



THURSDAY
December 20, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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Officials differ over cost of police, fire pacts

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland City Council majority has approved five-year contracts for two unions representing police officers and firefighters, but officials differ

sharply on whether the city can afford to pay the tab. Council President Charles Pickering cast the lone dissenting vote Monday night, saying, "I think this is going to cause problems for the city financially."

Mayor William Wild defended the negotiated pay hikes, saying the five-year plans will lock in costs and allow the city to engage in long-term budget planning. He refused to flinch amid Pickering's criticism, and he vowed that police officers

and firefighters deserved what he said amounted to cost-of-living increases. "I won't balance the budget on the backs of the fire and police departments," Wild said. In a pair of 6-1 votes, the council approved pay raises for

the two unions amounting to 2 percent for 2007, retroactive to July 1; 2 percent for 2008; 3 percent for 2009; 2 percent for 2010; and 3 percent for 2011. Administration officials calculated the five-year tab at nearly \$1,087,000. Pickering

indicated he believes the figures are misleading and said the raises — when compounded over five years — will cost nearly \$3.3 million. For the first year, the raises

Please see **CONTRACTS, A3**



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eric Hunter, 17, of Westland, captain of SS Burger, uses a telescope to look for whales. Helping with the interactive station was volunteer Rick Heydon.

Carnival lets students celebrate SEASON

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

There was seafood to see and seafood to touch, but none it was to eat at the annual winter carnival at Burger Center for Students With Autism.

Fresh cherry stone clams, mussels, squid, octopus and a live lobster as well as walleye and yellow lake trout attracted students who were encouraged to touch.

"The kids are really getting a kick out of the lobster," said John Memnaugh of Weyand's Seafood House in Wyandotte.

Carlo Escobar, however, wasn't too keen on the idea of touching something that was moving. Instead the Canton youngster pointed elsewhere on the table.

"I'll touch this guy," he said, pointing to the octopus. "He's cold."

The display might seem odd for a carnival, but fit in perfectly with the event's theme, "Tis the SEASON, according to Burger teacher Colleen Polin.

"We always try to enhance the carnival with a science or social studies theme, it's more than a fun event," she said. The annual Christmas



Filling up a whale-shaped bottles with sand are Ashley Mattia (from left), 10, of Redford, Seth Brown, 9, of Canton and Dionte Loving, 10, of South Redford.

Carnival is a daylong celebration provided by the families of Jack Rousso and Larry Berman. The families also provide for a spring carnival for Burger students. Accompanied by their children and grandchildren, the Roussos and Bermans joined students in

ooing and aaahing over the decorations and activities. "I get a high twice a year and I get it here," said Jack Rousso. "I enjoy seeing the children smile."

Rousso's daughter Lisa came dressed for the celebration, wearing a yellow and

blue fish costume, she made especially for the event.

"It's suppose to be Nemo," she said, laughing. "I was told they were doing a theme — under the sea — so I went to Jo-Ann Fabrics and bought

Please see **CARNIVAL, A3**

Move to Westland allows auto supplier to grow business

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An automotive supplier that expects to buck Michigan's downward economic trend by expanding and creating new jobs will move to Westland from Plymouth early next year, company officials confirmed this week.

US Farathane Corp., an injection-molding company that mostly makes under-the-hood plastic trim parts, plans to consolidate three Plymouth facilities into one larger building at 39200 Ford, on Westland's west side.

The company will bring its plastic-extrusion operations

to what Mayor William Wild described as one of the city's largest commercial buildings, vacated by another business.

"It's going to bring jobs to the city, and it's one of the biggest commercial buildings in town, so it's important that we get it filled," he said, prior to talks Monday evening between city leaders and company representatives.

US Farathane's chief financial officer, Richard Knappe, said the company will start its Westland operations early next year with \$14.5 million in annual sales and 89 employees working on nine plastic-extrusion lines in the

Please see **BUSINESS, A3**

Westland man placed on probation for bank robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 51-year-old Westland man who admitted he robbed the Comerica Bank branch on Wayne Road south of Warren has been placed on probation for three years.

Daniel Girard Abbott was placed on probation after he pleaded guilty to going into the bank on June 4, handing a note to a teller, warning he had a gun and escaping with several hundred dollars.

"It seems like the judiciary is doing everything they can to keep violent felons out of prison and in society," Westland Police Chief James Ridener said, when asked to comment on the sentence. "I don't know how we can have an overcrowded prison system the way they keep letting them go."

A bank teller testified in June in Westland 18th District Court that Abbott ordered her to hand over \$50 and \$100 bills after warning her that he had a gun. He turned himself in five days later by calling Livonia police from a public telephone.

Abbott surrendered after

police released a photo that was captured on a bank surveillance camera. The only time he served in jail was between the time of his arrest in June and when he was placed on supervised probation in late October, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

A state corrections Web site indicated that Abbott hadn't had any prior offenses. Before his arrest, Abbott had been living at Forest Lane Apartments on Wayne Road, not far south of the bank he robbed.

A conviction for bank robbery can bring penalties ranging up to life in prison. In addition to his three-year probationary sentence, Abbott was ordered not to violate any laws, not to leave the state, to report for drug testing and to receive a substance abuse assessment.

He was ordered to report for monthly probation appointments, to receive a psychological evaluation and to pay certain fines and court costs.

Abbott could be placed in prison if he violates the terms of his probation.

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Coming Sunday in Health



Psychiatrist's new book focuses on grown-ups with ADHD

Girl Scout collects clothes for needy

On her way toward earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, Lauren Winkles didn't ask people for the shirts off their backs — just the ones they aren't wearing anymore.

The Churchill High School junior has organized a clothing drive for homeless people for the past two years.

Last week, contributors dropped off more than 6,500 new and used items of clothing. That's enough to provide 18 people with one item of clothing per day for an entire year.

Winkles, who lives in Westland, set up a collection site at Johnson Elementary School and offered a pizza party to the class who brought in the most. It looks like Kate Herriff's sixth-

graders will be treated to Little Caesar's, she said.

Winkles, her parents, and Girl Scout sponsor Melissa Bennett, who is also a Johnson teacher, will deliver the items to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, sometime after Christmas or New Year's.

Winkles, in her 12th year as a Girl Scout, said she couldn't have done it without extraordinary volunteers from Churchill, Frost and Johnson.

Last year's clothing drive fetched more than 4,000 articles.

Winkles also babysits, and performs with the Churchill marching band and Livonia Youth Philharmonic, which also supported the clothing drive.

Holiday closings

The hours at Westland city buildings will change during the holidays.

The Bailey Center will be open on 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31. All city offices as well as the 18th District Court will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. The 18th District Court also will be closed on Friday, Dec. 28.

There also will be no rubbish pickup on Christmas Day, delaying pickup one day for the rest of the week.

New Year's Eve

Ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The festivities include live performances by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320. The ticket package

includes an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available to ensure a safe beginning to the New Year. For tickets or more information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at lbarra@comcast.net or the hall staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to vbarra@comcast.net.

A New Year's Eve party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at AMVETS Post 171 Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner, open bar and dancing. For tickets, call (734) 721-9440.

Bowling for Scholars

The Zebra Parent Advisory Council at Wayne Memorial High School is hosting a fundraising Bowling for Scholars at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Wayne Bowl on Michigan Avenue west of Wayne Road, Wayne.

The cost is \$15 per bowler and is open to the public. There will be door prizes

AROUND WESTLAND

raffled off at the event.

Proceeds will go toward the newly created Turn-Around Scholarship, which will be awarded to a Wayne Memorial High School student or students who did not transition well to high school, but, over time, the student "turned it around" and became a successful student.

For more information or to make reservations, call the Wayne Memorial school office at (734) 419-2206 or send an e-mail to zebra-pac@hotmail.com.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in January. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

Thursday, Jan. 3 office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center and 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library. The Tuesday, Jan. 8 office hours are 9-10 a.m. at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

at the Redford Community Center and 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Tree disposal

Residents will have to wait until Jan. 7 to start disposing of their live Christmas trees.

The Department of Public Service will collect natural Christmas trees Jan. 7-18. Residents should put their at the curb on their regular rubbish day. No other compost will be accepted. For more information about the tree disposal or to order a special pickup, call DPS at (734) 728-1770.

Christmas dinner

St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Day Dinner for anyone who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. The dinner is free but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

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Official City Newspaper

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Steven J. Smith
Finance Director
City of Westland

Publish: December 20, 2007

CE0805402

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, December 27, 2007, various items of the City Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction, 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
3321657	1995	Pontiac	Sunfire	1G2JB1247S7510381
3321608	1998	Buick	Regal	2G4WB52K0W1531336
3321649	1993	Chevrolet	Astro Van	1GNEL19W8PB213374
3326419	1994	Pontiac	Sunfire	1G2JB1247S7510381
3380857	2004	Jeep	Cherokee	1J4FJ68S2RL221413
3380881	1995	Suzuki	GSX-R600K	JS1GN7CA442106498
3380897	1996	Ford	Contour	1FALP66LXSK223513
3521142	1997	Pontiac	Sunfire	1G2JB1246T7574865
3521187	1996	Dodge	Stratus	1B3EJ46X9VN667241
3521201	1993	Dodge	Ram Truck	3B7HC13Y1TG155349
3541943	1994	Buick	Park Avenue	1G4CW53L4P1602804
3541970	1992	Ford	Mustang	1FALP4046RF116158
3554732	1986	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FACP74WXXN192462
		Cadillac	Seville	1G6KS6983GU817449

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by perspective buyers on Wednesday, December 26, 2007, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Vehicles may be deleted from this list at an time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold.

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CE0807008-2x4.6



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Short Season starts in January!

CE0807008

Trial date set in beheading case

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Two teenagers accused of killing a 26-year-old River Rouge man have a date with a jury.

Jean Pierre Orlewicz, 17, of Plymouth Township, and 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland are scheduled to stand trial April 7 in the Third Circuit courtroom of Judge Annette Berry on charges of first-degree murder and mutilation of a corpse.

The pair stood mute at their circuit court arraignment Friday, and Berry entered not-



Jean Pierre Orlewicz



Alexander Letkemann

guilty pleas on their behalf. A final conference date has been set for Feb. 15, according to court officials.

The teens are charged in the death of Daniel Sorensen, whom police say the suspects lured to the Canton Township

home of Orlewicz's grandfather, then killed, last month. Sorensen died Nov. 7 of multiple stab wounds. His head was cut off and thrown in the Rouge River in Hines Park, where it was found a few days later. Police say the teens burned Sorensen's hands and feet in a failed attempt to obliterate identifying marks such as fingerprints, then dumped his body in a vacant lot in Northville Township.

Orlewicz, a Canton High School senior, and Letkemann, who dropped out of Churchill High School only to get his diploma through the adult edu-

cation program, were arrested two days later.

They were bound over for trial after a day-long preliminary hearing Nov. 30 in 35th District Court in Plymouth. Judge Michael Gerou threw out one count of felony murder, saying prosecutors failed to prove the felony — the theft of a gun owned by Sorensen — occurred prior to the murder.

Neither prosecutors nor defense lawyers are commenting on the case, citing a gag order issued by Gerou.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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CONTRACTS

FROM PAGE A1

will cost nearly \$275,000 and shave dollars off the city's nearly \$2.2 million budget surplus.

"The majority of the money will come from the fund balance," Finance Director Steven Smith confirmed during the council meeting, although he and Wild said other revenues could ease the burden on the budget surplus.

In subsequent years, Wild said his administration will plan its budget with the raises in mind, although Pickering questioned where the money will be found.

Wild maintained that potential new residents and businesses will consider the strength of Westland's public safety departments before deciding whether to move here. Pickering said he believes that police officers and firefighters would have continued to perform their duties admirably, even if they had been dealt at least a one-year pay freeze.

Councilman James Godbout called the contracts "fair and equitable." He and council members Cheryl Graunstadt, Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer, Dewey Reeves and Robert Stottlemeyer supported the union-ratified contracts.

In one concession, newly hired police officers and firefighters will have to start paying 5 percent of their base salaries toward their pensions. Also, insurance plans for all new hires will save the city some money, Wild said.

According to figures requested through Personnel Director Keith Madden, salaries retroactive to July 1 for the 85-member Westland Police Officers Association will range from \$35,077 for a dispatcher to \$58,463 for a police officer with at least five years on the

job. By the end of the five-year pact, those salaries will range from \$38,718 to \$64,530.

For the 75-member Westland Firefighters Association, the starting salary range will be \$39,986 for a newly hired firefighter to \$82,352 for an assistant chief. When the contract ends, those salaries will range from \$44,135 to \$90,635.

"We're basically doing cost-of-living increases here," Wild said during Monday's meeting.

Moreover, the mayor said elected officials pay tribute to police officers and firefighters during campaign seasons, "and there's a cost to that."

In other salary issues Monday, the council voted unanimously to approve a one-year pay plan that Madden said will mean a 2-percent salary increase for department heads and mayoral appointees. Those raises are automatic because they are tied to 2-percent increases scheduled to take effect in the next year for the Westland Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association.

That plan for department heads and mayoral appointees applies to 22 employees. The salary range as of Jan. 1 will be \$38,935 for an administrative secretary to \$91,612 for top-level department heads, such as the police and fire chiefs.

By year's end, those salaries will range from \$39,714 to \$93,445, according to documents requested of Madden.

Pickering supported that plan because it already was set in motion by language that ties the raises to the lieutenants and sergeants union. Even so, he conceded that rising costs for department heads also will add to the financial woes that the city could face.

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CARNIVAL

FROM PAGE A1

the material. You can do anything with a glue gun."

She found a soulmate in Betty Tessmer who was dressed as The Little Mermaid to read a story she wrote about sea life.

"I think the staff volunteered me," Tessmer, a speech pathologist at the school, told Lisa Rouso. "I think I took one for the team."

There was plenty for the students do throughout the building. A portion of the gymnasium was set aside for inflatables. In another room, the Living Science Foundation brought in a living tide pool, a large salt water basin that allowed students to see and touch sea creatures.

"Visual is very important to children with autism," said Polin. "When we do a carnival we focus on all of the senses. They have to have a full sensory arena for learning."

Students lined up at stations around the school. The longest line was to get an autograph from Detroit Tigers Nate Robertson. They also made snow globes containing their school photos and did sand art in bottle shaped as sea horses and starfish. They also collected teddy bears provided for each student by the Family Christian Bookstore.

"I like any type of fish," said Ashley Mattia, 10 of Redford, filling her whale bottle with pink sand.

"You like any fish? Do you like X-ray fish or sea cucumbers?" asked Brett Hodorek, 10, of Dearborn.

Down the hall, Eric Hunter,

17, of Westland was spinning the wheel as captain of the whale watching boat, the SS Burger. He had his whole crew watching for a telltale fin to appear in the "water" in front of them.

"That was cool," he said. "I was looking for a shark."

Lisa Clark, whose son, Chase Clendenning, 11, attends Burger, was in charge of a faux tide pool that had children looking for Nemo. Every lucky child received a sticker.

