

EXPERIENCING JOB SEARCH BURNOUT?
SEE CLASSIFIED SECTION C

MAYOR WON'T RESPOND TO 'PERSONAL ATTACKS'
SEE PAGE 2

SUNDAY
December 12, 2010

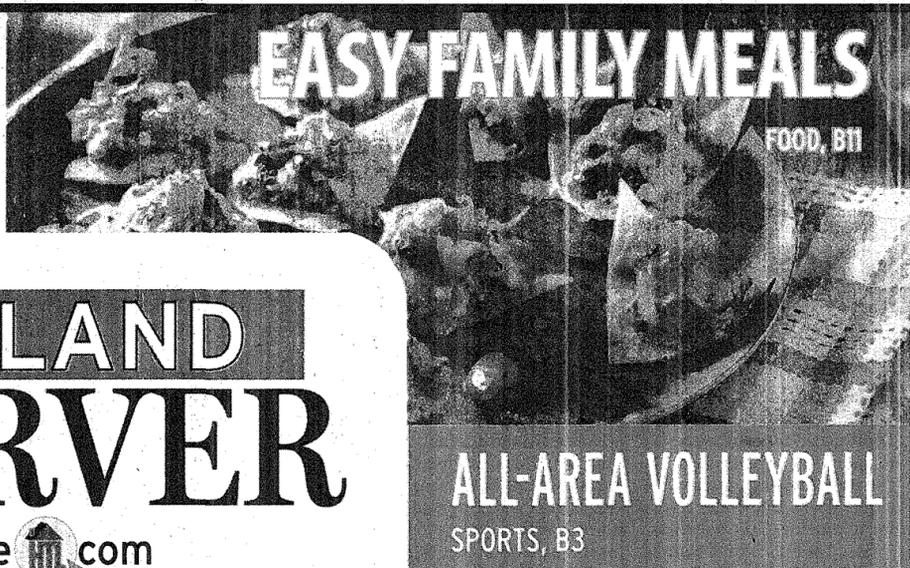
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EASY FAMILY MEALS
FOOD, B11

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL
SPORTS, B3

IN BRIEF

Letters to Santa

Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus. He has to get the sleigh ready, make sure the elves have finished all the toys and check his list twice to be sure he hasn't forgotten any good girls and boys. But in the midst of all this chaos, he always makes time to read letters from children.

That's because Santa knows kids sometimes change their minds, and he wants to be sure he's bringing the right gifts on Christmas Eve. Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa.

Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 23, issue. But to do that, we need letters. So youngsters, get out some paper and a pen or pencil or a computer and start writing.

Letters should be e-mailed to smason@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letters to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 13. And we promise, we will send of the letters on to the North Pole in advance of Christmas.

Visit with Santa

Stop by Westland's Faust Library at 6 p.m. Monday for a meet and greet with Santa Claus. The a free event hosted by the library and WLND which will broadcast it. Children will have the opportunity to meet Santa Claus and Westland Mayor William Wild, tell Santa what they want for Christmas and enjoy holiday readings from special guests. Refreshments will also be available. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford and Hunter.

100th birthday

Tuesday will be a milestone birthday for Anna Boni-Pellegrini. Born Dec. 23, 1910, the Westland resident will celebrate her 100th birthday with family and friends at the Village of Westland.

Boni-Pellegrini, the fifth of 13 children, was born in Kersey, Pennsylvania, and raised on a farm in Rural Valley, Pennsylvania, by Italian immigrant parents. The family altered their name to Boni.

In August 1932, she married Neno Pellegrini and were married for 60 years. They lived in the Pittsburgh area where

Anna became a licensed beautician and owned and operated her own hair salon until 1977, when they retired to Ocala, Florida. The couple had no children.

Her husband died in 1992 and she continued to reside until 2002 when she moved to Michigan to be near her youngest sister Florence, her only surviving sibling.

Boni-Pellegrini likes to read and play the organ. A talented artist, she did oil painting until her eyesight declined a few years ago.



Boni-Pellegrini

Right call: City officials stand by decision to help residents with flooded basements

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland officials are standing by a decision to help residents dry and clean basements flooded in June.

"It is very easy to say tonight that June 6 was a rain event or occurrence, but it was the worst natural disaster to happen in Westland in our history," Mayor William Wild said. "We had a flood several years ago, and it was handled in a very similar way. That was

about 400 homes in one area of the city — this was all over the city."

Council recently discussed the \$2.2 million billed by Belfor Property Restoration — a national company with local headquarters in Birmingham — for assistance provided to residents after the flooding. The city auditors are reviewing how the bill should be paid.

The issue came up last week at the council meeting, when resident Burke Rock, a regular at council meetings, questioned the expenditure and how it

was handled.

Rock commented that he was appalled by the \$2.2 million bill for Belfor, which the mayor brought in to help cleaning and drying out residents' flooded basements. He questioned where the money to pay the bill would come from — the water fund, the general fund or insurance.

"You (Wild) took it upon yourself to hire Belfor. You could have kept the 10 employees you threw overboard for three more years," Rock said. "Will we

taxpayers have to pay for the mayor refusing to stay within our means? I have one question. Did you go through council for their approval before hiring Belfor?"

Council did not vote on hiring Belfor, but Council President James Godbout later said that wasn't necessary since due to the emergency situation, the city charter gives the mayor the authority to take the necessary action.

Please see **FLOODS, A2**

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY



A dedicated group of volunteers will help to produce the annual free Christmas dinner at St. Dunstan this year. They include the Rev. Don LaCuesta (from left), Judy and Bruce Larry, Donna Spiteri, Sandy McLean and Carol Behr.

Church serves Christmas dinner to those with no place to go

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Judy Larry's grandchildren know where to find her mid-day Christmas.

Nicknamed Judy "O," the Westland resident will again be helping to serve a full dinner in the St. Dunstan Church Hall to those who have nowhere else to

go Christmas day.

After serving her own family a Christmas breakfast at home, her kids and grandkids agree that if they want to see more of Grandma Judy, they can follow her over to the church complex on Inkster Road, south of Ford in Garden City, roll up their sleeves and pitch in to serve the guests.

Larry's eyes well up and she becomes emotional when talking about what keeps her going every year to give up her time for the greater community good. It is, she said, the vision of the recipients' grateful faces which causes her to tear up and the voices of those who call and leave

Please see **DINNER, A4**

Two men arrested in connection with death of missing Westland teen

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Police were working Friday with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office to complete an investigation into what now appears to be the death of a 16-year-old Westland teen reported missing by her mother in August.

Two men — a 19-year-old from Westland and a 22-year-old from Taylor — have confessed to killing Carlee Jade Morse on Aug. 19, the same day she turned up missing from her



Carlee Morse

family's Westland apartment, according to Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden.

"We believe she was probably killed that day and likely within an hour of her going missing," Ramsden said. "We have yet to locate her remains and are actively working on that."

Acting on information they received from an acquaintance of one of the men, detectives from the Westland Police Department along with officers from the Taylor Police Department and the Canton Township Police Department made the two arrests.

According to the teen's mother, her daughter never returned after she gave her permission to go outside around midnight Aug. 19 to make a

quick phone call. When she didn't return, her mother reported her missing to police.

The mother didn't believe her daughter was outside without shoes, money or a change of clothes. Thousands of fliers were circulated in hopes of getting information about the teen's whereabouts.

A prayer vigil also was held in Garden City less than a month ago to draw attention to the search.

Ramsden said the department received reports that she was in the Canton or Garden City, but none of them panned out. At the time, police officers had no evidence suggesting foul play.

"Officers checked out a number of leads from who had said they had seen her or where she might be, but none ever came to fruition," Ramsden said. "We heavily doubt they saw her."

Information about the whereabouts of the victim's remains is being withheld while police continue to investigate active leads.

As of Friday afternoon, there was no indication what the suspects might be charged with and when they might be arraigned.

"The prosecutor has been working with officers all Friday morning on this, this is nowhere near complete," Ramsden added.

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Please see **THEATER, A4**



6 53174 10007 8



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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... C3
AUTOMOTIVE ... C4
CAREER BUILDER ... C1
COMMUNITY LIFE ... B5
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... B3
OBITUARIES ... B10
HEALTH ... B12
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS ... B1

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Center needs winter gear to give to homeless

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The current blast of frigid winter weather is forcing the Lighthouse Home Missions to put out an urgent call for donations of hats, mittens, gloves, socks and winter clothing to provide to the homeless.

Based at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland, LHM has been able to give out some blankets to the homeless who come to the center for assistance and to eat at the soup kitchen. However, it's come up short on warm weather gear to pass out.

"We need blankets and gloves to give out, at least until the warming center opens," said Pastor Ruby Beneteau, who started LHM in her Westland home more than 25 years ago.

"We have no gloves yet, no heavy winter coats, especially for the bigger guys," added

Ginger DuPrie of Romulus, who runs the soup kitchen. "The homeless like larger clothing because they layer to stay warm."

Housed in the original church, LHM runs a food depot, clothing bank, soup kitchen and warming center. It works with homeless to help get them the resources they need to get them back on their feet.

The soup kitchen offers warm lunches from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, while the warming center provides dinner, shower and a place to sleep indoors from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. Jan. 1 through March 31, although it has opened its doors early when temperatures have dipped below freezing.

The warming center is supported by churches from Westland and Canton that provide volunteers to prepare the meal and serve it. The

soup kitchen relies on leftover food from local restaurants. It will be serving a holiday lunch on Christmas Eve. The meal is being provided by the Westland Fire Department.

"It's the only time we don't have to cook," DuPrie said. DuPrie expects about 35 people to stop by. A Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and the trimmings attracted 35 people — several families and many of the homeless "who are living in the woods," she said.

Donations can be dropped off at the center at 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, at anytime. According to Beneteau, watchman are at the building 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Appointments are needed to access the food pantry and clothing bank. They can be made by calling (734) 326-3885 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.

Mayor won't respond to 'personal attacks'

Following another lambasting by resident Burke Rock at last week's council meeting, Westland Mayor William Wild apparently has reached his limit.

"I'm not going to respond to him anymore. It may seem weird to have a few silent minutes at the council meeting, but I'm not going to respond," Wild said. "If he (Rock) wants to come in, we can try and start over. I will not allow myself to be a personal whipping boy for a citizen making personal attacks."

Wild then asked council



Wild

President James Godbout and the council to not allow personal attacks at the council meetings.

"I will make one final statement to this Westland resident on personal attacks on me and this office," Wild said. "We are here to do the business of the city. As (former) council president, there were a lot of controversial comments, but I didn't

allow personal attacks on the mayor." Referring to Rock, Wild said, "This individual for well over a year has used these meetings to attack me. I've met with him many times. I tried to be nice, I tried to be mean. I can't help him. I can't find a way to deal with him."

Instead of spending time responding to Rock, Wild said he needs to spend his time representing the other more than 86,000 residents of Westland.

- By LeAnne Rogers

FLOODS

FROM PAGE A1

"I'm not going to second-guess a decision in an emergency situation. He is the mayor and has the authority under the charter in an emergency," he said.

The flooding occurred during the early morning hours on a Sunday and council members learned the next day that Belfor had been called in to assist

residents in drying, cleaning and sanitizing their flooded basements, Godbout said.

"It became an issue of do you leave 1,000 residents in the lurch with no resources or do you help them out," Godbout said. "The mayor made the call to help them out. Whether I agree or disagree doesn't matter. You make a decision in an emergency and just have to figure out how to pay for it."

Wild also stood by his decision.

"I think we handled the city handled situation the best we could. Well over 1,000 homes had water in the basement," Wild said. "A lot of communities turned their back on residents when they were needed the most. We did everything in

our power for public safety." Any of the approximately 1,000 residents who were flooded would agree that the city had made the right call, Godbout said.

"We'll find out when the auditors come in how we will pay for it. Some probably will come from the water and sewer fund, some from the general fund," said Godbout, who didn't expect the city's underwriter, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, would cover the expenses.

Westland was one of several communities sued by residents over the flooding, which the city called an act of God due to the excessive rainfall.

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Massage therapist Anthony Pitek helps Delphine Sears deal with some of her aches and pains while she attended the Senior Informational Expo at the Maplewood Community Center.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maplewood's Senior Expo 'awesome'

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The recent annual Senior Expo held at the Maplewood Center has been billed a success.

"It was awesome," center supervisor Cheryl Stepanian said. "This has been held about 10 years. It's a great fundraiser for the Maplewood Center."

This year the expo raised about \$1,625. The Commission on Aging will determine where best to use the money.

In the past, the commission has pooled several years worth of money and made improvements to the entryway at the center, Stepanian said.

The expo is devoted to seniors. This year's event attracted about 144 seniors who listened to a variety of speakers like Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery, who talked about scams.



Dr. David Taylor, a chiropractor with Gregg Chiropractic Life Center, explains the working of the spine to June Larsen at the Garden City Senior Expo.

Seniors also had the chance to meet and speak with representatives from different organizations. State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, greeted the seniors, as well as a representative from Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's office.

For more information about activities available to seniors at the Maplewood Community Center, call Stepanian at (734) 793-1853. The center is on Maplewood, west of Merriman.

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Lawmakers look at ticket quotas, teen driving in last days of session

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, is applauding a decision by the state House and Senate to pass House Bill 5287 which would eliminate traffic ticket quotas from being used in the evaluation of police officers.

"I'd like to thank Rep. Richard LeBlanc for all his hard work on getting this bill passed in the House," Anderson said. "This would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts between the two of us."

Before consideration in the Michigan Senate, the bill passed the Michigan House. The bill passed unanimously through the State Senate and passed by a vote of 96-1 in the House. The bill now goes to the Gov. Jennifer Granholm for her signature.

"The performance of our police officers should not be judged by how many tickets they issue in a given month," said Anderson. "We should trust the judgment of our well-trained law enforcement professionals to make decisions on how to handle situations in the field and not place artificial pressures on officers to make inappropriate enforcement decisions. This is also about fairness to our citizens."

The bill, which was supported by the Police Officers Association of Michigan, the National Motorists Association and the Deputy Sheriff's Association, had been held up in the Senate Committee on Judiciary for several months. Last Thursday, during a lengthy Senate session, it was discharged from the committee and passed.

"Obviously, we want to make sure that our streets are as safe as possible and that those who violate the law are brought to justice," said LeBlanc who also represents Westland. "When our officers aren't concerned with writing a pre-determined number of tickets to receive positive evaluations, they will be free to focus on ensuring the safety of the community."

LeBlanc also has sponsored a bill to make Michigan roads safer which passed through the House last Friday.

House Bill 4493 improves the current Michigan Graduated Driving (GDL) system by reducing distractions - the leading cause

of novice driver crashes - and creating a safer environment for inexperienced drivers to hone their driving skills. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teens.

"Young drivers and others utilizing our roadways will benefit from this new law," LeBlanc said. "I truly appreciate the advocacy and assistance from State Farm, and also from the National Safety Council and coalition, as we work together to save lives and minimize distractions within automobiles."

LeBlanc's plan addresses policy for GDL level 2 novice drivers during the period when they are no longer supervised by a parent or guardian. Michigan teens average 16.5 years of age when they enter this level and can move to GDL 3 as early as age 17. Teens go from the safest driving conditions with a parent to the deadliest without a parent - overnight.

House Bill 4493 will improve MI GDL law to:

- Limit GDL level 2 drivers from having more than one non-family member passenger under age 21. Immediate family members are exempt, as well as travel to and from school and school-sanctioned events. The risk of death increases 158 percent with two passengers and 207 percent with three or more passengers. Prior to this plan, Michigan was one of only eight states without a GDL passenger limit.

- Restrict GDL level 2 night driving starting at 10 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. with exceptions for driving to and from work. This only impacts driving hours; it is not a curfew. Night driving between 9 p.m. and

1 a.m., as well as the hours driving to and from school are the deadliest for inexperienced drivers.

While LeBlanc's plan addresses teen driving, it benefits all motorists as 65 percent of deaths associated with teen driving crashes are not teens but are from the general population of those who share the roadways.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, societal costs for crashes involving young drivers are estimated to be more than \$40 billion annually.

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Source: NCQA's Health Insurance Plan Rankings 2010-11 - Medicare
BCN Advantage HMO-POSSM is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Taft-Galloway students use their pennies to buy books

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Adalia Kirby knows students at Taft-Galloway understand the meaning of giving, especially her classmates in teacher Corina Caird's third-/fourth-grade class. The students managed to give the most money to help buy books for Toys for Tots and at-risk youngsters in the community.

"We try to get books for kids who can't afford books," Adalia said. "We didn't know how much we raised, but when we found out, everyone screamed. I didn't because I was trying to hear how much we collected."

Dubbed the penny challenge, youngsters at the school were encouraged to bring in loose change. For every dollar collected, they were able to purchase a book. Caird's class raised \$283.47, while the entire school brought in \$972.18. Money raised through the sale of paper pumpkins that students put their names on and then hung brought the total to \$1,059.

"We did it last year and were

able to buy 700 books," said Shawn Maxwell, president of the Taft-Galloway Association of Parents and Staff. "They gave us a lot. I'm not sure if it's because we have more kids this year."

Taft-Galloway grew over the summer, picking up students who had attended Vandenberg Elementary. That school closed in June as part of the reconfiguration of Wayne-Westland's elementary program.

The penny challenge dovetailed with the Scholastic Book Fair, which generates Scholastic dollars for the school. According to Maxwell, the school had \$1,575 in book sales, with 50 percent of the sales going to the school.

Coupled with the penny challenge, the association was able to provide a pizza party for the winning classroom as well as give \$70 to each class to spend in the classroom.

According to Maxwell, the parent group wants to have students do some kind of community effort as often as possible. The penny challenge was

just a part of giving. They also have collected pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House and participated in a canned food drive. Last year, students collected 712 pounds of food for the John Bolde Food Bank at the St. Mary's Outreach Center in Wayne. This year it was 1,200 pounds.

"They've done a great job," she said. "The way the community is, we're trying to do whatever we can."

"Our kids are awesome," Principal Stephanie Acord said. "I'm proud of their collective effort. They have seen that even a small amount of change can make a difference."

Adalia believes books are important "because you can't be smart without them." Her favorite book is the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and she hopes it was among the books purchased with the money from the penny challenge.

"Every kid needs to be smart. Every kid needs books," she said.

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Students in Corina Caird's third-/fourth-grade class at Taft-Galloway Elementary School in Wayne are into books. The students raised the most money in a penny challenge that went to buy books for Toys for Tots and at risk children in the community.

THEATER

FROM PAGE A1

to have MJR Theaters constructing the new theater on Wayne Road south of Warren, getting rid of the boarded up Showcase Cinema building and adding a business that

project selling 800,000 tickets annually.

During a recent study session with the council, MJR CEO and founder Michael Mihalich talked about his company, which with the Westland theater will have 132 screens at eight locations.

MJR is family friendly, Mihalich said, offering free

popcorn and soft drink refills, free children's film (\$1 for adults), clean facilities and no alcohol.

"We're thrilled to be here," Mihalich said.

"He had us at hello," Mayor William Wild said.

Although he tried to find a way to use the existing Showcase Cinema build-

ing, Mihalich it wasn't possible due the small size of the screens and the load bearing walls that divided the individual screening rooms. Another reason was the location of the building close to Wayne Road.

"People like to park in front — people don't like to park in the rear and walk around. I tried hard to like the build-

ing," he said.

Soil borings are being done to make sure the new building can be located where he wants, Mihalich said.

"I would echo the thanks for coming here and believing in this community," council President James Godbout said. "I've been to your theater on Van Dyke — you do a

first-class job. It's a well-run theater. We look forward to working with you."

The theater, expected to employ about 60 people, is expected to break ground in late March or early April, with the opening set in late October or early November.

