

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



Fourth-quarter run results in victory  
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Dancing Dolls  
Section D



THURSDAY  
December 4, 2008

# WESTLAND Observer

75 cents

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## City seeks proposals for curbside recycling

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

In a decision that furthers the Mission Green goal of Mayor William Wild, a united Westland City Council voted Monday to allow Ann Arbor-based Resource Recycling Systems Inc. to seek proposals and prices for a curbside recycling program. The company also will include in the proposal a plan to implement RecycleBank, a

program that allows residents to accumulate points for the amount of materials they recycle and then redeem points for discounts to places like grocery stores, pharmacies, movie theaters and retail outlets. Wild predicted that RRSI will have its proposals within a month or so, allowing the city to move ahead with a plan by late March to supply recycling carts

to 28,000 households that now have city garbage collection. "We look forward to those bids coming back," Wild said Monday, during a council meeting. City leaders eventually plan to expand the program to apartment buildings and other multifamily dwellings. Westland has twice failed at a pay-to-participate curbside

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

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

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## Churchill senior wins Junior Miss title

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see SIMPSON, A2



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

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Drivers will see differences in snow removal

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Westland police to use radar trailers to slow down drivers

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

motorists' speed as they drive by.

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

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

The new speed-fighting tools,

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

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

ongoing Mission Green program.

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

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

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

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

Police believe the radar trailers

will have the same effect.

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

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Coming Sunday:  
Superstar Beyonce Knowles



# W-W retiree funds Wayne High scholarship

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Earle Chorbagan readily admits that his claim to fame as a Wayne-Westland school district employee is starting the annual district-wide spelling bee some 27 years ago.

That changed this week, when the retired junior high principal and his wife, Billie, donated \$20,000 to establish a scholarship at Wayne Memorial High School.

"I'm a World War II veteran and I was able to go to college because Eleanor Roosevelt pushed her husband to get the GI Bill to allow vets to go to college," said the Canton resident. "It seems to be that students today need a little extra help. It won't pay their way, but it'll get them started."

The Adams School/Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship will be awarded beginning with the Class of 2009. One student for each of the first two years will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. After that, the scholarship will be 5 percent, the amount depending on the interest income generated.

Wayne High counselor Louise Karmann will coordinate the selection. The scholarship is not based on need, however, the recipient must be of good character, have good grades and have attended Adams Middle School for at least two years. The recipient almost must plan to attend a junior college, college or university.

The Chorbagians plan to meet with Karmann as well as the first student who will receive the scholarship "so they know someone actually is providing it," Chorbagan said.

"We've been thinking about doing this for quite a long time," he added. "We'd discuss it, let it



Earle and Billie Chorbagan present Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy with a check to establish the Adams School/ Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship.

drop, then discuss it again and finally decided this is the time."

"It was definitely his idea," Billie Chorbagan said. "I thought it was fine. I feel the same way he does."

The scholarship's connection with Adams Middle School

relates to Chorbagan's work with the district. He was with Wayne-Westland for 32 years, including 25 years as the assistant principal at what was then Adams Junior High School.

"This is a great scholarship," said Superintendent Greg

Baracy in accepting a check from the Chorbagians.

"They're so genteel and generous," added Aggie Kubrak, senior executive director for instruction. "It's very nice that anyone who meets the criteria can apply for it."

The idea behind the scholarship is for "youth of the neighborhood to attain their educational goals," which Chorbagan did after the war. Married, he and his wife moved to Kalamazoo so he could attend Western Michigan University.

They lived in campus housing and during his freshman year, his first child was born.

"I've been very fortunate," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the GI Bill."

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## City's WLND honored for cable programming

Cable channel WWLND-TV, which has been keeping residents in the know for more than 20 years, has been recognized for excellence.

The City of Westland's government access channel, WLND recently received the 2008 Philo T. Farnsworth Award for Best Overall Government Access Facility. Sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media, the Philo T. Farnsworth Award honors the memory of Philo T. Farnsworth, known as the father of modern television, and is awarded in recognition of excellence in cable programming.

"This is a tremendous honor," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "We are always so proud of the programming and professionalism that this station puts forth, and it is a great feel-

ing to know that the Alliance for Community Media took notice."

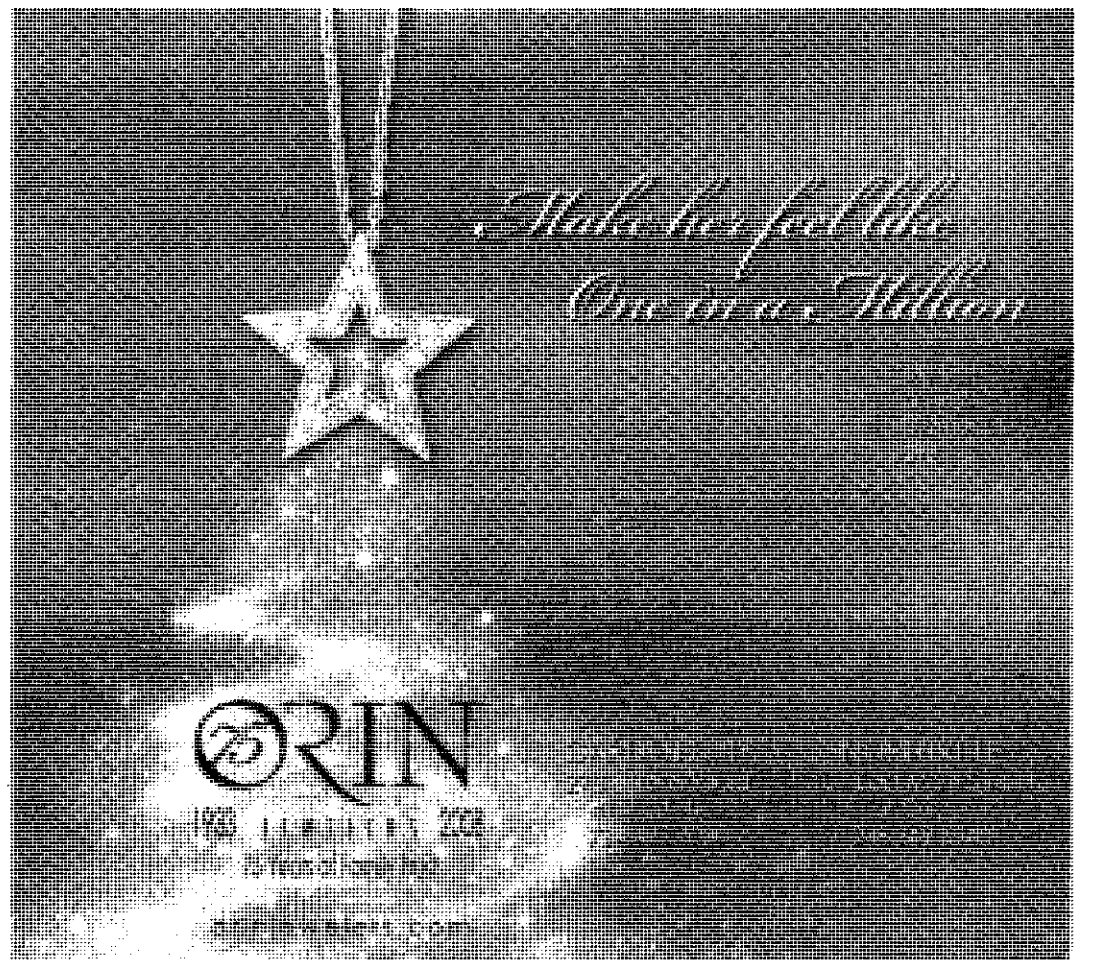
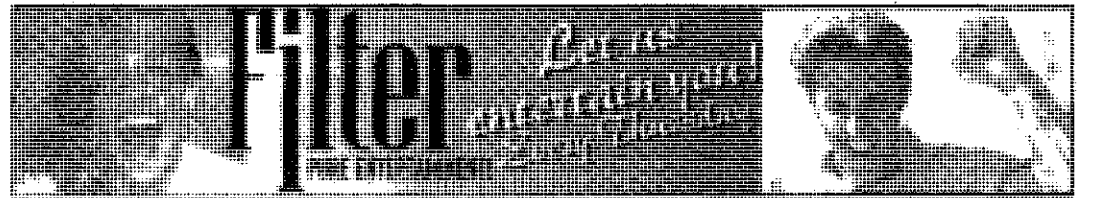
The entries that earned WLND-TV the honor included highlights from Wild's 2008 State of the City Address, a monthly talk show, entitled *A Month in Review*, a video chronicle of Westland that is set to music, called *An All American City*, live coverage of the city's annual Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony and a variety of the station's sports coverage.