"The kids like it, it's filled with Jell-O," she said, adding that, "I make the older kids close their eyes."

Each year, students also make a donation to a program that relates to the carnival theme. This year's recipient is Snowball, a North Atlantic right whale. The youngsters adopted the whale through the North Atlantic Right Whale

Research Project.

They also continued their support for American troops, collecting 10 large boxes of items — everything from toiletries to movies and snacks. Polin credited teachers Cheryl Chaveriat and Diane Pitt and teaching assistant Debbie Stewart in organizing the collection drive.

And Michelle Brown took on the job getting students at both Burger West and Burger East to make pages for scrapbooks that were presented to the Rouso and Berman families.

"She organized both schools, she put a lot of work into it," said Polin. "The staff knows what will break through and bring smiles to the kids' faces and they're willing to do it."

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

BUSINESS

FROM PAGE A1

84,672-square-foot facility.

Within five years, the company expects to increase its sales to \$23.3 million, run 18 extrusion lines and hire as many as 35 new employees, giving priority to Westland residents.

In return for its move to Westland, US Farathane has asked for a 10-year tax abatement, meaning taxes on certain personal property would be paid at 50 percent rather than

100 percent. For the city's portion, it means Farathane would pay \$6,000 in taxes rather than \$12,000 in the first year, city Assessor James Elrod said.

City leaders embraced the tax abatement in return for jobs, some tax revenues and preventing a large building from being vacant. Following talks this week, the Westland City Council still has to formally vote on the tax abatement, which appears headed for sweeping support.

The tax break will not affect the city's general fund because certain tax revenues collected along Ford currently

are funneled to the Westland Downtown Development Authority, which uses those dollars to spur economic development.

On Monday, Knappe said US Farathane has outgrown its three Plymouth facilities and needs room to grow in the Westland building it is buying.


Moreover, he said, "that will allow us to have a much more efficient operation when we consolidate those three facilities into one."

Officials have said the move could be made as early as February.

In all, US Farathane is a

\$130-million-a-year corporation with seven U.S. manufacturing facilities, including six in Michigan. It has captured such awards as General Motors Corp.'s Supplier of the Year for 2005 and *The Plastic News'* Processor of the Year for 2005.

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Pro a must to follow Medicaid recovery law

I recently heard an ad that raised my eyebrows. It dealt with Medicaid and how to deal with Michigan's new estate recovery rules. The ad said that by buying a certain product, it would allow one to qualify for Medicaid. In addition, the ad claimed to be able to shelter assets from Michigan's new Estate Recovery Law. Although there are ways to plan for Medicaid and to



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

work with Michigan's new estate recovery rules, consumers need to keep their guard up. There are people out there who are unqualified to give advice about Medicaid, but give it anyway.

For as long as I can remember, Medicaid planning has been a hot issue. For many, the issue was how to get the government to pay for nursing home expenses. In the old days, it was relatively easy to qualify for Medicaid. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on which way you look at it, that is no longer the case. The rules have tightened and it no longer is easy to qualify.

For example, in the past when the government looked at assets to determine eligibility for Medicaid, it would go back three years and look at an individual's economic data. Under today's rules, the look-back period is five years. Medicaid also is more complex today because of new estate recovery rules which allow the state to come after some assets after death of individuals who have received Medicaid.

In 1993, federal legislation mandated that states have an estate recovery rule, however, Michigan did not enact the law until this year. The law was signed Sept. 30.

Despite what you may have read about the new law, it is not punitive. In fact, it is actually pretty liberal. There are ways to properly plan to either eliminate or reduce the effect of the new estate recovery rules. The key is proper planning and for that you will need to deal with a professional, not a salesperson. For example, I have seen ads selling so-called "Medicaid annuities" claiming that they avoid the new rules. Be careful about buying these so-called Medicaid qualifying annuities, because they don't necessarily accomplish your goal. You may find the "cure" is worse than the disease.

Proper Medicaid planning requires someone who knows what they are doing and who stays current on the law. Medicaid laws are constantly changing and the rules a year ago certainly are not the rules today. Does everyone need an attorney to deal with Medicaid? No. Many times people can do it themselves without difficulty. In fact, there is a free hotline for seniors who need some advice: (800) 347-LAWS. A variety of state and federal agencies also can be of assistance. On the other hand, if you do decide to retain an attorney, I recommend one who specializes in elder law. There is a section of the State Bar of Michigan, the Elder Law section, which has attorneys that specialize in issues such as Medicaid planning.

Seniors who are contemplating applying for Medicaid should be very leery about buying any products and dealing with people who are not qualified to give advice. Proper Medicaid planning can protect your loved ones. On the other hand, a misstep can have serious financial consequences to you and your loved ones.

If you're in a situation where Medicaid may be an option, take your time and don't rush into a course of action. Get the facts, deal with people who have your interests at heart and then make a decision.

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

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Finnish-American Singers concert rescheduled for Sunday, Dec. 23

Due to the heavy snowfall last Sunday, the Finnish-American Singers concert had to be rescheduled for Dec. 23.

Singers president Ilene Yanke says not to worry, the Bake Sale will go on as scheduled as part of the event. Finnish Christmas tarts and ginger cookies and a variety of open-faced sandwiches will be served after the concert as well along with coffee, tea and pop. The festivities take place 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (248) 478-6939.

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Seeing red

Paula Relich (left) was the guest of honor as the Garden City Ladies of the Evening Red Hat Society recently celebrated her 50th birthday. Members of the Red Hat Society wear pink and lavender prior to turning 50, then wear purple and red. With Relich is Cheryl Partin, Queen 'B' of the chapter.

Police seek information about robbery, assault

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Seven days after Kim Loveless was attacked and robbed while closing her gift shop, her husband, Brad Loveless, says his wife isn't sure about reopening it. Recovering from injuries inflicted by her attacker, she "comes and goes" and remains "scared and afraid," he said.

"She's very distraught over this whole thing and she should be, this was a vicious attack," he said. "She doesn't know if she'll be able to open the store again."

The incident happened Dec. 11. Kim Loveless was locking up her Wayne Road store, The Acorn Shop, when she was forced back inside by a man who almost immediately began stabbing her in the head and neck. He then grabbed her purse and fled.

Brad Loveless said his wife sustained close to 20 stab wounds, including two in her back, and a deep gash on her hand which took 50 stitches to

close, Brad Loveless said. She is currently undergoing intensive therapy at an area hospital to regain use of her left side which was temporarily paralyzed as a result of the attack.

"She was able to walk 10 feet, the paralysis affected the left side of her body," said Brad Loveless during an interview Monday. "She's coming around slowly. I think the paralysis might have been from swelling. The stab wounds in her back were near her vertebrae."

Wayne Police Chief John Williams said police believe the motive for "violent and brutal" incident was robbery and they are asking anyone with information about incident to contact the police.

Speaking at a press conference Monday, Williams said police detectives have already received numerous tips over the Internet and by phone, but more is needed to track down the suspect — a 25-35-year-old black male about 6 feet tall.

"We're pursuing all leads,

nothing will be left unturned," said Williams. "Our officers have pretty much been working this investigation full time, since it happened. I don't want to say around the clock, but it's pretty close."

According to Williams, the incident happened around 7:40 p.m. Police were en route to the Wayne Road shop on an alarm run, when a 9-1-1 call was received from store owner Kimberly Loveless that she had been stabbed and robbed. Loveless told police her attacker wore a black hooded jersey and had a black scarf covering his face.

The incident has shaken the quiet community which held a benefit dinner Wednesday to raise money for a \$5,000 reward that's being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the attacker.

A \$1,000 reward also is being offered through Crime Stoppers. Tips can be called into the police department at (734) 721-1414 or by calling (800) SPEAK-UP.

"This is a very distressing time for us," said Mayor Pro Tem Donna McEachern. "Every person in the community has been touched by this. Kim was a big booster in this community." According to McEachern, \$2,000 of the \$5,000 had been raised in advance of the fundraiser. People can still make donations to the Kim Loveless Fund through the Wayne Chamber of Commerce. More information also is available by Wayne City Hall at (734) 722-2001.

"Kim is a courageous, plucky lady, she's extremely lucky," said McEachern.

According to Brad Loveless, his wife is doing as good as can be expected. He hopes the man who attacked his wife is found.

"Nobody should have to go through that," he said. "He needs to be found before it happens to someone else. We need to get him off the streets."

For more information, call Wayne City Hall at (734) 722-2001.

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Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: December 20 & 27, 2007

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734) 729-7095 on 12/28/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
2060 - Terry Dorothy - Big Screen TV, 2 Tables, Couch
4118 - Sheila Walker - Bed mattress, Microwave, 5 Totes
4148 - James Tuttle Jr. - Bed Mattress, 4 TVs, Misc Items
4158 - Adrienne Kirkwood - Couch, Loveseat, Kids Toys
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Publish: December 13 and 20, 2007

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OUR VIEWS

For the holidays, give a gift of life

By this time next week, the gift giving will have come to an end. People will have headed back to the stores to make returns and cash in on post-Christmas sales.

But there's one gift that still needs to be given, especially at this time of year. It's the gift of life, and you have to visit an American Red Cross donor center or participate in a local Red Cross blood drive to make it happen.

The holidays are a time when blood donations drop. Factories and schools are closed and people are too busy with holiday activities. But the demand for blood never takes a day off. In fact, the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan needs some 900 donors each day to keep its shelves stocked with blood.

Your single blood donation can help up to three people. Do you have O-positive or O-negative blood? O-positive is in demand because it can be given to 84 percent of the population. O-negative has the universal red blood cells which can be given to any patient regardless of blood type.

If you have the rare AB blood type — only 4 percent of people have it — your donations also are need. AB plasma is the universal plasma. Like O-negative, it can be given to all blood types.

It takes an hour of your time to give blood and the donor centers have hours six days a week to accommodate all schedules. Don't know where a center is? You'll find the Livonia donor center in the University Park Building at 36650 Five Mile across from St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

There are also plenty of blood drives being held through the end of the month. Consider making a donation:

■ 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Resurrection Catholic Church, 48755 Warren Road, Canton.

■ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Optimeyes 35184 Central City Parkway west of Wayne Road, Westland.

■ 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, north of Ford, Garden City.

If you're at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you're eligible to donate. And don't worry about being too old. No one is. The Red Cross doesn't have an upper age limit when it comes to blood donations.

Donating can be as easy as calling (800) GIVE LIFE or visiting the Web site at www.givelife.org.

Blue Cross bills need more scrutiny

Attorney General Mike Cox and the United Auto Workers are not often allies. But Cox, the UAW, the Consumers Union, Health Alliance Plan, AARP and several commercial insurance companies have joined to oppose legislation tailored to benefit Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

A package of four bills to amend Blue Cross operations was hastily pushed through the Michigan House of Representatives in October with only one two-hour hearing before coming to a House vote, where it received bipartisan support. It is now before the Senate, where state Sen. Tom George, R-Kalamazoo, promises a more deliberative process.

Obviously, the degree of opposition alone warrants a more responsible legislative process. In addition, Blue Cross insures 4.2 million Michigan residents, representing 70 percent of those with health insurance, excluding Medicare and Medicaid. What happens to Blue Cross will have an impact on all of us.

The legislation would give Blue Cross more flexibility and reduce its liability on individual insurance policies — the objective being to provide better rates and coverage for those with individual policies and those currently uninsured. Blue Cross estimates that individual insurance will grow from 7 percent to 15-25 percent of the market over the next five years as employers drop coverage. According to press reports, Blue Cross claims it has lost \$52 million on these policies over the last 10 years.

Blue Cross was organized in 1939 under state statute as a tax-exempt "charitable and benevolent institution." Blue Cross is required to provide health insurance to Michigan citizens who cannot get it elsewhere and ensure that coverage is accessible and affordable for everyone in Michigan. Blue Cross currently maintains \$2.8 billion in reserves.

In a meeting with *Observer & Eccentric* editors, Cox outlined some of his major concerns with the legislation:

■ Elimination of "community rating." The legislation would allow Blue Cross to institute a 10-tier system using age, health history, county of residence, etc., to determine rates. This would allow Blue Cross to set different rates based on these factors for its individual accounts. This would include "redlining," setting rates based on where a customer lives.

■ Rate changes would no longer need prior approval from the state insurance commissioner and would no longer face a challenge from the attorney general's office.

■ The legislation would allow Blue Cross to expand its for-profit operations.

Cox is also concerned about rising Blue Cross rates despite its record reserves. A suit by a Livonia couple is challenging a recent 24-percent average rate increase.

These are legitimate concerns and need to be argued in a public forum. We also need to hear from the governor, who has yet to weigh in on this legislation.



UAW off base

I am pro-union. I am upset with the United Auto Workers Region 1A. My wife went shopping in Kohl's tonight and parked her Toyota Scion. Kohl's, like J.C. Penney, Wal-Mart, Sears and Kmart sells textile goods from India, Pakistan, communist China, Guatemala, Honduras and even Vietnam.

Someone from United Auto Workers Region 1A put a bumper sticker on her car that reads: "Support the Troops: Buy American" with a stamp from "UAW Region 1A" stamped on it.

Consider that. Where was that guy when hundreds of thousands of American textile jobs were run out of the U.S.? Where was that guy when I was fighting to get the unions in on construction jobs all through Canton and Westland?

Our military is in Iraq shoring up the perverted regime in Saudi Arabia and ensuring that oil flows into this country so somebody working with one of the most ravenous unions in the world could wander through a parking lot defacing personal property.

The Scion we have routinely gets about 40 miles per gallon. American auto companies and unions are complaining about trying to reach an average of 35 miles per gallon.

I would buy American — if the things I needed were made in America.

In the meantime, we've got a serious problem with a union like the United Auto Workers picking on the wife of a small guy like me who is just trying to earn a living and get by. It's a filthy thing to see the United Auto Workers jump on the back of our brave and war weary men and women in Iraq.

Alfred Brock
Wayne

Beware of this scam

It seems there are scams all over the place these days. You've won the lottery of some obscure country or a needy millionaire in Europe is seeking your help transferring funds to the United States.

These kinds of scams can be upsetting, particularly when you realize the reason they exist — because so many people fall for them.

Especially upsetting are the scams that target people who depend on Social Security benefits — and use Social Security's name in their shady dealings.

Recently, we have heard of a number of scams where individuals posing as Social Security employees call and ask for personal information like your name, Social Security number and bank account information. The caller alleges that we need this information so we can issue you additional funds or rebates or they allege that because of a computer glitch your personal information has been lost.

Another scam used an e-mail that was designed to look like it came from Social Security. It provided information about the annual cost-of-living-adjustment and directed readers to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's

site so people could "update their information" — valuable information to identify thieves and criminals.

In an effort to combat such scams, we want to make one thing clear: Social Security will not send you an e-mail asking you to give us your personal information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth, or other private information. If someone saying they are from Social Security does e-mail you requesting information, don't respond. Instead, contact your local Social Security office or call us at (800) 772-1213 to see whether we really need any information from you.

Whatever you do, don't fall victim to a scam. Don't give out your personal information.