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DINNER

FROM PAGE A1

their names as they RSVP.

It's also looking at the list of names, many of which includes the number 1 after them. They are coming alone from Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne, Detroit and Dearborn. They

have no one else to be with.

"This whole church hall is filled on Christmas day," Larry said. "People have no family, nowhere to go and just need to be with someone."

People often have holiday traditions and Christmas day dinner at St. Dunstan Church is an annual event. St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner

Christmas day. The dinner is free to people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The only other requirement is a reservation. More than 100 people came to dinner last year; many were senior citizens.

Larry's volunteers haven't wavered through the years. She sends a special thank you to volunteers John and Mary

Surge, who helped to initiate the program and who now, because of health problems, can no longer participate.

Larry took over the task more than 10 years ago.

People make cash donations to help offset the costs for the dinner, which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service fund. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food

pantry program.

"This is a wonderful outreach," said the Rev. Don LaCuesta, the newly named parish pastor. This is his first assignment as pastor and he will be at the dinner to greet the guests.

The full sit-down dinner will include turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, butter and an assortment of desserts.

"The main course is all

cooked," Larry said.

Larry also likes to have a lot of baked goods on hand. People who want to donate something can drop them off at the parish office. St. Dunstan is located on Belton, west of Inkster Road just north of Marquette and two streets south of Ford.

For reservations, call Larry at (734) 595-3049.

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(Check www.livoniahockey.org for schedule changes & prices)

Culinary students create gingerbread village



This grinch is sweet.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katharine Carpenter and Kassandra Kierpaul (not pictured) made "The Original Christmas" with sesame crackers and chow mein noodles. Why the savory ingredients? Carpenter replied, "When you think of Jesus, you don't think about gumdrops and candy canes."

An entire village made of gingerbread, candy and the imaginations of culinary arts students is on display until Thursday in the lobby of the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Culinary arts students created the fantasy village based on children's Christmas stories in a competition for scholarships from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

"Whoville Holiday," created by Sandra Angelos of Lake Orion, won first place. "If You Take a Mouse to a Movie," created by

Kathleena Wielkopolan of Northville, won second place. "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," created by Tracy Oberholzer of Troy, won third place.

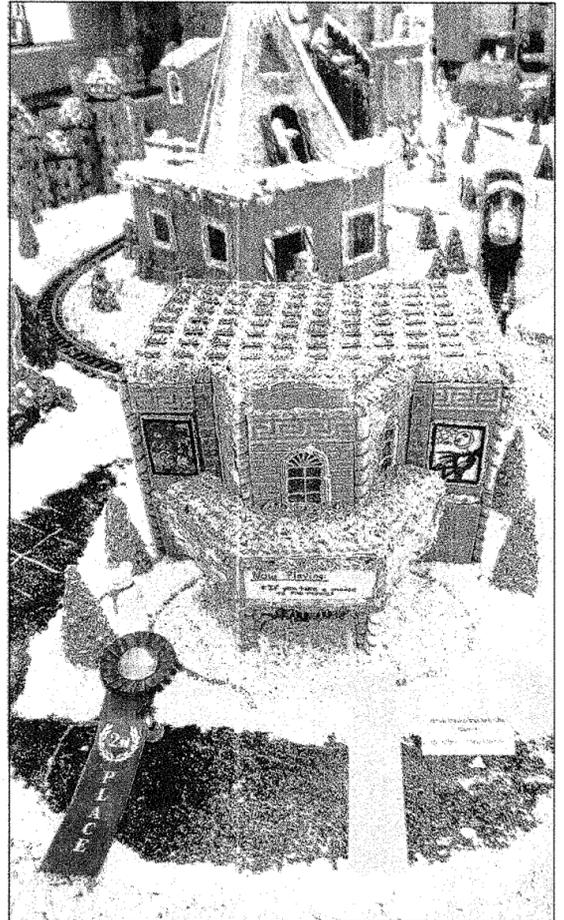
The students created the village on their own time under the direction of Certified Master Pastry Chef Joseph Decker. At least half of the construction

materials must be made of gingerbread and must be completely edible, excluding the base on which it is built and non-edible plastic or other non-edible materials for the windows. The creations must have a front entrance and walkway, must be decorated on all sides and may have electric lights. The scholarship competition

winning entries were selected for their craftsmanship, neatness, originality, degree of difficulty and use of the theme.

The public may view the gingerbread village during regular hours.

The VisTaTech Center is on Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads.



"If You Take a Mouse To The Movies" by Kathleena Wielkopolan earned second place.

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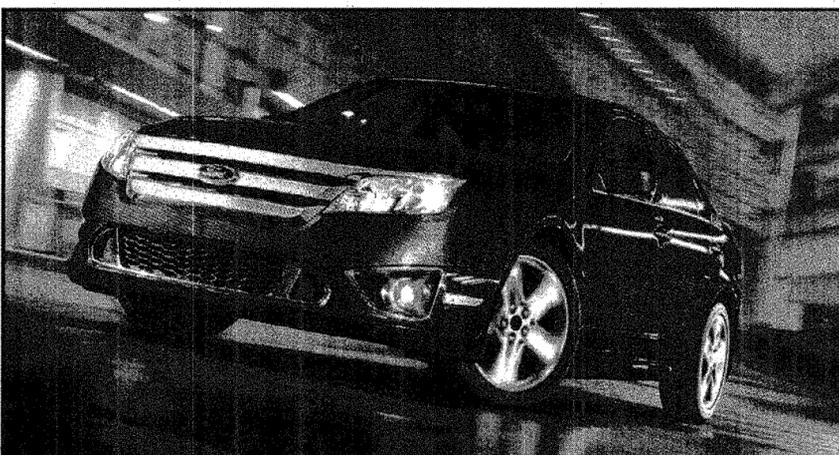
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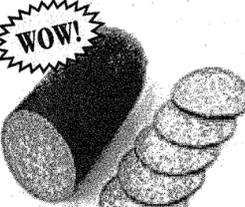
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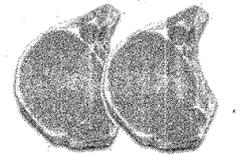
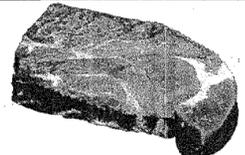
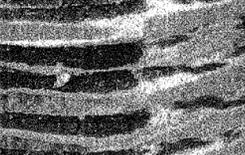
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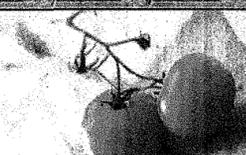
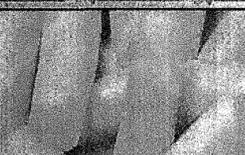
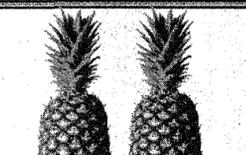
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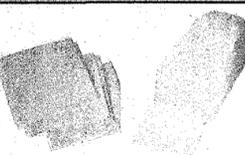
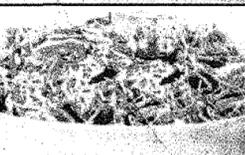
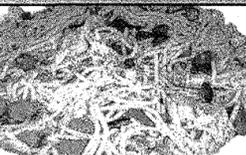
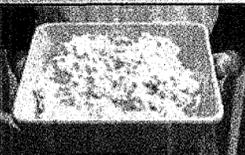
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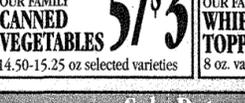
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Figuring cost basis for investments can be tricky

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column regarding year-end tax planning and one of the things I discovered is that I have a number of investments that I cannot locate the cost basis. I bought the investments sometime in the early '90s, but that's all I can remember. I know I bought it through a discount brokerage house, but they are no longer in business. It makes sense to sell the stock this year, however, I am concerned I don't have the cost basis. What do you suggest?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: Cost basis is what you originally paid for an investment plus any dividends or capital gains you reinvested. In this situation, since you purchased an individual stock, you did not have any capital gain distributions and most likely did not have dividends reinvested. Therefore, your cost basis is the original purchase price of the stock.

In many cases where people don't know their cost basis, I recommend they contact the brokerage firm where they purchased the individual stock for assistance. However, in this case, that strategy will not work. Therefore, the first thing to do is determine if the stock you hold pays a dividend. If it does, you can pull out your old tax returns and use that as a guide to help determine when

you purchased the stock.

If, for example, the first time a dividend from that stock showed up on your tax return was 1992, at least you have a starting point. You can then use an average of the stock price to determine basis. If it did not pay a dividend, then the best thing is to guesstimate the year you bought the stock and use an average of the stock price to determine basis. It's not exact, but it is reasonable. You may be surprised to hear this, but the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the fact that in some situations calculating cost basis is difficult. In the unlikely event that you are audited, they will look at how reasonable you were with regards to your guesstimate. Never forget to document how you calculated your cost basis. This should then be part of your permanent tax file for that year.

There are many situations where when completing tax returns, taxpayers do not have complete documentation and are in the situation where they have to guesstimate items. The key is to be fair and reasonable. If you're donating a used pair of jeans and claiming a \$100 charitable deduction, that may not be considered fair and reasonable. On the other hand, if you claimed a \$5 deduction, that wouldn't raise any concerns.

I believe when it comes to taxes, we should take every deduction we are entitled to. However, the one caveat is you must have some sort of backup documentation for the deduc-

tions you take. It is when people get audited and they don't have any backup documentation that they run into problems.

One last note on taxes. I'm sure that readers have heard that President Barack Obama and the Republicans have reached a compromise with regards to extending the current tax laws. The issue to me isn't whether you agree or disagree. I'll leave that to others. My issue is that we, as taxpayers, shouldn't assume anything with regards to taxes until the law is actually signed by the president. We all know how the legislative process works and there are always last-second changes. My advice has always been to make tax decisions based upon what the tax laws are now, not what they may be down the road. I would love it if we were in an environment of tax certainty, however, we are not. Even if the current tax law is extended for the two years, that is not a long time. In addition, does anyone think that we won't have other tax law changes over the next two years? The reality is we are in an environment where tax laws are ever-changing and, therefore, we have to make decisions based upon what the law is today and not speculate too much about the future.

Good luck!

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

Flu shots: Gift of health this holiday season

In the spirit of the holidays and promoting good health, the Wayne County Department of Public Health is encouraging individuals to get their seasonal flu shots and is offering a Friends and Family Holiday Flu Vaccination Plan at its three health clinics through December.

Now until Dec. 23, two people can receive flu shots for just \$20. Simply make a flu shot clinic appointment for two individuals at any Wayne County Public Health clinic location for any available time, or bring a friend or family member to a December walk-in day at the Wayne or Taylor Health Clinics. Individual shots are priced at \$15.

The holiday flu vaccination plan is part of the Wayne County Public Health Department's observance of National Influenza Immunization Week this week. The week is designed to bring awareness to the importance of continued vaccination against the flu virus into the holiday season and New Year.

In the United States, between 5 and 20 percent of the population gets the flu annually. "Each and every year, the best way to prevent the flu and flu-related complications is by getting a flu shot," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "We urge and remind Wayne County residents to protect their families now by

making plans to get the flu shot before flu cases increase."

During the 2010-2011 flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone six months of age and older, receive the flu vaccine. One shot now protects against both the H1N1 and seasonal flu strains.

"Many people are misinformed and think that it's too late to receive flu shot protection after Thanksgiving, which is nothing further from the truth," Wayne County Public Health Director/Health Officer Loretta Davis said. "Usually, the flu season peaks in February, so getting the vaccine during late fall into winter provides ample time for vaccine protection. However, by not getting vaccinated, you put yourself and those around you at risk."

The flu is a mild to severe contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can lead to serious complications in some individuals such as seniors and those with chronic diseases, and even result in death. "Our role in public health is to help prevent illnesses like the flu that can easily spread in the community," said Davis. "Getting a flu shot for the holidays is a simple way to protect yourself, your friends, family and coworkers, and it makes a great gift of health for all ages."

The Friends and Family Holiday Flu Vaccination

Plan is open to the public. Appointments and walk-in days for children and adults are available through Dec. 23 at the following Wayne County Public Health clinic locations:

- Wayne Health Center, 33030 Van Born, Wayne, by appointment only 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Walk-in days are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday and Thursday. Call (734) 727-7100.
- Taylor Health Center, 26650 Eureka, Taylor, by appointment only 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Walk-in days are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday and Thursday (flu shots only). Call (734) 955-3900.
- Redford Area Health Office, 17421 Telegraph, Detroit, MI 48219, by appointment only 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday. Call (313) 537-1708.

Following Dec. 23, Wayne County Public Health clinics will be closed for the holidays and will reopen Jan. 4, 2011. Flu shots will then be available for \$15 each, except for Flu Vaccination Plan 2 for \$20 appointments booked during December.

For more information concerning flu prevention or flu vaccinations at Wayne County's Public Health clinic locations, call the Department of Public Health at (734) 727-7000, or visit its website at www.wayne-county.com.

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GC man, Canton woman charged with bank fraud

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man and a woman from Canton Townships have been arrested and charged with bank fraud as the result of a sweep by the federal government's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force.

Arrested and charged Dec. 2 were Jessie A. Wozniak of Garden City and Candice D. Campbell of Canton.

Their arrests were part of Operation Broken Trust, the largest collective enforcement effort ever brought to bear in confronting investment and corporate fraud in the Eastern District of Michigan and throughout the country. The sweep was organized by the task force, which was established to investigate and prosecute financial crimes.

"With this operation, the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force is sending a strong message," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said. "To the public — be alert for these frauds, take appropriate measures to protect yourself and report such schemes to proper authorities when they occur. And to anyone operating or attempting to operate an investment scam — cheating investors out of their earnings and savings is no longer a safe business plan. We will use every tool at our disposal to find you, to stop you and to bring you to justice."

The two are accused of luring approximately 80 individuals in Michigan, New York, Arizona, Connecticut and Colorado to invest almost \$1,150,000 by falsely representing that they were investing the money in the stock market through CJ's

Financial, an investment firm they started in 2009.

Campbell, the chief financial officer, and Wozniak, who called himself the founder and chief executive officer, operated CJF out of Campbell's Canton Township home.

According to the task force, Campbell and Wozniak made false and fraudulent promises and representations to potential investors via the CJF website, direct communications and investor financial services agreements.

They are accused of representing that CJF "would make daily stock trades on each investor's behalf through a TD Ameritrade account; that investments would never lose value; that monthly returns would be 10-20 percent; that capital gains taxes on investment profits would be paid by CJF; that money could be

withdrawn at anytime; and that Campbell was a licensed financial planner."

In a complaint filed in August in federal district court, attorneys for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said CJ's Financial was an unincorporated business and was not registered with the SEC. Campbell also wasn't registered with the SEC or associated with a registered entity nor was she registered as an investment adviser with the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation.

The complaint alleges that Campbell and Wozniak, who had worked in the automobile industry prior to setting up CJ's Financial, had used only a small amount of the investors' money to purchase securities and that Campbell diverted the money for personal uses, including pay-

ing for vacations, cars, jewelry, sporting goods and furniture.

"Out of approximately \$1,057,400 received from investors and deposited by Campbell into her personal bank account during this time period, only \$58,000 was transferred into Campbell's Ameritrade account. Campbell diverted at least \$540,000 of the funds for personal use, and withdrew an additional \$138,000 in cash," the attorneys told the court.

According to the complaint, Campbell purchased \$33,046 in jewelry, \$28,350 in sporting goods, \$29,124 in furniture and spent \$20,650 at laser surgery centers. She also spent some \$100,000 at automobile dealerships.

The attorneys added that Campbell and Wozniak "also used some investor money (\$350,000) to pay other inves-

tors as purported returns on their investments, in an apparent effort to keep the Ponzi scheme from collapsing." They fabricated monthly statements, and when investors began requesting withdrawals, the attorneys said Campbell and Wozniak created a "bogus story" that their money could not be refunded because the SEC had frozen CJF's bank accounts and other assets, as part of an ongoing investigation.

In the past four months, Operation Broken Trust has resulted in nine individuals being charged federally by way of complaint, information or indictment in the Eastern District of Michigan. These defendants obtained more than \$40 million from more than 300 victims.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751



For a good cause

The Westland Jaycees were able to donate \$1,000 to the American Red Cross. The money was the proceeds of a Sept. 4 All-American themed pub crawl featuring six bars - Sidelines, Crystal Bar & Grill, Bumpers Bar & Grill, Malarkeys Irish Pub, J.R.'s Bar & Grill and Last Chance Bar & Grill. The Westland Jaycees loaded up 56 party goers in a bus and visited each bar. They also sold raffle tickets and Jell-O shots throughout the night. Presenting the money during a recent city council meeting were Jaycees Pat Torres (from left) Steve Prokopchak and Gary Bulson, Monica DeJesus of the American Red Cross and Westland Mayor William Wild. For more information on the Westland Jaycees and upcoming events please visit our website at www.westlandjaycees.org.

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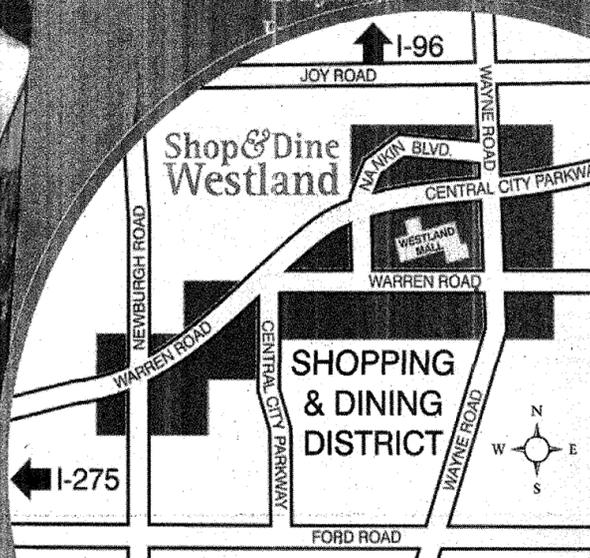


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For more information, visit online at www.cityofwestland.com

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Lightfest holds Tuesday toy nights

Wayne County Parks is thrilled to lend a helping hand to disadvantaged children in Wayne County with Toy Night Tuesdays at the Wayne County Lightfest.

On Tuesday, Dec. 14 and 21, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 Lightfest donation. Visitors are also welcome to contribute the recommended donation. Wayne County considers the donations an opportunity for the people of the community to partner with the county in an effort to make a difference in children's lives.

New for the 2010 Lightfest are 17 displays, including a sports themed area and dinosaur. Lightfest features more than 35 giant animated displays and more than one million lights. It is the midwest's

largest and longest light show. The complete Lightfest route stretches over four miles of Hines Drive.

Bring the family to see the holiday light display 7-10 p.m. nightly. Lightfest is open now until Dec. 31, except Christmas Day when it's closed. There is a \$5 donation per car.

Don't forget to visit Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23, along with a refreshment stand to buy coffee, hot chocolate and other snacks.

Don't forget to bring your letters to Santa! Outside of Santa's workshop there will be a giant mailbox where kids of all ages can drop off their letters to Santa. Santa's elves will pick up the letters each

night. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland.

Lightfest is provided in partnership with Friends of Wayne County Parks, DTE Energy, ITC Holdings, DBT Marketing and Promotional Group, McDonald Modular and Entertainment Express Luxury Limousine, Oakwood Healthcare Inc., Play Environments Inc., Moore Brothers Plumbing, Heating and Cooling and the Great Lakes Women's Soccer League.

For more information on Wayne County Lightfest call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecounty.com.

Gingerbread popular this time of year

December is the month for the delicious treat known as gingerbread. Gingerbread men and gingerbread houses are very popular this time of year. But where does gingerbread come from?