The station also picked up two additional first-place awards with *Salute to Black History Month*, produced by Kevin Kreis with the assistance of the William P. Faust Public Library in the Cultural Diversity category, and *How to Use Your City Calendar*, produced by Kevin Kreis and writ-

ten and broadcast by Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover in the Instructional category.

"Our ultimate goal is to inform our residents and be the window to their community," said Craig Welkenbach, director of WLND-TV for more than eight years. "It's a responsibility we take very seriously, but at the same time, we aim to create programming that is also enjoyable to watch."

Entries for the Philo T. Farnsworth Awards represented the Central States Region which includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. WLND-TV is broadcast within the City of Westland on Comcast channel 12 and Wide Open West (W.O.W.) channel 10. The WLND Studio is located at 33455 W. Warren Road.



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

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

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

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

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



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

## LPS gets input from residents

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Christmas season glows with events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Go out and enjoy a hometown Christmas.



### LETTERS

#### Revamp voter registration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joe Golonka  
Westland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lisa Powell  
Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home volunteer

the state of education in Michigan: polyglot1947 wrote:

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

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

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

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

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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#### Volunteer in bad times

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

#### From the Web

The following comments were posted on the Westland Observer home page of our Web site at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

- Regarding Tom Watkins' column on

### QUOTABLE

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

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

WESTLAND  
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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.

## My day of giving thanks wasn't on the calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

He ended up dying on the streets.

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

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

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

Thankfully, we had a lot.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Being thankful is so very humbling.

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

## Time for mandatory retirement at age 65 for truck drivers

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

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



Terry Cochran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# SPORTS



Thursday, December 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123 . [bemons@hometownlife.com](mailto:bemons@hometownlife.com)

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## Raising eyebrows

### Franklin routs Blazers in opener

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

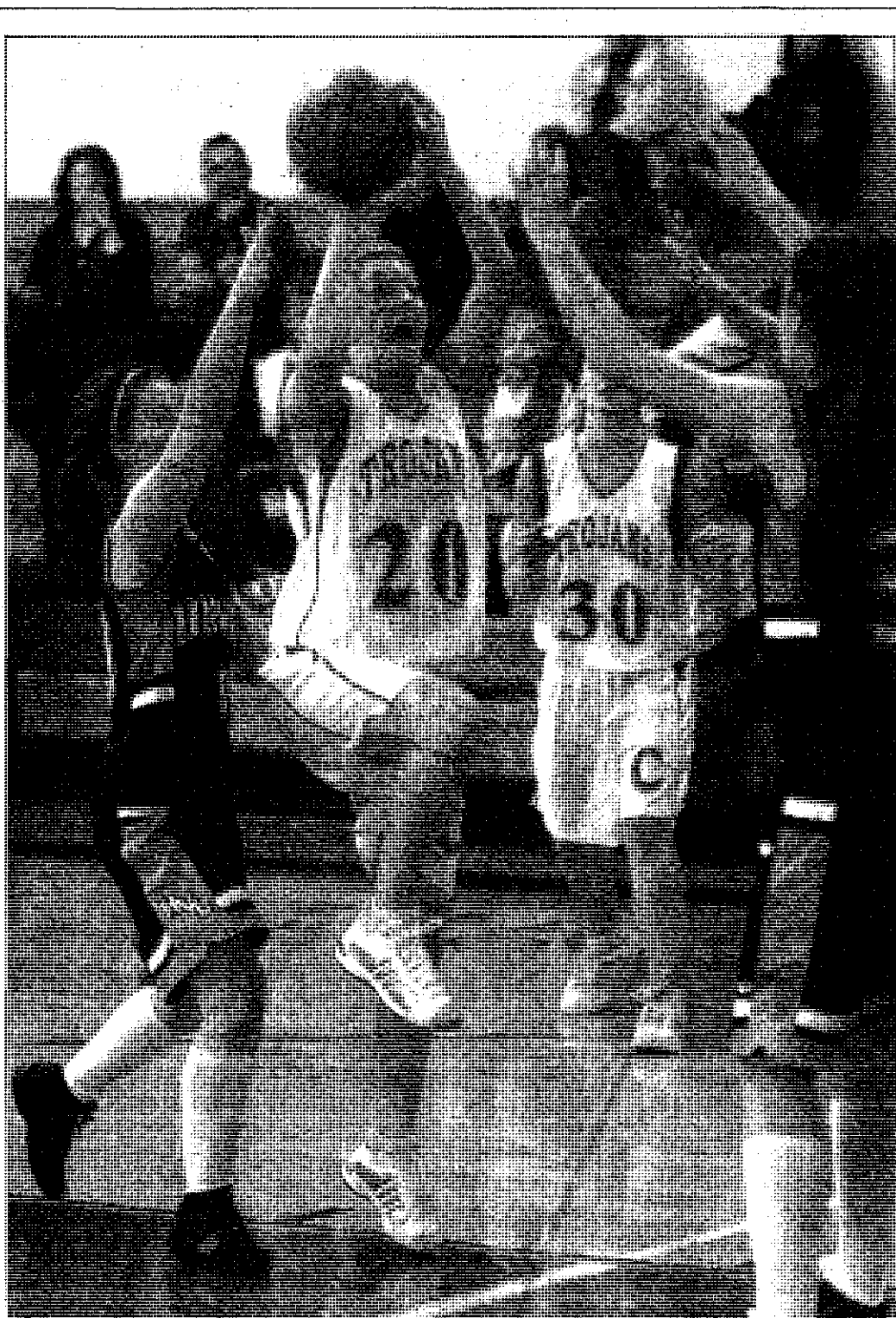
Williams, a long-armed 5-foot-8 sophomore, then came up with a pair of back-to-back steals and converted twice, one on a layup and the other on a short banker, to stem the Ladywood tide midway through the final quarter and seal the victory.