Social Security and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) take these scams very seriously. We do everything we can to stop the perpetrators and educate the public. To report suspicious activity, please call the OIG Hotline at (800) 269-0271. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's Web site: www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

Of course, there are times when Social Security may contact you to update your information. At such times, you will always receive prior notification from us by mail or telephone before a personal visit is made. When in doubt, contact us at (800) 772-1213 (TTY (800) 325-0778) and we can verify the identity of the Social Security employee who has contacted you.

Frances Heimes-Savickis
Social Security public affairs specialist,
Metro Detroit

Time to tax junk food

The international pandemic of obesity threatens our society, both in terms of present and future adverse health and economic outcomes.

We need to heed the successful lessons against the tobacco industry and apply the same principles toward our efforts against obesity. Just warning people about and throwing more money towards its ravages is not working.

The preponderance of scientific evidence supports the issue that obesity, once established, is extremely difficult to treat by conventional methods. While we still need to intervene in those patients who are presently overweight, there should be a stronger public policy direction towards primary prevention.

Social attitudes, norms and health and economic disparities must be addressed and policy makers need to encourage radical policy changes so that there are forced environmental shifts towards effective food production, marketing and consumption.

While personal lifestyle decisions are an important part of this equation, strong environmental policies need to be enacted in order to support positive adult health behavior change.

Therefore, it is now time to have policies and actions such as taxation of junk food, banning of advertising of fast foods and offering of financial incentives to

manufacturers of food to sell smaller portion sizes. Policy makers should provide us with framework towards a healthier environment for food consumption and the insidious daily food excesses that leads to overweight and obesity.

This stuff matters. It simply is not acceptable for us to remain silent anymore. Contact and encourage your legislative representative to enact public policy no less effective to what is in place presently for a smokeless environment. The future quality and longevity of our lives and that of our children hang in the balance.

Paul R. Ehrmann, D.O.
Royal Oak

Iran still a threat

I certainly hope the public does not believe that press report about the recently released National Intelligence Estimate report. Iran wants readers and viewers to believe that the Islamic Republic has ended its nuclear weapons program. Does this even sound logical?

The Iranian president is pursuing an illegal nuclear program. Leaders around the world, led by France and the U.K., are still strongly convinced of the Iranian will to build a nuclear weapon and are still supporting new sanctions against Iran despite the new report, which contains numerous ambiguities about Iran's intentions and progress towards creating a bomb.

In fact, buried within the report is a statement that Iran could potentially enrich enough bomb-grade uranium within 12 to 18 months to create nuclear weapons.

Iran's extremist regime is still supporting terror and bragging about its nuclear pursuits and capabilities.

If we do not act, we run the risk of placating an extremist and making the same mistake we made with Hitler, which led to World War II and the deaths of millions.

We must all act now, using more economic diplomacy and greater economic pressure to help prevent a war and not fall for this misleading information.

F. Linda Cohen
Franklin

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We are doing some amazing things here. I wasn't surprised, but I'm pleased because it gives us more visibility." Principal Ginny Kowalski about the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's designation as a 2007 Center of Science and Engineering Excellence

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

What sacrifices are we being asked to make?

Christmas is coming. Where is the present we should give to our country?

Where is the shared sacrifice for the common good in America today?

We send young men and women off to war. What does it cost us? No, I do not mean the young men and women who are coming home in body bags, without a limb, a closed head injury or post-traumatic stress. They are paying a huge price, as are their families.

What is the cost you and I, average citizens, are being asked to pay? Where is the shared sacrifice? I am not referring to the costs of freedom here at home or "prestige around the world,"

as important as those items are to all of us as Americans. Where are the shared values, shared duties and responsibilities that all Americans are asked to commit?

Yeah, I know, it is costing us plenty in taxes and deficit spending that will be a burden on our children, our great-grandchildren. What is the daily sacrifice that we as Americans are making to support this war on terror? Have we been asked to buy "war bonds"? Conserve energy? Pay increased taxes to actually pay for our war rather than borrowing it from the Chinese and Japanese? Do without a Big Mac or a latte in order to support the troops?

Have we been asked to volunteer to serve in the military or otherwise commit to adding value to ending terrorism? To delay our son's or daughter's college education for a year or two so they can serve our country in some fashion? Have our lives even been a little disrupted? Have we forgotten the feeling we had on 9/11 when we wanted a call to action?

I believe as Americans we want to be called to do more to contribute to our collective future. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Clearly, veterans groups, family members and some patriotic citizens are helping in large and small ways. But why haven't our national leaders engaged us for the common good of all? Where is the rallying cry to come together as Americans as we did in World War II to be part of something bigger than ourselves? Why haven't we been asked to plant a shade tree even if we will never enjoy its shade?

WHAT SACRIFICE?

What really made me think of this was being at Meijer recently and reading a bumper sticker on a car that read, "Proud to know an American Soldier."

What are we doing to support the soldiers?

It seems as long as we can put a flag decal or yellow magnetic ribbon on our car or wave an American flag on the Fourth of July, we are OK. Just don't inconvenience anyone. Someone's son or daughter is in harm's way - but let's not miss college football on Saturday, pro ball on Sunday and the sale down at the local Wal-Mart.

Will we know him or her and support them when they come home with lifelong physical and emotional scars? Will we have a job for them? Will we raise hell with the president and Congress to make sure they have the support, medical and mental health attention to readjust to civilian life? Does "bumper sticker" action inspire you?

It seems as long as we can put a flag decal or yellow magnetic ribbon on our car or wave an American flag on the Fourth of July, we are OK. Just don't inconvenience anyone. Someone's son or daughter is in harm's way - but let's not miss college football on Saturday, pro ball on Sunday and the sale down at the local Wal-Mart.

A CALL TO ACTION

What if this president or the next were to address the nation and say:

■ I am instituting a national service program for all young people after high school graduation to serve their country in the military or some other form of country/community service for one year. We cannot expect young people to put their lives on the line while some are waiting in the latte or concert line.

■ I am calling for an increase in your taxes to pay for our war/freedom efforts.

■ I am requiring civilians to car pool to work at least one day per week to conserve oil. It is polluting our air and feeding terror.

■ We will set a "man on the moon" goal to reduce our oil consumption drastically over the next decade; our lives just may depend on our success.

Perhaps if more of us had "more skin in the game," our energies would be focused on what all of us could be doing to preserve our freedom and make the world a safer place. A call to action would certainly get our attention and perhaps inspire a nation.

It is never too late to act. And what a Christmas present it would be to those serving our country.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and mental health director from 1986-90. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

Presidential records must be available to history

If your holiday shopping this season finds you in a bookstore, take a moment and do me a favor.

Ask for the section on presidential history, and go take a peek. I'll hazard a guess you'll find literally hundreds of works of presidential history, from the scholarly tomes with hundreds of footnotes to the downright silly works on presidential pets.

Now, take a moment and imagine it's 2033, and you're looking for a nice downloadable e-book history of the Clinton or Bush presidency.

What you find is truly disappointing: they look and feel like history, but sit down and read one for a moment, and the experience is wholly unsatisfying. Where is the background,

the context provided by all of those once-classified memos detailing the West Wing intrigue that makes history truly come to life? Instead, we get the learned best guesses of the nation's finest historians working without their tools: the primary documents that make history, well, history.

Sounds like a nightmare, eh? It's reality, for the moment, and it will rob us of our nation's historical record unless We The People wake up and do something about it.

A bit of history we do know: In November 2001, just as the National Archives was preparing to release a small portion of the records of the Reagan administration, President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13233. The order gives former presidents and their assignees the right to prevent the release of presidential papers - forever. It also allows a sitting president to block the release of a former president's records, even after that former president has signaled his approval. It requires that those who challenge the action of either a former president or the sitting president seek redress in court.

Historians, most of Congress and Americans who know that our history begets our future howled in protest, and our elected representatives slowly but surely swung into action. The House passed The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007 (H.R. 1255/S. 886) by a veto-proof margin (333-93) with 104 Republicans breaking ranks with the administration.

The bill would nullify the Bush executive order and re-establish procedures to ensure the timely release of presidential records that the Presidential Records Act was designed to ensure. The bill also has broad bipartisan support in the Senate, and cleared the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee by voice vote earlier this year.

We were well on our way to reclaiming our history when, on Sept. 24, 2007, Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., objected to floor consideration of H.R. 1255/S. 886 under unanimous consent, holding up a vote on the bill. Despite repeated requests from a host of historical, news media and open government organizations, Bunning has refused to state the reasons for his opposition to the bill. Recently, the White House reiterated its threat to veto the bill should it pass Congress.

For the second time this year, a lone senator has acted in the least democratic way possible to commit an act of legislative hostage taking. You may recall Sen. Kyl's secret hold on meaningful reforms to the federal Freedom of Information Act. Kyl, to his credit, ultimately chose to voice his objections and work to address them. No such luck with Bunning, who prefers his law-making be done in silence. The World's Greatest Deliberative Body is neither great nor terribly deliberative in this instance.

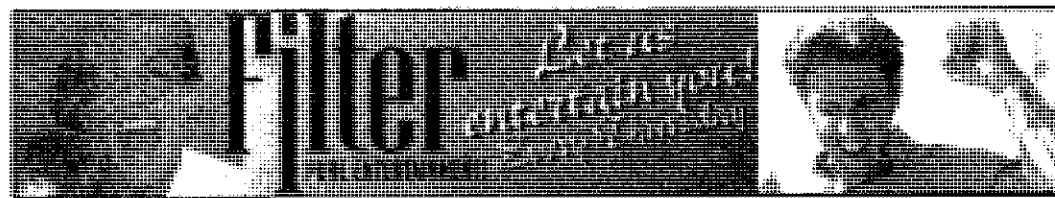
When the history of this sad spectacle is written, it will note that the Presidential Records Act gutted by the president and aided and abetted by the callous silence of Bunning comes with a rather remarkable history of its own.

It's worth remembering that the Presidential Records Act of 1978 emerged from the tattered remnants of the Nixon presidency, in direct reaction to another presidential power grab. It's a remarkably straightforward piece of legislation: Under the law, the U.S. government asserts complete "ownership, possession, and control" of all presidential and vice presidential records. Upon conclusion of the president's term in office, the National Archivist is required to assume custody of the records, and to make them available to the public when permissible under the PRA. Access to the records can be denied after the end of the 12-year embargo only if a former or incumbent president claims an exemption based on a "constitutionally based" executive privilege or continuing national security concern.

It's simple, really: the Bush administration wants to write its own history. Future presidents, Republican or Democrat, will find that sort of control downright intoxicating. If this executive order is not overturned by Congress, it will allow any president, their heirs, and - for the first time - the vice president and heirs, to deny the American people access to the full historical record of all future administrations.

And that is guaranteed to produce some tired pickings at your local bookstore in the near future.

Charles N. Davis, a member of SPJ's Freedom of Information Committee, serves as the executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.



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SPORTS

B (LW)

Thursday, December 20, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Stefan's on the mark in Glenn victory vs. Wayne

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Stefan Marken put on quite a shooting clinic — and then some — in Westland John Glenn's come-from-behind 72-63 boys basketball win Tuesday night at Wayne Memorial.

The 6-foot-4 senior forward helped the Rockets overcome a 38-31 halftime deficit with 17 third-quarter points to spark a 24-6 run as Glenn pulled out an impressive 72-63 triumph.

Marken drained five of his eight 3-pointers during the third period, including a banker from the deep wing with 1:21 left to give the Rockets a 52-42

BOYS BASKETBALL

advantage.

"I thought it was going in, but then it hit glass," Marken admitted. "I guess I was on a roll, just shooting it."

Marken was an efficient marksman as well, connecting on 9-of-12 shots from the floor.

Senior forward Earl Hardison chipped in with 21 points, while speedy senior guard Keshawn Martin finished with 12 for the Rockets, who improved to 3-0 overall.

Many of Marken's open looks were a result of passes from the 6-foot Martin, who continually was

able to draw in Wayne's defense with quick drives to the basket.

"He (Marken) is a great shooter and I told him that since Day One," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "And I always tell him he needs more shots. I told Stefan he should buy Keshawn lunch, but he (Marken) was awesome. He just got on a roll."

Glenn jumped out to a 22-17 first-quarter advantage, but Wayne (2-2) came storming back by outscoring the Rockets 21-9 in the second period behind Robert Woodson's six points.

But Wayne's seven-point halftime advantage quickly evaporated.

"I thought in the second quarter they (Wayne) out-toughed us," Young said. "They got to loose balls, they made shots and out-hustled us, but I knew there would be runs both ways. We talked about being able to get back to playing the way we know how to play. We needed to show more patience and really play tough defense — get back to what we normally do."

Marken's hot third-quarter shooting cause Wayne coach Wayne Woodard to burn a timeout.

"We talked about the same things we did before the game — stop Earl and Keshawn, and Austin driving to the basket,"

Woodard said. "He (Marken) was able to spot up and shoot it. We didn't get out on him far enough or crowd him, make him put it on the ground. He was a little bit unconscious, especially when he put that banker in. There are not many high school kids that can get 17 in one quarter. We knew he could shoot the ball. He went wild and that was the game tonight."

Even more disturbing for Woodard was the fact that the Zebras made just 3-of-19 third-quarter shots after hitting 13-of-22 (59 percent) in the first half.

Please see **GLENN, B2**

Sidelines

AAU girls hoop

Due to Sunday's snowstorm, tryouts for the Lady Sundevils, an AAU girls basketball team, have been rescheduled for Saturday, Dec. 22 at Our Lady of Loretto, located at the corner of Six Mile and Beech Daly roads.

Age-group tryout times will be: noon-2 p.m. (13-14 and under); 2-4 p.m. (15-16 and under); 4-6 p.m. (11-12 and under).

For more information, call John Kenger at (734) 306-7682.

MU softball camp

Madonna University softball coach Al White is hosting a hitting camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Dec. 22.

Prospective participants can also register for Madonna's softball fundamentals camp, which includes two sessions.

The first session is from 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 5 through Jan. 26; the second is set for while 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 3.

The fundamentals camp sessions will focus on all aspects of fast-pitch softball, according to White.

For more information, call White (734-432-5783).

Learn to Skate II

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage its six-week Learn to Skate Winter Session II beginning the week of Jan. 6 and running through the week of Feb. 14 at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile just west of Farmington).

The fee is \$47 for residents and \$57 for non-residents. Walk-in registration will be from 5-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) beginning Wednesday, Jan. 2 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located a 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Sessions offered include:

- Ages 4 and up: 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m. or 5:45 p.m. Mondays; 4:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. Thursdays;
- Boys hockey skills (no equipment needed; no pucks or sticks used): 6:15 p.m. Mondays or 5 p.m. Thursdays;
- 3-year-olds only: 4:30 p.m. Thursdays.

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Private lessons are also available for all levels of skating. (Call 734-466-2412 for more information).

Court date Bridges brothers connect in final

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

With about 14 minutes to play in the first half of Saturday's game between Madonna University and Albion College, the chant started to fill Madonna's activities center.

In unison from MU's home cheering section it came — "D.J.'s bet-ter, ... D.J.'s bet-ter."

