northville Downs, located at 301 S. Center St., Northville. For more information, visit

www.arthritis.org or contact Samantha Mertins at (248) 649-2491, Ext. 232; or e-mail smertins@arthritis.org.

MU women's cagers split 2 in New Jersey

The Madonna University women's basketball salvaged a split during last weekend's Garden State road swing.

On Sunday, sophomore Shantelle Herring came off the bench to score 14 points to go along with three assists and three steals in just 16 minutes as the Crusaders (2-3) cruised to a 70-40 win at New Jersey City University.

Heather Pratt chipped in with 13 points as MU pulled away with a 45-15 second-half run after being tied at 25-25 at intermission.

Tabatha Wydryck added nine points, while Rachel Melcher contributed nine rebounds and six assists for the victorious Crusaders.

Maria Suarez recorded her third double-double of the season for New Jersey City with a game-high 16 points and 11 rebounds.

On Saturday, sophomore center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) recorded her first double-double of the season, but it wasn't enough in a 70-56 setback at Rutgers University-Newark at the Golden Dome.

McGrath finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds for MU, which led 31-30 at halftime.

Erin Bentley added 11 points, while Wydryck chipped in with 12 rebounds.

Rutgers-Newark (5-0) got 19 points from Jared Tactuk and 14 points to go along with eight rebounds from ShaQuanna Marshall. Jasmine Daniels chipped in with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

MU shot just 20-of-65 from the floor (29 percent), including 9-of-29 from three-point range (27.8 percent).

The Crusaders had 22 turnovers to Rutgers-Newark's 14.

SCHOOLCRAFT 77, COLUMBUS ST. (OHIO)

34: Charlise Slater and Shawnicka Thomas scored 17 points apiece Saturday as Schoolcraft College (6-2) rolled to a win over Columbus State (5-5) in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Turkey Shootout.

Kimberly Bee added 13 points and 13 rebounds, while Thomas also grabbed 13 boards.

Kelcie Jones chipped in with 11 rebounds, while Slater and Thomas combined for 10 steals. Schoolcraft struggled in the first half shooting a paltry 28.5 percent (10-of-35) while leading 28-16.

Second-half runs of 16-7 and 18-4 gave the Lady Ocelots a 62-27 advantage with four minutes remaining.

Ocelot men's cagers falter

A late rally came up short Monday night as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team fell to the host Siena Heights JV squad, 81-75.

Schoolcraft, which slipped to 5-5 overall, trailed by 14 points at halftime, 49-35, before pulling to within two with two minutes to go.

Karl Moore scored 25 points and grabbed eight rebounds in a losing cause. Reshardd Harris and Ron Pummill (Garden City) added 16 and 10, respectively.

Ryan White scored a game-high 30 points for Siena Heights, which evened its record at 5-5. Stephen Jones added 12.

The Saints went 29-of-33 from the foul line, while Schoolcraft was 15-of-24.

SCHOOLCRAFT 96, ROCHESTER JV 80: On Saturday, Reshardd Harris led a balanced attack with 22 points and eight rebounds as Schoolcraft College (5-4) stopped the Rochester College JV squad (0-5) in the Firebird Classic hosted by Kirtland Community College.

Other contributions for the Ocelots, who led 45-37 at halftime, came from DeMarco Walker (17 points, six rebounds, six assists); Wayne Memorial's Daniel Hills (15 points, nine rebounds, three blocks); Andrew Top (13 points, 11 rebounds); and Mohamed Elhaj (12 points, six assists, seven steals).

Schoolcraft shot only 50 percent from the foul stripe (18-of-36), while Rochester was 23-of-31.

Jay Currie and Armand Tatum tallied 15 and 14 points, respectively, for Rochester.

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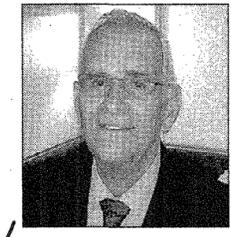
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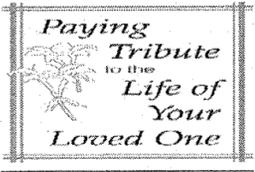


WALTER CHARLES ARSNEAULT
Age 75, November 18, 2010. Walter is survived by his wife Margaret "Mickey" Arsneault and children Edward (Kelly) Arsneault, Cheryl Foreman, Susan Miles, Tim (Tina) Foreman and the late Gary Foreman. Grandfather of Aimee, Alex, Nicole, Sean, Tarrah, Megan, Kayleigh and Nicki. Please visit: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