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

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

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

Please see **FRANKLIN, B2**



### Eye on the hoop

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

## Statistics

### MAC hails Treppa

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

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

### Clasgens All-MIAA

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

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

### Alger signs letter

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

Alger was the Cubs' team captain and MVP, while earning honorable mention All-State honors after tying for eighth in the Division 1 state finals last spring.

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

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

## Area wrestling teams ready for action

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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



Stephens

Carl Lucke (119) also returns.

"Anytime you have two state placers like that, you can build a team around them,"

Westland John Glenn (21-7).

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

Capsule outlook of area wrestling teams, B3.

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

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

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

## Nebus ties goal mark as K-Wing

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

Please see **NEBUS, B5**

## Glenn grad Eberhardt returns home with Billikens

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

Eberhardt was one of Rick Majerus' inaugural recruits when he took the job prior to 2007-08 season. Last year, the Billikens went 16-15 as the Glenn grad averaged six points and 3.8 rebounds per game while making 11 starts. Majerus had spent 15 seasons at Utah, including a trip to the NCAA finals in 1997-98 (led by Andre Miller, Keith Van Horn and Michael Doleac) before stepping down during the 2003-04 season because of health reasons.

Please see **EBERHARDT, B5**



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

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## FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE B1

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

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

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

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

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

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# Spartans stalled in season opener, 57-44

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

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

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

Dearborn jumped out

### KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL

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

"We had them reeling, but then we kind of shot ourselves in the foot," said Stevenson's Paul Tripp, who was making his coaching debut with the Spartans.

"We just missed opportunities, but we played tremendously hard and that's what

we're trying to do.

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

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

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

Stevenson was 7-of-13 from

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Clarenceville fourth-quarter run results in victory

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

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

Leading the charge was junior guard Ashley Devon,

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

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

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

started to relax and started knocking down shots."

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

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

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

**CABRINI 48, LUTH. WESTLAND**

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

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

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

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**Thursday, Dec. 4**  
Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
A.P. Inter-City at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
Flint Powers at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 5**  
Clarenceville at Redford Union, 7 p.m.  
Thurston at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
Brighton at Wayne, 7 p.m.

**PREP HOCKEY**  
**Friday, Dec. 5**  
Ladywood at Suburban Ice Rink Classic, TBA.  
Stevenson vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
Ladywood at Suburban Ice Rink Classic, TBA.  
Churchill vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 4:45 p.m.

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

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Friday, Dec. 5**  
**(WHAC-MIAA Challenge at Alma)**  
Madonna vs. Olivet College, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
**(WHAC-MIAA Challenge at Alma)**  
Madonna vs. Alma, 8 p.m.

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Friday, Dec. 5**  
**(Schoolcraft College Invitational)**  
K'zoo Valley vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 5:30 p.m.  
Schoolcraft vs. Lakeland (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
Schoolcraft College Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

### SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

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- Unit # 234b - Marshall Johnson - 25 boxes, stereo, clothes
- Unit # 707 - Jennifer McCormick - table, chair, box
- Unit # 863 - Melissa Ann Fields - chair, table, Refrigerator
- Unit # 227 - Douglas Lindahl - tool chest, dresser, mattress
- Unit # 446a - Christopher Russo - TV, 10 boxes, 3 tates

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# Northwood men rout MU

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

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

# Lady Ocelots rebound from first loss of season

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team went 2-1 at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Turkey Shootout, which was held this past weekend at the Cougar Gym in Kalamazoo.

The Ocelots (5-1) entered the tournament as the No. 3-ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II. Schoolcraft opened the event on Friday with a 73-72 setback to Owens CC (Ohio). It was the Ocelots' first loss to Owens since Nov. 28, 2004. Angela Burrell led the

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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

Schoolcraft led 33-32 at the half. On Saturday, the Ocelots

handed Kennedy-King (Ill.) its fifth loss in six games this season, 103-73.

Schoolcraft, which led 46-38 at the half, was led by Salem grad Tayler Langham, who poured in 18 points. Six other players also scored in double-figures: Antania Shepherd (13); Avery and April-Goins (12 each); Shannon Collins and Jasmine Brown (11 each) and Brittany Collins, who twined 10.

Avery and Shera Brown both yanked down a team-high 10 boards while Brittany Collins dished out a game-high 12 assists.

The Ocelots routed Columbus State (Ohio), 93-59, on Sunday. Led by Jasmine Brown's 17, six Ocelots cracked the double-figures scoring barrier. Goins notched a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Shanika Morman scored just one point, but she recorded a game-high 11 assists. Schoolcraft was red-hot from the floor, hitting 52 percent of its field-goal attempts and 57 percent of its triple tries. Jasmine Brown was 3-for-3 from beyond the arc.

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**WEEK #14 GAMES**

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**  
Oakland at San Diego  
**Sunday, December 7, 2008**  
Minnesota at Detroit  
Houston at Green Bay  
Jacksonville at Chicago  
Cincinnati at Indianapolis  
Cleveland at Tennessee  
Philadelphia at New York Giants  
Atlanta at New Orleans  
Miami at Buffalo  
Kansas City at Denver  
New York Jets at San Francisco  
New England at Seattle  
St. Louis at Arizona  
Dallas at Pittsburgh  
Washington at Baltimore  
**Monday, December 8, 2008**  
Tampa Bay at Carolina

# NEBUS

FROM PAGE B1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nebus then ventured to an

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

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

The K-Wings are currently in second place behind Muskegon with a 10-7 record.