The look-alike Bridges brothers of Canton, playing in a collegiate game for the first and only time, could not avoid hearing those words.

But just a couple minutes later it was Albion sophomore Andre Bridges who buried a triple while his older brother, Crusaders senior forward D.J. Bridges, watched from the sideline.

"Yeah, I heard it," said D.J. Bridges with a smile following MU's 86-80 win, which gave the Crusaders the Michigan Educational Credit Union Tournament championship. "I mean, he actually played better than me today."

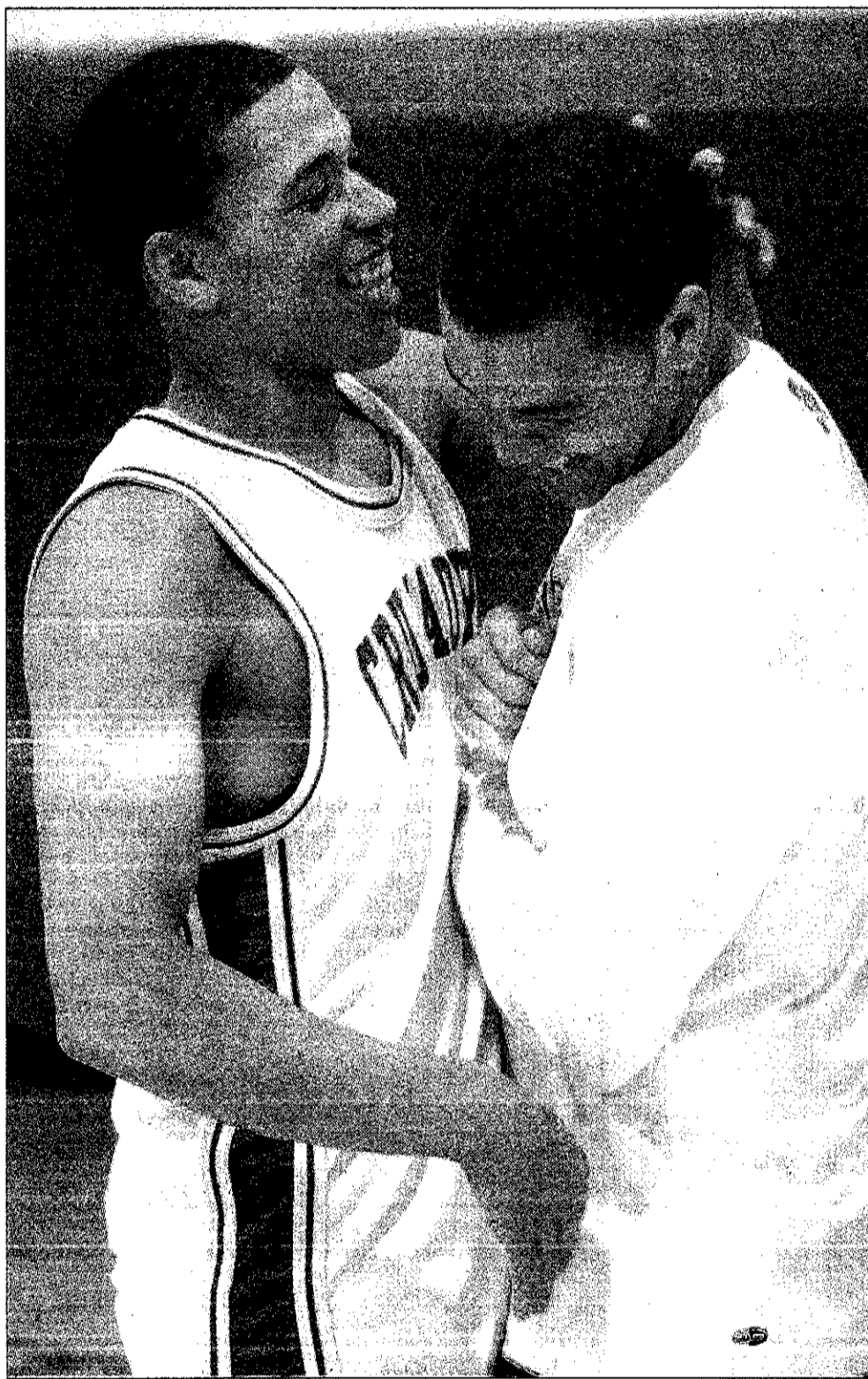
"But we got the 'dub' so I'll take that any day."

According to Andre, a shooting guard who graduated from Canton High School two years after D.J., the fans' ribbing didn't bother him.

"I tried not to think about it that much," he said. "It's in the back of your head, but I've got to keep my focus on my team the best I can."

TAKE THAT
Before halftime, Andre silenced the home crowd by draining all three of his attempts from behind the arc. Andre wound up with 11

Please see **BRIDGES, B5**



Canton alums D. J. Bridges of Madonna (left) and Andre Bridges of Albion get together for a lighthearted moment following Saturday's game, the only time the siblings will face each other in the collegiate setting.

Crusaders gain tourney crown against Albion

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Nothing seems to come easy for Madonna University, but the Crusaders keep hanging in there and coming away with victories.

That again was the case Saturday afternoon, in a 86-80 win over Albion College in the championship game of the third-annual Michigan Educational Credit Union Tournament, hosted by Madonna.

It was the first time MU won the tourney.

"We've had so many close games," said Crusaders head coach Chuck Henry. "We've lost three over-time games and we've won five in a row, but only one of those was by 10 points."

"The other four went down to the wire, so it's been kind of a pattern for us."

For a while Saturday, it looked like Henry and his team could relax a bit for a change.

After MU (8-6) built a 41-32 half-time lead, hitting five of 10 three-point shots, the Crusaders drained two more treys in the opening minute of the second half to take a 47-34 margin.

Yet it took successive three-balls by Madonna senior point guard and tournament MVP Charlie Henry (Canton/Agape Christian), who was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week, to keep the Crusaders in front going down the stretch.

His second, from beyond the top of the arc, made it 82-75 with 1:50 to go and gave him 21 points for the game.

"On the first one, we pushed it up

Please see **CRUSADERS, B5**

Rocket girls cage Zebras, 56-48

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn put up a host of shots — 67 in all — and found the basket with more regularity in the second half Tuesday to overtake host Wayne Memorial in a girls basketball encounter, 56-48.

The Rockets, now 3-4 overall, trailed 14-6 and 27-19 during the first half before storming back with a second-half surge behind junior center Brittany Holbrook's 16 points and junior point guard Chanel Payne's 14 points.

Glenn was able to slow down Wayne's high-scoring Trena Barbee, who scored a game-high 23 points, but the 5-foot-8 senior guard had only four in the final period.

"We played hard the first half, but everyone could see we were not putting the ball in the basket," said Glenn coach Mike

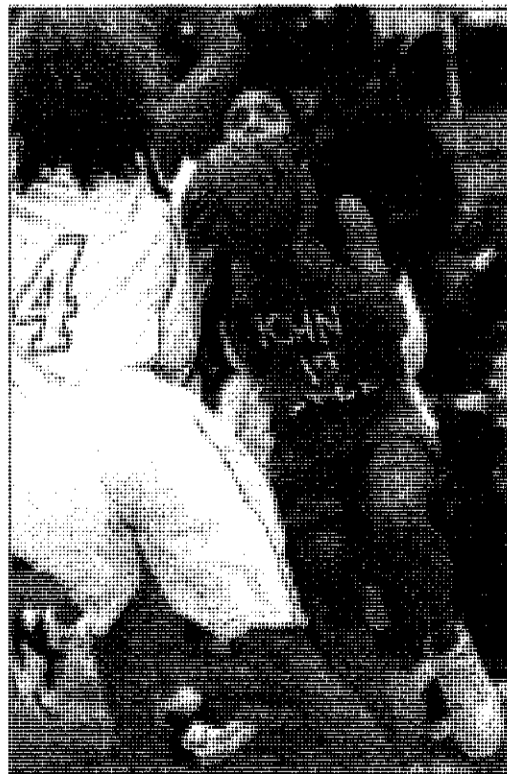
Schuette, whose team shot only 8-of-34 during the first 16 minutes of action.

"The second half I thought we did a pretty good job on number 23 (Barbee). The ball started falling in and we got to the free-throw line. (Brittany) Holbrook worked her tail off, but she was coming up short. Part of it was that their big girl (6-foot-3 Wendi Foster) was intimidating in there. But it's just a matter of time for Brittany. She's ready to blossom."

Glenn outscored the Zebras 33-21 over the final two quarters and the key was the speedy 5-4 Payne, who reeled off six points during a 55-second span midway through the final quarter to put Glenn ahead 51-44.

"I thought Nyah McReynolds played well this game and Chanel (Payne) did a good job denying her

Please see **ROCKETS, B2**



John Glenn's Chanel Payne, shown here in an earlier game against Farmington Hills Harrison, scored 14 points in Tuesday's 56-48 victory at Wayne Memorial.

Churchill regains winning form, 4-0

Livonia Churchill got back on the winning track Saturday with a 4-0 boys hockey win Saturday over host Walled Lake Western at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Josh Proben's first-period goal from Scott Sundberg at 4:21 proved to be the game winner as the state-ranked Chargers improved to 7-1 overall.

Mike Woynick added a second-period goal from Dan Bostick at 9:40.

PREP HOCKEY
In the third period, Ken Masiarczyk scored from Stefan Kubus and Mitch Carpenter at 9:35 followed by Nathan Milam's unassisted power-play goal, his 19th of the season with 2:37 to go.

Derrick Daigneau posted the shutout in goal for the Chargers. He made 13 saves.

Western netminder Ben Shaham stopped 32 shots.

"Western really tried to slow down the pace of the game," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "There was a lot of whistles and delays in the game. The first period took 45 minutes. The boys stayed focused. The best way to bounce back from a loss is to gain a shutout."

LADYWOOD 3, LIGGETT 1: Ashley Ballarin scored a pair of goals Saturday to lead Livonia Ladywood (5-4-1, 5-2) to a Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League triumph over Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (1-5 league) at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Heather Sartorius tallied the other goal for the Blazers, who outshot the Knights, 40-21.

Franklin captures rematch vs. Spartans for 1st victory, 57-53

Jeremy Rheault notched his first victory as Livonia Franklin boys basketball coach Tuesday as the Patriots upended host Livonia Stevenson, 57-53, in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game.

Franklin, now 1-2 overall, got 15 points from senior Ryan Matthey and 14 from junior Jeff Poole in the victory.

Senior Kevin Percin chipped in with eight points, while junior Blake Havel added seven as the Patriots avenged a 62-58 setback to the Spartans on Dec. 7.

"I like the way we played," Rheault said. "We played hard and we played together. We won it at the (free throw) line. Our main point was to go inside and I'm proud of them. I also like the way we're improving on defense."

The game was close throughout with Franklin lead 28-26 at halftime and 45-43 after three quarters.

The Patriots connected on 14-of-19 free throws, while Stevenson made 13-of-19.

Mark Grisa led the Spartans with 12 points, while Bobby Naubert contributed eight for the Spartans (2-3).

"We got to do a better job of rebounding and do a better job getting into our offensive sets," Stevenson

BOYS BASKETBALL

first-year coach Mike Allie said. "We stopped playing defense once the ball is shot. We do a lot of ball watching and not a good job of boxing out. I also got to do a better job of preparing my kids."

NORTHVILLE 68, CHURCHILL 60: Senior guards Sean Anderson and Dan Fitzpatrick scored 17 and 15 points, respectively, leading the Mustangs (1-2) to a WLAA crossover victory Tuesday at Livonia Churchill (3-2).

Churchill's Andrew Vagnetti, who was 6-of-10 from three-point range, finished with a game-high 25 points. Ryan Rosenick chipped in with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Churchill led 35-31 at the half, but Northville limited the Chargers to a pair of field goals during a 13-7 third-quarter run. The Mustangs then outscored Churchill 24-18 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"We did a lot of little things poorly that we haven't done all season," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We missed shots in the third quarter that were costly and our defense collapsed in the fourth quarter. We got beat off the dribble and our rota-

tions were poor."

Northville was 14-of-22 from the foul line, while Churchill made 8-of-13.

MADISON 63, CLARENCEVILLE 55: In a non-conference matchup Tuesday, Class B state-ranked Madison Heights Madison (5-0) survived a struggle against Livonia Clarenceville (2-1) behind 17 points from Duane Marcellis and 14 from Mario Graham.

Jamie Stewart, a 6-4 junior guard, led the Trojans with a game-high 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Junior center Jeremy Gainer added nine points.

The Trojans bolted out to a 17-10 first quarter lead before the Eagles came back with an 11-6 run in the second period. Clarenceville cut the deficit to one late in the third quarter, but a five-point Madison run put the Eagles back in command.

"We used a lot of energy from the get-go, but we lost a little in the second quarter," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said. "We battled and we had opportunities. They just made a couple more plays. They (Madison) are a senior-laden team, but I'm also proud of my kids."

Madison connected on 20-of-31 throws on the night, while Clarenceville made 8-of-16.

Ladywood prevails in overtime struggle against Marian, 50-47

It was an old-fashioned, knock-down, drag-out Catholic League Central Division girls basketball clash on Tuesday as host Livonia Ladywood outlasted Birmingham Marian and overtime, 50-47.

Sophomore guard Mary Fitzgerald, who paced the victorious Blazers with 15 points, made six-of-seven free throws in OT as Ladywood outscored the Mustangs, 11-8.

Senior forward Jenna Anastos added 11 points and seven rebounds before fouling out for the Blazers, who captured their fourth straight game and improved to 4-2 overall and 2-0 in the Central. Senior center Alex Serowoko scored all seven of her points in the second half, but also fouled out.

With the game tied 39-all and with 30 seconds remaining until the end of regulation, Marian had a chance to win it but couldn't get off a final shot.

"That was our biggest defensive stop of the game," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said.

Michelle Lindsey and Rachel Melcher led the Mustangs with 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Lindsey's triple late in overtime pulled Marian to within three and the Marlins had a chance to send it to a second OT but missed three straight free throws with 17 seconds to play.

Ladywood was 16-of-21 from the foul line (76 percent) and 15-of-47 from the field (31 percent).

Marian, which slipped to 4-2 overall and 1-1 in the Central, connected on 9-of-15 free throws (60 percent) and 18-of-44 from the floor (40 percent).

FRANKLIN 53, STEVENSON 35: Junior guard Briana Taylor scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds Tuesday to propel host Livonia Franklin (6-1) to a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover win over Livonia Stevenson (3-4).

Jessica Stailey and Allison Trosell each chipped in with nine points for the victorious Patriots, who built a commanding 28-12 halftime lead.

Franklin lost starting forward Brittany Taylor to a knee injury in the first half and starting senior center Ashley Price to an elbow injury early in the second half.

The Patriots won despite 20 turnovers and 5-of-10 shooting from the foul line.

Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath led all scorers with 16 points and added 19 rebounds. Freshman guard Sarah Smith scored seven.

The Spartans hurt themselves at the foul line, making just 33 percent (9-of-27).