Gingerbread became popular in Europe during the Middle Ages. The spice ginger originally came to Europe during the Crusades, while adding breadcrumbs and ginger together (the first form of gingerbread) happened 200 years later. Gingerbread became especially popular in Germany, which was the center of the spice trade. Molasses came to Europe in the 1600s, and gingerbread as we know it was born.

To make gingerbread dough, you need flour, ginger, sugar, cinnamon, and molasses, among other ingredients. Here's a recipe from the Food Network:

6 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
4 teaspoons ground ginger
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature
1 1/2 cups light brown sugar, packed
2 large eggs
1 cup dark molasses

Some recipes call for molasses; others use dark corn syrup instead. And of course, add frosting as needed, which means a whole bunch.

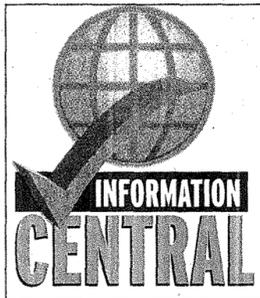
Interested in baking with gingerbread? The Public Library of Westland owns many books on the topic. Try "Gingerbread: Things to Make and Bake" by Teresa Layman and Barbara Morgenroth, "Gingerbread for All Seasons" by Teresa Layman, or "The Gingerbread Book."

For more information, visit the Public Library of Westland or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also search the online catalog at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Glass Etching: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13

We'll show you how to etch wintery designs onto water glasses to make a personalized gift. Seating limited,



show up ready to perform!

Friday Movie Night: 7 p.m. Dec. 17
Stop by the library every Friday evening for a screening of a recently released movie. This week's movie is "The Kids Are All Right." Two children conceived by artificial insemination bring their birth father into their family life. Rated R. No registration is required. This is an After Hours Program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

Holiday Concert Series: Ara Topouzian, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Want to get away from the holiday rush? Join us as we welcome Middle Eastern artist, Ara Topouzian. "Ara Topouzian is an Armenian-American musician whose proficiency on the kanun (Middle Eastern laptop harp with over 76 strings) has made him a nationally recognized artist." (Michigan Humanities Council). Everyone is welcome.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Information Central was compiled by young adult librarian Liz Waun. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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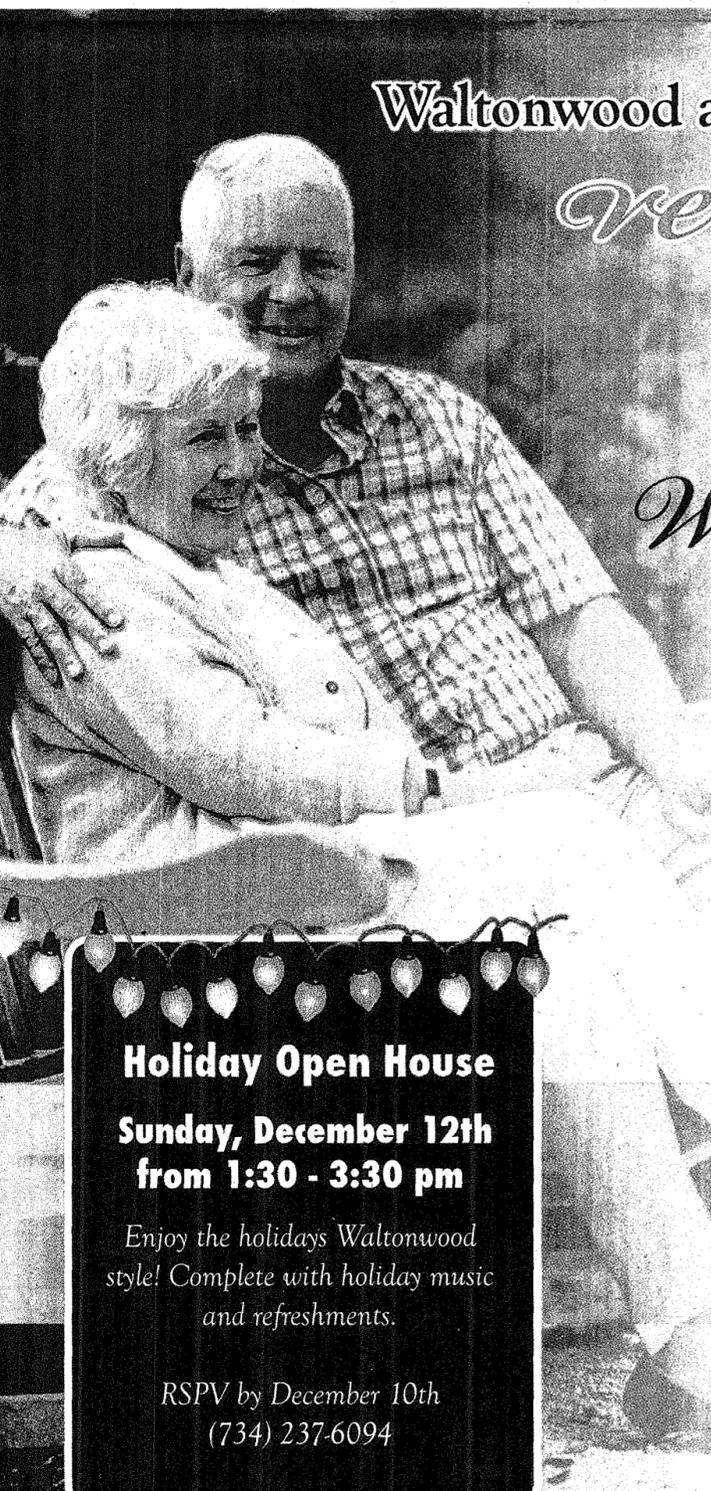
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Holiday Open House

**Sunday, December 12th
from 1:30 - 3:30 pm**

Enjoy the holidays Waltonwood style! Complete with holiday music and refreshments.

RSPV by December 10th
(734) 237-6094

Extra residential recycling bins still available

Need a second blue recycling container? The City of Westland has a limited number of the blue wheeled carts available for residents who've found the initial 96-gallon container isn't enough.

The carts can be requested by calling the Westland Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770. They will be delivered to their house free of charge.

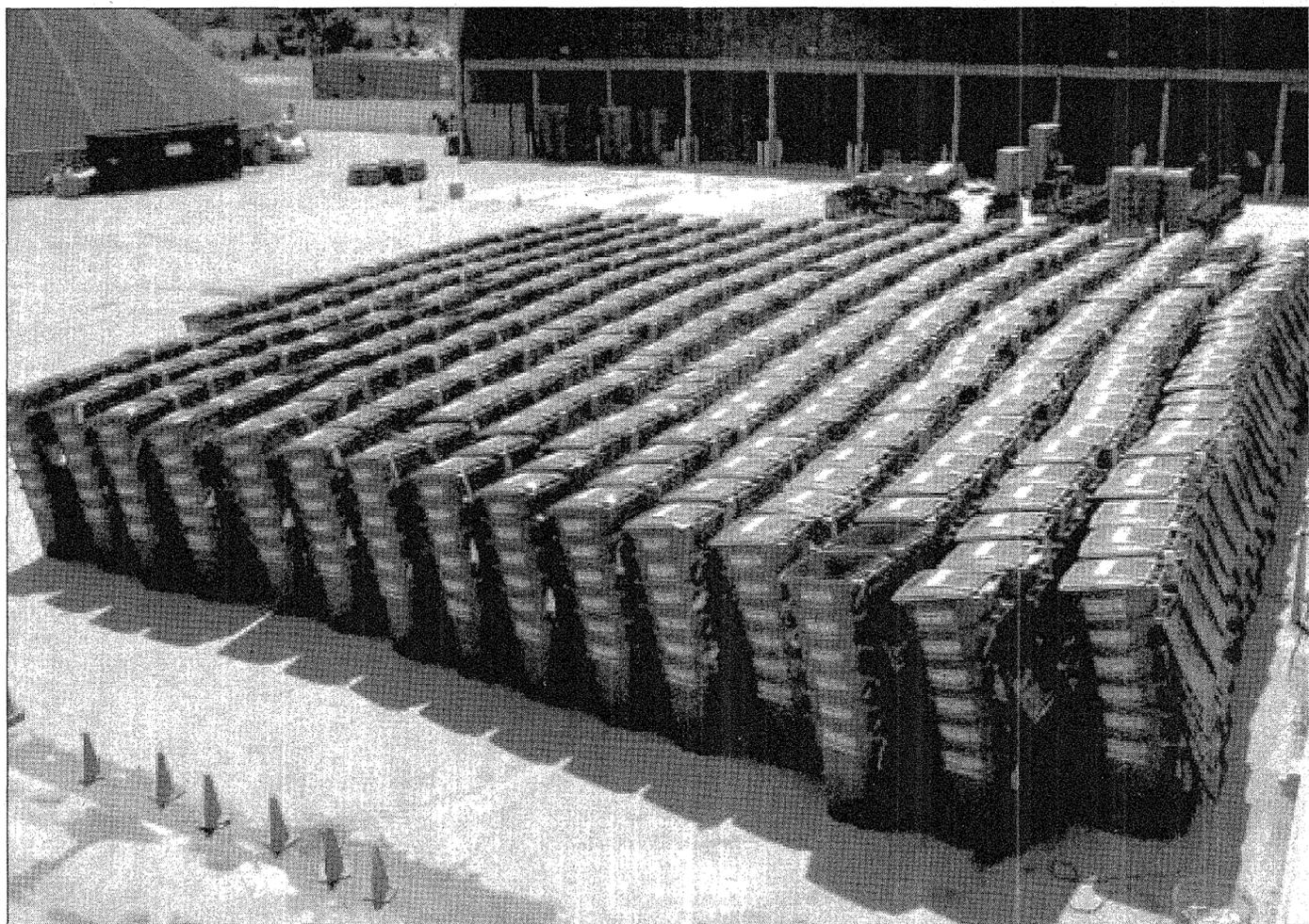
There is a limited number of containers left over from Phase 1, and they are available on a first come, first basis, with a limit of one extra per household.

When calling DPS, residents need to request a new container and provide their name and address to be put on a list. The container should be delivered to the residence within two business days.

There is a limited number of containers left over from Phase 1 and they are available on a first come, first basis, with a limit of one extra per household.

The containers are for recycling only and the city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, which picks up regular household trash will not accept trash placed in the recycling containers.

Since the inception of the curbside recycling program, Westland residents have recycled more than 12 million pounds of trash. An average of 519 pounds per household was recycled last year. This was up from the 93 pounds per household that were previously collected annually at



The City of Westland is making available a second 96-gallon recycling bin to residences. People interested in getting one need to call the Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770.

the city drop off site, a 458 percent increase.

"With an unbelievable 80 percent participation rate, this very successful program has effectively cut our city's solid waste that goes to the landfill by over a third," said

Mayor William Wild. "We must thank our residents for their recycling efforts and we are looking forward to providing them more opportunities to make our community better."

The other side of this pro-

gram is the economic impact it is having on the local economy by partnering with Recycle Bank, the nation's leading recycling rewards company. More than 36,000 Recycle Bank discounts and gift cards were redeemed last

year, which pumped hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the economy. The City of Westland and Recycle Bank were honored in Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Conference of Mayors with its 2010 Excellence in Public

Private Partnership Award. The Mayor and the Westland City Council are still working on details of future phases that would include condominiums and multi-family units as well as businesses.

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
 Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011
Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA

It's Time to Register for Winter Programs

Programs have limited spaces available. Registration has begun and classes are currently filling up. Don't miss out on your favorite winter programs.

SIGN UP NOW!

Winter 1 Session: Jan. 10- Feb. 27 (7 weeks)
 Winter 2 Session: Feb. 28 - April 17 (7 weeks)

Bring in a new unwrapped toy to donate to **TOYS for TOTS** and receive a discount on the joining fee

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*Offer valid at Livonia Family YMCA only. Savings depend on membership type. Offer valid with 12-month agreement only.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

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

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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AROUND WESTLAND

American Girl holiday

Experience holiday cheer by attending a William P. Faust Public Library program, featuring Josefina, an American girl growing up in New Mexico in 1824. It is a chance to look back in history with a sense of wonder and appreciation. The program will be 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18.

Josefina's story is full of promise and challenge. Come discover what her life was like on her rancho, where treasured Spanish traditions were linked to her supportive community and resilient family. There will provide light refreshments, time to make a holiday craft and play a game like nine-year-old Josefina once enjoyed. Register for an American Girl Holiday: Josefina by calling the library at (734) 326-6123 or stopping by the children's reference desk, beginning Dec. 4.

The library is located on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road.

Food distribution

Westland has scheduled surplus federal food distribution for December.

Westland residents of Westland living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their food 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. The church number is (734) 729-1737.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Ave., south of Palmer.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building

manager for their day of distribution.

Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

The distribution will include apple juice, fresh potatoes, frozen beef roast, noodles, green beans, re-fried beans, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cheese soup and possible additional items. For more information, call the surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Food for Fines

The William P. Faust Public Library is letting patrons pare down their fines by donating non-perishable, unexpired food that will be donated to Gleaners Food Bank and be re-distributed to Westland area food shelters.

Between now and Thursday, Dec. 23, library patrons will be able to reduce their fines by \$2 by donating one item. The limit is \$20. Donations cannot be used for lost or damaged items.

To get fines reduced, bring goods to the Circulation Desk. Non-fine related food donations also will be accepted at the Circulation, Reference and Children's Service desks.

For a full list of accepted items, stop by the service desks. Cash donations also will be accepted at the Circulation Desk or online at www.gcfb.org.

The library is on Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Progressive raffle

The Westland Community Foundation is sponsoring a Queen of Hearts weekly progressive raffle. Drawings will be held at 9:30 p.m. every Friday except Christmas Eve and New Years Eve at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. The raffle will run until Dec. 16, and someone will win a

cash prize at every Friday drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 up to the Jackpot amount, which will grow every week until the Queen of Hearts is drawn.

Official rules and information are available at Westland Bowl or on the Westland Community Foundation website, westlandcommunityfoundation.org. Tickets are only \$1 each and can be purchased during normal business hours at Westland Bowl, from any Westland Community Foundation board member or by calling the event chairman at (734) 751-4940.

AMVETS Party AMVETS Post 171 in Westland is hosting a New Year Eve Extravaganza beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The cost is \$50 per couple for current members, \$70 per couple for non-members and \$65 per couple for new joiners. Included is a dinner buffet featuring chicken cordon bleu and roast beef rolls, disc jockey, party favors, balloon drop, champagne toast and pizza at midnight. There will be 50/50 drawings and raffles throughout the night. A \$10 unlimited drink band will be offered.

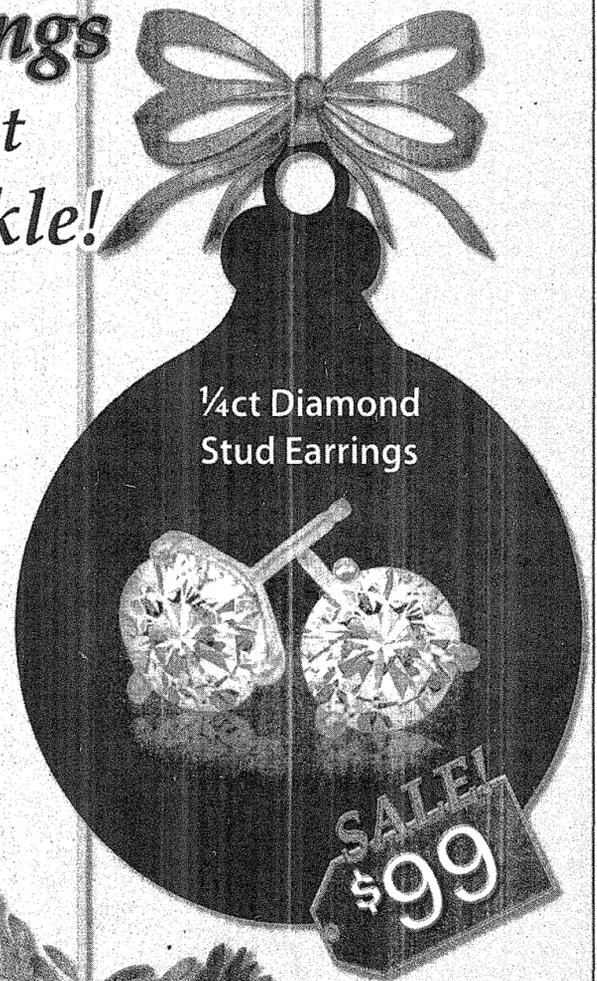
The public is welcome but tickets are limited. Contact Sheryl Lamarand at (734) 629-4774 to get tickets.

Office hours cancelled

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) will not hold district coffee hours during the month of December. Regularly scheduled Coffee Hours meetings will begin again in January at their usual time and place.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator in the meantime may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

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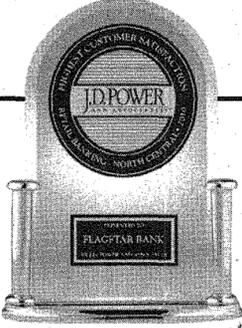
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Great debate

Faux or real – which tree is best?

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Each year, somewhere around Thanksgiving, Tom Diroff lugs a spruce-like tree out of a big box and sets it up in his living room.

With Christmas tunes as a backdrop, he decorates the tree with strands of multi-colored lights and an assortment of bulbs and ornaments. The finished product — full and festive — looks like the real thing.

For almost two decades, Diroff has enjoyed artificial trees.

“They’re convenient; can be put up any time; and, I don’t have to go out every year and shop for one,” said Diroff of Livonia.

Real or real-like? When it comes to Christmas trees, everyone has an opinion. For some, tradition matters. If mom and dad had a real tree, their kids will often follow suit. Space and time restraints, as well as allergies, are other deciding factors.

Like Diroff, Jeanette Sullivan of Plymouth can’t imagine dealing with the hassles of a live tree.

“I’m a diehard fake (tree) fan. I can put up my pre-lit tree in a half hour. I never have to water it; and, after three years, it was paid for,” said Sullivan, who has been partial to faux Christmas trees for about 15 years.

Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace offers more than 30 styles of life-like trees. Most are pre-lit. Clear lights are a favorite with shoppers, however, multi-colored strings are gaining in popularity. Prices range from \$99 to \$1,000. According to Tim Parker, general manager, most tree

needles at Plymouth Nursery are made of polyurethane. “It’s a new technique that makes the trees look real. We have a life-like tree that looks identical to a blue spruce.”

The store also carries an extensive selection of fresh trees that cost from \$15 to \$250.

There are two important factors that customers consider when they shop for an artificial tree, said Jeff Drews, store manager at Cornwell Christmas World in Plymouth: tree size and most natural looking tree.

“We carry a little bit of everything from Fraser and Douglas firs, pine trees, and spruce, to blue needle, green needle and multi-tip trees (more than one type of needle),” Drews said.

But if fresh and fragrant are more your style, consider a tree farm.

Ranking third in the nation in number of holiday trees harvested, Michigan produces more Christmas tree varieties than any other state. And that’s a plus for “live” tree lovers like Julie Grau of Livonia and her family.

For almost 20 years, the Graus have trekked to a tree farm on the fringes of Saginaw.

“We started cutting down our own Christmas tree because of the kids. And, now, it’s a yearly tradition,” said Grau, the mother of four.

With handsaw in tow, the band of tree cutters — often accompanied by cousins from the neighboring town — will meander out into the wintry woods to search for the best-looking 7- to 8-foot spruce. And they always find it.



Cathy Diroff of Westland, adds the final touches to an artificial Christmas tree at the home of her brother, Tom Diroff of Livonia.