IRIS JUNE CONNOLLY
Iris died at her home on Saturday, November 27th, 2010. She was born in Ray, Indiana to Effie Bell and Charlie French in 1924. She was always proud that her birthday fell on Halloween. She graduated from Montpelier, Ohio High School in 1943. During WWII she trained to be a nurse. She attended Bowling Green State University and graduated with her bachelor degree in education from Wayne State University and her masters in education from Eastern Michigan University. She was a natural teacher and taught in Zaragoza, Spain and in the Livonia, MI School System for over 30 years. Iris was instrumental in developing the program for gifted students in Livonia. She married her high school sweetheart, Val LaRue Connolly in 1946. They shared more than sixty years together pursuing their passion for education and love of travel. Iris was predeceased by her husband, Val in 2009. She is survived by her three children, Corrine Connolly, Kris Connolly (Sharon), and Kyle Connolly (Betsy). She adored her five grandchildren, Chris Meagher, Jennie (Meagher) Cotton, Lauren Connolly, Sean Connolly, and Sarah Connolly. Donations may be made in Iris' memory to the American Alzheimers Assoc. Calling hours will be Friday 4-8 pm, Saturday 2-8 pm and the memorial service will be held on Sunday at 2 pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile, Livonia, Michigan 48152. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

SHARON COTTON
1942 - 2010
Passed away suddenly of a massive coronary. She was a long time resident in the Redford/Farmington Hills area and for the past 10 years has resided in Sun Lakes, AZ. She was a teacher of Business Education and Vocational Director at Redford Union High School from 1965 through 1981. In the fall of '81 she started as an Associate Professor at Schoolcraft College where she taught in the Business Department. She retired in 2000 as a full Professor and was awarded Professor Emeritis status. Over the years she taught many students and made numerous friends, both on the high school level and at Schoolcraft College. She leaves a brother, Gordon, and a great number of friends who will miss her every day. Her body was willed to medical science for research on Diabetes. There will be a Memorial Service set at a later date in Sun Lakes, AZ.

HELEN J. KUBON
Of Westland, Michigan. Age 81, passed away November 29, 2010. Helen was born May 1, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan to Percy and Maleta (Forbes) Harris. Survivors include her children Daniel (Sharon), Mark, Anna (John) Stewart, Beverly Bellestri and Linda (Ray) Hess, 12 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Helen is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Victor and her daughter in law Kathy. A Traditional Farewell will be held Thursday December 2 at 11:00 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell, with prayers at 10:00 AM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Lamb Chapel. Memorial contributions are suggested to Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Envelopes will be available at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Lamb Chapel where the family will gather with friends on December 1 from 2-8 PM. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Helen's family by calling 877-231-7900, or sign her guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.



ELAINE ROSEMARY (HEITKAMP) GOLDEN
Age 59 (formerly of Coldwater) died November 22, 2010 at her home in Flower Mound, TX. She was born July 12, 1951 in Chickasaw, OH to Ernest Heitkamp who survives in Minster, Ohio and Rose (Prenger) Heitkamp who is deceased. Elaine worked as a Project Specialist for Xerox Corporation. Survivors include: Husband, Dan in Flower Mound, Texas; Sons, Corky (DeAnn) of Flower Mound, TX and Andy of Saipan; Grandsons, Jack and Nate of Flower Mound, TX; Sisters, Gayle (Don) Heitkamp of London, OH, Peg (Jim) Schmiesing of Minister, OH; Brother, Mark (Beth) Heitkamp of Cincinnati, OH along with 10 Nieces and Nephews. Friends may call at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home-Coldwater on Friday, December 3, 2010 from 5 to 8 pm. Burial will be in St. Elizabeth Cemetery, Coldwater. In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to the TGEN Cancer Foundation at <http://tgenfoundation.org/> NetCommunity/. Condolences may be left at hogenkampfh.com

MARLES C. LOMAS
November 30, 2010 Age 90 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late George Sr. Dear mother of George Jr. (Jane). Loving grandmother of George (Mina), and Sarah (Jeff) Perry. Gt. Grandmother of Patricia and Theodore Perry. Funeral services from the UH Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd. Westland, Thursday 1pm. Visitation at the funeral home Wednesday 2-8pm. Burial will take place at Cadillac Memorial Cemetery. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhfh.com.

LOIS M. MAKI
Age 82, of Livonia, MI, passed away November 29, 2010. Arrangements by: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

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A menorah is aglow in Kellogg Park, in downtown Plymouth. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candle lighting, latke dinners mark Jewish Festival of Lights

Jewish families throughout southeastern Michigan lit candles Wednesday in observance of the eight-day holiday of Hanukkah, which runs through sundown, Thursday, Dec. 9.

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, commemorates the victory of Judah Maccabee and his small band of followers over the Syrian army in 165 B.C. It also marks the rededication of the central Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. Tradition holds that at the time of the rededication, only one oil lamp — with just enough fuel for one day — was found for use near the Holy Ark that held the Torah scrolls, but miraculously the oil lasted for eight days.

In Jewish homes, families celebrate by lighting a candle in a Menorah — or candelabrum — each evening of the holiday until all eight are lit. Special foods prepared during Hanukkah include latkes — potato pancakes — and jelly-filled doughnuts. Youngsters receive "gelt," which consist of chocolate or real coins and gifts. A favorite game involves spinning a four-sided top called a dreidel.