"We came out flat the first half, but we picked up our



Clarenceville's Amanda Moody, shown here in the season opener against Hazel Park, wound up with a team-high 10 points in Tuesday's 64-32 setback to visiting Farmington Hills Harrison.

intensity the third quarter," said Stevenson first-year coach Pat Cannon, whose Spartans outscored Franklin 14-9 before being outpointed 16-9 in the final period.

NORTHVILLE 38, CHURCHILL 19: Chelsea Atsinger tallied 11 points Tuesday to lift the host Mustangs (4-2) to the WLAA crossover win over Livonia Churchill (2-5).

Kia Griffin led the Chargers, who scored just 12 points through three quarters, with five points.

"We're moving the ball better, but we're struggling to hit open shots," Churchill first-year coach Chad Jenkins said. "We had the opportunities, but just did not capitalize."

Northville led 15-6 at half-

time and put it away with a 16-6 third-quarter run.

HARRISON 64, CLARENCEVILLE 32: Four players scored in double figures Tuesday as Farmington Hills Harrison (5-2) rolled to a non-conference win Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville (3-4).

Chelsea Gaddis led the way with 17 points, while Latoya Cotton added 12. Melissa Nordhoff and Kelly Avery each contributed 11.

Amanda Moody, a senior guard, paced the Trojans with 10 points. Cheney Kemp added eight points and 16 rebounds.

The Trojans, who couldn't overcome a 30-15 halftime deficit, shot just 3-of-13 from the foul line and committed 20 turnovers.

Turnovers were an issue for the Zebras, who slipped to 3-2 overall. Wayne had a total of 19, while Glenn made only 10.

"We ran out of gas," Wayne first-year coach Leslie Williams said. "It was a good game, but once they (Glenn) got into the double bonus (free throws), it was hard to recover. We settled for long-range shots. We also have to do a better job of playing under pressure. When teams pressure us, we sometimes struggle."

Barbee was 10-of-26 from the floor, while teammate Nastassia Goines, who finished with 10, was 3-of-17.

As a team, Wayne made 20-of-66 from the field (30.3 percent), while Glenn hit 19-of-66 (28.7 percent). The Rockets also got to the free-throw line more often, hitting 17-of-27 (62.9), while the Zebras were just 5-of-9 (55.5 percent).

"They (Glenn) were getting a lot more shots and we weren't converting our shots," Williams said. "We have to work on defense, rebounding and dribbling the gaps. We have to do a better job of handling pressure."

MEN'S HOCKEY STANDINGS

LIVONIA OVER 30 HOCKEY STANDINGS (as of Dec. 16)

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Hunt's Ace Hardware	11-7-5/ 27 points
Zaschak Enterprises, LLC	11-9-5/ 27
LaSalle Bank	11-9-5/ 27 points
Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumbing	7-10-6/ 20
Livonia Auto Body	6-12-5/ 17 points
Daily Restaurant	6-16-1/ 13 points

GLENN

FROM PAGE B1

"The third quarter I felt like we were running our offense," Woodard said. "But I'd have to look at the film to see if we got away from what we were doing."

Martez Abney was Wayne's leading scorer with 17 points, while Mike Lee, who has already had a pair of 32-point games, finished with 15. John Hill contributed 11, while Robert Woodson had nine.

"Losing to John Glenn hurts,

but if we lose to Walled Lake Western on Thursday it hurts more," Woodard said. "You don't want to lose a division game out of the gate."

Glenn, meanwhile, opens Lakes Division play Thursday at home against Salem (1-2).

Tonight Keshawn (Martin), Earl (Hardison) and Stefan all got rolling and guys kept feeding them the ball," Young said. "When we all share the ball and defend, good things happen. We talked about being team oriented. That's why we were able to beat a great team like Wayne. Winning this (Wayne)

game won't mean much, however, if we don't come to play."

Meanwhile, Marken will continue his pre-game shooting ritual.

"At the end of the warmups I like to make the last shot," he said. "I hit a couple of shots and missed a couple of shots. I just tried to stay focused."

And there's a reason why Marken is more of an offensive factor this season for the Rockets.

"I just tried to come in the gym every day," he said. "We played 40 summer league games. I'm just in better shape."

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ROCKETS

FROM PAGE B1

(Barbee) the ball," Schuette said. "She (Payne) was capable

of that. She's an anticipator and she played well the second half.

"And I thought Joye (Clenny) came off the bench (with nine points) and did a superb job."

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Personal property described below in the matter of:
 B013 - Shenita Martin - 3 Mattresses, 10 Boxes, Misc Items
 B033 - Vincent Shepherd - Mattress, Sofa, 5 Boxes
 D160 - David Pope - Toolbox, 10 Boxes, 5 Totes
 D167 - Marcine Medon - Entertainment Center, Mattress, 4 Totes
 E007 - Raymond Adams Jr. - Trailer, Vacuum, Misc Items
 E021 - Christie Sims - 3 Totes, 10 Boxes, Misc Items
 E131 - Kim Wright - 40 Boxes, China Cabinet, Toolbox
 F002 - Edward Conz Jr. - 40 Boxes, End Table, Vacuum
 F078 - Daniel Davis - Snorkel Gear, Misc Items, VCR

Publish: December 13 & 20, 2007

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 3077 - Donna Garris - Dresser, Mirror, TV
 3126 - Carol Johnson - Mattress, refrigerator, Curio Cabinet
 3127 - Minnie Jones - 4 Chairs, Wheel Chair, Misc Items
 4004 - Robert Johnson - 5 totes, ladder, table saw
 4052 - Joseph Donaldson - Tackle Box, 10 Boxes, Archery Equipment
 4098 - Lewis C Barber - 4 Boxes, 3 Bags, Misc Items
 4129 - Jonathan Pryor - Weight bench, 2 Bikes, Misc Items
 9013 - Christopher Terechenok - Loveseat, Dresser, 2 End Tables

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Challenge champs

The Livonia Pee Wee Predators won five games over a three-day span to win the Eddie Edgar Thanksgiving Challenge, including a 4-2 win over the Livonia Bruins in the final. The Predators also defeated the Livonia Flyers, 2-1, in overtime with a game-winning goal coming with only two seconds remaining. Other wins were posted over the Novi Battlecats (5-2), Bruins (6-0) and Farmington Hills Penguins (4-2). Members of the Predators include (front row, from left): Blake Burnette, Zach Atwood, Chris Massa, Anthony Castrodale, Sean Mulvihill, Jimmy McGrail, Nick Scicluna, Eric Attard; (second row, from left) assistant coach Joel Massa, Adam Panaretos, Joey Donovan, Eric Endress, Andrew Barnes, head coach Greg Panaretos, Justin Dilworth, assistant coach Ken Scicluna, Ian Broadwater, Ryan Martin; (front) goalie Cody Bartlett. (Not pictured is assistant coach Ken Martin.) Team sponsors include Ashton Tree Service, The Rehmann Group, IVS, Inc., George Murphy's at the Creek, Evergreen Seed Co. and Mary Alonzi, D.O.



Flyers win title

The Livonia Bantam Flyers defeated the USA Alleycats, 3-2, in a shootout, to win the Eddie Edgar Thanksgiving hockey tournament. In five games, the Flyers outscored their opponents 29-11 including round-robin victories over the Monroe Ice Hawks, Novi Wildcats and Alleycats. Their only blemish was a 2-2 tie against the Livonia Sharks (2-2). Team members include: Justin Chantres, Jacob Sawecki, Jared Cash, Derek Puishes, Justin Small, Anthony Vendittelli, Matt Renault, Tommy Kreitzer, Michael O'Connell, Brandon Paulus, Willie Minito, Justin Mead, Jonnie Vendittelli and Michael Dibble. The head coach is Mark Paulus assisted by Dave Stevens, Chris Stevens, Tom Small and Don Miller. The team managers are Larry Chantres and Kim Minito. Team sponsors include Mary Denning's Cake Shop, Motor City Harley-Davidson and Drake's Lanes.



Tourney champs

The Livonia Mite B Predators, coached by Glenn Heath, recently captured the Westland Thanksgiving Tournament (Nov. 23-25). The Predators went 2-1-1 including a 4-3 win at Modano Arena over Westland Yetis, which won the previous tourney meeting at Modano, 5-3. The Predators also defeated the host Garden City Stars, 5-3, and tied the Ann Arbor Rattlesnakes, 3-3, at Modano. David Gunnis led the Predators with eight total goals, while Jonah Heath was the goals. Other team members include: Mitchell Bates, Nicolas Bonofiglio, John Gunnis, Dan Higham, Kody Carlson, Mitchell Chopp, Charlie Christiansen, Ethan Hromek, Andrew Larsh, Brendan Neve, Cameron Oglesby, Michael Papaioannou, Nathan Raisanen, Kevin Stefanick, Gareth Stachan and Chase Varney. Assistant coach include Brad Larsh and Jim Papaioannou.



Suns heat up

Posting a 9-0 record, the Suns captured the Livonia Community Recreation Center's fall basketball league for ages 9-11. Team members include (front row, from left): Jordan Routen, David Hountras, Matthew Freed, Zach Devlon; (second row, from left) Eric Grisa, Brandon Hopson, Alex Lee, Charles Kurian, Samir Harake; (back row) coach Dale Lee.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

LHA needs Bantams

The Livonia Hockey Association is in need of Bantam-age players born 1993 or 1994 interested in playing in the LHA.

For more information, call the LHA office at (734) 422-5172.

Baseball coaches wanted

The Capitol Park Senior Little League is seeking coaches for the boys 13-18 division.

The CPSLL, which is based out of Redford, encompasses

both the Redford American and North Redford Central Little Leagues, with boundaries extending from Nine Mile south to Joy Road and from Telegraph Road west to I-275.

Livonia residents are eligible to join.

For more information, call Bill Sullivan (313) 535-8143 Michelle Saur (586) 243-9136.

Ladywood needs coaches

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls softball coach and a varsity girls soccer coach

for the 2008 season.

Those interested should fax a resume to Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

Recumbent cyclists

The Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists will stage a bicycle ride at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 at Willow Metropark's Washago Pond Shelter, located off I-275 (Exit 11).

For more information, call (734) 487-9058; or visit www.wolverbents.org.

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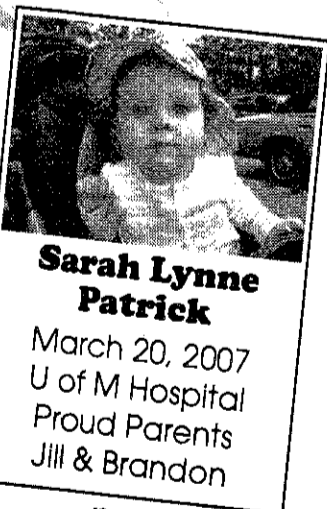
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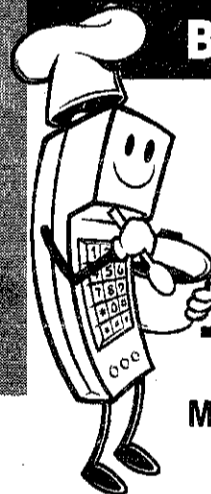
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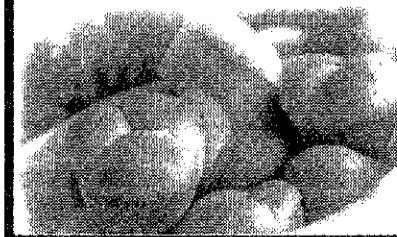
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Washington at Minnesota

										
7-5 111-89	7-5 123-57	8-4 114-66	5-7 120-60	7-5 115-65	7-5 117-63	5-7 121-59	8-4 122-58	7-5 107-73	9-3 116-64	8-4 117-63
Kansas City Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis Buffalo Jacksonville Philadelphia Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Kansas City Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville Philadelphia Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville Philadelphia Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville Philadelphia Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis Buffalo Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Chicago Houston Buffalo Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cleveland Green Bay Indianapolis N.Y. Giants Jacksonville Philadelphia Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota	Detroit Cincinnati Green Bay Indianapolis Buffalo Jacksonville New Orleans Tampa Bay Arizona Seattle Tennessee Minnesota

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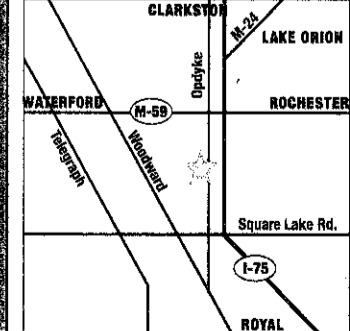
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Kelli Lewton, owner and chef at 2 Unique Caterers and Event Planners in Royal Oak, has created her own list of "The 12 Days of Christmas," a set of guidelines on how to plan your holiday gathering or New Year's party. These tips apply at any time of year whether the event is a bridal shower, summer cookout or dinner party.

DAY 12

■ MASTER CHECKLIST

Every great event has great beginnings. A master plan and checklist are keys to success. Your list may include rentals, inventory of china, linen, serving pieces, and a timeline for when tasks should be completed to ensure there's no last minute running.

DAY 11

■ MENU PLANNING

The most crucial part of a holiday feast is, of course, the food. Family favorites are always in demand, but this is the time to gather recipes you've wanted to try, and if necessary, experiment. When menu planning, have a good mix of items to fit everyone's varied tastes, including a few selections which are on the lighter side. Try to make some dishes in advance. Many items, including baked goods and chutneys, can be made well in advance. Don't forget to order special meat or bakery items so you're not disappointed on your last-minute shopping trip to your favorite market.

DAY 10

■ BUY BEVERAGES

Purchase all your beverages. Remember to buy beer and wine at room temperature and then just ice down an hour prior to guest arrival in coolers or party tubs. It is hard enough to store all the extra food items in the refrigerator without having to work around cases of pop, beer and wine.

DAY 9

■ MAKE CALLS

Your event is close enough now to the date that you can call family and friends to remind them about times and such. It's also a great time to assign tasks for family members to help with the preparation.