And although things have been going well, Nebus knows his role can change from game-to-game.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# EBERHARDT

FROM PAGE B1

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

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

Eberhardt's role is radi-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Patriots peppered by South Lyon, 8-0

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

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

South Lyon outshot the Patriots, 50-8. Franklin sophomore goal-

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

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

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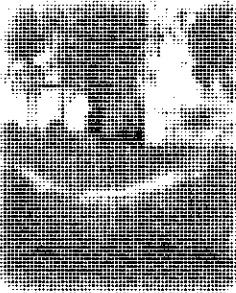
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Pets and Sec 8 OK. \$1000. 248-476-5325</p> <p><b>FERDALE</b> 4 bdrm, fireplace, appliances, bsmt, new paint, windows, C/A. \$1050/mo. + deposit. 734-968-9253</p>	<p><b>Homes For Rent</b> 4050</p> <p><b>Garden City</b>- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, garage, all appliances, \$1025/mo. + security Deposit. 313 201 0366</p> <p><b>HOWELL</b> 3 bdrm, 2 bath, washer/dryer, garage, lg. fenced yard, pets considered. \$895/mo. 517-546-5685</p> <p><b>INKSTER</b> - 28728 Oakland, 3 bdrm, bsmt, new kitchen &amp; windows. \$725/mo. + \$1000 sec dep. (734) 981-0838</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> - 2 bdrm, large yard, carpet, appliances, pets considered, great starter home. \$700/mo., 734-484-6966</p> <p><b>NOVI</b> - Clean, spacious 3 bdrm, bsmt, washer/dryer, 1 car garage, \$950/mo., 248-231-7433</p> <p><b>REDFORD</b> - Cute 3 bdrm cape cod on double lot, 1 bath, central air, appliances, washer, dryer, bsmt, immediate occupancy, no pets. \$900/mo. + 2 mo. security. 734-604-0930</p> <p><b>REDFORD</b> - Newly renovated 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch, finished bsmt, family room, 2 car. \$1100/mo. (734) 425-3333</p> <p><b>REDFORD</b> - Sharp 3 bdrm, enclosed porch, 2 car garage, double lot. Sec. 8 OK. \$850/mo. 734-425-3333</p>	<p><b>Homes For Rent</b> 4050</p> <p><b>SOUTHFIELD</b> 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, 2 car, deck, appliances incl. 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Bloomfield Management 248-865-9550</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> - Dental clinic for lease-operating rooms, private office, lab, receptionist area, employee's dining area &amp; large waiting area. All operating rooms fully plumbed 1st 2 months free rent. Call Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. (313) 561-1212</p> <p><b>Wanted To Rent</b> 4400</p> <p><b>GARAGE SPACE FOR AUTO</b>              Redford Only, A.S.A.P. Call: (313) 587-5172</p>
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## Your Weekly Guide to Apartment Living

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A.S.A. - Danny Thomas, Founder







CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B8

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

Thursday fellowship dinner

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

Eucharistic adoration

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

Worship schedule

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

Sunday worship

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

Reformed Protestant services

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

Sanskrit chanting

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

Church schedule

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

Single Place Ministry

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

Prince of Peace Church

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

Tai Chi and strength classes

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

Tai Chi class

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

Thrift store

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

New schedule

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

Day of service

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

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

Grief workshops help during the holidays

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

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

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

St. Michael the Archangel Parish holds a grief workshop as well, Getting Through the Holidays, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 114-41 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Blankets needed for homeless shelters

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

Once collected, the blankets will be distributed to homeless shelters in the Metro Detroit area with the assistance of the American Red Cross. New or slightly used twin size

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

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

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Faith Covenant Church, St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church, Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, Newburg United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, Bell Creek Community Church, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, USA, and others.

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



# Santa Has Arrived!

## and is in the east court

### Entertainment this Month...

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

For all of your holiday shopping fun visit the

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



PAGE D3

RECIPES

Our readers have submitted easy cookie recipes

PAGE D5

## The Whitney's Ghost Bar is the new trendy spot

BY LANA MINI  
STAFF WRITER

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

The recently opened Ghost Bar contains every element to mark itself as the new destination place and attract the hip, successful bar crowd of Oakland and Wayne counties. It's located in a mansion, it has an unpretentious, highly stylized, chichi flair that is already attracting successful, creative crowds. And, it's located inside one of the most prestigious Michigan restaurants.

**GHOST BAR**

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

**Dress code:** Business casual/stylish/eclectic

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

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

"The third floor has always been an elegant space with 20-foot ceilings, hand-painted panels and rich woods throughout. It was the original art gallery for the Whitney family," said Patrick Liebler, The Whitney's executive director. "What we wanted to accomplish was to add to its elegance, not overshadow or mask the original beauty of the space."

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

**HAUNTED**

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

**Detroit's favorite spirits.**

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

**WELCOMING**

"We want to remove the 'stuffy factor' from The Whitney," Patrick Liebler said. "People rightfully know it as a high-end restaurant, but the clientele is all ages, all types of people and we have an incredibly friendly staff who work to make you feel instantly comfortable."

"The Whitney doesn't just belong to my family," Liebler said. "It's a landmark in the city. We want everyone to feel that this is their restaurant and their bar."