Scarlett, 4, and Katie Flynn, 8, of Grosse Pointe Woods, pick out a Christmas tree with the assistance of Fred Stempky of Cheboygan. The Fred Stempky Nursery in Livonia offers nine varieties of fresh cut trees.

WHERE TO GO TREE SHOPPING

Where to buy artificial trees
 • Lowe’s (Canton and Westland); www.lowes.com
 • The Home Depot (Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth and two Canton locations); www.homedepot.com
 • Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-5500; www.plymouthnursery.net
 • Cornwell Christmas World, 874 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 459-7410; www.cornwellpoolandpatio.tv
 Where to buy a real tree
 • Three Cedars Farm, 7897 Six Mile Road, Salem Township, (248) 437-

8200, www.threecedarsfarm.org; (pre-cut)
 • Waldock Tree Farm, 3090 Dutcher Road, Howell, (517) 546-3890, www.waldocktreefarm.com; (U-cut)
 • Mutch’s Hidden Pines, 303 W. Newark Road, Lapeer, (810) 667-2711, www.mutchshiddenpines.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Middle Road Tree Farm, 4235 Middle Road, Highland, (248) 887-1494, www.middleroadtreefarm.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Braun’s, 796 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, (734) 663-2717, www.braun-strees.com; (U-cut and pre-cut)
 • Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation, 9381 Day Road, near Maybee, (734) 587-3155; (U-cut)

• Barsons Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman, Westland, (734) 421-5959, www.barsons.com; (pre-cut)
 • Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-2925; and, through Dec. 19, Riley Park, south side of Grand River Avenue, east of Farmington Road in Farmington; (pre-cut)
 • Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-5500; www.plymouthnursery.net (pre-cut)
 For a list of all tree farms and retail lots in Michigan, contact the Michigan Christmas Tree Association at (800) 589-8733 or online at www.mcta.org.

Pines in Lapeer; and Three Cedars Farm in Salem Township.

Fraser firs are a crowd pleaser at Barson’s Greenhouse in Westland. “They have short, soft needles that last,” said Debbie Barson, co-owner.

Ornaments don’t sag on Fraser firs because the branches are nice and sturdy, she added. A 6- to 7-foot pre-cut tree costs \$29.99; a 7- to 8-foot tree is \$55.

When choosing a fresh tree, most people are “looking for symmetry, shape and height,” said Lisa Steinkopf, a sales manager at Steinkopf Nursery. All trees at this Farmington Hills nursery, except for one variety, were grown in Michigan. Prices range from \$24 to \$150.

New this year, through Sunday, Dec. 19, Steinkopf will be selling trees at Riley Park in downtown Farmington.

Closer to home, the Middle Road Tree Farm in Highland and Braun’s in Ann Arbor offer family-fun adventures

where patrons can either choose-and-cut a tree or pick out a pre-cut tree.

U-cut trees are also avail-

able at Waldock Tree Farm in Howell; Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation near Maybee; Mutch’s Hidden

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 Fax 734.455.4982

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Cheese.... **\$3.99**
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SUNDAY, December 12, 2010

Churchill's Stephen Foster (14) is hawked by Stevenson defender Joseph Swingle during Friday's basketball game.



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Impressive start

Reynolds makes debut, Stevenson romps, 61-32

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The hype surrounding the debut of Livonia Stevenson's 6-foot-9 transfer center Jalen Reynolds brought out a larger than normal crowd Friday night.

And the host Stevenson fans didn't walk away disappointed as the Spartans rolled to a convincing 61-32 win over rival Livonia Churchill.

Reynolds, a Xavier University signee, showed flashes of his talent with 10 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots.

His alley-oop dunk at the end of the first quarter gave the Spartans a 15-2 lead and they never looked back.

"They packed it in against Jalen and obviously we wanted to get him some early touches," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "It was very difficult because every time he caught the ball, he would see a double and triple team. But slowly we realized that we had to utilize our outside shooters and we did that."

With Reynolds drawing extra attention, it was the senior guard combo of C.J. Mwila and Jonathan Campbell that burned the Chargers for 17 and 11 points, respectively.

Stevenson connected on eight 3-pointers on the night.

"C.J. and Jonathan shot the ball very well tonight," Allie said. "I don't see any team being

Please see **STEVENSON, B2**

GAME WRAPS

S'craft men split

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team got off to an 11-2 lead Friday night, but host Kalamazoo Valley Community College stormed back for the first-round tournament win, 79-53.

Ken Gordon and Jairon Hunt led the victorious Cougars (6-3) with 18 and 13 points, respectively.

Daniel Hill and D'vontae Lewis each had 11, while Reshardd Harris added for the Ocelots (6-7).

On Wednesday, Hill scored 18 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the host Schoolcraft (6-6) scored a 70-63 win over Owens Technical (Ohio) Community College.

Lydell Mason added 16 points and eight rebounds, while Ron Purnmill (Garden City) chipped in with 15 points and five rebounds as the Ocelots broke a 32-32 halftime deadlock by outscoring the Express 38-31 over the final 20 minutes.

Greg Garrett paced Owens (5-7) with 17 points and nine rebounds.

Crusaders triumph

Westland's Bryant Slaughter came off the bench to score 26 points Wednesday as Madonna University earned its first Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference win over host University of Michigan-Dearborn, 76-62.

The Crusaders, who led 42-18 at halftime, also got 19 points and four assists from freshman guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) to improve to 2-9 overall and 1-2 in the WHAC.

Senior center Geoff Gaylor chipped in with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Myke White led the Wolves (3-10, 1-2) with 21 points.

Dempsey All-Region

Madonna University senior Liz Dempsey (Livonia Franklin) and junior Katie Altman (Allen Park Cabrini) were both recently named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association 2010 Mid-Central Region team.

Dempsey, a Westland native, was second on the team with 468 kills and led the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference in service aces (64). She also recorded 488 digs en route to All-WHAC honors.

Altman, 6-foot middle hitter, also became the Crusaders' 45th NAIA All-American after finishing with 488 total kills, while ranking second in the WHAC with a .360 attack percentage.

White gets honor

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White will be among the 10-member 2011 induction class into the Amateur Softball Association of America National Hall of Fame.

White was selected for his playing career as a modified softball pitcher, only the third player to be inducted into that category.

He is a five-time ASA All-America and led the Miami Sting to the ASA Men's Major Modified National Championship in 1985 and 1991.

His induction will take place in November 2011 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Franklin grapplers keep streak intact

Pats six-peat in City tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For the sixth year in a row, the Livonia City Wrestling Tournament trophy will have the name "Franklin" engraved on it.

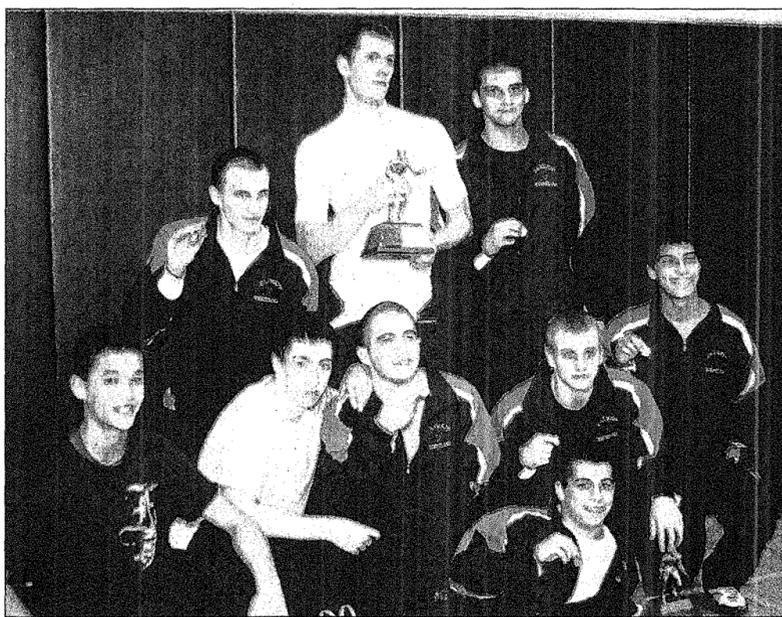
The Patriots put on another dominating performance Wednesday, boasting nine individual champions en route to a tourney-high 253.5 points.

Churchill, winning four weight classes, was runner-up with 151, while host Stevenson, getting one title, placed third with 116.5.

Clarenceville, making an appearance again after a one-year absence from the tournament, wound up fourth with 103.5 under new coach Aaron Davis.

"It was good, probably a B-plus or A-minus," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said of his team's showing. "We had horses coming in and I felt we were definitely the favorite, but I didn't want to wrestle poorly and win, which we definitely could have done. Obviously we had a few less champs, but we

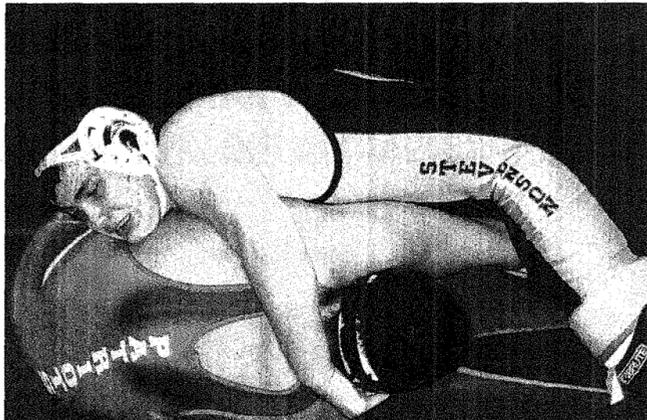
Please see **GRAPPLERS, B4**



KIRT AMOS

Franklin came away with nine individual titles in Wednesday's Livonia City meet. Among the winners were Gabe Martinez (119 pounds), Jordan Atienza (130), MVP Steve Tuyu (135), Jordan McGuire (140), Josh Hatfield (145), Avery Opperman (152), Allen Steele (160), Alex O'Connor (171) and Matt Roos (189).

Jacob Range (top) was Stevenson's lone City champion with a pin over Franklin's Omar Haymour.



TRACY VAUGHAN

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

LIVONIA CITY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS Dec. 8 at Stevenson H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Franklin, 253.5 points; 2. Churchill, 151; 3. Stevenson, 116.5; 4. Clarenceville, 103.5.

INDIVIDUAL FINAL RESULTS

103 pounds: Jon Locklear (Churchill) won by major decision over Jack Nawa (Franklin), 15-2.

112: Josh Perez (Churchill) pinned Ian Bunker (C'ville), 4:28; 3rd place: Kenneth Steele (Franklin) won by void.

119: Jacob Meadows (Churchill) dec. Dan Martinez (Franklin), 9-2; 3rd: Mike Weiss (C'ville) won by void.

125: Gabe Martinez (Franklin) dec. James Locklear (Churchill), 8-2; 3rd: Ash Alhaj (Stevenson) dec. Shane Martin (C'ville), 10-3.

130: Jordan Atienza (Franklin) won by major dec. over Corey Davis (Stevenson), 14-4; 3rd: Justin Baker (Churchill) p. Lee Sloan (C'ville), 3:48.

135: Steve Tuyu (Franklin) dec. Jon Bannoura (Churchill), 4-3; 3rd: Samer Shebak

(Stevenson) p. Steve Spens (C'ville), 3:05.

140: Jordan McGuire (Franklin) p. Kody Roy (Stevenson), 3:04; 3rd: Jacob Boettcher (C'ville) p. Tony Sewell (Churchill), 5:21.

145: Josh Hatfield (Franklin) p. Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville), 5:13; 3rd: Zack Auner (Stevenson) p. Matt Siasasz (Churchill), 1:45.

152: Avery Opperman (Franklin) won technical fall over Aaron Bibik (C'ville), 17-2 (4:48); 3rd: Josh Bridge (Churchill) won by void.

160: Allen Steele (Franklin) p. Nate Collins (Stevenson), 1:01; 3rd: Brendan Groves (C'ville) p. Jacob Wrick (Churchill), 4:20.

171: Alex O'Connor (Franklin) dec. Joe Scott (Stevenson), 7-2; 3rd: Jon Ristola (Churchill) p. Chris Edwards (C'ville), 1:49.

189: Matt Roos (Franklin) won by major dec. over Mike Harp (Churchill), 10-1; 3rd: Ryan Groves (C'ville) p. Kyle Agar (Stevenson), 2:29.

215: Dillon Morantis (Churchill) dec. Ryan Simmons (Franklin), 6-2; 3rd: Jeremy Smith (C'ville) won by void.

285: Jacob Range (Stevenson) p. Omar Haymour (Franklin), 3:38; 3rd: Anthony Giordano (C'ville) p. Killian Diaz (Churchill), 4:28.

Lady Ocelots turn tables on No. 3-ranked Express

It's rare that the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team comes into a game as the underdog.

But that was the situation Wednesday and the Lady Ocelots were able to rise to the occasion with an 82-71 homecourt victory over No. 3-ranked Owens Technical (Ohio) Community College.

Schoolcraft, now 9-2 overall and ranked No. 13 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, ran its home floor winning streak to 54 while dropping the Express to 11-1.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Shawnicka Thomas led Schoolcraft with a game-high 21 points to go along with nine rebounds. Sophomore center Kimberly Bee added 18 points and 19 rebounds, while Sheallica Grandberry contributed 13 points.

Schoolcraft outrebounded the Express, 55-36.

Aja Hall led Owens, off to its best start in school history, with 15 points. Joi Jennings and Brittany Morris

added 11 and 10, respectively.

Schoolcraft led 42-35 at halftime and took a commanding 66-51 lead with 5:23 remaining following an 18-7 run.

Owens rallied to within four, 71-67, with 2:09 remaining, but couldn't get any closer.

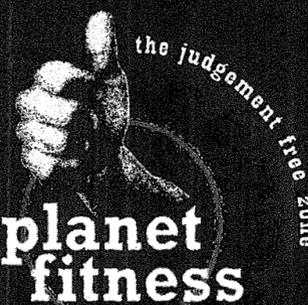
MADONNA 66, UM-DEARBORN 53: On Wednesday, sophomore center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) tied a career-high with 24 points as Madonna University (3-5, 1-2) downed host University of Michigan-Dearborn (2-9,

0-3) in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference game.

McGrath made 10-of-13 shots from the floor and sank all four free-throw attempts as the Crusaders made a 34-18 halftime lead stick.

Rachel Melcher and Heather Pratt each added nine points for MU, which shot 28-of-60 from the field (46.7 percent). Melcher and Tabatha Wydryck each grabbed nine rebounds in the win.

Brittany Teets and Katie Roberts each tallied 14 points for the Lady Wolves.



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PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS
WAYNE MEMORIAL 27
MILFORD 3
Dec. 9 at Striking Bowl
 Wayne scorers: Elliott Arnold, 267-256-523; Scott Franklin, 222-181-403; Tony Lave, 208-190-398; Jeremy Brown, 201-167-368; Kody Kubrak, 217; Zack Huffman, 192. **Team totals:** Wayne, 1,090-1,011-2,101 (17 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 235-189-424 (10 points); Milford, 216-159-375 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 2-0 overall; Milford, 1-1 overall.
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 15.5
HOWELL 14.5
Dec. 9 at Striking Bowl
 John Glenn scorers: John Cleavenger, 238-235-473; Tommy Ruark, 202-267-469; Brian Monty, 278-179-467; Jordan Hornes, 200-188-378; Daniel Ammons, 245.
Team totals: John Glenn, 1,163-1,046-2,209 (15.5 points); Howell, 1,064-891-1,955 (4.5 points).
Baker games: Howell, 212-182-394 (10 points); John Glenn, 182-177-359 (0 points).
Dual match records: John Glenn, 2-0 overall; Howell, 0-2 overall.
WAYNE MEMORIAL 29
WALLED LAKE WESTERN 1
Dec. 6 at Town 'N Country Lanes
 Wayne scorers: Elliott Arnold, 227-256-483; Zack Huffman, 228-236-464; Jeremy Brown, 199-254-453; Tony Lave, 223; Barry Banks, 212; Scott Franklin, 206; Kody Kubrak, 159. **Team totals:** 1,072-1,128-2,200 (19 points). **Baker games:** 198-229-427 (10 points).
Western scorers: Justin Dobrusin, 235-213-448; Tyler Pajot, 217-204-421. **Baker games:** 160-207-367 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 1-0 overall; Western, 0-1 overall.
GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS
WAYNE MEMORIAL 16
WALLED LAKE WESTERN 12
Dec. 6 at Town 'N Country Lanes
 Wayne scorers: Brianna Everett, 181-184-365; Stephani O'Harris, 157-189-346; Chelsea Morneau, 151-171-322; Brianna Winn, 159-139-298; Emily Everett, 132-152-284. **Team totals:** 780-835-1,615 (16 points).
Baker games: Western, 157-136-293 (10 points); Wayne, 154-132-188 (0 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 1-0 overall; Western, 0-1 overall.

Spartans escape Rocks, 4-3

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 14
 Crestwood at Luth, Westland, 5:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth, West, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16
 Luth, Westland at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Novi, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at South Lyon East, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17
 Melvindale at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
(Romulus Invitational)
 Stevenson vs. Schroder (Ohio), 5:45 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 13
 Inter-City at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 14
 Ply. Christian at Luth, Westland, 7 p.m.
 Clawson at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 Ladywood at Grand Lodge, 7 p.m.
 Novi at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Lakeland at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16
 Old Redford at Luth, Westland, 7 p.m.
 Edsel Ford at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 South Lyon East at Wayne, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 15
 Churchill vs. Northville at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17
(Holiday Tourney at Taylor SportsPlex)
 Franklin vs. Lincoln Park, 6 p.m.
 Taylor United vs. Summit Alliance, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 18
 Taylor SportsPlex Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Edgar Arena, 7 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 15
 Clarenceville at Grosse Ile, 5 p.m.
 John Glenn at Wayne Quad, 5 p.m.
 Brother Rice, Lake Orion, Parma Western at Stevenson Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17
 Oakland Co. Tourney at Silverdome, TBA.
Saturday, Dec. 18
 Patriot Invitational at Franklin, 9 a.m.
 Woodhaven Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Michigan Center Invitational, TBA.
 Oakland Co. Tourney at Silverdome, TBA.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Tuesday, Dec. 14
 John Glenn at Redford Union, 4 p.m.
 Country Day at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16
 Churchill at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Dec. 16
 Livonia Red at W.L. Maroon-Gold, 6:30 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Monday, Dec. 13
 Clarenceville at Canton, John Glenn vs. Wayne
 at Town 'N Country Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16
 Clarenceville vs. Wayne, John Glenn vs. Novi at Super Bowl (Canton), 3:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 17
(Madonna Univ. Crusader Classic)
 Spring Arbor vs. Marygrove, 6 p.m.
 Madonna vs. East-West (Ill.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 18
 MU Crusader Classic, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

PREP HOCKEY

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team had almost twice as many chances, but the Spartans had to hold on for dear life Friday night for a 4-3 KLA Central Division victory over visiting Salem at Edgar Arena.

Stevenson outshot the Rocks, 38-22, and never trailed to improve to 5-1 overall and 4-0 in the division.

"We sure missed some opportunities, but they (Salem) got outstanding goaltending and made it closer than we liked," Stevenson coach Gerry Vento said. "I thought we carried the play a bit and found a way to get it done."

It was 1-1 after one period as Justin Shureb got the Spartans on the board first at 4:06 on a power play goal from Tim Pruchnik and Ryan Urso.

Matt Downey countered for the Rocks (2-4-1, 1-2) with 36 seconds left in the period from Ryan Quigley and Nick Hayes.

Stevenson took a 2-1 lead into the third period on Urso's short-handed unassisted goal at 12:58.