Celebrating isn't limited to the home. Here's a sampling of local events:

- Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, plans a family latke dinner, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. Call (248) 851-5100.
- The Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, offers a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a family service at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3. Participants bring the main dishes and the temple will provide latkes and fixings. After the dinner, Rabbi Tamara Kolton will lead youngsters in a special menorah lighting ceremony. Light will be the theme of the celebration that will include games and songs. (248) 477-1410
- Congregation Beit Kodesh, 31840 Seven Mile, Livonia, set its Hanukkah Party for 6 p.m. Dec. 7. Attendees bring their own menorahs and the synagogue will supply the candles. Includes food, games and prizes. The date for advance registration has passed. At the door price is \$10.
- Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, will celebrate with a candle-lighting at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7. The Sisterhood and Men's Club co-sponsor the event. Participants bring a menorah and candles to mark the Festival of Lights with others in the congregation. The dinner will feature a latke bar with traditional and sweet potato latkes, applesauce, sour cream, mushrooms in wine sauce, cranberry sauce, marshmallow fluff and salmon mousse. Cookie decorating, crafts and singing will follow the dinner. \$5 per person. RSVP by Dec. 2 to (248) 851-6880.
- Temple Kol Ami, 5085 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, will start its "Bim Bam Shabbatukah" celebration at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, with a family-friendly Shabbat service, followed by a congregation-wide candle-lighting, latke nosh and songs. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. RSVP to the temple at (248) 661-0040 or e-mail to julie@tkolami.org.
- The Shul, 6890 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, offers a Hanukkah Concert, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, featuring the Kosher Gravy Company — musicians who mix rock, blues, jazz and folk music. The event includes a pasta, soup and salad bar, menorah lighting ceremony, Moonbounce and other fun. Cost is \$18 per adult; kids under 13 are admitted free. RSVP to www.theshul.net or call (248) 788-4000.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p style="text-align: center;">CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. 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. <small>OE08712200</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED METHODIST</p> <p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter <small>OE08712257</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs <small>OE08712258</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christsaviorslutheran.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830 <small>OE08712249</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1825 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 <small>OE08712282</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org <small>OE08712256</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEK ORTHODOX</p> <p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matsins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Givostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygocchurch.org <small>OE08712259</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 mile W. of Sheldons) (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 <small>OE08712272</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN-ELCA</p> <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584 SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 A.M. CONTEMPORARY SERVICE - NURSERY AVAILABLE - BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS <small>OE08713571</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM <small>OE08712258</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org <small>OE08712256</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron <small>OE08712402</small></p>				

Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features celebrations. Share with us how you celebrate the holidays!

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

www.hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Send us a picture or a story of how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a photo or story of how you celebrate the holidays. Scoop will pick two winners in each age category:

- Ages: 7 - 8
- Ages: 9 - 10
- Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a voucher for a Free Buddy's 4 Square Cheese Pizza with One Topping!



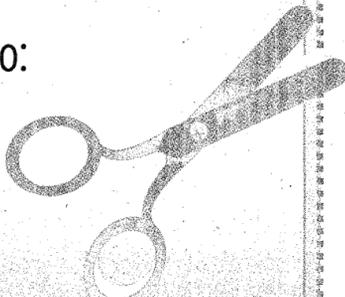
Share your Holiday Celebrations with Scoop!

Deadline for submissions: 12/31/10

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Send your entries for the Holiday Celebration Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170



Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 2, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Sugar plum fairies, mice, toys dance onto stage this weekend

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Dawn Greene has taught and directed *The Nutcracker* for 26 seasons, but finds a fresh twist to the Tchaikovsky ballet every year.

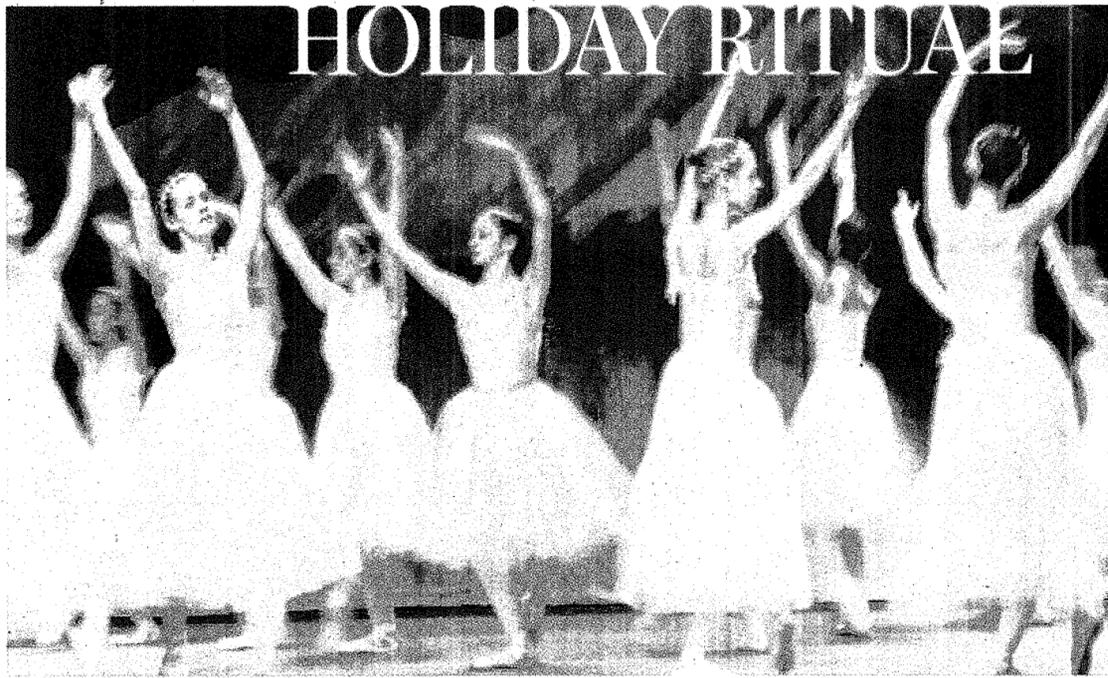
"Sometimes we change according to the dancers we have," said Greene, artistic director for the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company. "The 'Flowers' and 'Snow' are usually all the same. The costumes we get might be different.