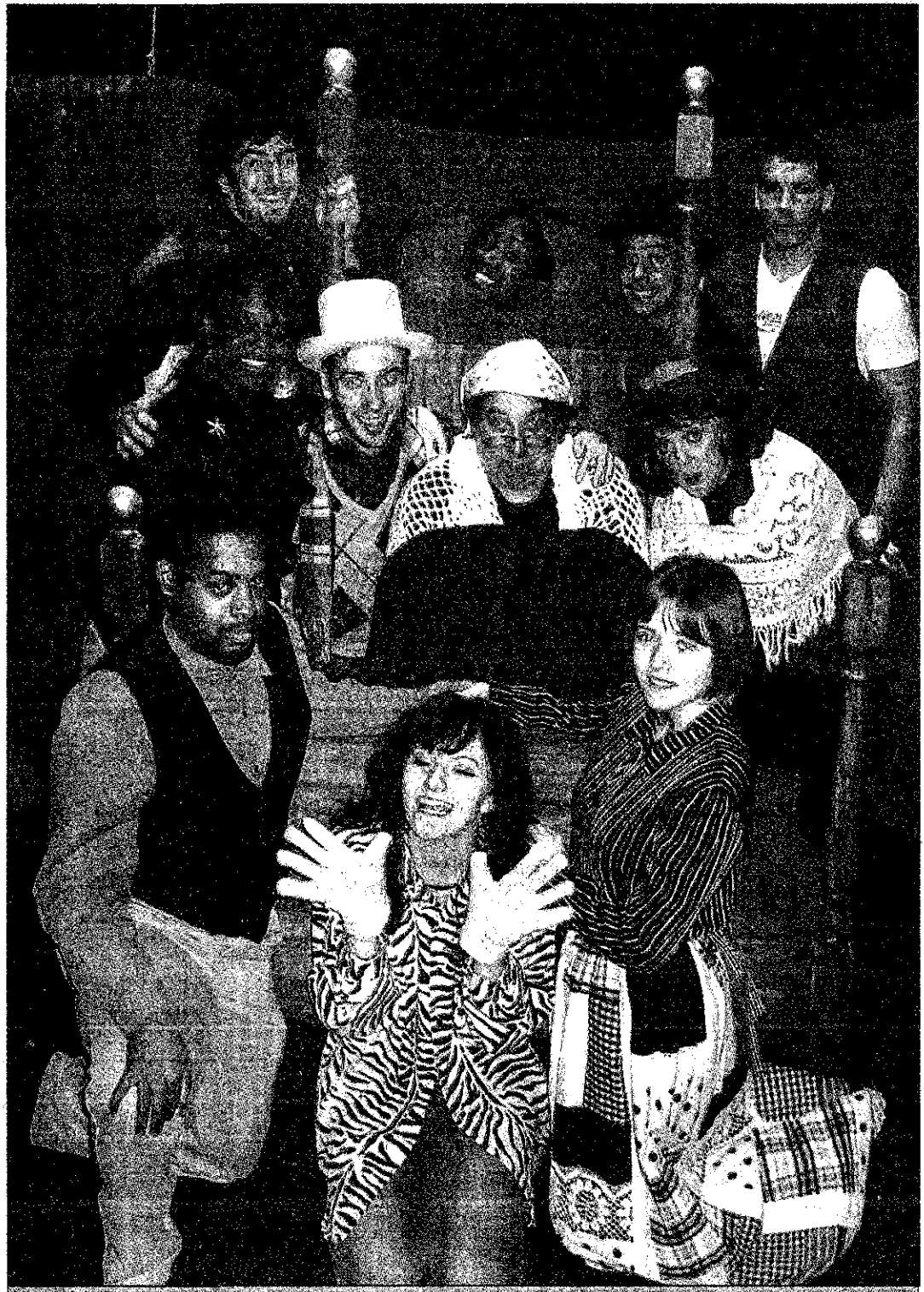
You don't need couture attire at the Whitney Ghost Bar; it's stylish, yet business casual.

"More than ever before, the city of Detroit needs reasons to smile," said Bud Liebler. "We want the Ghost Bar to be a place where people can sit back and relax with their co-workers after a long day."

Please see **GHOST BAR, D2**



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



## Holiday Happenings

- Events**
- Christmas Walk:** The Friends of Greenmead presents its 20th annual event beginning at Hill House with hot chocolate and cookies, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets \$9 in advance — available at Livonia libraries, Greenmead and city hall — and \$10 on tour day; wear slip-on shoes. Profits go to restoration and preservation at Livonia's Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 466-3540.
- Noel Night:** From 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Detroit's University Cultural Center welcomes all for its annual holiday open house, museums will be open free of admission, horse and carriage rides, and music and theater performances, centered at Woodward and Warren avenues in Detroit. Visit [www.detroitmidtown.com/05/noelnight](http://www.detroitmidtown.com/05/noelnight).
- Christmas in the Village:** Tour decorated homes and enjoy carriage rides, hot cocoa, Santa Claus and carolers, all while raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Cherry Hill Village of Canton, 500 N. Ridge Road, Canton. Tickets \$15, visit [www.cantonmi.org/villagetheatrer](http://www.cantonmi.org/villagetheatrer) or call (734) 394-5460.
- The Big, Bright Light Show:** Downtown Rochester lights the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, through Jan. 4, 2009, attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam, but it's still a sight to behold.
- Wayne County LightFest:** Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.
- Winter Wonderland:** A cast of more than 100 performers celebrate the holidays, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Call (313) 833-4005 or visit [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org).
- Holiday Nights:** Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14, Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood

Please see **HAPPENINGS, D4**

## Holiday laughs

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

BY LANA MINI  
STAFF WRITER

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

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

**When:** Through Friday, Dec. 21

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

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

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

**Humorously chaotic!** It's a mad dash through the story, with hasty costume-changes (maybe just a hat!) and zany characters. Everyone plays numerous parts, sings, makes sound effects, and dances badly.

Those are the words of Rob Papineau, director of the new *Christmas Carol* performance every weekend between now and Dec. 21 at the Trinity House in Livonia. And he's kidding about the bad dancing.

"Is that a correct or incorrect description? Does it have any of the serious tone of the original?" he asked.

The serious tone of the Charles Dickens classic remains. Papineau said the audience knows the story but "not what's coming next."

Why did they choose this version of the classic tale? "This show is comically downsized. Not an opera-sized production, it's about a small travelling theatre-troupe, with too-few actors and very little 'stuff,' who still have a jolly time and a great show. It's big fun in a small package, and that's why we chose it."

**PUPPETS, GAMES**

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

Please see **CAROL, D8**

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008

**SHOWTIME: 8:00 PM**

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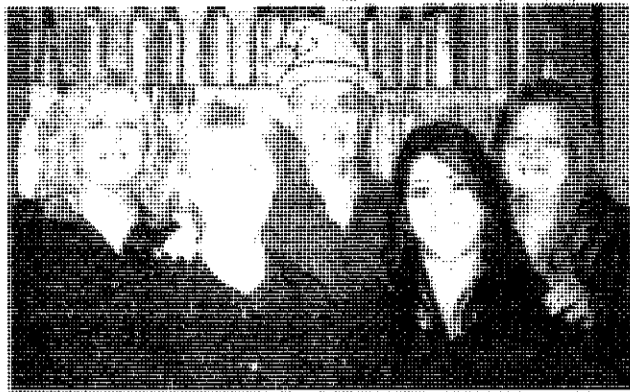
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 · SHOWTIME: 7:00 PM

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## GHOST BAR

FROM PAGE D1

### SECURE

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

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

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

### IMPRESSIVE

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

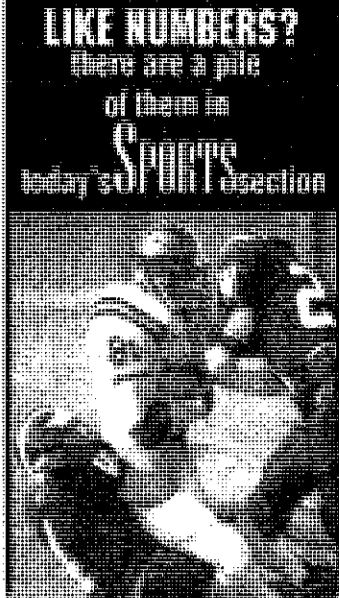
It's that impressive. It's romantic, completely unique from any other establishment in the country, and feels so special, your guests will be impressed.