DAY 8

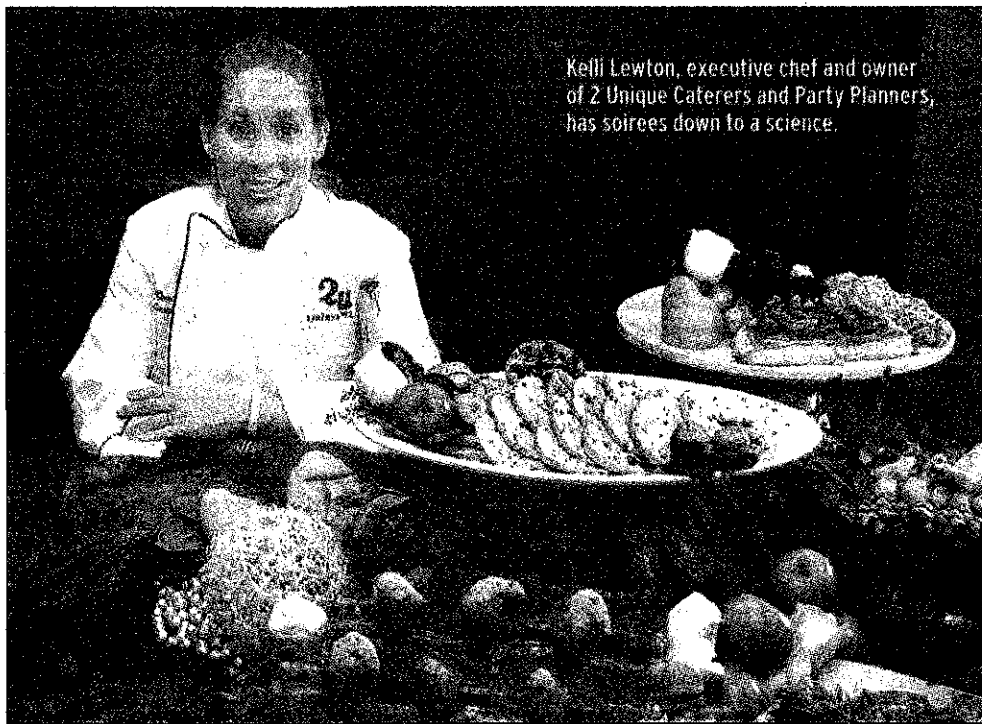
■ BAKE AND FREEZE

It's a great day for holiday baking. Cookies and breads freeze great. Bring out your special holiday tins. Sweet-filled tins make great gifts.

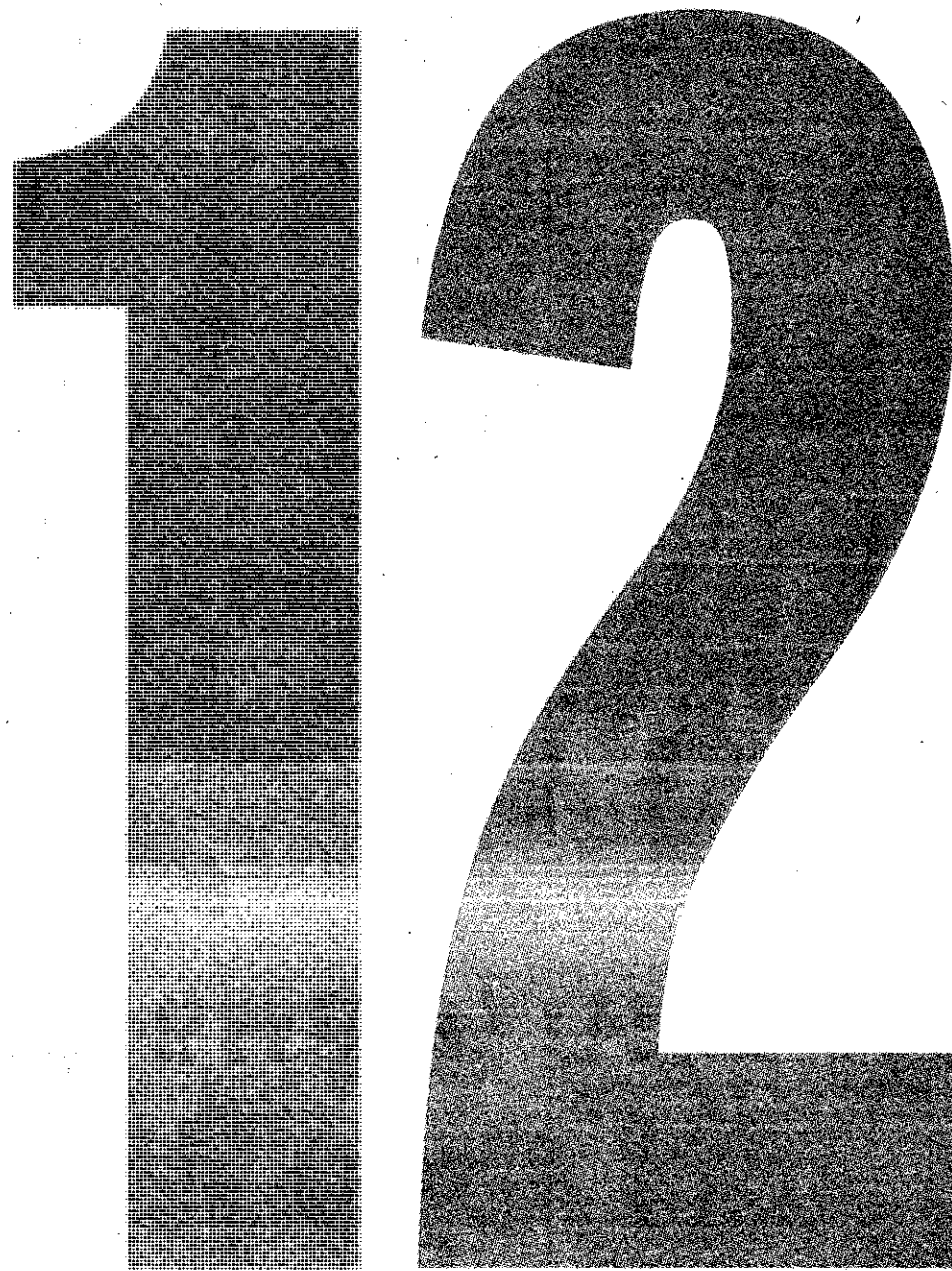
DAY 7

■ PICK UP DRY GOODS

Beat the last-minute grocery store frenzy and pick up all your dry goods such as paper products, coffee, tea, and canned and frozen items. Make any last minute purchases you may need for your table.



Kelli Lewton, executive chef and owner of 2 Unique Caterers and Party Planners, has soirees down to a science.



days of party planning

DAY 6

■ Plan your holiday tabletop. You can use phone books or boxes turned upside down placed on top of a base line tablecloth. Arrange risers on the table and cover with additional pieces of festive holiday linen, thus creating different levels as a stage for your platters, bowls, etc. Think about your centerpiece (how about some fresh pine branches placed between risers or holiday ribbon cascaded about?) Candles are always a nice touch. Colors and textures will lend to your festive holiday table. Think of your table as the stage and the food as the actors.

DAY 5

■ CLEAN

Gather china, serving pieces and linen. Double check for cleanliness and don't forget to polish the silver. This is also a good day for starting some cleaning, and to find your favorite music.

DAY 4

■ BUY FRESH PRODUCE

The last place you want to be stuck on Christmas Eve (or the night before the party) is the grocery store. Go today and buy your fresh produce and dairy products. Don't forget the eggnog and cinnamon.

DAY 3

■ PICK UP ORDERS

Pick up your fresh meats and any special orders for cakes that you may have placed. Start processing vegetables, pick your green beans, cut your carrots, parsnips, etc. If you peel apples or potatoes in advance, make sure you store them in water with a little lemon juice.

DAY 2

■ LET'S GET COOKING

Go ahead and blanch your vegetables and place them in re-heating pans with a little salt, pepper and butter so that on the day of the party all you need to do is reheat in oven or microwave and serve. You could also put a little water in the bottom of the pan and steam on the stovetop for a few seconds. Boil, mash, stir and bake. Get all your side dishes ready to go. If you can make sauces ahead of time — go for it! Clean lettuce and greens and store with a wet towel covering them. Clean and season any raw meats so they will be oven ready. Set the table.

DAY 1

■ HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Because you were a planner, you can leisurely roll out of bed to enjoy the spirit of Christmas or your special event. Your table is set; your side dishes are ready to go, your silver clean, plates out, beverages to be iced one hour before. The only thing left is to meet with family, and coordinate your meat preparation with mealtime so that all runs smoothly. If you are a guest and a non-kitchen participant, show courtesy and gratitude and help clean dishes and put the food away, or volunteer your children to help out. It will be a nice holiday gesture.

Shipping treats? Tips to prevent crushed cookies

BY JENNIFER FORKER
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planning to bake and ship a little love this holiday season?

If you want to make sure your cookies don't end up as crumbs by the time they get to your friends and family, the type of cookies you make can be as important as how you wrap and pack them.

So here's what you need to know:

THE COOKIES

Experts were reluctant to herald one variety of cookie over another, but all agree — sturdiness is key. This isn't the time for brittle, delicate or thin cut cookies with intricate woven sugar decorations.

Whether shipped by the U.S. Postal Service or a private carrier, your package will travel along sundry conveyor belts, be exposed to hot and cold, get handled by several people and possibly rattle for many miles in the back of a truck.

The UPS Store has compiled a list of baked goods its shippers say can take the tumbling and temperatures. They recommend molasses cookies, peanut butter cookies, shortbread, sugar cookies, brownies, biscotti, puffed rice treats and drop cookies, which tend to be thick and dense.

Also, think small. Small, thick cookies are less likely to break than large, thinner cookies.

And don't mix soft and hard cook-

ies, according to the Web site TroopCarePackage.com. The moisture in the soft cookies can make hard cookies, such as biscotti, go soft.

Frosted cookies ship fine, if you use royal icing, a decorating icing made from powdered sugar, egg whites and lemon juice.

For food safety reasons, try meringue powder (available at most craft and baking stores) instead of the raw egg whites called for in most recipes. This icing also can serve as an excellent glue for adhering decorations to cookies.

THE PACKING

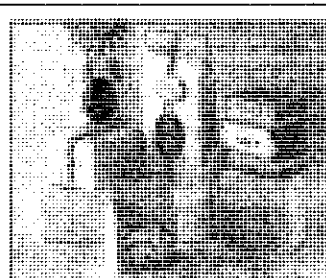
The key to shipping cookies is to wrap each one separately. This helps cushion the cookies, prevents them from sticking together and allows you to ship a variety of cookies without the flavors mixing.

For the wrapping, there are plenty of options. Try parchment paper to create sleeves or envelopes for each, which also could be attractively tied with ribbon.

If your cookies need to travel some distance, freshness may be a concern. In that case, consider cling wrap or press-and-seal-style wraps, which lock out the air and lengthen the life of baked goods.

Once wrapped, the cookies should be arranged (don't crowd) in a small box or canister. If there is extra space in the box, use crumpled waxed paper, which cushions and

Please see SHIPPING, D4



CUTE AS A COOKIE

If you plan to give gifts of homemade goodies this year, check out Martha Stewart's line of gift packaging.

The Martha Stewart Crafts line, which is sold at Michaels craft stores and online, has a box, bag or wrapper for seemingly any edible gift possibility, from goodie bags to cookie boxes.

The products are simple, attractive and assemble quickly. Most also include the sorts of flourishes that add wow-factor to any gift — coordinated labels, ribbons, stickers, cellophane windows, etc.

And on Nov. 2, the line was expanded with various holiday-themed packaging, including red and white baker's twine, cookie boxes with multiple compartments and cookie envelopes (big enough for one or two treats).

The Martha Stewart Crafts packaging ranges from \$3.99 to \$29.99. Visit <http://marthastewartcrafts.com>.

— J.M. Hirsch, AP food writer

Sweet Holidays

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP FOOD EDITOR

Homemade cookies make for ideal holiday gifts, and they're just as much fun to make as to give. Warm up the oven, enlist help from the kids, and let these recipes inspire a delicious season.

GINGERBREAD FAMILY KIT

Give the gift of hassle-free fun with these gingerbread family kits. You do the least exciting part (baking the cookies), and let your recipients do the decorating. Package the cookies (one for each member of the family, and don't forget pets) with small candies and decorating gels.

Start to finish: 3 hours (1 hour active)

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
1/2 cup sugar
1 large egg
1/2 cup molasses
Candies and tubes of frosting to decorate

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Set aside.

In another large bowl, use an electric mixer to cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and molasses and beat until well combined. Gradually add the flour mixture, beating until incorporated.

Divide dough into four pieces and wrap each in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

One at a time, on a lightly floured surface, roll out each piece of dough to 1/4 inch thick. Using cookie cutters of people and pets, cut out gingerbread cookies. Combine scraps and cut additional cookies.

Use a spatula to transfer the cookies to the prepared baking sheet, placing them about an inch apart. Bake 8 to 12 minutes, or until just lightly brown at the edges.

Cool cookies on baking sheet for 1 minute, then remove to wire racks to cook completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

To assemble the kit, line a 9-inch square plastic container with tissue paper. Add enough undecorated

Please see RECIPES, D5

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER

Single Place Ministry Dinner, caroling and Afterglow begin-

ning with dinner 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital cafeteria in Livonia. Meet in a room off the cafeteria to practice at 6:45 p.m. To sign up, call (248) 349-0911. Old Fashioned Hootenanny concert with Bob Allwine Thursday, Dec. 27, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Single Place meets Thursdays at the church, 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time,

7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program. Cost is \$5 per person.

A Living Nativity 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia. For more information, call (248) 476-8222. There will be actors, animals, refreshments, and activities for children. Come celebrate the reason for Christmas.

Special services Family Christmas service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 23, and God's Gift of Hope 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at Friendship Church which meets at Michigan Theological Seminary, 41550 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 710-9370 or visit www.CantonFriendship.org. Sundays in January focus is on how life would be different if you only had 30 days to live.

Advent services 6 p.m. Sunday evenings in December at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Christmas cantata Riverside Park Church of God proudly presents His Precious Gift 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Rd., Livonia, Michigan. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information. Come celebrate the season and experience this unique service of music and drama, free of charge.

Concerts 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, the Motor City Brass Band collaborates with The Ward Chancel Choir to bring you Sounds of the Season, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. the sounds of beloved Christmas carols from the Birmingham-First Chamber Choir fill the Sanctuary for Sing We Now of Christmas. Doors open at 6:30. There is for charge for the concerts. Donations will be taken during performances. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

Candlelight services 4:30 p.m. Family Service Candlelight, and 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Candlelight Service Monday, Dec. 24, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Christmas services 5 p.m. Family Christmas service and Sunday School Christmas program with Voices of Praise, Trinity Brass and Trinity Strings; 7 p.m. Christmas Carol Communion and Contemporary Worship Ensemble; 10:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude of special music, and 11 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Communion with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells Monday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas Carol Communion Service Tuesday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Christmas Eve worship 5 p.m. Children/Family service, 7 p.m. Lessons & Carols and Candlelight, and 11 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight Monday, Dec. 24, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Candlelight service A special service of singing and worship 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, north of I-96, Livonia. For information, call (734) 522-3570.

Organ meditation 6:45 p.m. by Gini Robison followed by Christmas Eve Communion Service at 7:30 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Christmas Eve service The Anglican Church of Livonia will hold a Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at the Livonia YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

Candlelight Christmas service 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Town Square. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Christmas eve service 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24, at Immanuel Lutheran Church 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Service includes traditional Christmas Carols. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Grief support Living with the loss of a spouse, a six-week program dealing with grief, loneliness and related issue, conducted by Widowed Friends, a peer support group, begins 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Six Mile near Beech Daly. \$20 fee covers all materials. Call Joan at (248) 478-1084 by Dec. 30 to register.