"We don't do Mother Ginger," she said, referring to the dancing gingerbread house in the ballet's second act. "Instead of doing Mother Ginger, we do a clown. And we don't do 'The Land of Sweets.' We do 'Magic Kingdom.'

"My daughter used to be with the Cincinnati Ballet and when Clara leaves to go back home at the end of the ballet, they would have a hot air balloon they would get into and float up."

Although the music is the same from year to year, different dance and staging interpretations, as well as a changing cast keep *The Nutcracker* a fresh and favorite way to start the holidays.

"I think it is because it is the start of Christmas. There is a Christmas tree, the magic of toys coming to life," said Greene, explaining the ballet's popularity. "The neat thing about it is if you go with a child and see that child's face brighten, it brightens it for you, too."



Dancers from the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company perform "The Nutcracker" with live music by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras.

MEET THE DANCERS

Her company will dance to live music by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy, Canton. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$13 for children. Tickets for the "Sugar Plum Parade" are \$3 and allow youngsters to meet the approximately 70 dancers from age 8 and up who will be on stage after the performance. They're all available at www.plymouthcantonballet.org.

Dancers come from throughout southeastern Michigan, from a variety of studios. Greene holds rehearsals for *The Nutcracker* on Sundays only, so the work won't interfere with studio lessons.

"The children aren't just with their own (studio) dancers. They meet different dancers. That makes it a community project rather than a studio project."

Greene teamed with the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras on *The Nutcracker* performance 13 years ago, a

benefit for the dancers who must train themselves to listen for subtle changes in tempo.

"They have to be prepared. They have to listen. It's great," she said.

IN LIVONIA

Performers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance in Livonia will get a taste of both recorded music and live sound when they perform the ballet this month.

They'll dance several excerpts from *The Nutcracker* during the Livonia Symphony

Orchestra's "Suites and Treats" concert at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium located on Middlebelt, between Seven and Eight Mile Roads. Tickets are available at the door, at all Livonia libraries, Livonia Drugs and Love's Bakery. The cost is \$17 for adults and \$5 for children and students.

The dance studio will perform the entire ballet, with more than 70 dancers, to recorded music at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18, at Stevenson High School,

33500 6 Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$7. They will be available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.

"We've done it a couple of years with the symphony. I think (the dancers) enjoy it. It adds a little something different for them to do, another experience," said Renee Liske, a member of the studio's parent organization.

"It's a kid-friendly performance," she added.

The production length has been shortened just enough to accommodate younger ballet buffs.

A sampling of other *Nutcracker* performances:

- The Michigan Classic Ballet Company, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 3 p.m. Dec. 5 at Mercy Auditorium, 29300 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens and children. A *Nutcracker* Tea runs 1:30-2:30 p.m. Dec. 5 and costs \$15 per person. Buy tickets at michiganclassicballet.com.

- The Moscow Ballet presents the "Great Russian Nutcracker," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets range from \$27.50 to \$350. They are available at OlympiaEntertainment.com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) at all Ticketmaster locations and Ticketmaster.com and www.nutcracker.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

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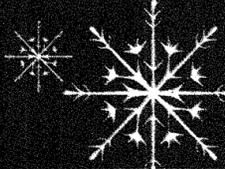
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**Holiday Craft
Extravaganza**