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

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

### AMBIANCE

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



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

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# Sheesh

MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

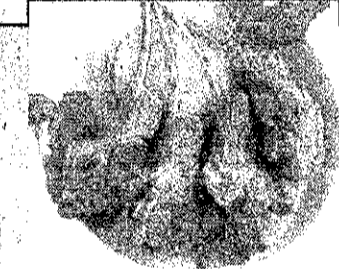
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## Schoolcraft College

### December 2008 Events at Schoolcraft College

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

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

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

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

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

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

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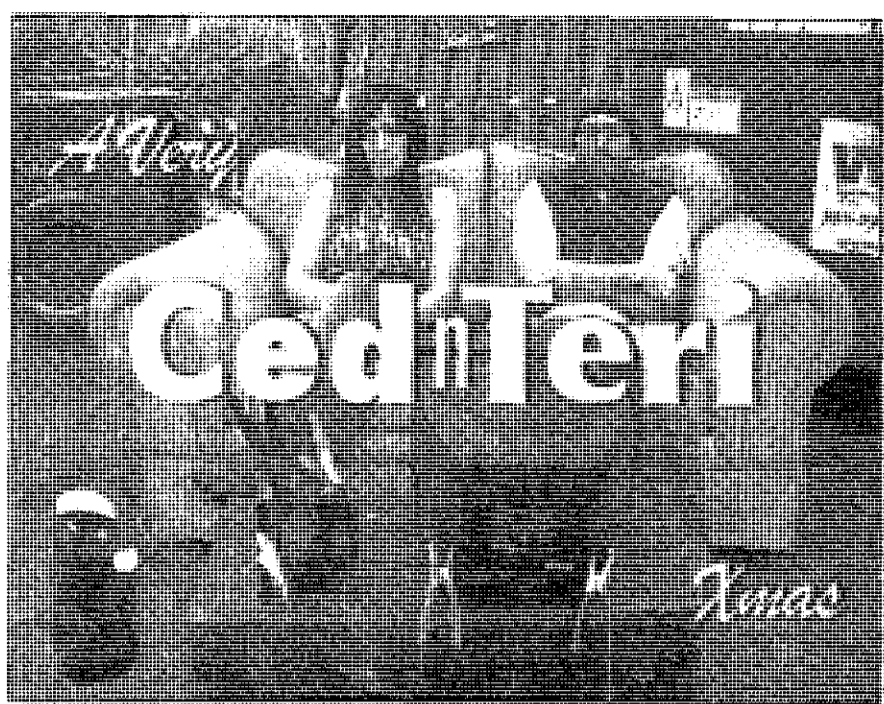
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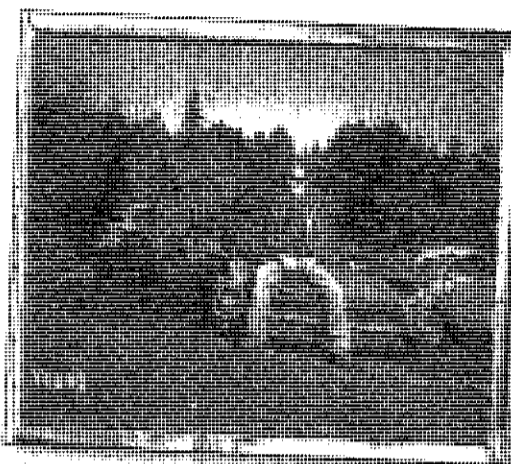
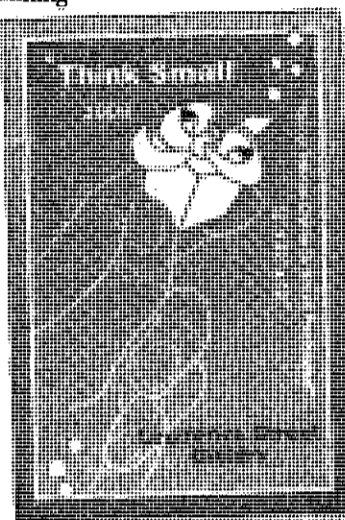
## Pure Picks

BY STEPHEN BRADY  
DSE STAFF WRITER

10311 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan 48126-3441  
call (313) 943-2354 or visit www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

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

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



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

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

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

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# HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE D1

Blvd. in Dearborn. Visit [www.thehenryford.com](http://www.thehenryford.com).  
With Music

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

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

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

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

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

Choral Society presents this classic, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$15, available by calling (248) 852-9395.  
**A Celtic Christmas:** Natalie McMaster brings Celtic traditions to life, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at [www.detroitssymphony.com](http://www.detroitssymphony.com).  
**Trans-Siberian Orchestra:**

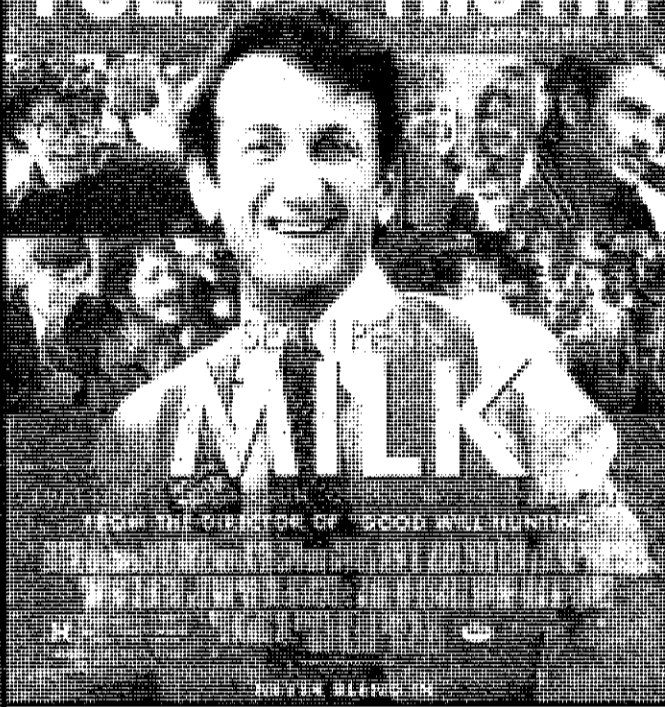
Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.  
**Christmas in Concert:** See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit [www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com).  
**A Prairie Home Christmas:** Go A-Wassailing

with Garrison Keillor and the DSO for this "Under the Mistletoe" presentation, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at [www.detroitssymphony.com](http://www.detroitssymphony.com).  
**With heart and soul:** Hear The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, Dec. 18-19, The Masonic Temple Theatre, Cass and Temple streets, Detroit. Tickets \$25-\$68. (248) 645-6666.