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

Day of service Beginning in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with quests

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

UPCOMING

Thursday fellowship dinner Resume Jan. 3, all are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners are catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Couple prayer series St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a life-changing Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, beginning 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. Couples who pray together daily have a divorce rate of less than 1 divorce in every 1000 marriages. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

Reformed Protestant services Weekly Sunday services begin Jan. 6. The doctrines and teachings of Reformed Protestantism will be preached every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. worship services of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). A new preaching station has been established and the services will be held at Cherry Hills School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Rd., Canton. Rev. Sean Humby will preach each Sunday. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@fuse.net.

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

ENDOW Educating the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 6, explores Pope John Paul II's Mullieris Dignitatem - On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session begins 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 14, to March 3, explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women, in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Women's retreat Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 19-20, at St. John's Retreat Center of Plymouth. Cost is \$85, includes Saturday lunch, dinner, snacks and Sunday breakfast. Rooms are single occupancy. For more information, call Kathy Weinberg at (734) 464-0211, ext. 202.

ONGOING

Worship Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

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

Worship service 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

Upper Room Ministries Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

F.I.R.E. ministries With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis, F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross, Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA),

30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship 11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Rd. at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services 10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Singers wanted Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Men's breakfast Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Laverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

Bible studies Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. For information, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Wednesday, Sept. 26. For information or registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

HeartCry The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Women of the word Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Bible study Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Come once or more often. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners 6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift Shop 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Please see RELIGION, D3

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com



ANNA FRIEND

Formerly of Royal Oak and Birmingham, Michigan, passed away December 9, 2007, in Agawam, Massachusetts. She was born in Bad Aibling, Germany in 1925 and moved to the United States as a war bride, in 1949. She worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Paramount Engineering and Science and Engineering Corporation, in Detroit. In 1970, she returned to Germany, where she worked at Hamberger Werke, in Bavaria, until her retirement. In her youth she was an accomplished figure skater. She also became an avid tennis player and skier and enjoyed bowling, playing cards and doing crossword puzzles. Her talents also included sewing, crocheting, knitting and needlepoint. She was predeceased by her parents, Ludwig and Perpetua Hoesle, her brother Friedrich, her first husband, Ivan Paquet and her second husband, Joseph J. Friend. She leaves behind her loving daughter, Mary Lou Campbell (Marc), of West Springfield, Massachusetts and her granddaughter, Kristin Campbell, of New York City. Other surviving relatives are her sister-in-law, Hildegard Hoesle and nephew, Gerhard, both of Germany. A memorial service will be held at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, in Troy, Michigan early next year. Donations in her memory may be made to the Parkinson's Research Foundation, or to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

BETTY MAE WESLEY

Westland, MI. Passed away Dec. 15, 2007, born Nov. 24, 1922. L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Westland, MI



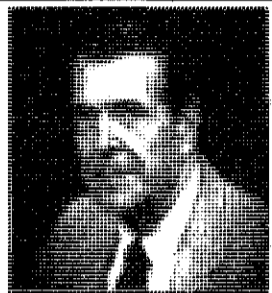
J. SPENCER COTTINGHAM December 16, 2007, age 70. Beloved husband of Denise. Stepfather of Stacy Whitfield and Jon Whitfield (Lori). Loving grandpa to Katelyn, Kirstie, Jon and Katherine. Brother-in-law of Angela Fox, Barbara Granger (Jeff) and Jess Chalker (Patti). He will be missed by his loving family and friends. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Wednesday 1-8pm. Trisagion 7pm. Funeral services Thursday 10am at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 W. Wattles Rd., Troy. Visitation begins at church 9:30am. Interment Franklin Cemetery. In lieu of flowers family would appreciate memorial tributes to ALS of Michigan, 21311 Civic Center Drive, Ste 200, Southfield, MI 48076. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

LEON A. MARTIN

Age 82. December 17, 2007. Beloved husband of Dorothea for 60 years. Dear father of Sally Captain, Jim Martin Dearest grandfather of Sheila, Michelle, Brian, Jim and Melissa, and great-grandfather of Gabrielle, Mya and Brian Jr. Loving brother of Frank, Jr., George Clifford and Betty. Funeral Mass was held Thursday at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Family appreciates memorials to Angela Hospice or the American Heart Association Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

SHARYN "Cole" HOPKINS

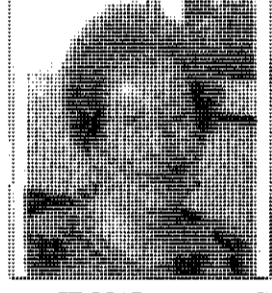
Sharyn, a former resident of Rochester, was born July 5th, 1941 and passed away on December 13th, 2007 at the age of 66. Sharyn is survived by her husband Arthur "Gene" Hopkins, her sister Karyn Cole Lockwood of Phoenix AZ and her sister Judi Cole Foxx of Romeo MI. Sharyn is also survived by her three children Gene Hopkins of Oakland CA, SteVee Coric of Walnut Creek CA and Shaune Auzenne of Burke VA. Sharyn's pride and joy were her eight grandchildren and her great-granddaughter. Sharyn attended local schools in Rochester and while growing up she enjoyed the company and pleasure of her many cousins. She moved to California as a young woman. Sharyn was predeceased in life by George Cole, Ila Cole, Donald Todd and Sharyl Hopkins. Sharyn was a vibrant woman who always chose her own path and her bright light will be missed by all who knew her.



LTC (Ret) CARL F. DUPKE

Jr. Birmingham, MI 1931-2007

Carl was a graduate and Professor at West Point Military academy. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, during which he served in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. During his service he earned many Medals including the Bronze Star. After retiring from the Military he joined Chrysler Defense and was on the design team of the M1 Abrams Battle Tank. He continued with General Dynamics Corp. in their production of the Tank until he retired. A memorial service will be held at The First United Methodist Church in Birmingham on Dec. 23rd at 3:30. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full Military Honors in the spring. He is survived by his wife Tina, his two daughters, Marlea Moriarty and Carol Lee and two grandchildren, Ryan and Jacqueline. In lieu of flowers, any remembrance can be sent to the Bob Woodruff Family Fund at 1608 Spring Hill Rd., Suite 110, Vienna, VA 22182. www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org



MADIE MARIE TAKACS

Age 86, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2007. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas on September 14, 1921. Moved to Michigan at the age of five. Resided in Dearborn for over 50 years before moving to Plymouth. Loving wife of 52 years to the late Joseph. Dearest mother of Patricia and Joseph. Kind and gentle grandmother of Scott, Lynette, Sean-Paul, Shannon, Robert and Jean-Marie. Sweet great-granda of Joey, Nathan, Andrew, Jamie, Megan, Zachary, Daniel, Justine, Trenton, Cassie, Colin and Vance. Beloved sister of Neoma Kulick. She will be reunited with her mother Queen Victoria Bennett and brothers William, Garner, and Simpson. We can no longer hold your hand but our hearts will always hold your loving memories. Funeral service was held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Monday, December 17, 2007. Private interment St. Hedwig Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

MARY PAULINE "POLLY" COTHRAN

Age 82. December 14, 2007. Formerly of Garden City. She was a resident of Bortz Care Facility of Petosky. Born in Paducah, Kentucky to Pete and Amelia (Green) Duncan. Preceded in death by her husband, William and granddaughter Lori Cothran. Survived by son, Donald (Jeanne) Cothran, daughter Gloria (Charles) Anderson and stepdaughter Dorothy (Frank) Mytych. Dear grandmother of Charles Anderson, Tracy (Paul) Anderson-Cassady, Kimberly (Joseph) Idalski, David (Julie) Mytych and Sharon (Tim) Ison. Great-grandmother of Blake Anderson, Ashley and Aaron Idalski, Kaleb Cothran, Declan Cassidy, Brayden and Brenayel Ison. Funeral Services were held at the R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, 734-425-9200. Donations to charity of donor's choice or local food pantry appreciated.

THOMAS ROBINSON

Age 91, of Royal Oak, died Friday, December 14, 2007 at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak. Thomas served in WWII in the Pacific. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Thomas is the beloved husband of Mary Robinson. The dear father of Charles (Judy). The devoted grandfather of Michael. He is also survived by sisters Dora McDonald and Mildred (Walter) Czeck. Memorial Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements were entrusted to D.S. Temrowski & Sons Funeral Home (585) 751-0444. Share memories at: www.Temrowski.com

ROSE BLENCOWE

June 28, 1921-Dec. 15, 2007

Age 86, of Rosebush and formerly of Livonia passed away on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at Masonic Pathways in Alma. Funeral services for Rose will be held on Saturday, December 22nd at 11 a.m. from Clark Family Funeral Chapel with Pastor Mary Anne Evans-Justin officiating. Interment will follow in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday at 10 a.m. until time of service at the funeral chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Masonic Pathways or the Alzheimer's Association. Envelopes will be available at the funeral chapel. Rose was born on June 28, 1921 in Bienfait, Canada, the daughter of Alex and Anna (Struk) Symtuk. She married Harold Clifford Blencowe. Rose worked as a home maker all of her life. Rose is survived by her daughter, Patricia (James) Graham of Rosebush; grandchildren, Jennifer (Barrie) Blood of Jenison and Matt (Sarah) Graham of Rosebush; five great-granddaughters and sisters, Mary Carruthers of Westland and Katie (Stuart) Giem of Bienfait, Canada. Rose was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Blencowe and sister, Stella Tucker. You may view Rose's obituary online and send a private condolence to the family or sign the public guestbook at: www.clarkfuneralchapel.com



SHIRLEY ANN HOLLYWOOD

Age 95, of Southfield, died peacefully at her home Saturday morning, December 15th. Shirley is the beloved wife of the late John "Jack" Hollywood whom was active in the development of Southfield and founding member of the Southfield Rotary Club. Jack died December 16, 1987. Shirley was a realtor and was the first woman in the Detroit area to have over a million dollars in sales. She is survived by many good friends and neighbors including Louis and Maureen D'Agostino and their daughter Carly of Lathrup Village. Private viewing was held in the chapel of HALEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS in Southfield with immediate cremation taking place. Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 22nd at the Southfield City Cemetery (north off Civic Center Drive between Lahser and Berg Roads). On-line condolences and service schedule at: www.haleyfuneraldirectors.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday. e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2232. For more information call: Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION

FROM PAGE D2

Morning prayers
7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting
The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe
Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland,

2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service. An open discussion 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Classes available for all ages, child to adult. Riverside Park Church of God is at 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

Worship service
10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Youth wanted
Twins and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activities held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of the regular classes on

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

Sunday worship
10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services
Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow
Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. Farmington Aglow is a Christian women's groups.

Worship services
Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran

Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services
Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.

celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Sunday service
All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service
At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. Call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes
Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry
Due Season Christian Church is a

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

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

TOPS
Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study
At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A1D1, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

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248-474-3444

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St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
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Sat. 4 p. Sun 11 a

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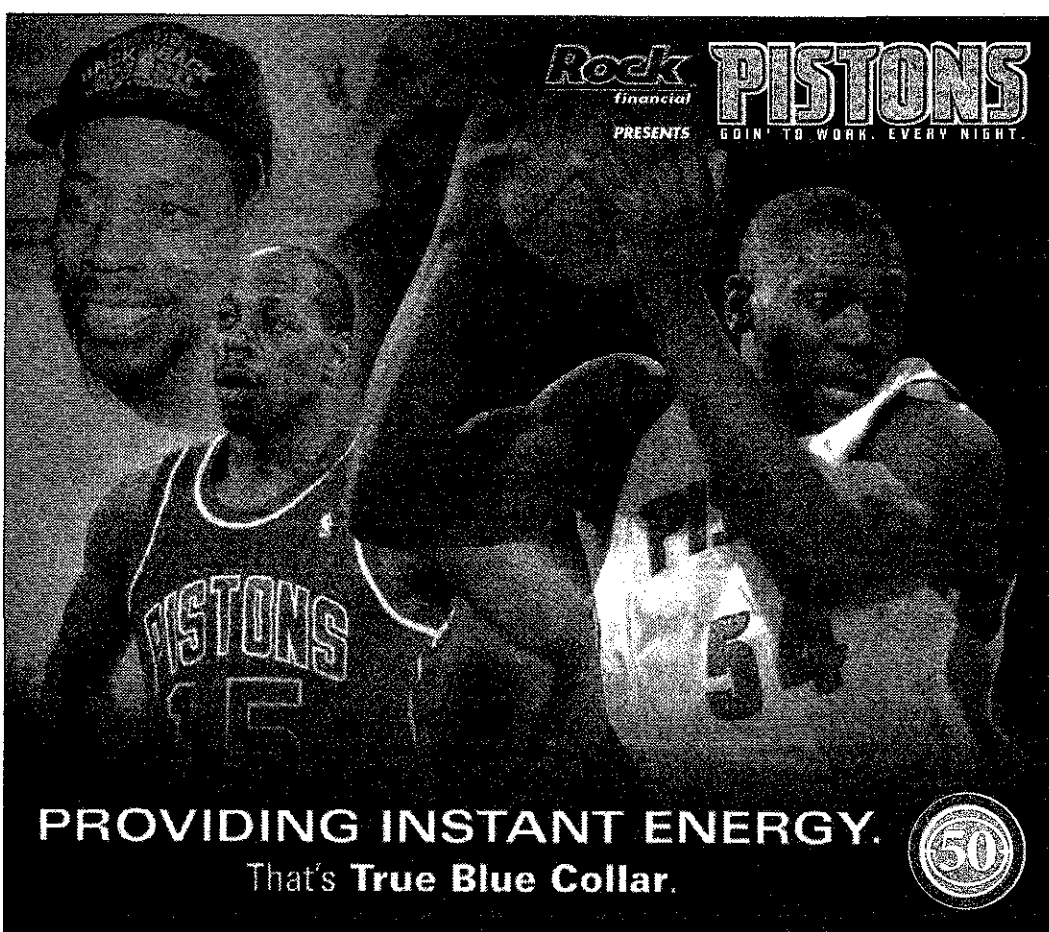
St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32785 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1816
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
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Timothy Lutheran Church
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(between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
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(Nursery Available)

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
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Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121



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Getting ready for home remodeling and renovations

It is never too early to begin planning for home remodeling and renovation projects. Large to mid-sized projects such as kitchen remodeling (kitchens are often thought of as mid-sized in the remodeling industry) should take as long as twelve to eighteen months to fully plan. In this column we will look at a rough timeline for a planned renovation. Of course all projects are different. You should tailor this planner to suit your needs.



Ask Dad

Harry Jachym

■ **Twelve to eighteen months** before starting the project begin to evaluate your needs and wants. Look through magazines, home improvement and home design stores. Use the internet. You can even visit new housing developments and walk through the models. You may want to develop a file of your ideas.

■ **Ten to twelve months** is when you should begin to work out the budget for the project. Keep in mind that cost over runs are far more common than being

under budget. Start looking for potential contractors. I find the best source is to ask friends, family and work-mates for recommendations. Look for well established contractors but don't rule out newcomers. Everyone has to start some place. Many new contractors can offer quality work at reasonable prices.