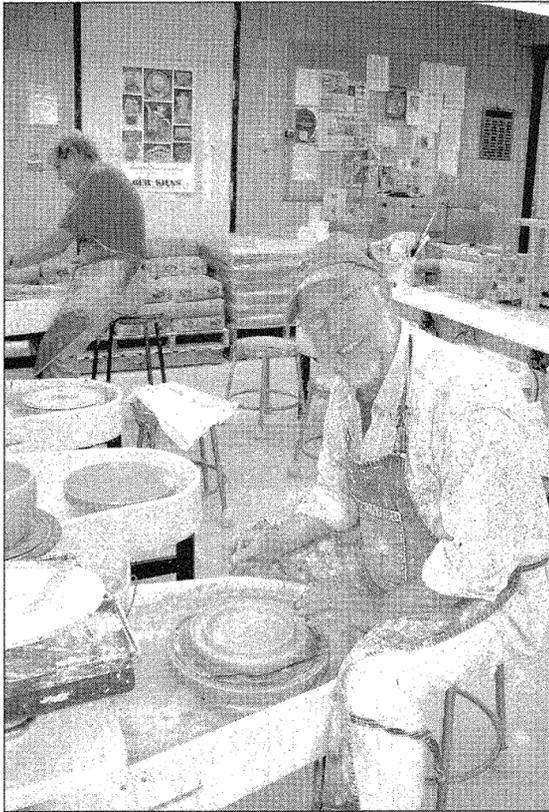
December 4-5, 2010
Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 11am - 5pm

Admission - \$5 per car

**Rock financial
SHOWPLACE**
Novi, MI

The Holiday Craft Extravaganza promises to be a shopping treasure trove of one-of-a-kind gifts, fine jewelry, gourmet treats, holiday décor and more. It takes place at the Rock Financial Showplace December 4 - 5, 2010. With tons of crafters under one roof, the Holiday Craft Extravaganza will bring a unique and festive shopping experience to the Metro Detroit area.

www.HolidayCraftExtravaganza.com



Dave Albrecht of Farmington Hills works in the Oakland Community College Potter's Lab.

See thousands of ceramic pieces at annual college show

Ceramics artists from Plymouth and Farmington Hills will be among the 135 potters who will show and sell their works at Oakland Community College's 35th annual Potter's Market, Dec. 3-5 in Madison Heights.

Advanced ceramic students at the college's Royal Oak campus and guest potters present the show, which will include more than 40,000 pieces of pottery this year.

Plymouth potter, Kathy Sandberg, has been an invited guest potter at The Potters Market for five years.

"There's absolutely nothing like The Potters Market," she said. "It really is a must do for pottery lovers and I just love to be part of it."

Sandberg, also one of the founders of the Plymouth Potters Guild, works hand in hand with the other potters in organizing and staffing the market. She said she feels "a wonderful sense of sharing and camaraderie" at the show.

"I feel honored to be part of the whole scene."

When Dave Albrecht came to the Potters Lab at the Royal Oak campus, it was to fulfill a dream deferred. Although he was a fine art major in college, he worked in the corporate world, finally returning to his college love of pottery and sculpture after retirement. When he first got to the Potter's lab about eight years ago, he served as a lab assistant/clay maker. Meanwhile he worked out his own pottery style of creating sculpted pagoda and lantern style outdoor sculptures and even organized a clay sculpting group. This group met on Fridays with a

live model. This is the fifth year that Albrecht will show his inspired "temples" as well as other pieces at the Potters Market.

Jack Adelman of Farmington Hills has shown his works at the Potter's Market for three years. Adelman, 86, developed an interest in pottery 16 years ago. He started taking classes at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and began working in the Potters Lab at OCC seven years ago.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to work alongside other artists at OCC," Adelman said. "It's a very creative environment."

His pieces have striking, colorful high gloss glazes and forms that include fluting.

A cake decorator professionally, Robert Crisp of Farmington Hills creates dragons in clay at the Potters Lab. He applies detail to the sculptures that he hand builds by using a cake decorating tube.

Show hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at United Food and Commercial Workers Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R. Admission is free and parking is free. Because of the crowds, no strollers are permitted.

A special preview sale of the Potters Market runs from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. Admission to the preview sale is \$10.

For information call (248) 246-2686 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., through Jan. 29, 2011

Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth Township, between eastbound and westbound 5 Mile intersections

Details: "Time Tells All" holiday-season art exhibition, a multi-artist retrospective of 2010 exhibitions. Artwork on display through Jan. 29, 2011; free

Contact: (734) 420-0775 or visit www.artandideasgallery.com

Detroit Artist Market

Time/Date: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through Dec. 23

Location: 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: Annual Art for the Holiday Show includes jewelry, glass, metal, ceramic, photography, accessories, paintings, drawings, sculpture, books, cards, framed prints and more for sale. Admission to the preview party are \$10 for Detroit Artist Market members and \$20 for non-members

Contact: (313) 832-8540

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through Dec. 3

Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville

Details: 6th Annual Northville Holiday Art market with hand-crafted work in pottery, fiber, jewelry and painting for sale by local artists

Contact: (248) 344-0497

The Gallery@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 2, 2011; artist reception is 6-8 p.m. Dec. 2

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: Photos, including black and white still life and flower images, by Jason Nichols

Contact: (734) 394-5300

BENEFIT

Karl's Cabin

Time/Date: 9:30 -10:30 p.m.,

Location: 6005 Gotfredson, Plymouth

Details: Tony Samuels and fellow musicians perform to raise funds for the University of

GET OUT!

Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. The U of M Complementary Therapy Program was instrumental in helping Samuels achieve his life long dream of recording his music. All cover charge proceeds will go to the University of Michigan Cancer Research and proceeds from the sale of the CD "World Record" with his band TLM and "You Can Better know Me" which is a Contemporary Christian release with his band SonLight, will go to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Music Therapy Program.