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**KNOW THE SCORE**

check out the numbers in

**SPORTS**

today's **SPORTS** section

## Readers submit their favorite easy cookie recipes

### 151 RUM BALLS

By Dean Henry of Livonia

2 cups graham cracker crumbs  
4 cups flour  
2 tablespoons cocoa powder  
1 cup powdered sugar  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 cup ground nuts (I use ground pecans that I grind myself, you may want to use pecan meal)  
¾ cup of 151 proof rum (or more if you prefer a stronger taste)  
Powder sugar  
2 tablespoons honey

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

### AUNT DEE DEE'S SUGAR COOKIES

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

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

Preheat oven to 350.

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

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

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

### CRISPY OATMEAL COOKIES

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

¾ pound (3 sticks) unsalted butter  
1 cup light brown sugar  
1 ½ cup granulated sugar  
1 large egg  
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract  
3 cups old-fashioned oats (not instant)  
1 ½ cups all purpose flour  
¼ teaspoon kosher salt  
2 ½ teaspoons baking soda

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

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

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

### SHAKARISHEE -

#### ARMENIAN SUGAR COOKIES

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

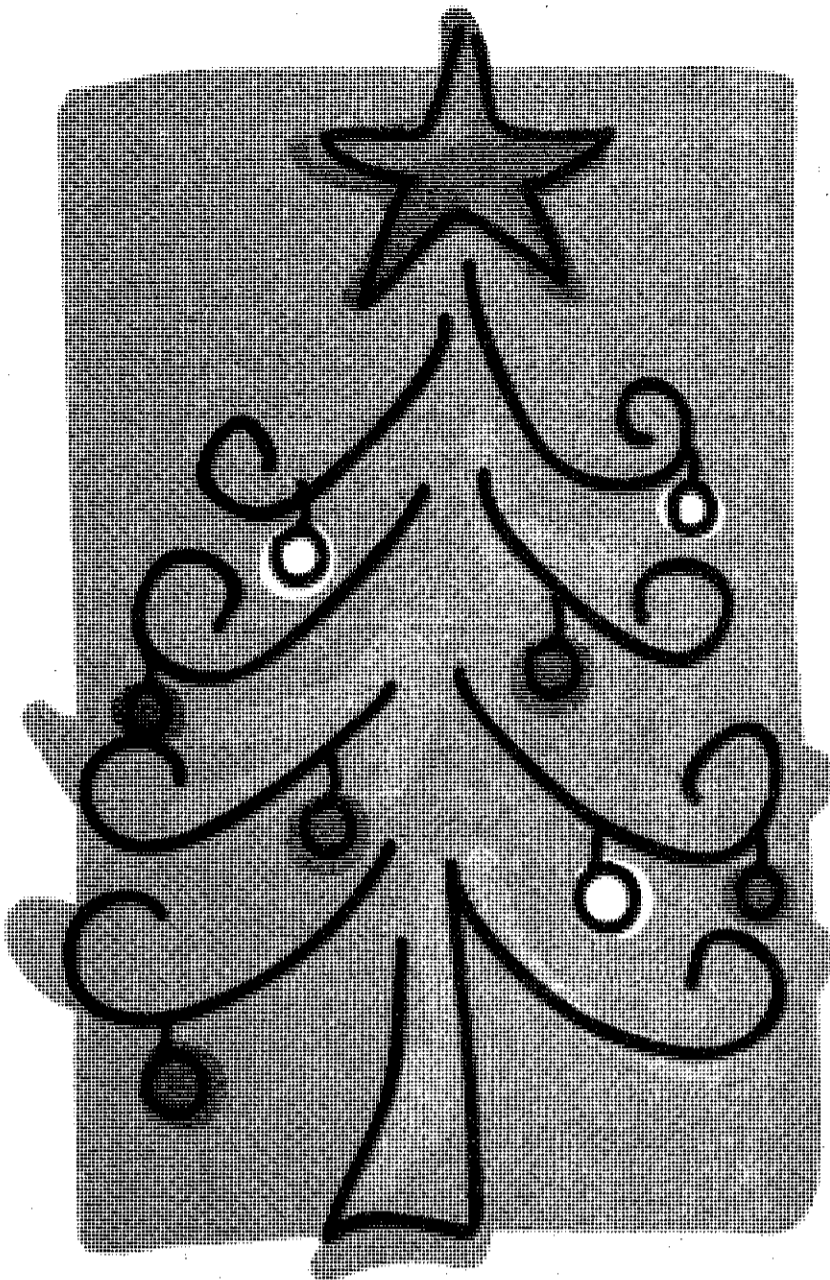
2 ¼ cups flour  
1 ¾ cups sugar  
1 cup softened butter, unsalted  
1 egg, yolk only  
½ cup finely chopped walnuts, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

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

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

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



## Celebrate Sweet Afton's 20 years

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— By Lana Mini

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## December Dances

Saturday, December 13, 2008

at 8:00pm (Prelude 7:30pm)

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**Focus on Wine**

Ray & Eleanor Heald

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

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

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

textured.

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

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

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

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



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**CAROL**

FROM PAGE D1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ART**

- Arnold Klein Gallery:** 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.
- Art Leaders Gallery:** Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.
- Art-Rapport Gallery:** 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604.
- Biddle Gallery:** 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779, www.biddlegallery.com.
- Cafe 84:** "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773.
- Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center:** 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.
- Birmingham Conference Center:** 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham.
- Birmingham Unitarian Church:** 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380.
- Bohemian National Home Gallery:** 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohouser.htm.
- Cary Gallery:** Photographs by Nancy Stocking and by Ron Teachworth, through Dec. 13, 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656.
- CPDP:** 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpdp.com.
- Detroit Artist Market:** Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit.
- DJH Art Studio:** Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.
- Farmington City Gallery:** Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856.
- Farmington Community Library:** 23500 Liberty, (248) 553-6261, www.suzannebaum.com.
- First United Methodist Church:** 1569 W. Maple, Birmingham.
- Gallery@VZ:** Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village@theater, www.vsq-art.com.
- Galeria at Orchard Lake:** Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345.
- Habitat Galleries:** 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habitat.com.
- Janice Charach Gallery:** Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 432-5448.
- Lawrence Street Gallery:** Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, through Dec. 24, reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 5, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.
- Lemberg Gallery:** Jane Hammond "People, Places and Things," through November, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.
- Livonia Arts Commission:** Fine Arts Gallery, second floor, Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.
- Lotus Arts Gallery:** Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusarts-gallery.com.
- Next Step Studios & Gallery:** Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hillton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepsstudio.com.
- Northville Art House:** 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.
- Oakland University Art Gallery:** at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.
- Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery:** Works in Oil & Pencil by Sharon Will, October, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 538-9021, www.orchardlakeframing.com.
- Paint Creek Center for the Arts:** Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.
- Paul Kotula Projects:** 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.
- Peawabic Pottery:** 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 622-0954, www.peawabic.org.
- Plymouth Community Arts Council:** 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
- The Print Gallery:** 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.com.
- Progressive Art & Frame Design:** 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.
- Susanne Hilberry Gallery:** 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 644-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com.
- Tangent Gallery:** 715 E. Miawauke St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com.
- The Community House:** 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.
- Visual Arts Association of Livonia:** Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550.