■ **At four to six months** refine your plan. Have drawings prepared by a designer or architect. When the drawings are complete, begin interviewing contractors. Be sure to check their references, licenses, insurance and other legal documents. If possible visit a job they have done that is similar in size to your project. This is also a good time to contact your local building department to see if there are any special variances needed for this project. Check with lending institutions about any necessary financing.

■ **From one month to three months** before your plan-to-start date get bids from the potential contractors. Once you have selected the contractor decide on start and finish dates. Review the contract and if necessary, consult an attorney before signing. I can't stress enough, if you are at all uncomfortable with any contractor, walk away from them. Hiring someone you are not comfort-

able with can make an already stressful situation, which a remodeling project is, unbearable. You probably will not be satisfied with their work in this case anyway. Select and order (or have the contractor order) any cabinets, appliances, doors and windows needed for the project. Obtain financing if necessary.

■ **At least one month** before be certain the contractor is on line and has begun the permit process. Arrange for storage of personal belongings and other items not necessary for everyday life, especially those items that may get in the way of construction or get damaged. Take a few moments to relax. For the next few weeks to months, there will be strangers in your house most days. These strangers will be making a mess in your house. Your life is about to change. There will be times during the project that you might say to yourself "what was I thinking" but in the end your new project will be a joy.

Have a great holiday season!

Harry Jachym writes Ask Dad, a column on home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident. Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net.

SHIPPING

FROM PAGE D1

helps absorb excess moisture.

Small hat boxes, and a number of other options, can be found online at places such as The Container Store, where lidded white gift boxes start at \$2.49 and round, metal tins start at \$3.29.

THE RULES

The most important rule is to take your time, says Marc Haymon, a baking instructor at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Baking and shipping on the same day is bad; the cookies will stick or be too moist.

Haymon advises baking the cookies the evening before mailing them, which gives them about 12 hours to set up.

THE MAILING

Next-day or second-day service is best to mail cookies, according to the shipping companies.

UPS recommends shipping by air, not ground, because fewer people will handle the package and it'll get to its destination faster. It, too, can air ship a package of cookies in one to three days.

For more information, visit the UPS Web site at <http://pressroom.ups.com/holiday/faqs>; the United States Postal Service at www.usps.com; or FedEx Corp. at www.fedex.com.

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RECIPES

FROM PAGE D1

rated cookies for each family member receiving the gift. Add candies and string licorice for decorating the cookies and a tube or two of frosting. Makes about 20 5-inch cookies.

(Adapted from the editors of FamilyFun magazine)

DOUBLE-CHOCOLATE RUM FRUITCAKE COOKIES

These cookies employ a kitchen sink-approach, with delicious results. Fruitcake mixes (a variety of chopped dried fruit intended for baking fruitcakes) are widely available. Or make your own mix of chopped dried fruit.

Start to finish: 1 hour

- 1 cup fruitcake mix
- 1/2 cup light rum
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2-ounce bag (2 cups) chocolate chips

In a small bowl, combine the fruitcake mix and rum. Cover and let sit 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, sour cream and both sugars until smooth. Add the eggs and vanilla and beat until well mixed.

When the fruitcake mix is ready, drain it and discard any liquid not absorbed by the fruit. Add the fruit to the sour cream and sugar mixture and mix in.

A cup at a time, add the dry ingredients, using the electric mixer to lightly beat the dough between additions. As needed, scrape down the sides of the bowl. Once all the flour is incorporated, mix in the chocolate chips.

Baking in batches, place 2-tablespoon mounds of dough several inches apart on the prepared baking sheets. Bake for 12 minutes, or until puffy and set at the center. The cookies will still be tender.

Cool the cookies for 5 minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. Makes 30 cookies.

CHOCOLATE MARZIPAN SUGAR COOKIES

Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 7-ounce package marzipan, cut into chunks
- 1 1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

Powdered sugar, for dusting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a food processor, combine both sugars and the marzipan. Process until they resemble a fine sand, about 1 minute. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl. Add the butter, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, salt and egg.

Use an electric mixer to beat until smooth, scraping down the bowl once during mixing, about 2 minutes.

Add the flour and cocoa powder and mix until incorporated, scraping down the bowl once during mixing, about 1 minute. The dough

should be very stiff.

Baking in batches, drop 1-tablespoon balls of dough on the prepared baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches around all sides. Bake on the oven's lower rack until the cookies are flat and have a cracked surface, about 10 minutes.

The cookies will be very soft. Let them cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. If desired, once the cookies are cool, dust them with powdered sugar. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

CHEWY OATMEAL DECORATING COOKIES

Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours

- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat flour
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat

the butter and sugar until smooth. Add the egg, vanilla, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and ginger. Beat until smooth.

Scrape the bottom and sides, then beat in the oats and both flours. The mixture may look dry at first, but will come together. Divide the dough into two pieces, wrap each in plastic and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Working with one piece of dough at a time, roll it

into a circle about 14 inches around. Use cookie cutters to cut out cookies, rerolling and cutting the scraps. Arrange the cookies on the prepared baking sheets. They can be close; they don't spread.

Bake the cookies, reversing the pans midway through (top to bottom, bottom to top), 12 to 15 minutes (less time for softer cookies, longer for crispier). Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool. Repeat with remaining dough.

Decorate as desired. Makes 6 1/2 dozen cookies.

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734-844-0481

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313-278-4491

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Fairlane Mall
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313-441-0168

DETROIT
14126 Woodward
(Model T Plaza)
313-869-7392

300 Renaissance Center
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313-567-4055

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Twelve Oaks Mall
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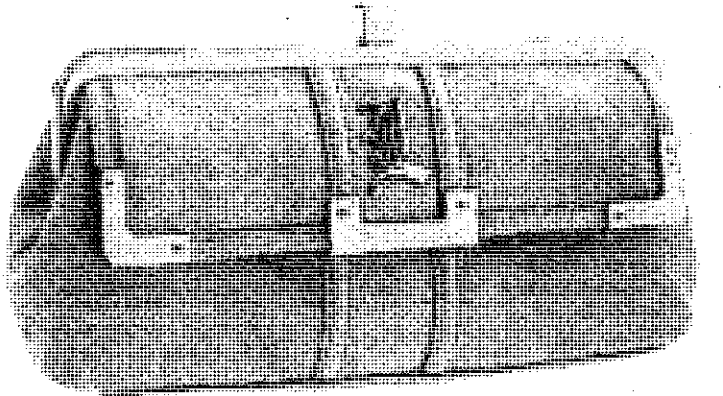
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A Christmas Story



MALLS AND MAIN STREETS

Last-minute gift ideas

Christmas is just five days away, and if you're like me, you still have some shopping (not to mention wrapping) to do. If you still need some ideas for last-minute shopping, here's a "Malls & Main Streets" rundown of holiday retail news:

MALLS

Macy's at Twelve Oaks Mall is hosting a unique Flea Market through the end of December, where shoppers can browse an eclectic array of carefully selected goods, from antique to modern, vintage to vinyl, and global to provincial, ranging from \$20 to \$200. Find kitchenware and garden items from the South of France; artwork from Europe; furniture from Morocco; hand beaded trinkets from Africa; bone-inlaid furniture from the East Indies, and more. The one-of-a-kind merchandise departs from the usual Macy's fare, and is worth a look.

While you're at Twelve Oaks, stop by some of the mall's newest stores, including *Barma Saes*, *Go! Toys & Games*, *Dale & Thomas Popcorn* and *See's Candies*. *Martin + Charles* first Michigan location offers a sophisticated selection of clothing and accessories for men and women. And if you have a 15 to 25-year-old girl to buy for, check out Michigan's first aerie by American Eagle at Twelve Oaks. The aerie collection includes bras, undies, camis, hoodies, robes, boxers, sweats and leggings for the young AE girl. The new aerie fit line of workout and fitness wear is available now too.

If you're venturing to Eastland, Farmington or Oakland malls for your shopping, be sure to hit *Steve & Barry's*, where everything in the entire store is on sale for \$8.99 and under throughout the holiday season. That includes Sarah Jessica Parker's *BITTEN* line, and the new *EleVen* line by Venus Williams, along with winter wear, sweaters, jeans and more for men, women and children.

MAIN STREETS

It's always important to support local businesses, so make a date to finish your shopping in one of the area's charming downtown shopping districts. Plymouth, Northville, Farmington Oak, Farmington Hills and Rochester are among the burghs decked out in holiday finery, with festive window displays and lighted trees. Downtown Birmingham's *Santa* is open for business, while carolers and free horse drawn carriage rides add to the fun. If that weren't enough incentive to visit, the city is continuing its first-ever "Magic of Birmingham" event. From 6-8 p.m. tonight, shoppers will be stopped at random on the street and showered with gifts.

Merchants have donated gifts with a combined value of over \$20,000, including leather wallets, soaps, restaurant gift certificates and more. Top prizes include a piece of jewelry from *Astrein's Creative Jewelers* valued over \$1,000; and a weekend at the *Townsend Hotel*.

While you're there, stop by *The Claymore Shop* for *Psycho Bunny* ties sure to be hit with hip businessmen. For the HGTV addict on your list, visit *Hagopian's* showroom on Old Woodward and check out their wide variety of plush pillows. The selection ranges from floor pillows to beautiful antique Kilim pillows, made from fragments of antique rugs, each with a story of their own. Prices start at \$39.

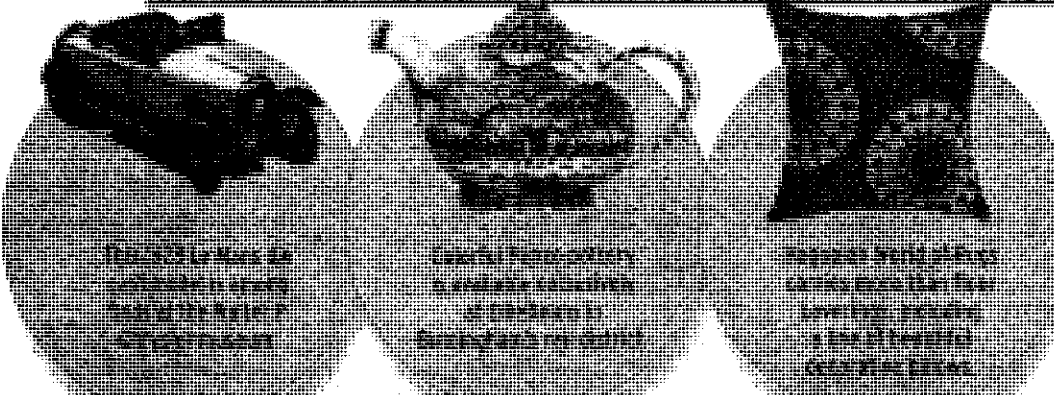
And make the extra effort to get to Birmingham's rail district, where *EllieBeans* offers the beautiful and colorful *Penzo Pottery* line. Made by artisans in South Africa, the pottery helps support free trade while sprucing up your table.

AND MORE ...

For the outdoorsy type, make a stop at the new *TWC Sport and Surf*, which recently moved from Keego Harbor into a new



Get the latest gear for the slopes at the new location of TWC Sport and Surf in Troy, Mich.



There's no time like the present to get a leather wallet from Astrein's Creative Jewelers.

Carroll's Pottery offers a wide variety of handmade pottery, including this beautiful Kilim pillow.

Support your local business by purchasing a gift certificate from The Claymore Shop for Psycho Bunny ties.

backing owner *Tina Skapard* purchased and renovated in *Sylva's Lake* (the old *Redation Army* building on Orchard Lake Road).

The original *TWC* was an acronym for "The Windsurf Shop," but the store has evolved to carry gear for paddle boarding (surf boards you stand on and paddle with a long paddle), snowboarding and skateboarding, along with many unique-to-Michigan clothing and accessory lines that have made their Michigan debut at *TWC*.

For the animal lover, consider a gift from the *Detroit Zoo*.

The zoo is offering a variety of gifts that support the *Detroit Zoological Society* and preserves wildlife, including *Breakfast with the Butterflies* (\$75 per person), animal "adoptions" (\$40 includes a plush animal, fact

sheet, and personalized photo certificate), gift memberships to the zoo (\$40-\$65), or personalized brick pavers, benches, and brass butterfly medallions to commemorate loved ones.

For the car buff, shop the *Walter P. Chrysler Museum Store* in Auburn Hills.

The shop offers exclusive sculptures, prints, die-cast models, home accessories, jewelry, apparel, books and more, all celebrating car culture.

The museum's current "Cars, Trees & Traditions" exhibit makes it worth a special trip.

If you have fodder for the *Observer & Eccentric's* "Malls & Main Streets" column, send it to *Wendy Von Buskirk* at 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or *wvonb@hometownlife.com*.

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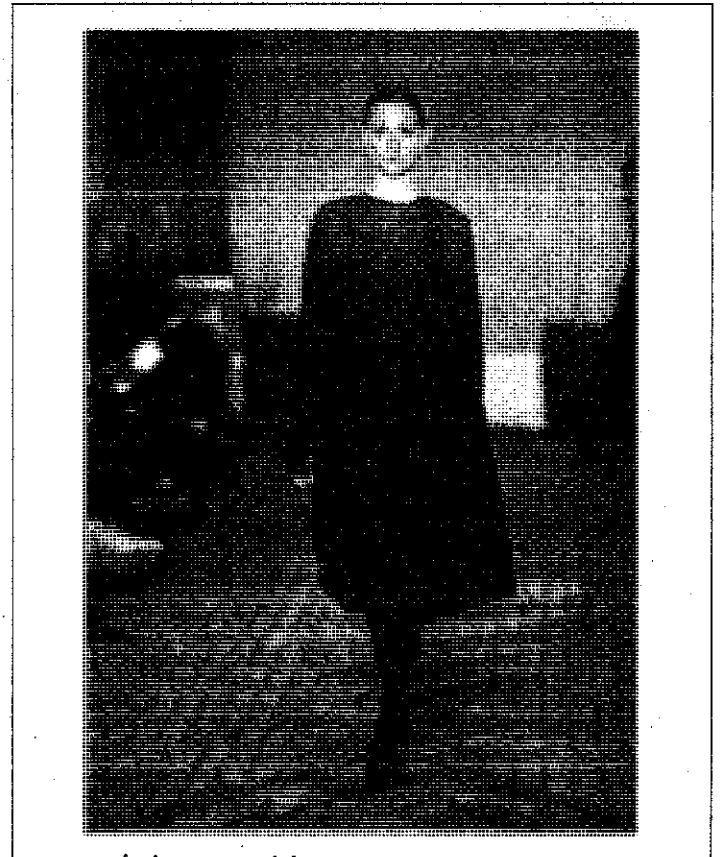


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The Daring Book for Girls by Miriam Peskowitz



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Yeohlee Fall 2007

The designer *Yeohlee* is known for creating luxurious, wearable, and travel-friendly clothing, like this black rice embroidered metallic taffeta catenary coaddress. Her Fall 2007 collection was inspired by the architecture of Barcelona, and is available at *Lynn Portnoy*, 29260 Franklin Rd., Southfield. Call *Lynn Portnoy* at (248) 353-2900 or learn more at <http://yeohlee.com>.

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