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8

p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows

Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Basile, through Dec. 4; Russ Meneve, Dec. 8-11; Roz G., Dec. 15-18; Billy Ray Bauer, Dec. 22-23; Steve Bills, Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 1; Tom Segura, Dec. 31

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Paul Mecurio, Dec. 2-4; O'Brien

& Valdez, Dec. 9-11; David Dyer, Dec. 16-18; Dan

Grueter, Dec. 30-31

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, Dec. 2; Orpheum Bell, Dec. 3; The Gibson Brothers, Dec. 4; Over the Rhine, Dec. 5; John Berry, Dec. 6; Lee Murdock, No. 7; Greensky Bluegrass, Dec. 8; 9th Annual Concert for Peace, Dec. 9; Lucy Kaplansky, Dec. 10; The Electric Guitar Summit, Dec. 11; Cairn to Cairn, Dec. 12; Decembersongs, Dec. 14; Delbert McClinton, Dec. 15; Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Dec. 16; Crossroads Ceili, Dec. 17-18; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 19; Fred Eaglesmith, Dec. 31

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts

Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmullen@yahoo.com

Jazz Cafe

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18

Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: Freddy Cole Christmas, tickets \$27

Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Penn Theater

Time/Date: Doors open 11:05 a.m.; show starts 11:30 a.m., Dec. 4

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Mr. Seley & the Troublemakers, along with musical host Guy Louis, perform in the second show of the "Saturdays@the Penn" series for children. Tickets at the door or in advance from the Plymouth Community Arts Council; \$5 per person

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Electronic music groups combine sound, multi-media at summit

Schoolcraft College's Synthesizer Ensemble will perform in the Electronic Music Summit, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Schaver Music Recital Hall on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit.

The event will feature two other college ensembles, the University of Michigan's Digital Music Ensemble and Wayne State's Electronic Music Ensemble, that specialize in the growing genre of electronic music.

During the summit, audience members will experience a wide-ranging combination of dazzling sounds, lights, video, technology and 3D imagery along with a variety of styles and techniques during the concert. WSU's Electronic Music Ensemble tends to create long-form structures, using vintage synthesizers and modern sampling techniques. U-M's Digital Music Ensemble often creates interactive installations, such as its annual Gypsy Pond Music at the U-M School

of Music pond. The group's instruments can range from modified keyboards to amplified band saws. Schoolcraft's Synthesizer Ensemble is more repertoire-based, although its repertoire has ranged from Bach to Zappa, from Vietnamese folk music to video game music. Members perform on a wide range of current technology, including MIDI trumpets, saxophones and drums.

It's not just about unique music, however. WSU's group has created a piece based on the seasons and associated colors. The entire room will be color-saturated. U-M's group will create a performance artwork incorporating musical furniture. It also will perform a composition by Pauline Oliveras incorporating color wheels and Mylar. Schoolcraft's group will perform an original student compositions and holiday music with 3-D animation. Everyone in the audience will receive commemorative 3D glasses. Admission is \$5.



Holiday fashion

Bella Mia in downtown Plymouth will hold its annual holiday fashion show at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, at EG Nick's, 500 Forest, Plymouth. Guests will enjoy brunch, the show, and 25 percent off their purchase. Tickets are \$25. Call (734) 459-0057 for tickets or more information.

In Loving Memory
...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**
for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 19th
...in the Eccentric Newspapers

Thursday, Dec. 23rd
...in the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 13th

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HASSLE-FREE Suppers to Savor

When there's a chill in the air, cozy up to the table with dishes that feed the soul as well as the stomach.

This melt-in-your-mouth Slow Cooker Pot Roast with Onions is a complete dinner with very little fuss. A bowl of Broccoli, Bacon and Cheddar Chowder makes a hearty lunch or simple dinner in no time. And this recipe for Quick and Healthy Potato Casserole serves up a creamy, comforting side dish from the microwave in minutes.

Onions and Wisconsin potatoes add a savory quality to these three recipes. Best of all, onions and potatoes are good sources of potassium, fiber and vitamin C, and cost only pennies a serving.

To find more recipes your family will savor, visit www.wisconsinpotatoes.com and www.onions-usa.org.



SLOW COOKER POT ROAST WITH ONIONS

Serves 4 to 6

- 1 (2½-pound) boneless beef sirloin tip or chuck roast
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- ½ pounds yellow onions, trimmed and cut into ½-inch slices
- 1 pound Wisconsin red potatoes, trimmed and halved
- ½ pound carrots, trimmed, peeled and cut into 2 to 3-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves, stripped from stems
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary (stems removed)
- 2 cups tomato juice
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth
- ½ cup red wine (or additional beef broth)
- 2 tablespoons flour
- Pepper and salt to taste (optional)
- Trim fat from beef roast. Place roast in bottom of 5 to 6-quart slow cooker. Spread horseradish over surface of meat. Top and surround roast with onions, potatoes, and carrots. Sprinkle with thyme and rosemary and pour in tomato juice and beef broth. Cover and cook on high setting for 6 to 8 hours or until beef is fall apart tender.