In the final period, Dominic

Lutz made it 3-1 from Nick Barr and Brendan Hay at 4:05, but the Downey cut the deficit to one goal with an unassisted short-handed effort at 9:07. Stevenson, still on the power play, got what proved to be the game winner from Andrew Palushaj, his seventh of the year, only 15 seconds later from Urso and Shureb.

Salem, however, refused to fold as Austin Sartorius scored with 4:36 remaining from Mark McGee and Nick Hochkins.

Salem goaltender Brendan Price made 34 saves, while Stevenson's Connor Humitz had 19 stops.

W.L. WESTERN 8, FRANKLIN 4: Wes Sjogren, Cooper Nye and Kyle Shrebe each tallied a pair of goals Friday as host Walled Lake Western (2-2) downed Livonia Franklin (2-5) in a KLA A crossover.

Other Western goal scorers included Jarrad Wysong and Trevor Couch.

Couch also assisted on four goals. Franklin, which outshot the Warriors, 42-28, fell behind 2-0 after

one period and 6-2 after 34 minutes.

The Patriots got a hat trick from Adam Michael and one from Zach Wiacek.

Assists went to Kevin Webb, Danny Donahue and Aaron Hoffmeyer.

A total of 31 penalties were called in the game with Western drawing 17 (for 35 minutes) and Franklin 14 (for 29 minutes).

PLYMOUTH 3, CHURCHILL 2: Tyler Sanders recorded a pair of goals, including the game-winner with only 2:01 left to give Plymouth (2-0-2, 2-0-1) a KLA A South Division boys hockey win Wednesday over host Livonia Churchill (2-3, 0-3) at Edgar Arena.

Sanders popped home a rebound after a shot from the point and Justin Bauer drew the assist on the game-deciding goal.

After a scoreless opening period, Churchill got on the board at 5:15 of the second on Joe Williams' goal from Nick Proben.

Sanders then answered for Plymouth on a power play goal at 13:33 on assists from Kevin Natusiak and Mitch Claggett.

Churchill regained the lead at 4:29 of final period on assists from Mike Kutek and Steven Klisz.

But Nick Schultz tied it for Plymouth at 7:52 from Ryan Theisen and Jordan Lopetrone.

Plymouth goaltender Michael Justus stopped 37-of-39 Churchill shots.

Alex Estes made 16 saves for the Chargers.

"Justus is probably the best goalie we'll face all year, he's All-State caliber," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We've outshot our last two opponents by a two-to-one margin and can't come away with the win."

STEVENSON 8, FRANKLIN 0: It was over after two periods Wednesday in the second half of the Edgar Arena double-header as Livonia Stevenson (4-1, 3-0-1) rolled to the KLA A Kensington Conference crossover win over Livonia Franklin (2-4, 0-3).

Andrew Palushaj scored twice to raise his season goal total to six for the Spartans, who led 3-0 after one period before adding five more in the second period to mercy the Patriots.

Ryan Urso and freshman Dominic Lutz each contributed a goal and assist.

Other Stevenson goal scorers included Thomas Ross (short-handed), senior defenseman Brendan Hay (first career tally), Cam Humitz and Tim Pruchnik.

John Mandryk and Justin Shureb each collected three assists.

Stevenson goalie Mike Kanitra had to make just four saves to record the shutout, while Franklin's Matt Slinder had 33 stops.

STEVENSON

FROM PAGE B1

able to take away both those things from us whether we pound the ball into Jalen, or whether we take 3-point shots. Either of those options gives us an opportunity to win a ballgame."

Churchill went without a field goal for the first 12 minutes, 37 seconds before Matt Windle broke the ice with a 3-pointer.

"I thought we came out scared," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We were really timid. We didn't move the ball like we usually do. We didn't cut as hard as we usually do. We were just dribbling with no purpose. Not many good things I can say

about the way we ran our offense. It's disappointing because we did a pretty good job of that in practice."

Churchill (0-2) trailed 28-9 at intermission and shot only 2-of-16 in the first half. Stevenson increased then its lead to 46-18 after three quarters as Allie emptied his bench.

Reynolds, who sat out last year since transferring from Livonia Clarenceville, hadn't played a high school game since his sophomore year.

"I was just ready to get out there and ball-out and show everybody what I'm capable of," the Stevenson center said. "Coach (Allie) told me to stay focused, keep my head and don't let anything distract me. I had to slow it

down a little bit and let the game come to me.

"I guess I didn't get in low as much because they were trapping it and squeezing it, but it's the first game, it's all good. It's over with and on to the next one."

Mwila, the 6-foot point guard, was glad to get the season opener under his belt.

"We've been practicing for so long," he said. "It's been a like a year, I think. We're just happy to play finally and get a chance to play a game. Coach (Allie) told us to calm down because we were really excited. We were getting pumped for the game, so it was fun."

Churchill, meanwhile, had nobody score in double figures. Senior forward Stephen

Foster finished with a team-high eight points.

"We guarantee we have them (Stevenson) once more with a possibility of two times after that," Solak said. "We can get better the next time we get them, and make a better game out of it, or we can go the other way. I think for the most part, the kids are on board. We'll get through this. We'll come back tomorrow and get after it right away. That's all we can do."

Meanwhile, the nearly packed Stevenson stands brought a smile to Allie's face.

"It's nice to see we're finally starting to change the culture at Stevenson," he said. "We hope people continue to come back."

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Where hometown stories unfold

All-area girls volleyball team

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

MADDY DOYLE, Jr. OH, F.H. Mercy: The petite, 5-foot-8 junior doesn't look like an imposing hitter with a powerful swing, but that quickly becomes apparent once the match starts. She led the Marlins to a second straight Final Four appearance in the Class A tournament with her hitting, but she's also a quality, all-round player. Doyle had 816 kills, 498 digs and 42 aces. She is a repeat member of the all-area first team.

CORY URBATS, Sr. S, Liv. Churchill: The 5-7 senior setter is one of the most accomplished players in Churchill volleyball history leading the Chargers to a 149-17 three-year record.

Urbats earned all-KLAA, all-Region 18 and third-team Class A all-state honors this season for the state quarterfinalists. She was also a member of Churchill's state semifinal teams her junior and sophomore seasons.

This season, Urbats set a school record with 1,201 assist-to-kills and holds the career mark with 3,113. Both are MHSAA records as well.

Urbats also carries a 4.34 grade-point average and is a MIVCA academic all-stater.

"Taking all the volleyball athletes we've had at Churchill, Cory is clearly the best of the best," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said.

KARA KEMPINSKI, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill: The 5-6 senior libero anchored the Chargers' defense with a total of 853 digs (6.8 per set), second all-time in a single season.

Kempinski also ranks second all-time at Churchill in career digs (1,334).

She earned all-KLAA, all-Region 18 and Class A honorable mention all-state honors this fall.

"A lot of our success the past two seasons is a direct result of the hard-nosed, aggressive play that Kara gave us," Grenier said. "She epitomizes the calling card of Churchill volleyball, which is all about defense. Her pinpoint and accurate passing, along with her defense, enable us to get into our offense and be successful. Kara's positive attitude and work ethic will be sorely missed next year."

KATY ROONEY, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 senior middle hitter earned all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and second-team all-state honors in Class B as the Blazers reached the state semifinals.

Rooney, headed to NCAA Division I Lafayette College (Pa.), finished with 337 kills on the year (3.4 per set) to go along with 102 total blocks.

"Katy was just a phenomenal leader for us this year, on and off the court," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "She was our top offensive threat and was very difficult to defend when we were in system."

"Katy was a tremendous blocker, averaging over a block per set."

HALIE BAKER, Sr. OH, Westland Glenn: The 5-9 senior outside hitter, headed to Siena Heights, led the Class A regional finalists with 437 total kills (3.6 per set) to go along with 69 solo blocks and 33 block-assists.

The all-KLAA and all-Region 18 selection also collected 62 aces in 120 sets.

Baker was also chosen by her teammates for the Best Offense award.

"Halie really took charge at the net this season," Glenn coach Sharon Hubbard said. "She was committed to her team, and unanimously voted as one of the three team captains. She will be greatly missed by the John Glenn volleyball program."

KATIE HORTON, Soph. MH, Wayne: The 6-1 sophomore is one of the best kept secrets in the state as she led the Zebras in kills averaging six per set.

Horton was also an all-KLAA and scholar-athletic selection.

"Blocking is also a strong point for Katie," Wayne coach Deb Mills said. "She played both middle hitter and back row this year because we needed her to. She has a great attitude on and off the court. Currently there are several Big Ten teams looking at Katie including Michigan, Penn State and Ohio State."

JENNY RHODES, Sr. OH-Libero, Liv. Ladywood: The 5-8 junior libero and outside hitter earned both all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and third-team Class B all-state recognition for state semifinalists.

Rhodes finished the season with 445 digs (4.7 per set) and served at a 92 percent rate with 56 aces. She only had 42 errors in 630 serve receptions.

"Jenny did everything for us this year," Craggs said. "She is a tremendous athlete and played wherever she was needed at the time."

"Her best position is liber, but was an outside for us during the state tourney run. She was a our top serve receiver and led the team in digs all season. Jenny also has a great serve that kept team from effectively running their sideout offense."

EMILY NORSCIA, Soph. MH, Liv. Churchill: The 6-1 sophomore earned all-KLAA and all-Region 18 accolades after racking up 622 kills, sixth all-time in a single season at Churchill.

Norscia's kill percentage was .405 and she also finished with 49 aces.

"Emily made the transition from a middle blocker to an outside hitter," Grenier said. "And she had an outstanding season leading us to a quarterfinal finish. I look forward to see what Emily can do for her



Maddy Doyle
Mercy



Cory Urbats
Churchill



Kara Kempinski
Churchill



Katy Rooney
Ladywood



Halie Baker
John Glenn



Katie Horton
Wayne



Jenny Rhodes
Ladywood



Emily Norscia
Churchill



Brooke Zywick
John Glenn



Lindsey Lerg
Mercy



Kaitlyn Krause
North Farmington



Nicole Merget
Salem



Kristin Malcolm
Plymouth Christian



Kristen Muir
Canton



Brooke Ruffolo
Mercy



Brittany Bejma
Garden City



Kayla Bridge
Plymouth



Kelly Blackney
Plymouth Christian coach

2010 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM

Maddy Doyle, Jr. OH, Farm. Hills Mercy
Cory Urbats, Sr. S, Liv. Churchill
Kara Kempinski, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill
Katy Rooney, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood
Halie Baker, Sr. OH, Westland Glenn
Katie Horton, Soph. MH, Wayne
Jenny Rhodes, Sr. OH-Libero, Liv. Ladywood
Emily Norscia, Soph. MH, Liv. Churchill
Brooke Zywick, Sr. Libero, Westland Glenn
Lindsey Lerg, Jr. OH, Farm. Hills Mercy
Kaitlyn Krause, Sr. Setter, N. Farmington
Nicole Merget, Sr. MH, Salem
Kristin Malcolm, Jr. MB, Ply. Christian
Kristen Muir, Jr. OH, Canton
Brooke Ruffolo, Sr. Libero, Farm. Hills Mercy
Brittany Bejma, Sr. Setter, Garden City
Kayla Bridge, Sr. OH, Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Kelli Young, Jr. OH, Farmington
Reina Tyl, Sr. OH, Liv. Stevenson
Kerry MacDonald, Sr. Setter, Salem
Alaina Turner, Jr. MB, Canton
Kenzie Kettner, Jr. OH, Liv. Ladywood
Samantha Zaleski, Sr. MB, Garden City
Andrea Phillips, Sr. MH, Farm. Harrison
Monika Rudis, Sr. OH, Liv. Stevenson

THIRD TEAM

Chelsea Williams, Sr. OH, Liv. Franklin
Jillian Sommerville, Sr. MH, Salem
Natalie Petrella, Sr. Setter, Farmington
Mariah Tesarz, Sr. Libero, Plymouth
Elena Lamping, Jr. MH, Farm. Hills Mercy
Ashley Williams, Sr. OH, Farmington
Kaitlyn Schoepner, Soph. MH, N. Farmington
Erica DenBoer, Soph. OH, Canton

FOURTH TEAM

Keri Horton, Jr. MH, Wayne
Ryan Elequin, Sr. Setter, Redford Union
Britanna Harris, Sr. Setter, Ply. Christian
Ashley Murphy, Soph. OH, Clarenceville
Leah Miller, Sr. OH, Huron Valley Lutheran
Amanda Terranella, Jr. MH, Luth. Westland
Julie Plummer, Sr. OH, N. Farmington
Danielle Risi, Sr. OH, Plymouth
Jamie Coleman, Soph. OH, Farm. Harrison

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kelly Blackney, Plymouth Christian

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Erin Menard, Nicole Kempinski, Krystyn Niescier, Franklin: Nicole Williamson, Stevenson: Jordan York, Katie Tomasic, Kristen Balhorn, Catherine Licata, Lauren Corbelli, John Glenn: Jordyn Coniam, Claire Truskowski, Sarah Headrick, Wayne: Shelby Hooper, Ladywood: Chylene Woodall, Caitlin McClurey, Kristie Auran, Alex Hines, Clarenceville: Joanna Burling, Ayanna Buckley, Kellie Ankle, Tony Vernier, Lutheran Westland: Marisa Hahn, Taylor Wiener, Huron Valley Lutheran: Allie Dest, Megan Kubinski, Salem: Kerstin Johnson, Lauren Aschermann, Madeline Vala, Abigail Dworzani, Canton: Maggie Deloy, Jackie Waite, Lauren Martin, Plymouth: Alex Roberts, Plymouth Christian: Amy Zinn, Abby Barbes, Folake Olojo, Jessica Rich, Farmington: Melanie Guyette, Haley Schneider, Sarah Gultknecht, Harrison: Emma Williams, Mallory Peters, Lisa McFarland, Maya Menio, Mercy: Annie Boden, Alexis Schultz, Meghan Cleary, North Farmington: Emily Weiss, Alyssa Hart, Makenzie Coulter, Katy Severson, Redford Thurston: Rachel Pebbles, Sarah Schulz, Garden City: Cayla Bone, Minta Whitaker, Redford Union: Lauren Brenner, Ryan Elequin, Jordan Hebler.

junior season. And with the improvement she has made, she'll definitely be one of the most dominate hitters in the state."

BROOKE ZYWICK, Sr. Libero, Westland Glenn: The 5-4 libero, headed to NCAA Division I Marist College (N.Y.), racked up 807 total digs (7.2 per set) en route to all-KLAA and all-Region 18 honors.

Zywick also had a passing rating of 2.46 and added 80 aces in 112 sets.

"Brooke had an amazing season," Hubbard said. "Not only was she unanimously voted by her teammates to be one of the three team captains, but she also received the 'Best Defense' award, also chosen by her teammates."

Zywick also excels in the classroom with a 3.7 cumu-

lative grade-point average. She is a three-time scholar-athlete and member of the National Honor Society.

LINDSEY LERG, Jr. OH, F.H. Mercy: The 5-foot-7 outside is a quality hitter in her own right and a perfect complement to Doyle on the other side of the frontcourt. Lerg was a major factor in Mercy (52-8-2) being the Catholic League champion and Class A runner-up to two-time winner Marian. She also never leaves the floor during a match and excels in the backcourt, too. Lerg, a repeat selection for the all-area first team, had 736 kills, 517 digs and 53 aces.

KAITLYN KRAUSE, Sr. Setter, N. Farmington: The 5-11 senior setter and all-round player excels in all phases of the game. She averaged 7.3 assists per game and had 569 total. Krause had 113 kills and a .378 kill percentage, and she also had 84 blocks (30/54), 184 digs and 11 aces. A two-time, all-area pick, Krause has a scholarship to play at nationally-ranked Dayton.

"For me, at North, I don't think I'll ever be able to replace a kid like that," coach Joe Lamagno said. "She's a great athlete and leader. It's going to be a rough time, trying to find somebody to do what she can do. When we were down and needed a spark, we looked to Kaitlyn to help us."

"Dayton is an extremely athletic team, and Kaitlyn is a perfect fit because she's athletic as well. She's smart, fast and doesn't lack confidence. This is what she has worked for since she was 12 or 13, and she's done everything right to get there."

NICOLE MERGET, Sr. MH, Salem: One of the best volleyball players to ever play for Salem, the Division 1-bound Merget finished strong for the 30-9-3 Rocks.

The fourth-year varsity player totaled 541 kills and 95 blocks (19 solo) to lead the team in both categories. She added 48 aces and 212 digs.

Merget was named to the All-KLAA, all-region and all-state teams while also being on the all-tourney team for the prestigious "Beast of the East" tourney.

"Nicole had the most kills on our team and blocks," Salem head coach Amanda Nies said. "It goes to show not only can she play offense well she also is a great defensive player."

"She is so explosive at the net and has really been a big leader for us this year."

Merget will play volleyball at D1 Jacksonville State in Alabama.

KRISTIN MALCOLM, Jr. MB, Ply. Christian: The junior's all-around excellence keyed Plymouth Christian's march all the way to the Class D finals.

Malcolm led the Eagles with 436 kills and 75 blocks and helped the cause with 217 digs and 39 service aces.

Her coach, Kelly Blackney, said the third-year player really has emerged as a confident, dominant team leader who sets the tone for the rest of the squad.

"Our team's talent ran pretty deep this year," Blackney said. "But Kristin played a vital role in leading the team to the state finals."

"She was a major threat on offense as well as defense, and because of her leadership as captain, her teammates followed in her work ethic and passion for the sport."

KRISTEN MUIR, Jr. OH, Canton: The consistently clutch, hard-hitting junior was a catalyst for many Canton rallies, connecting to the tune of 390 kills for the 29-11-3 Chiefs.

Muir also was solid on defense (639 kills) and at the service stripe, where she tallied 62 aces. In serve-receive, she was successful on 440 of 459 attempts (96 percent).

For her efforts, she was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"Kristen was someone that everyone looked to and was always a spark of energy on the court," said Chiefs' head coach Mary Krysa. "Kristen is an amazing player both offensively and defensively. She was one of our strongest players and had great leadership."

BROOKE RUFFOLO, Sr. Libero, F.H. Mercy: During a regional tournament match in November, the mother of an opposing player said of the Mercy defense: "They get to everything; they're all over the floor!" The Marlins often frustrated the other team's offense, and Ruffolo was a major reason why. A two-year starter at libero, she was the leader of "the most tenacious defense in the state," according to the Mercy program. Ruffolo led the under-sized but highly effective Mercy defense with 764 digs. She also had 29 aces.

BRITTANY BEJMA, Sr. Setter, Garden City: A three-year starter in head coach John Pace's lineup, Bejma was the heart and soul of a Cougars squad that swept through league play with a perfect 10-0 ledger and registered 18 victories overall. A setter, Bejma, who battled through injuries all year, averaged nine assists per set, was good on 96 percent of her serve attempts and compiled a 4.38 ace-to-error ratio. She finished with 57 aces on the season, 799 assists, 186 kills and 224 digs in 88 games.

"She's a fabulous volleyball player and a great leader and great captain," Pace said. "Her best skill is her volleyball theory. She always knew what to do with the ball. If the middle blocker went one way, she knew she could go the other way. She always knew her way out."

"She was the epitome of a great teammate. She wanted to win more than anything else and did an outstanding job of that all three years."

KAYLA BRIDGE, Sr. OH, Plymouth: The senior was a strong, reliable performer throughout her high school career and 2010 was no exception.

Bridge amassed 265 kills, 436 digs, 25 blocks and led the 21-13-4 Wildcats in serving (97-percent success rate).

For her efforts, the third-year varsity player was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"I have been most impressed by the way in which her all-around game has improved," said Plymouth head coach Kelly McCausland. "She could always hit, but I am proud of her improvements in the backcourt."