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# Dancing dolls

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

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

### THE NUTCRACKER

**What:** The Joffrey Ballet presents this holiday dance classic, including 50 of the world's finest dancers and 80 local children  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6; 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; noon and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7  
**Where:** The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.  
**Tickets:** \$10-\$75, which includes student and group discounts, call (313) 237-SING or visit www.MichiganOpera.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

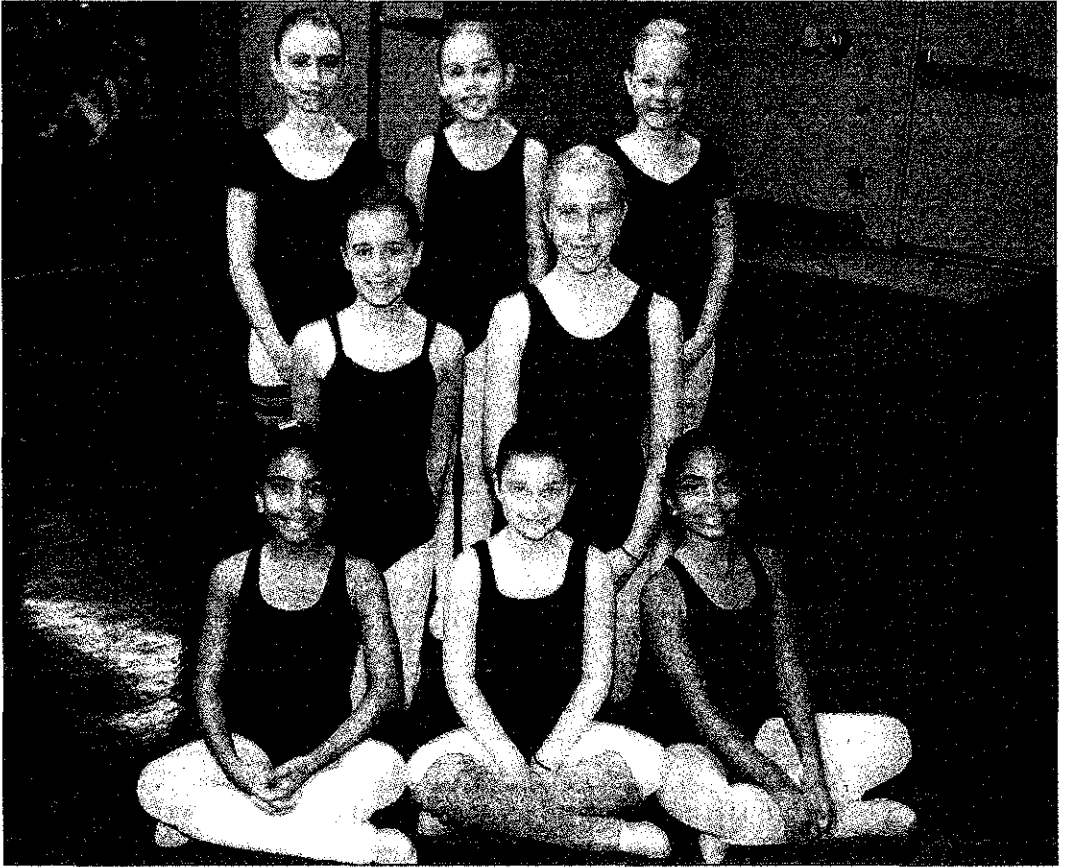
"It is such a tradition for Detroit," said Dori Ranck. "So many people go every year to see it."

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

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

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

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JOHN GRIGAITIS

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

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# pink

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

## Quest for the perfect post-partum PJs

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

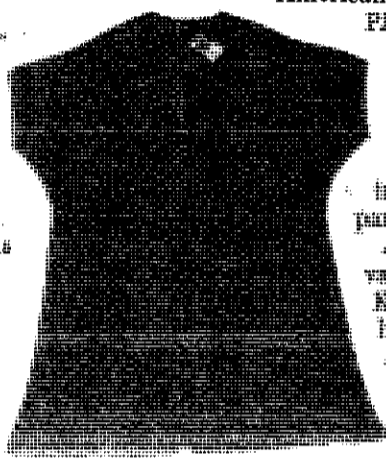
Wensdy Von Buskirk

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

about \$100.

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

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

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



### For guys and gals

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

## pink picks

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

### Kick It!

Solid colored flats (so cute with boot cut jeans)

### Face It!

New Neutrogena Pink Grapefruit line. Yum.

### Mane It!

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

The new season of *Greek* on ABC Family

### Use It!

Foundation as eyeshadow primer

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

### Accessorize It!

Bangles

### Smell It!

Ed Hardy perfume

### See It!

*Nights In Rodanthe*

### Drink It!

Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Coffee



## Holiday Events

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

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

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

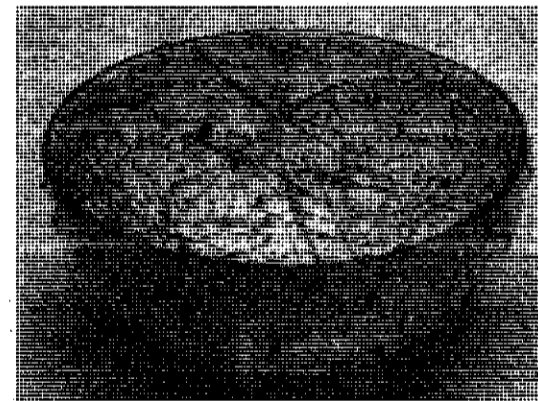
with all-day family-friendly events including choirs, mimes, kids activities, bracelet making, face painting, tea pot bingo, Santa's arrival, holiday cookie decorating, ice carving, old fashioned carriage rides, Candlelight Home Tour of fabulous Franklin homes, and a special holiday tree and menorah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

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

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

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

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



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

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