Mix wine (or beef broth) with flour and pour mixture around meat in slow cooker. Gently stir flour mixture into existing sauce without disturbing the meat. Replace cover and cook on high setting for 15 minutes or until thickened. Before serving, season with pepper and salt to taste and garnish with sprigs of rosemary.

BROCCOLI, BACON AND CHEDDAR CHOWDER

Serves 6

- 8 slices bacon, chopped
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt Dash cayenne pepper
- 3 cups milk
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 12 ounces Wisconsin red skinned potatoes, cut into ½-inch dice
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, if desired
- 2 10-ounce boxes frozen chopped broccoli, thawed.
- Heat large pot over medium heat. Add bacon and cook until crispy, about 5 minutes. Remove bacon with slotted spoon and transfer to paper towel lined plate and reserve. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons fat. Add butter and onion and cook for 6 minutes or until softened. Add flour and cook, stirring for another 2 minutes or until foamy.

Whisk in salt, cayenne pepper, milk and chicken stock and cook until it becomes smooth and creamy, about 3 minutes. Add potatoes and cook for 10 to 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

In bowl, toss cheddar with flour to coat.

Stir in cheese, a handful at a time, whisking after each addition until smooth. Add in hot pepper sauce if using. Add thawed broccoli and stir to heat. Do not boil. Taste for seasoning and adjust if necessary.

Ladle soup into heated bowls and garnish with reserved bacon.

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STORAGE TIPS

Onions and potatoes pair well together in lots of recipes. They also like similar storage conditions, but can spoil if stored in proximity to each other. Follow these quick tips for the best possible shelf-life.

- Store potatoes and onions separately. Store onions in cool, dry, well-ventilated places, optimally, at a temperature between 45°F and 55°F, but not in the refrigerator. Potatoes require similar storage conditions, but they also need darkness and should be kept at 50°F or less to avoid sprouting.
- Potatoes can be stored in perforated plastic bags or paper bags to extend their shelf-life.
- Onions should NOT be stored in plastic bags. Lack of air movement reduces storage life.
- Don't wash potatoes or onions (or any produce for that matter) before storing. Dampness will promote early spoilage.
- Chopped or sliced onions can be stored in a sealed container in your refrigerator for up to 7 days.



QUICK & HEALTHY POTATO CASSEROLE

Serves 6

- 1½ pounds Wisconsin Yukon Gold potatoes, very thinly sliced
- 1 cup quartered and thinly sliced onion
- 1 cup shredded reduced-fat sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ teaspoon Italian herb seasoning
- ½ cup stock or reduced-sodium broth
- 1½ teaspoons Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt

Spray an 8-inch microwave-safe baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place ½ of the potatoes and ½ of the onions on bottom of dish and sprinkle with ½ of the cheese and ½ of the herbs. Repeat layers, then top with the last ½ of the potatoes, layering potatoes so that there is a solid layer of potatoes with no gaps; sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Stir together stock, Dijon and garlic salt and pour over potatoes. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave on HIGH for 20 minutes. Use oven mitts to remove dish from microwave; carefully remove cover from dish (due to steam build-up) and serve.

Optional: Preheat oven to 400°F and place casserole in oven for 5 to 10 minutes or until casserole is golden brown before serving.

Canton cookie swap mixes competition, prizes, socializing

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

For its first four years, Diane Drouillard's annual Christmas cookie exchange was all about presentation. "I asked the ladies to bring nine dozen cookies. It was pretty intense. It was pretty competitive in a fun way. They'd have displays set up to showcase their cookies," said the Canton resident. "The first year one of my friends won and she had a wine bottle display. The bottle had lights inside. There were different levels of shelving and fake grapes. One year someone came in with a large decorative mirror — 2 1/2- by 2-foot. That was the tray for the cookies."

Everyone voted on the best presentation and the winner received a professionally-made centerpiece by Drouillard's dad, a retired florist.

When the elaborate and large displays started to crowd the kitchen table and some guests began to stress over their art work, Drouillard lowered the cookie requirement to six dozen and switched the competition from style to taste.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, her husband and two other cookie judges will sample each entry, wash them down with milk and award the centerpiece to the "best cookie" baker during Drouillard's sixth annual cookie exchange, an event that draws together two dozen or so friends, neighbors, euchre club members and acquaintances.

"None of the judges had wives who had entered cookies to be judged," said Drouillard, who offers the good-natured competition as an optional activity during the seasonal event.



A Leaning Tower of Pisa display shows off cookies by Sue Speer of Livonia at one of Diane Drouillard's previous cookie exchanges.

STARTING A SWAP

Drouillard, a counselor at Northville High School, attended cookie swaps for several years before trying her own version "with a twist."

"As my kids were getting older I had more time. I thought, 'I'm going to do a cookie exchange and do it my way.' I love to entertain, too, so that's part of it," she said. "It's important for people to have a variety of cookies."