McCausland added that Bridge's high level of play and leadership qualities did not go unnoticed by teammates, who voted her the team's MVP.

COACH OF THE YEAR

KELLY BLACKNEY, Plymouth Christian: The little team that could. That's what Plymouth Christian Academy's Eagles have become under the guidance of third-year head coach Kelly Blackney.

Only 19 players tried out for the school's varsity and junior varsity teams combined, but Blackney assembled a solid roster featuring junior Kristin Malcolm that took care of business.

"We saw that although we are from a small school, ... we can compete with bigger schools," Blackney emphasized. "Unlike years past, we didn't view ourselves as the underdog, we walked in the gym with confidence and brought it out on the court."

"We took big risks, and that led to rewards that we could have only imagined before."

Anchored by their faith and team camaraderie, PCA (30-10-2) rolled through the MIAC and then defeated Lutheran Westland in the district finals. The team kept going through regionals and state quarterfinals, reaching the Final Four at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

After a riveting five-set victory in the semis against Central Lake, the Eagles were ousted in the finals by Battle Creek St. Phillip to make the Tigers champs for the third straight year.

"Our team this year was so successful because they began the season with passion, enthusiasm and dedication and carried it out throughout the entire season," Blackney said. "Our athletic director (Rick Swilley) did a great job at scheduling us to play against tough competitors and that really helped develop our level of play."

"But more importantly, it helped develop our confidence in each other and in our team."

York keys Stevenson victory; Blazers post 2 more triumphs

Coach Jen Knoph was pleased with what she witnessed Friday night from her Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team.

Junior guard Jordan York scored a game-high 19 points as the Spartans notched their first victory of the season at the expense host Livonia Churchill, 54-36.

Kristen Balhorn, a senior center, added 12 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Monika Rudis also grabbed eight boards.

"We're still going through some growing pains and tonight we were focused and didn't really have any letdowns," said Knoph, whose team led 14-13 after one quarter before opening up a 29-21 halftime advantage.

Sophomore Sydney Anderson paced Churchill (1-2) with 11 points and junior center Erin Menard, the team's leading scorer, was held to eight.

"All week long we focused our defense on her (Menard) because we knew she was a great player," Knoph said. "We held her to one field goal and six free throws. The girls did a great job of shutting her down."

GIRLS HOOPS

LADYWOOD 72, UNIV. PREP 47: Sophomore guard Andrea Anastos tallied 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds Friday as host Livonia Ladywood (3-0) rolled to a non-league victory over Detroit University Prep (1-1).

The Blazers jumped out to a 40-16 halftime lead and never looked back.

Sophomore Kiley Gorski added 12 points and seven rebounds, while junior guard Briana Combs had 11 points. Morgan Chops chipped in with eight points and 10 rebounds.

"It was a track meet, they (Prep) pressed us and we did a great job attacking and getting layups," Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti said. "We had only 11 turnovers. We did a great job of valuing the ball and getting good shots."

Najee Brazzle paced the Panthers with 17 points.

JOHN GLENN 61, HARRISON 31: Junior Erica Covile scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds Thursday as Westland John Glenn (3-0) pulled away in the second half for a non-league win at Farmington Hills Harrison (1-2).

Senior Andrea Gordon-McClain added 19 points and four rebounds, while freshman guard Kaira Barnes finished with nine points, four steals and four assists.

Glenn led by only three at halftime, 25-22, before going on a 21-7 run in the third period

followed by a 15-2 scoring surge in the final quarter.

Eman Hubbard led the Hawks with 15 points.

Glenn was 18-of-25 from the foul line, while Harrison was only 11-of-23.

LUTHERAN N'WEST 48, CLARENCEVILLE 37: On Thursday, Jillian McLoughlin scored 19 points and hauled down seven rebounds to propel Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (1-3) to a non-conference win over host Livonia Clarenceville (1-3).

Senior guard Brittany Tallman tallied 13 points and added five boards in a losing cause.

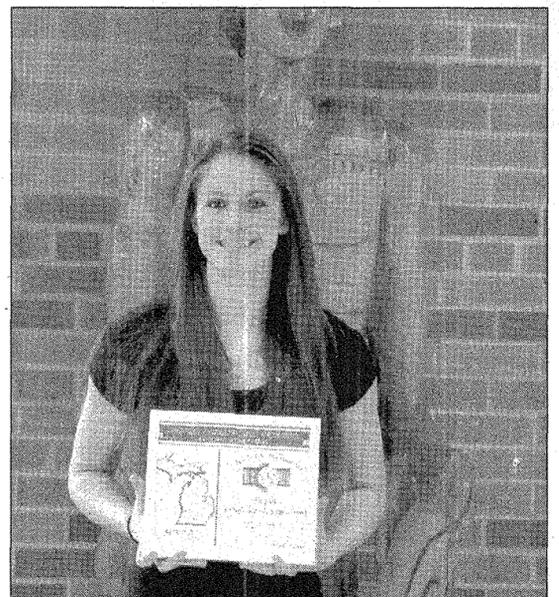
LADYWOOD 49, G.P. NORTH 28: A 16-3 first-quarter run carried Livonia Ladywood (2-0) to a non-league victory Wednesday over visiting Grosse Pointe North (0-2).

Senior forward Teresa Wojnarowski led a balanced Ladywood scoring attack with 12 points. She also grabbed seven rebounds.

Sophomore guard Andrea Anastos added seven points, seven rebounds and six assists, while sophomore forward Kiley Gorski and junior guard Briana Combs each tallied six points.

Gorski also grabbed six boards. Taryn Kiah led the Norsemen with a game-high 17 points.

Ladywood was 14-of-19 from the foul line, while North was 3-of-12.



Clarenceville spiker lauded

Livonia Clarenceville senior Brittany Tallman, who carries a 3.9778 grade-point average, was recently named to the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) Academic All-State squad. Clarenceville, coached by Wendy Mershman, also earned the Team Academic All-State award.

Wolfpack grapplers start quickly

Gunning for their third straight winning season, Wayne Memorial's wrestling squad is off to a 4-0 dual-match start following wins Wednesday on the road over Waterford Kettering, 54-18, and Waterford Mott, 67-12, in a KLAAs quad meet.

Going 2-0 on the night for the Wolfpack included Jalen Jones, Kevin Newborn, Sam Ekanem, Dimitris Renfroe, Sheldon Crummey, Darryl Ison, Allen Parker, Devon Adams and Terry McCartney.

Also posting wins were Doug Rutan, Nate Cavanaugh, Tyler Mulligan, and Rakeem Givens.

On Dec. 4, Adams finished first in his weight class as Wayne took run-

ner-up honors behind Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in 10th Berkley Invitational.

Adding second-place individual finishes for Wayne were Jones, Newborn, Renfroe and Lucas Hofbauer, while Tristan Jarosicwicz and McCartney added fourths.

On Dec. 1, host Wayne opened its season with dual match wins over Lincoln Park (54-19) and Gibraltar Carlson (60-13).

Double victors on the night included McCartney, Jones, Newborn, Adam Kay, Renfroe, Cavanaugh, David Crummey, Adams, and Parker.

Also posting wins were Doug Rutan, Cavanaugh, Mulligan and Givens.

GRAPPLERS

FROM PAGE B1

wrestled well and won. That's what I was looking forward to and we wrestled pretty well. A couple of things we have to work on, but overall I was happy."

Senior Steve Tuvo, who has bumped up four weight classes this season, captured MVP honors after winning the 135-pound title with a 4-3 decision over Churchill's Jon Bannoura in the best match of the night.

Other Franklin individual champions included Gabe Martinez (125), Jordan Atienza (130), Jordan McGuire (140), Josh Hatfield (145), Avery Opperman (152), Allen Steele (160), Alex O'Connor (171) and Matt Roos (189).

"Josh Hatfield and Alex O'Connor have been wrestling really well for us all year," Chiola said. "They're seniors, but they're really starting to come into their own this year. Jordan Atienza, as a freshman, is the best freshman we've had at Franklin and he's getting better every week."

"The Martinez brothers (Gabe and Dan) are always solid and Tuvo was pretty solid. He (Tuvo) carries it (the weight) well. He actually gained the weight in muscle. He's beaten some good kids at that weight — a Clarkston kid that was a three-time state qualifier. That was a great match (with Churchill's Jon

Bannoura)."

Churchill was led by senior Jacob Meadows, who earned his fourth straight City title with an 8-2 decision over Franklin's Dan Martinez.

"Just his toughness and the fact that we don't have to worry about him being prepared," Churchill assistant coach Mike Gaffke said of Meadows. "He's always doing the right thing in the room. He doesn't have any problems getting up for the big matches. No matter what happens in that match, he stays tough and continues to wrestle. That's what has carried him through four years. He had a tough match before this one and he was kind of dominating. That's why he's been able to do what he did."

Other Churchill winners included Jon Locklear (103), Josh Perez (112) and Dillon Morantis (215).

"Tonight I'd give us a C-plus or B-minus," Gaffke said. "We're definitely better than we were last year. The team is young. We're starting 10 underclassmen out of 14 weight classes. I think our good guys wrestled well. We definitely have things to improve, but we had some good positives to build upon today."

Stevenson's lone winner was Jacob Range, who earned the 285-pound title in the final match of the night when he pinned Franklin's Omar Haymour in 3:38.

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Quarles spurs C'ville by Summit Academy

Junior guard Damien Quarles pumped in a game-high 21 points Friday as host Livonia Clarenceville improved to 2-0 on the boys basketball season with a 69-50 triumph over Romulus Summit Academy North.

Adrian Myers and Sam Brown chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the victorious Trojans, who led 34-20 at halftime and 55-35 after three quarters.

Zammare Neely and Darius Grandison tallied 16 and 14, respectively, for the Dragons (0-2).

Clarenceville was 10-of-19 from the foul line, while Summit was 4-of-6.

BELLEVILLE 58, WAYNE 36: The Tigers (1-0) roared out of the gate with a 22-2 first-quarter run en route to a non-league win Friday over host Wayne Memorial (0-2).

Dionte Isom led a balanced Belleville scoring attack with 14 points, while teammates Jaime Tearson, Jeff Burroughs and Marquis Saulsberry each added nine.

BOYS HOOPS

Eleven Wayne players scored with Michael Cooper tallying a team-high six.

PINCKNEY 62, FRANKLIN 31: Matt O'Bierne tallied 14 points and Kyle Slotnik added seven Friday as the host Pirates (1-0) cruised to a season-opening win over Livonia Franklin (0-2).

Pinckney led 22-9 after one quarter and 39-12 at intermission.

Mike Sharp led the Patriots with 13 points.

Franklin was 9-of-19 from the foul line, while Pinckney made 6-of-16.

KENNEDY 47, JOHN GLENN 41: Taylor Kennedy (1-0) stormed back from a nine-point third quarter deficit Wednesday to beat visiting Westland John Glenn (1-0) in the season opener for both teams.

Aaron Hayes, who scored a game-high 22 points, sparked the 18-3 run for the victorious Eagles in the fourth quarter. He scored nine points, including 5-of-6 free throws.

Aveon Simmons scored all 11 of his points in the second half to pace the

Rockets, who trailed 25-21 at halftime before going on a 17-4 third-quarter run.

Christian Covile added nine points for Glenn, which made only 12-of-25 free throws.

Kennedy went 14-of-23 from the foul stripe.

TRUMAN 62, WAYNE 42: On Wednesday, Thomas Massey scored 16 points and Eric Flowers chipped in with 13 as Taylor Truman (1-0) downed host Wayne Memorial (0-1) in the season opener.

Michael Cooper and Dawad Danner each tallied eight points for the Zebras, who trailed 27-18 at halftime and 46-25 after three quarters.

"Truman is a big ballclub and we didn't have the luxury of getting two or three shots at the glass," Wayne first-year coach Mike Schuette said. "They were able to put the ball in more than we wished."

"But I was pleased with how we played hard and now we can say they all have varsity game experience. We can't use that as a crutch anymore."

Wayne was only 6-of-15 from the foul line, while Truman hit 10-of-22.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU/Total Baseball camp

The Madonna University baseball program will stage a holiday baseball camp (session II) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at Total Sports in Wixom.

The camp features instruction by the MU baseball coaching staff and players.

For more information, call (248) 668-0166; or visit TotalSportsComplex.com.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold two sessions of winter camps, specializing in individual instruction, including:

Fundamental Camp No. 1 - 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at the MU Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia;

Fundamental Camp No. 2

— noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$150 for each camp.

For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or assistant coach Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awwhite@madonna.edu.

Learn to Skate III

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will be offering its seven-week Learn to Skate Winter Session II classes beginning Jan. 10 through the week of Feb. 25 at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

The fee is \$55 for residents and \$67 for non-residents.

Each class is 25 minutes including:

Ages 4-and-up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Mondays.

No equipment is needed for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks used. There is a limited skate rental available at no charge.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

Pitching clinic

The Livonia Baseball and Softball Association will sponsor a pitching clinic, presented by the Total Baseball staff, from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia.

Registration forms are available on www.livoniaabsa.com; or you can sign up by calling Total Baseball at (248) 668-0166.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, December 12, 2010

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Oh thrifty tree, oh thrifty tree

Decorate the Christmas evergreen with second-hand treasures



Decorated Christmas trees and wreaths are among the holiday items for sale at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Christmas tree decorating on the cheap?

It's possible and fun — you just have to think outside the (ornament) box.

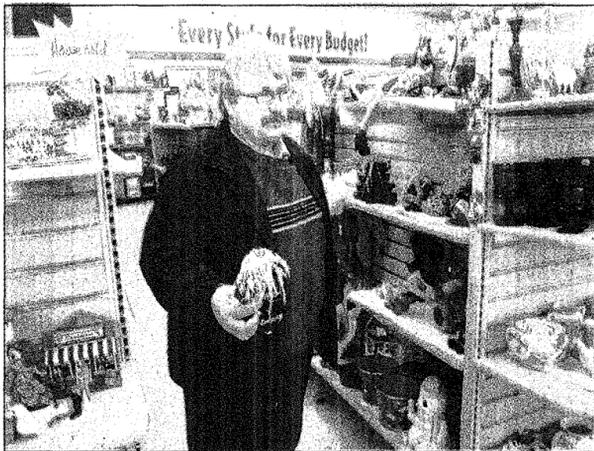
"Piece of cake," said Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift shop in Westland. "Our prices are very reasonable. You really can make sure you stretch your dollars."

"Here's ribbon, anywhere from 99 cents to 49 cents. You can coordinate those with your bulbs. They're a buck to \$1.99 a box. The older vintage bulbs go a little higher — three bucks."

In addition to bolts of unopened and unused ribbon, the store carries Christmas stockings, lights, ceramic figurines, wreaths, soft ornaments and stuffed animals, candles, window decals, and more in its seasonal aisles. But as Saine points out, just about anything that fits on a branch can become a holiday trim with a little ingenuity.

"We've had good luck with these," he said, showing off a Santa-shaped pepper shaker. Thread an ornament hook or paper clip through two of the holes at the top of any empty salt or pepper shaker and you're ready to create a theme tree.

"Salt and pepper shakers. Now you've got a plethora of ornaments. This can actually remind you of a special time or event."



Michael Saine of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul says small stuffed animals and toys, like the kind he's holding, can be used as tree decorations.



Ceramic salt shakers can double as Christmas tree ornaments.

Use light, small soft toys that can be threaded and hung or nestled in branches, as an homage to childhood or pets. Keep them on higher branches away from small hands or paws.

FROM TABLE TO TREE

"Just about anything can be incorporated into your tree. Something I've seen successfully done is little baby gift boxes, the ones you wrap little presents in, jewelry boxes. You wrap those and they make exceptional ornaments."

"You could theme your tree to just about anything. Just personalize it to you. It gives you a chance to show who you are. You'd be surprised how many conversations start with what's on your tree and you'd be surprised how many things evoke memories in other people."

Saine started selling fully-trimmed trees at the thrift store

four years ago, realizing that some individuals simply don't have the time to treasure hunt for ornaments or trim their own trees.

He figures the store has decorated and sold 45 trees this year. Some were used to create a path that led approximately 65 youngsters to Santa's throne earlier this month. The children got a chance to talk with him and pose for a free photo.

About a dozen trees were trimmed and ready for new homes last Monday. Store employee Barbara Flood of Redford will continue to trim until every bough is decorated.

She creates a theme or color scheme for every tree at the store as she does for her own tree at home.

"My tree this year is purple and silver. It's never the same tree twice," said Flood, who previously worked at a store that sold Christmas trims. "I made a red, white and blue tree about seven years ago at home. That was the most unusual."

LOTS OF LIGHTS

At the store, Flood has decorated trees with natural trimmings, Disney-inspired items, and in college colors, to name a few. One tree, outfitted all in gold ornaments sold the same day she trimmed it. She spends from one to three hours on each tree and

Please see **DECORATE, B7**

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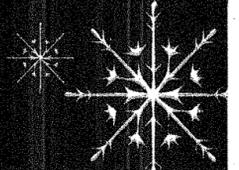
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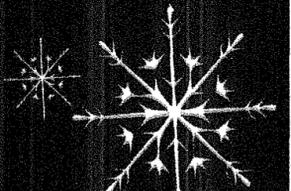
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SIMON

Needy families can get pet food

Tail Wagger's 1990 of Livonia aims to help the family dog and cat have a happy holiday season by assisting needy families who can't afford pet food.

Its Pet Food Assistance Program gives assistance to animals in need so that they can stay with the family they have grown to love.

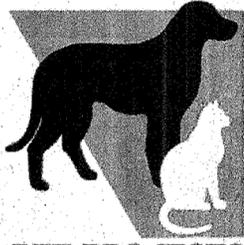
"The goal of the Pet Food Assistance program is to eliminate additional financial stress on the family during the holidays," said Laura Zain, Tail Wagger's 1990 founder. She hopes it will reduce the number of animals being surrendered to shelters for financial reasons.

Local businesses that become a collection point for the Pet Food Assistance Program will receive a sign, collection bin and exposure on the Tail Wagger's Web site. The

public may drop off donations at these sites. Currently, cat and kitten food and litter are running low.

Families that need assistance can call the Tail Wagger's office at (734) 560-4660 or e-mail to tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com. All requests must include a name, phone number, and kind of animals that need assistance. All calls are kept confidential and arrangements will be made on an individual basis for pick-up- or delivery of food.

- Here's a list of local and nearby collection sites:
- Pet Food & More, 15399 Merriman, Livonia
- Wags To Wiskers, 44707 Five Mile, Plymouth
- Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave., Farmington
- Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia
- Norton's Flowers, 2900



PET PROJECTS

Washtenaw, Ypsilanti
Wags To Wiskers, 2425 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor
Norton's Flowers, 2577 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor

DON'T LET THEM FREEZE

The weather calls for a plunge in temperatures this week and that means dogs and cats left outdoors are in danger of dying from the cold.

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) urges pet owners to let their dogs stay inside during extreme weather. It also says that according to Michigan law, pets that do stay outside during harsh weather must have adequate food, water and shelter.

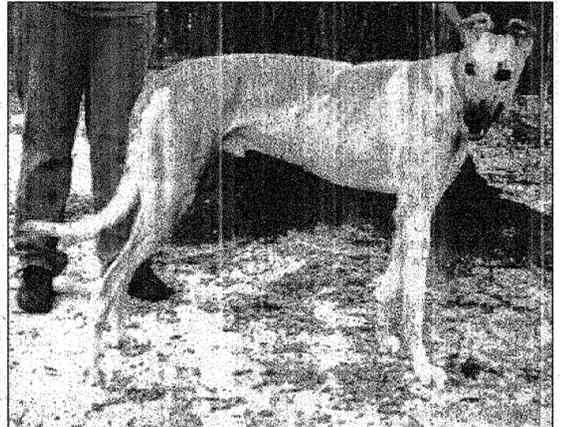
"Every winter, our cruelty investigators respond to hundreds of complaints about pets that are left outdoors without adequate shelter," stated Mark Ramos, MHS senior cruelty investigator. "We urge everyone to bring pets indoors, at minimum during the frigid winter months, to protect their pets and prevent needless suffering."

Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets, which absorb moisture and are freeze in frigid temperatures.

Inadequate shelter includes an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all.

What should you do if you see an animal left outdoors in an inadequate dog house or tethered in the cold? Don't hesitate to report it to your city's animal control department.

Failing to give pets proper food, water and shelter is a misdemeanor. Animal cruelty violations carry a penalty of up to 93 days and jail and up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership.



Rusty is about 2 years old and gets along well with other dogs.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Rusty and Chica are the two featured Greyhounds this week at Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan. Rusty is a fawn-colored dog with a mild-mannered personality. He is about 2 years old and gets along well with other dogs.

Chica is about 3½ years old. She has a black shiny coat and a joyful spirit. She's a happy, playful girl.

To find out more about Rusty and Chica, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit its Web site at www.greyheart.org.



Chica is a happy, playful girl.

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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WINTER & ARTHRITIS

Just as the house adjusts to winter with storm doors, double pane windows and fresh weather stripping, so should a person with arthritis make preparations to adapt his or her condition to the time.

If one has rheumatoid arthritis then gloves or mittens need special attention so that impaired hands can receive a complete covering and that the gloves or mittens are readily put and taken off. Foot gear needs to combine a boot/shoe that is waterproof, as light as possible and with lacing that is thick and long enough for impaired hands. If possible get winter boots that use Velcro straps. Winter coats with linings are usually lighter than regular winter coats, and while putting the lining in or removing it on warmer days often requires help from others, the linings usually are simple to maneuver.

If a person has lupus arthritis, the main threat is the cold. Cold brings on Raynauds, the condition where the small arteries to the fingers clamp down causing the hand to turn white and feel numb and tingling. The key to preventing an attack of Raynauds is to keep the hands warm. A person with Lupus may need to wear gloves even when retrieving the newspaper from the front lawn. Winter means taking time and using unusual care to protect the hands even with short exposure to outside weather.

For the person with gout, keeping the feet warm is of most importance. Cold precipitates a gout attack. Extra socks and a warm felt or flannel lined winter boots are as necessary as a hat and gloves. Also wear socks to bed at night as the bedroom tends to be the coldest and draftiest place in the house.

Learn ways to cope with loss

A Christmas Memorial candle lighting service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Livonia.

The funeral home has invited families it has served this year at the Livonia location and at the L.A. Turowski and Son Funeral Home in Canton. The service also is open to anyone in the public who lost a loved one last year.

Participants will learn ways to cope during Christmas with the loss of a loved one. The service will last about 45 minutes. RSVP to (734) 525-9020 by 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

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A GIFT FROM A DIVINE LAND

There was a time long, long ago when China was known as *Shen Zhou*—The Land of the Divine. The arts and the culture there were considered so exquisite and so vibrant that they could only have been bestowed by the heavens. And thus the people of the land strove to hold themselves to a higher standard so as to be worthy of such gifts. Today, Shen Yun brings these gifts to you.

Perhaps it is the quiet gentleness of the heavenly maidens that reminds us of a better time and a better world. Perhaps it is the conviction of warriors dashing across the plains that tells us that good always defeats evil in the end. Or maybe it's just the timeless stories of courage and compassion, kindness and kinship.

Whatever it is, Shen Yun has touched the hearts of millions. "I cried a few times," one audience member confessed. "What I saw was power, honesty, and integrity—I am grateful for that." The show has graced some of the most prestigious stages in the world, from the Royal Festival Hall in London to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Shen Yun is more than just the world's premier classical Chinese performing arts company—it is an experience you won't want to miss.

A PERFORMANCE 5,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A performance by Shen Yun is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be: a study in grace, wisdom, and all the virtues distilled from millennia of Chinese civilization. The classically trained dancers, musicians, and singers of Shen Yun Performing Arts share a vision: to revive and restore Chinese culture to its former, glorious state.

Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts is distinguished by its conscious effort to remain independent of China's communist regime, which has abused and impoverished the arts for decades. In fact, a show like Shen Yun's can no longer be found in China today. As one well-traveled New Yorker noted: "I've seen China before with my eyes, but this show had me experience China with my soul."

ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDING ART FORMS

No other art form in the world boasts such strong expressive qualities and diversity of technique as classical Chinese dance. It takes years of rigorous training to master the many leaps, flips, and delicate gestures. Dancers must also be versed in Chinese culture to achieve the bearing needed to bring ancient legends and heroic figures to life.

In addition to the classical forms, Shen Yun features the distinctive colors and styles of ethnic and folk dance. Choreographers draw upon over 20 dynasties and 50 ethnic groups to create pieces that range from the northern steppes of Mongolia to the lush forests of Yunnan. Among the most impressive elements of any Shen Yun show are the large-scale ensemble pieces in which dozens of dancers appear to move as one body across the stage.

Shen Yun has also created its very own brand of story-based dance, which often deals with universal, thought-provoking themes. As one distinguished ballet dancer noted, "There's a lot of depth and meaning. It's a new realm of dance."

TWO GREAT CLASSICAL MUSIC TRADITIONS — ONE FRESH, UNEXPECTED SOUND

Some remarkable instruments such as the *pipa* or *erhu* date back more than 3,500 years, but the reality is very few Chinese instruments have made it to the world stage. To remedy this, the composers of Shen Yun bathe the distinctly Chinese sounds in a rich sea of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass. The result? A new and mesmerizing sound.

Each season, the composers create over 20 original scores. They work closely with the choreographers to ensure a seamless blending of the music with each and every dance.

A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION FOR 2011

Months of training and preparation culminate each winter when Shen Yun debuts a spectacular original production with all new dances, costumes, and music.

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YAHOO!



Barbara Flood of Redford decorates a tree at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

Making trim, finding trim

Time to think outside the glass bulb box.

Here are a few thrifty do-it-yourself ideas for tree trimmings:

- Tiny toy food boxes and cans that kids use for playing supermarket or pretend dinner. Puncture each piece with an ornament hook or hot glue on a loop of ribbon for hanging. Add a dash of sparkle at the top of each toy with a bit of thin garland.

- Bells and bows. Find bells in thrift shops and trim stores in all sizes and several colors. Tie tops with ribbon for hanging or string — spacing the bells out with knots along the ribbon — and use as garland. Bow can be of any shape, style or color. Barbara Flood, who decorates trees at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, uses wire-edged ribbon to create a twisting cascade on three or four sides of a tree. Tie one end of the ribbon at the top of the tree. Take the other end and roll the ribbon all the way back to the top of the tree. Then gently turn the rolled ribbon sideways, pull out from its center and allow it to drop, twisting as it goes, along the length of the tree.

- Saint cards you collected in catechism class so long ago make nifty ornaments

for branches that tend to bend with heavier pieces. So do old trading cards. Add glitter selectively if you really want to get crafty. Punch a hole at the top and hang with ribbon. Use Christmas cards saved from previous years for a more traditional statement.

- Chess, checker and player pieces from board games can evoke childhood memories or give your tree a black, white and red color scheme. Hot glue loops of yarn or ribbon on each piece to hang.

- Nativity figurines in assorted sizes that don't quite fit into one scene anymore can come together nicely on the tree. Hot glue gun on a ribbon for hanging.

In addition to St. Vincent de Paul, look for used treasures and trims at these stores:

- Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, 8050 N. Middlebelt, Westland; (734)513-6020

- Value World, 35300 Central City Parkway, Westland; (734)728-4610

- The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 27170 Grand River Ave., Redford; (313)255-0777

- The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 33600 Plymouth Road, Livonia; (734)425-7573



An eclectic mix of Christmas items, all at bargain prices, await shoppers at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

DECORATE

FROM PAGE B5

scours each batch of donated items for unique trims. She knows exactly what she has on hand and formulates a plan before decorating. Lots of lights are a must. She even adds lights to pre-lit trees to make them appear fuller.

"I have about 2,000 lights on my tree at home and it's a small tree. But it looks so full."

The decorated trees sell for \$29.99 to \$39.99 on average. A few exceptionally large trees can cost \$30 or \$40 more.

But Saine said even those are a bargain compared to

buying a new tree and trimmings from a retail outlet.

"Your artificial trees are going to be anywhere from \$29-\$79 and that's just for the tree. By the time you put the ornaments on you can easily tie \$250 into that tree."

Customers can take home a decorated tree either full-sized and wrapped or disassembled and placed in a box along with the trims.

Proceeds from sales at the shop benefit a soup kitchen, food depots, summer camps and other works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The store is located at 6613 Wayne Road, Westland. (734)729-3088

Report gives pediatricians tips on spotting eating disorders

A new report released by the American Academy of Pediatrics aims to help primary care physicians recognize and treat eating disorders sooner in young children.

"We want health care providers and family members to be tuned in to the possibility that eating disorders can occur much earlier than they might think," stated report lead author Dr. David S. Rosen, a professor of pediatrics and communicable diseases, internal medicine and psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

In the past decade, research has shown a growing number of young children diagnosed with eating disorders, but not all primary care physicians have been aware of these latest findings.

The report by Rosen and his team recommends that health care providers screen annually for disorders.

"There is new research regarding treatment and prognosis that we wanted primary care providers to have. We want to give them the tools they need to do the very best job," stated Rosen, who previously served on the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Adolescence.

Eating disorders are on the rise among children younger than 12 years, males and minorities, according to previous studies. It is estimated that 0.5 percent of adolescent girls in the United States have anorexia nervosa, and 1 percent to 2 percent meet criteria for bulimia nervosa.

Medical complications of eating disorders can affect any organ system, so it's important for pediatricians to identify eating disorders as soon as possible.

The report, titled "Identification and Management of Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents," appears in the December 2010 issue of the journal Pediatrics.



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Welcome Boys and Girls!

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

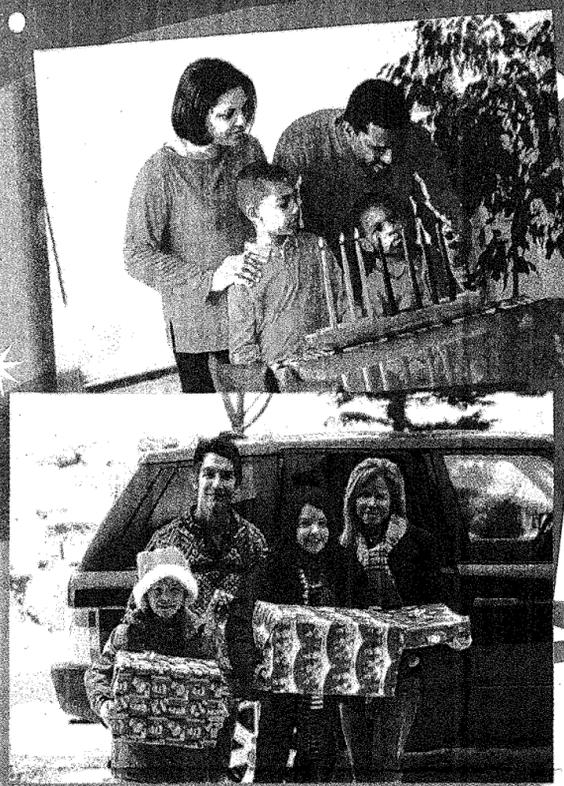
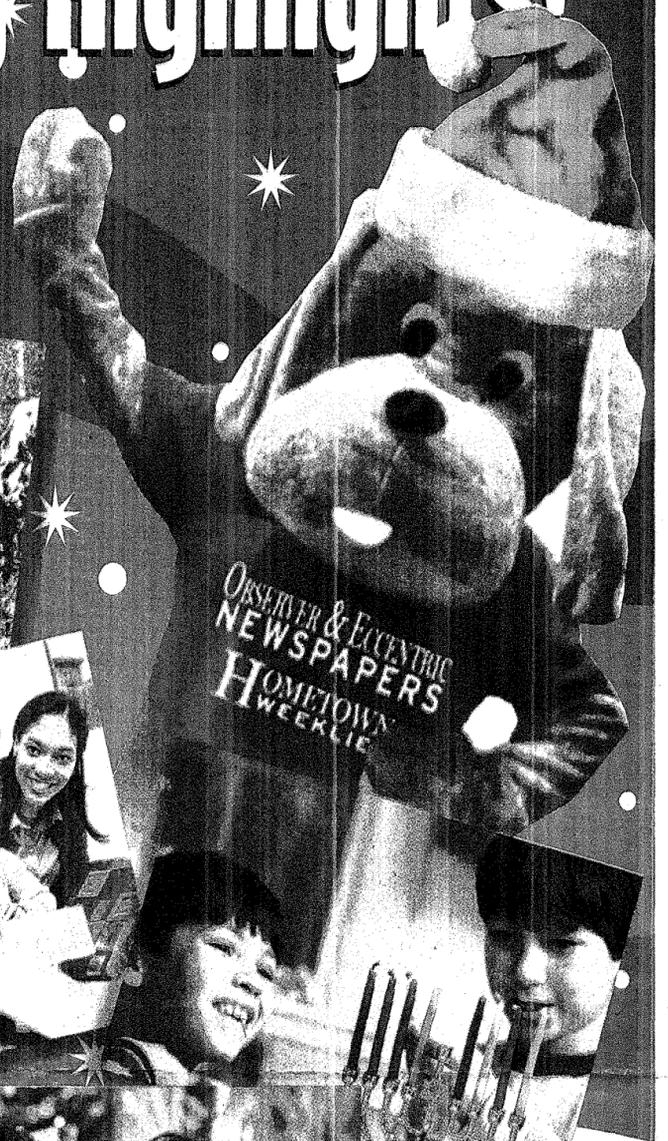
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HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

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!



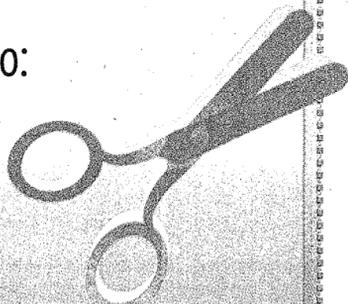
Share your Holiday Celebrations with Scoop!

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.

DINE WITH SANTA

At the zoo - A buffet-style waffle breakfast will include costumed characters, arts and crafts, holiday movies and one-on-one visits with Santa Claus, 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo, located at 10 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak. 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. Reservations are required. Call (248) 541-5717 and press #3.

At Schoolcraft College - Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society sponsors the event, which includes a pancake and sausage breakfast, served family style, and lots of games and prizes. Each child will also have the opportunity to visit with Santa, have a photo taken and receive a special surprise gift. It runs 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 18 on campus, located on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile Roads, in Livonia. Tickets are \$20 for children and \$15 for adults and must be purchased in advance by calling (734) 462-4422 or by visiting the Student Activities Office located in Lower Waterman on the college's main campus in Livonia.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

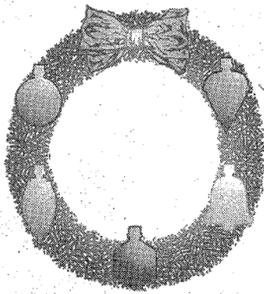
Detroit - Jazz Cafe presents "Freddie Cole Christmas" 8 p.m., Dec. 17-18 at Music Hall, 350 Madison. Tickets are \$27, available at www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500.

• The Manhattan Transfer Christmas is at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 14, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue. Tickets are \$15-\$68 available by calling (313) 576-5111 or by visiting www.detroitssymphony.com.

• The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's "Home for the Holidays" concerts are 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 17 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 18 and 3 p.m., Dec. 19, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue. Tickets range from \$19-\$52. Call (313)



The Plymouth Symphony Christmas Concert will feature the trumpet section during a performance of "Bugler's Holiday." The concert is Dec. 16 at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.



576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Farmington - The Farmington Community Chorus will perform its 31st Annual Holiday Concert, "The Happiest Season of All," at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18, at Mercy High School, 29300 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Steve SeGraves directs the choir of more than 70 voices, which is accompanied by assistant

director, Susan Garr. Tickets are \$12 in advance, available at www.farmingtonchorus.com, the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills or by calling (248) 682-6562. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.

Livonia - The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert, 4 p.m. Dec. 12, at St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. (734) 425-5950

Plymouth - Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" Christmas concert, 6 p.m. family concert and 8 p.m. traditional concert, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth; (734) 451-2112.

www.penntheatre.com. At the family concert, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra will join the symphony for a musical number and the orchestra's trumpet section will be featured at the 8 p.m. performance for "Bugler's Holiday" and a Vivaldi Concerto

LIGHT DISPLAY

Wayne County - Four miles of displays and more than a million lights along Hines Drive make this the biggest holiday light show in southeastern Michigan. Lightfest runs 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 31 and is closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Admission is \$5 per car. Entrance is off Merriman Road, between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Ave., in Westland.

Detroit Shriners - The drive-through presentation includes more than 300 light displays along a one-mile route through

Jan. 2, 2011 at Hazel Park Raceway, 1650 E. 10 Mile, at Dequindre, Hazel Park. Hours are 6-9 p.m. Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Admission is \$10 per car. Detroit Shriners will donate \$1 from each vehicle admission to local non-profits and community projects such as Covenant House Michigan, Mittens for Detroit, Hazel Park Promise Zone Authority, Gleaner's Community Food Bank, DTE THAW (The Heat & Warmth Fund), Detroit Public Schools and Toys for Tots.

MOVIES

Penn Theatre - *The Polar Express* runs at 7 p.m. Dec. 17-19 and 5 p.m. Dec. 17-18. Round out holiday viewing with *The Muppet Christmas*, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 23 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 26. All seats are \$3. The theatre is located at

760 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth; (734) 453-0870
Redford Theatre - Watch the Bing Crosby classic, *White Christmas* at 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18. All tickets are \$4. The theater is located at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; (313) 537-2560.

THEATER

Spotlight on Youth - The youth theater at Spotlight Players will present *In the Nick of Time: A Red Mistletoe Mystery*, through Dec. 12 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, in Canton. The play is designed for children and families. Tickets are \$10 and available by phone at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater.

Send holiday event items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

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Area hospitals earn top ranks for safety, quality

The Leapfrog Group, a national organization that rates hospitals, has given top honors for patient quality and safety to Detroit Receiving Hospital, Harper University/Hutzel Women's Hospital, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the University of Michigan Health System.

The Leapfrog Group's national rankings are based on a survey conducted at nearly 1,200 hospitals across the country. The survey, which launched in 2001, focuses on four critical

areas of patient safety: the use of computer physician order entry (CPOE) to prevent medication errors; standards for doing high-risk procedures such as heart surgery; protocols and policies to reduce medical errors and other safe practices recommended by the National Quality Forum; and adequate nurse and physician staffing. In addition, hospitals are measured on their progress in preventing infections and other hospital-acquired conditions and adopting policies on the handling of serious medical

errors, among other things. This is the fourth consecutive year that DMC Harper University Hospital and the third consecutive year that DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital were selected as Leapfrog Top Hospitals based on their quality and safety scores. Last year, they were the only hospitals in Michigan to receive the recognition.

For more on the 2010 Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety ratings and methodology visit www.leapfroggroup.org.

Shop class is missing in Michigan

I recently found a story on the Internet that reminds me of days gone by. It comes from the eastern part of the country where they eat a lot of fish, making them very intelligent. In simple terms, they've got it and we don't.

Fourteen students at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School have earned national certification as service technicians in major appliance repair. The students, one senior and 13 juniors, are majoring in HVAC-R/appliance technology at GNB Voc-Tech. To earn national certification, the students needed to pass eight different comprehensive examinations, which measure their skills in consumer relations, diagnostic techniques and repair ability for all types of domestic major appliances. The students took the exams late last spring and got the results over the summer.

The students are among a select group of major appliance service technicians in the United States to be certified as certified appliance professionals with a graduate technician rating. The graduate technician rating is the highest available level of recognition for technical expertise given by the major home appliance industry to high school students. Certification is strictly voluntary and only those who possess extraordinary skills in the field of appliance repair will attempt the rigorous testing procedure. Teachers Stephen Ellis and Robert Enos are certified as master technicians. The Professional Service

Association, (PSA) the group that offers the certification, is a not-for-profit trade association representing independent appliance and electronic service centers. The certification programs developed by PSA are designed to encourage excellence and pride in the industry. Diagnosing and repairing sophisticated appliances requires special skills and constant training to keep abreast of changing technologies. Technicians that make the effort to maintain the high level excellence necessary to become a certified appliance professional are proud of their skills and deserve to be recognized by their profession. The students' two-year graduate certificate may be upgraded to a master technician rating after two years, providing the individual has obtained at least two years of field experience.

When I wrote something like this just a few years ago there was a need in the United States for some 10,000 qualified appliance repair technicians. That number has not diminished because the industry has so little educational opportunities offered anywhere. From what I read and hear, the school system in Michigan falls far short of what is required in many respects. It would be a tremendous boost for the city of Detroit to implement such a program for students. They could be guaranteed a job anywhere in this country, taken off the streets, and have goals that are within their fingertips. There has to be someone out there that can make this happen. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

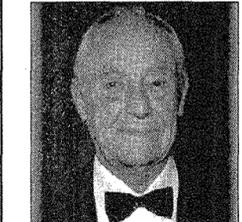


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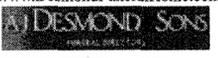
WALKER MORRIS BAGBY
Age 86, of Bloomfield Hills; died Sunday November 28th, 2010 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak after a short illness. Born December 23, 1923 in Detroit, he graduated from Baldwin High School in Birmingham where he was on the track team. Upon graduation he enrolled at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. After his first semester he was drafted into the U. S. Army Corps. He was stationed at the Wendover, Utah base where he was a technical analyst in the building of the "Fat Boy" atomic bomb. After the war he returned to Kenyon College. He was a member of the Beta Theta Phi Fraternity. He graduated in 1949 with a B.A. in Economics. He worked for his family's commercial building and restoration company, Western Waterproofing Co., in Cleveland for 2 years before joining his brother John in their home office in Detroit. Mr. Bagby was predeceased by his wife of 34 years, Joanne Sexton Bagby. Joanne died on March 17, 2005. Joanne was born in Detroit and raised in Highland Park, Michigan. She attended Highland Park High School and Michigan State University. Joanne loved to swim, bike and play bridge. Her passion was working in the garden at home. She was a member of the Junior League Garden Club, The Bloomfield Hills Garden Club and the Village Women's Club. Walker and Joanne are survived by their loving daughter Nancy and son Walker Debbie Bagby. They are the grandparents of Walker and Katie Bagby. Mr. Bagby was predeceased by his brother John Bagby. Contributions in memory of Walker and Joanne Bagby may be made to the Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Road, Harbor Springs, MI 49740 or on line at <http://landtrust.org/Donations/memorialpaychoiceTABLE.htm>



SHIRLEY A. CRILLEY
December 10, 2010, Age 83. Longtime resident of Birmingham and Bloomfield. Born in Cleveland, Ohio to Ava and Charles A. Tallinger, Sr. Loving wife of the late Dan. Beloved mother of Mark, Brian (Sharon) and Patrick (Elaine). Dear grandmother of Lauren, Kristina, Danielle and Shannon. Family will receive friends Sunday 4-7 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (between Maple & Big Beaver). Funeral Service Monday 1:00 p.m. at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield. Visitation at church begins 12:30 p.m. Memorial tributes to Alzheimer's Association. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

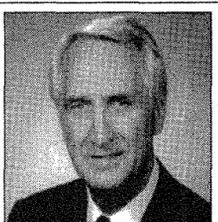


BETSY GOLDSMITH (nee. Moors)
November 23, 2010. Age 91 of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved wife of the late Maj. James E. Goldsmith, US Army. Dear mother of James E. Goldsmith, Jr. and William K. M. Goldsmith (Shelley). Loving grandmother of Marisa Kate Goldsmith, Jake D. Gale and Genevieve M. Gale. Sister of the late Maj. William Key Moors, US Army. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary, 380 Lone Pine Rd., P.O. 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 or the Village Woman's Club Foundation, P.O. Box 186, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

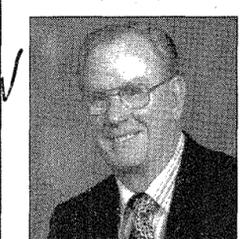


DESMOND SONS

RHUE D. DATCHER
December 6, 2010 age 104. Beloved wife of the late Homer A. Datcher. Mother of the late Merlin Datcher and Rita J. McClumpha. Grandmother of Hurd McClumpha, Dynese McClumpha, Amy Glenn and Natalie Finley. Also leaves 13 great grandchildren. Memorial Services have been held. Contributions suggested to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com



ARTHUR GERISH
Age 82 of Northville, December 4, 2010. Beloved husband of the Janet. Loving father of Bruce (Bridget), Susan, David and Amy (Steve) Katz. Dear brother of Evan C. (Susan). Dear brother-in-law of Edwin (Leni) Hancock and Joan (Donald) Clark. Proud grandfather of Kristin, Katelin, Evan, Kayla, Colin, Brianna and Hannah. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Founder and President of Gerish Building Co. Mr. Gerish was awarded the 2004 Developer of the Year Award by the SE Michigan Builders Assn. Long time youth baseball and basketball coach in the Plymouth/Canton community. Member of the Alma College Board of Trustees. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alma College Baseball Endowment Fund or the charity/church of your choice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



ROBERT "BOB" W. COX
Age 91, passed away peacefully at home on December 5, 2010. He will be forever loved and remembered by his loving wife of 66 years, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Minth); his children, Lynn Cox of Del Mar, CA; Carol (Robert) Pearsall-Stetler of Millford; Nancy (Robert) Brown of Wilmington, NC; Larry Cox of Farmington; and Sally (Michael) Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; grandchildren, Bradford (Jeanne) Orr of Vista, CA; Christian (Ginger) Brown of South Bend, IN; Tim Brown and Lindsay Brown of Wilmington, NC; Carey Pearsall of Denver, CO; Chase Pearsall of Playa Del Rey, CA; and Alexandra Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; and two great grandsons, Robert and Wesley Orr of Vista, CA. Bob, a 50 year resident of Farmington, was born on March 27, 1919, in Detroit, to Frederick and Clara (Thee) Cox. He graduated from MacKenzie High School in 1937 and began working for the Jervis B. Webb Co. in Detroit in 1938. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and served as a 1st lieutenant and navigator until the end of World War II. He then returned to the Webb Co., retiring after 40 years, in 1984, as an executive vice president. After retirement, he and Betty split their time between Farmington and Stuart, FL from 1984-2004. Bob was a life member of Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield and a longtime member of the Huron River Fishing and Hunt Club in Farmington. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer and above all, a loving and caring family man. Memorials may be made to The Farmington Goodfellows or to Forgotten Harvest. Arrangements for a spring memorial, through Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, will be announced separately, and at a later date. www.thayer-rock.com

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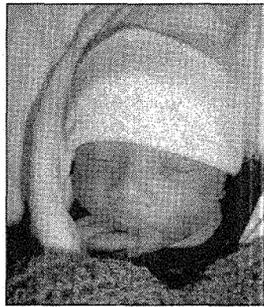
MILESTONES



Aria Giovanna Masters

TWINS BORN

Twins Emory Agosto Masters and Aria Giovanna were born Nov. 1, 2010 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia. Emory and Aria join their parents, Che and April Masters, and older sister, Alyson, 20 months, at home in Westland.



Emory Agosto Masters

DECEMBER WEDDING



Lambert-O'Neill



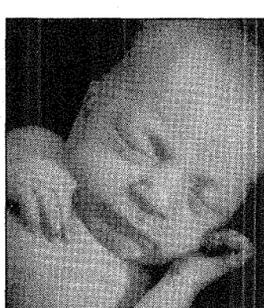
Twins, Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran

BORAN TWINS

Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran were born Aug. 31, 2010 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital - Prentice Women's Hospital, in Chicago, Ill. Proud parents are Heather and Christopher Boran of Chicago. Grandparents are Steve and Carol Bruce of Farmington Hills and Jerry and Colleen Boran of Forest City, Iowa. Great-grandparents are Paul and Genevieve Kramarz of Hartland, Doris Davis of Orange, Calif. and Ronald Bruce of Fullerton, Calif.

CONNER LIAM BATTLE

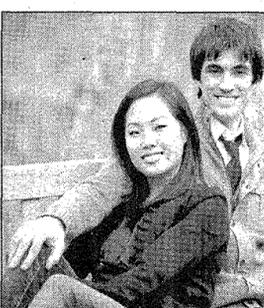
Conner Liam Battle was born Sept. 23, 2010 Clarian North Hospital, Carmel, Ind. He joins his parents, Bob and Ginger Battle, and siblings, Delaney, 9 and Collin, 4, at home in Westfield, Ind. Proud grandparents are Bob and Peg Battle of Livonia, and Pat and John Krawczynski of Lansing.



Conner Liam Battle

AUGUST 2011 WEDDING

Grace Shin and Andrew Varilone announce their engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Hyoung Bok and Robert Kalmanir of Livonia. She is a graduate of Albion College and is a graduate student in the physician's assistant program at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her fiancé, son of Kathy and Jeff Varilone, graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn and is an electrical engineer at an architectural engineering firm in Detroit. The couple will wed in August 2011 in Ann Arbor.



Shin-Varilone

FOOD

Sunday, December 12, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Easy family meals

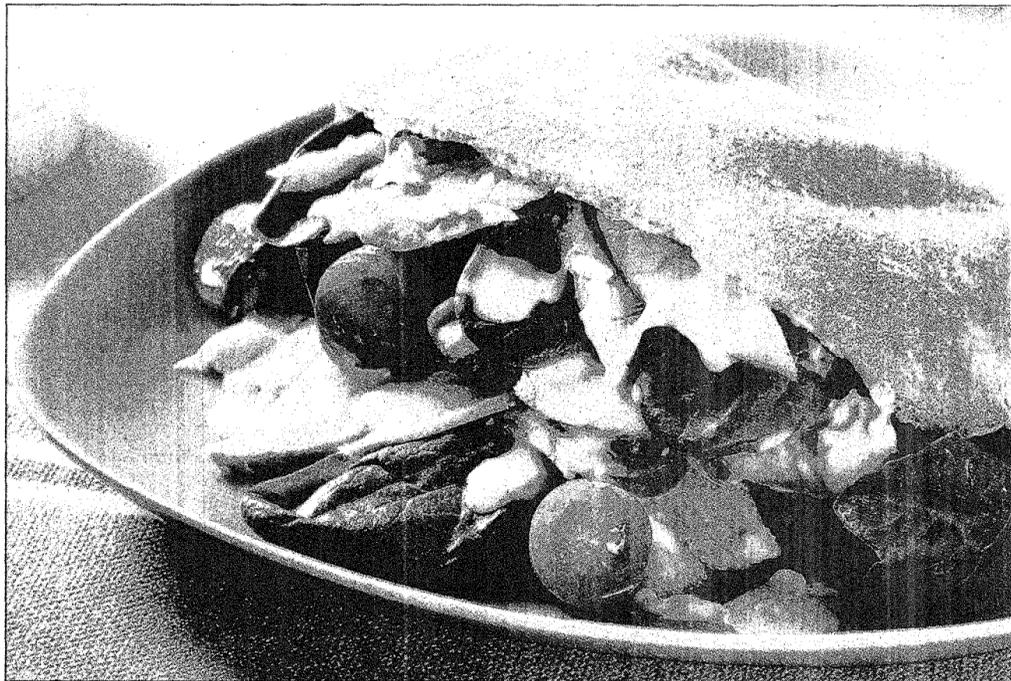
From packing lunches, to after-school snacks to dinnertime, many parents face obstacles in getting their families to eat food made with real simple ingredients that everyone can enjoy.

According to a recent survey commissioned by Hellmann's®, nearly half of all moms surveyed say they make a family meal every day and more than a third of moms surveyed say cooking dinner takes too much time.

Chef Bobby Flay has teamed up with Hellmann's and Best Foods Mayonnaise to provide tasty, convenient recipes and tips to serving great family meals even during the active school season.

"Many parents I know agree that at the end of a busy day, the thought of spending an hour cooking is not so appealing," said Flay. "I've created some recipes that please even the picky palates in your family. The recipes are easy to prepare and incorporate bold flavors with real, simple ingredients, like Hellmann's or Best Foods Mayonnaise — made with eggs, oil and vinegar."

For videos, tips and recipes go to www.Hellmanns.com or www.BestFoods.com.



MINI FISH TACOS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

2 servings

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 4 minutes

1/2 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise

1/2 cup prepared salsa

1 tablespoon lime juice

1 can (6 ounces) tuna, drained and flaked

1 large green onion, thinly sliced

12 large corn tortilla chips

3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese (about 3 ounces)

Combine mayonnaise, salsa and lime juice in medium bowl; reserve 1/2 cup. Stir tuna and green onion into remaining mayonnaise mixture just until combined. Season, if desired, with salt and pepper.

Arrange chips on baking pan. Top with tuna mixture, then sprinkle with cheese. Broil 1 minute or until cheese is melted. Dollop with reserved mayonnaise mixture. Garnish, if desired, with additional green onions.

Also terrific served in individual scoops for a great hand-held snack.

CHICKEN OR TURKEY GYROS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Chill Time: 30 minutes

1/4 cup coarsely grated seedless cucumber

3/4 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Light Mayonnaise

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon fresh grated lemon peel

4 whole wheat pita breads, split

Spinach leaves, rinsed and patted dry

8 cherry tomatoes, halved

1 pound sliced rotisserie or grilled chicken or turkey

Place grated cucumber on paper towel and gently squeeze dry. (Do not skip this step or you will have a watery dressing.) Combine drained cucumbers, mayonnaise, garlic, lemon juice and peel in small bowl. Season, if desired, with salt and black pepper. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Spread a few tablespoons dressing inside each pita; add spinach leaves, tomatoes and chicken, then drizzle with additional dressing.

EGG AND SHRIMP SALAD WITH POPPY SEEDS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

1/2 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise

2 medium green onions

Juice of 1 lemon

3 tablespoons snipped fresh dill

2 tablespoons poppy seeds

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

8 medium hard-cooked eggs, peeled and coarsely chopped

6 ounces cooked large shrimp or crabmeat

Combine mayonnaise, green onions, lemon juice, dill, poppy seeds and mustard in large bowl with wire whisk. Stir in eggs. Gently fold in shrimp. Season, if desired, with salt and black pepper. Serve, if desired, over salad greens or on English muffins.

NOTE: If serving over greens, toss greens with fresh lemon juice, a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and season with salt and pepper. If serving on bread, serve as an open-faced sandwich. Mound some salad on top of toasted bread and garnish with more fresh dill and sliced green onions.



HEALTH

Sunday, December 12, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Make healthy food choices during the holiday season

For many people, the holiday season brings more than joy – it also can bring unwanted pounds. Whether it's your mom's eggnog or Aunt Judy's signature holiday cookies, it can be tough to pass up those favorite holiday foods you only taste once a year.

But before you reach for that next gingerbread cookie, think about this: Extra pounds can affect more than your ability to fit into your holiday party apparel. Being overweight also can increase your risk for cancer and other diseases.

The American Cancer Society recommends you make your health a holiday priority. That includes maintaining a healthy weight and staying active with at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity on five or more days of the week, eating a healthy diet emphasizing fruits and vegetables, and limiting the amount of alcohol you drink.

Making healthy choices doesn't have to make you the Grinch of holiday parties. Keep in mind these tips from the American Cancer Society:

- Get off to a good start. Don't go to a party hungry. Snack on healthy, filling foods before you leave the house. You'll be less tempted by high-calorie options if your stomach isn't growling. Good pre-party bets include a handful of nuts, an apple, or a half a turkey sandwich.

- Once you arrive, ask for a glass of water to help you feel full and avoid overindulging. And don't head straight for the

food – make a point of greeting friends or introducing yourself to new people.

- Think small. When it does come time to indulge, use a small, appetizer- or dessert-sized plate and fill it first with healthy choices such as fresh fruit and veggies (go easy on the dip). Leave just a little space for a small sample of whatever decadent treat you're craving, but eat that last, after you've filled up on the more nutritious offerings.

- Position yourself for success. If you're standing by the buffet table or facing the food while seated, you'll be tempted to "graze." Turn your back to the table, and focus on having fun, not having food.

- Avoid alcohol. Not only are alcoholic beverages loaded with calories, but drinking them tends to weaken your resolve to eat better. However, if you decide to indulge, avoid heavy holiday drinks and stick with light beer or a glass of wine instead.

In addition to making healthy eating choices this season, don't forget to make time to exercise regularly. The flip side of eating more or indulging at parties is that, to avoid weight gain, you need to move more to burn those extra calories.

For more tips on making healthy food choices, staying active year-round, and reducing your risk for cancer, visit ChooseYou.com or call (800) 227-2345.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Alzheimer's Association

The Greater Michigan Chapter provides a welcoming and secure environment for families and individuals experiencing the early stages of Younger Onset Memory Loss. Participants can take part in ongoing discussions that focus on issues that affect those with memory loss under age 65. Meetings are 5:30-7 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month, at Bloomfield Township Senior Services, 4315 Andover, Bloomfield Hills. To register call The Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and non-members of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadowetroit.org.

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Food Addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foodaddicts.org

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact afcrack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

Incest Survivors

"LIVE," a self-help group for women who were victims of incest as children, meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at St. Paul of the Cross, 2333 Schoolcraft, Redford. Call Antoinette at (313) 971-4747 or Cheri at (586) 489-1785.

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

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

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care

may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

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

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday). Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING

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Compassion key to healing patients at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing



Dr. Cassius Drake, ER Medical Director, Henry Ford Center for Health Services

Charles Dunn is always looking for ways to improve the quality of care at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing. As owner, he recently brought in Dr. Cassius Drake to speak with staff about compassion as the core of service.

Drake is medical director of the emergency department, Henry Ford Center for Health Services, Brownstown. He believes compassion plays a major role in physical healing. Drake is currently writing a book about his spiritual journey. During 10 years in the ER, the MD discovered how stress can trigger headaches, back and abdominal pain, depression, and alcohol and drug abuse.

"I was terrible at holding hands when I began treating patients," admitted Drake. That changed when he began thinking about the spiritual side of healing and vowed to start each day by saying, "Today I am here to serve, to listen and care. There's a magic that can happen when you decide to serve. Sometimes all it takes is a compassionate ear."

"... compassion is the core of service ... our staff helps people heal every day. Just taking one extra step can make the difference ... that's what people remember ..."

Compassion is at the heart of caring for patients at Four Seasons. Delores Stinson, an activity aide, told the story of a patient who was actively dying.

"We filled the room with everything important in her life, played her favorite music," said Stinson. "It makes a difference in how you pass. She looked at peace."

Dunn applauded his staff for listening and acting with a compassionate heart.

"Our staff helps people heal every day. Just taking one extra step can make the difference and that's what people remember."

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