Last year she helped her daughter, Annalyse, 12, host a cookie exchange for her friends. Each girl brought two dozen homemade cookies to share.

"By the end of the evening they had a tray of assorted cookies to bring home to their families."

Drouillard, who also has two sons, age 16 and 14, loves to cook, a talent she acquired from her dad, who also enjoys creating in the kitchen.

"A couple of years ago we had a pierogi-making party. It was an all-day event."

She usually makes "kapusta" (a cabbage dish) and her father brings Polish sausage for Christmas dinner. Drouillard also makes her favorite cheese cake — from her grandmother's

recipe — for the holidays.

And, of course she'll serve lots of cookies collected from her annual exchange, which she hopes will inspire others.

Here are a few of her tips for creating a successful, fun cookie swap:

- Make sure each guest brings an empty tray to carry cookies home.
- Have foil or plastic wrap on hand to cover each tray.
- Play "good holiday music" to set the mood.
- Serve punch or some other kind of beverage and healthy appetizers. "People don't want to eat too much junk."
- Skip any appetizers that require last minute work or oven time. Spend the time instead with your guests.
- Competition can be fun. In addition to "best display" and "best cookie," Drouillard also asked guests the first few years to bring copies of their recipes to exchange. Those who remembered were entered into a drawing for a cookie recipe book.
- Random prizes can be fun, too. "I do things like 'look on the bottom of your glass for a number.' I always have a favor: For many years it was a small candle or bath salts."

CHOCOLATE MALLOW DROPS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1 egg
 - 1/2 cup of milk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 cup baking cocoa
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 - 18 to 22 marshmallows, halved
- Frosting:
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
 - 2 squares (1 ounce each) unsweetened chocolate
 - 1 square (1 ounce) semisweet chocolate
 - 2 cups confectioner's sugar
 - 3 to 6 tablespoons brewed coffee

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, milk and vanilla. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.

2. Drop by slightly rounded tablespoons, 2 inches apart, onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375 for 6 minutes. Press a marshmallow half, cut side down, onto each cookie. Bake 2 minutes longer or until marshmallow is softened. Remove to wire racks.

3. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt butter and chocolate until smooth. Beat in confectioner's sugar. Add enough coffee to achieve spreading consistency. Transfer frosting to plastic bag; cut small hole in corner of bag. Pipe over cookies.

DIPPED GINGERSNAPS

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 4 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Additional sugar for coating dough balls
- White chocolate dip:
- 2 packages vanilla or white chocolate
- 1/4 cup of shortening

Preparing the dough:

In a mixing bowl combine sugar and oil, mix well. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in molasses. Combine dry ingredients. Gradually add creamed mixture and mix well. Shape into 3/4-inch balls and roll in sugar. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until cookies spring back when touched lightly. Remove to wire racks for cooling.

Preparing the dip:

Melt vanilla/white chocolate chips with shortening in a small saucepan over low heat. Dip the cookies half way and shake off the excess. Set on waxed paper to dry.

COOKIE WALKS

If you don't want to spend time in the kitchen but want home-baked treats, a cookie walk may be your best alternative to a cookie exchange. Here is a sampling of a few upcoming walks:

• Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church holds its 17th annual cookie walk beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at the church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. Shoppers begin queuing up around 8 a.m. The church serves coffee for those waiting in line. Cookies are \$10 per pound. (248) 476-3432

• St. Timothy Lutheran Church, sells its cookies by the pound beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia. Various bake sale items also will be available. (734) 427-2290

• The Lutheran Home Livonia, runs a cookie walk 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 15 at 28910 Plymouth Road, Livonia. (734) 425-4814

• Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45291 N. Territorial, Plymouth, runs a cookie walk, 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. (734) 453-5280

• Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland, will hold a cookie walk in conjunction with its "A Living Nativity," 3:30 p.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, in the parking lot at the church, (734) 722-1735.

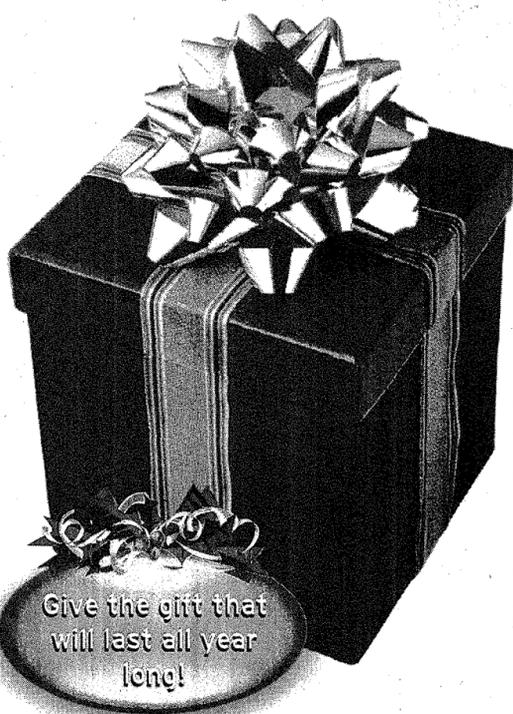
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