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- special section



Buying Michigan food makes sense, cents - C1



SUNDAY
December 7, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Commuter rail stop could create jobs, development

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's selection as a train stop for a proposed commuter rail service between Detroit and Ann Arbor could spur new jobs, businesses and housing close to a passenger station near

Michigan Avenue and Henry Ruff Road, local and regional officials said.

Planners hope to start four round trips daily on the 48-mile route by October 2010. However, the project still hinges partly on funding and an agreement with Canadian National

Railroad to use a stretch of its tracks from the New Center area of Detroit to near Dearborn, said Carmine Palombo, director of transportation programs for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, or SEMCOG.

Westland's station, possibly in a building that also houses

a county-owned library for the blind, would allow passengers to connect with a shuttle service to and from Detroit Metro Airport, an improved facility used by millions of people every year.

Mayor William Wild said airport access convinced railway planners to choose Westland

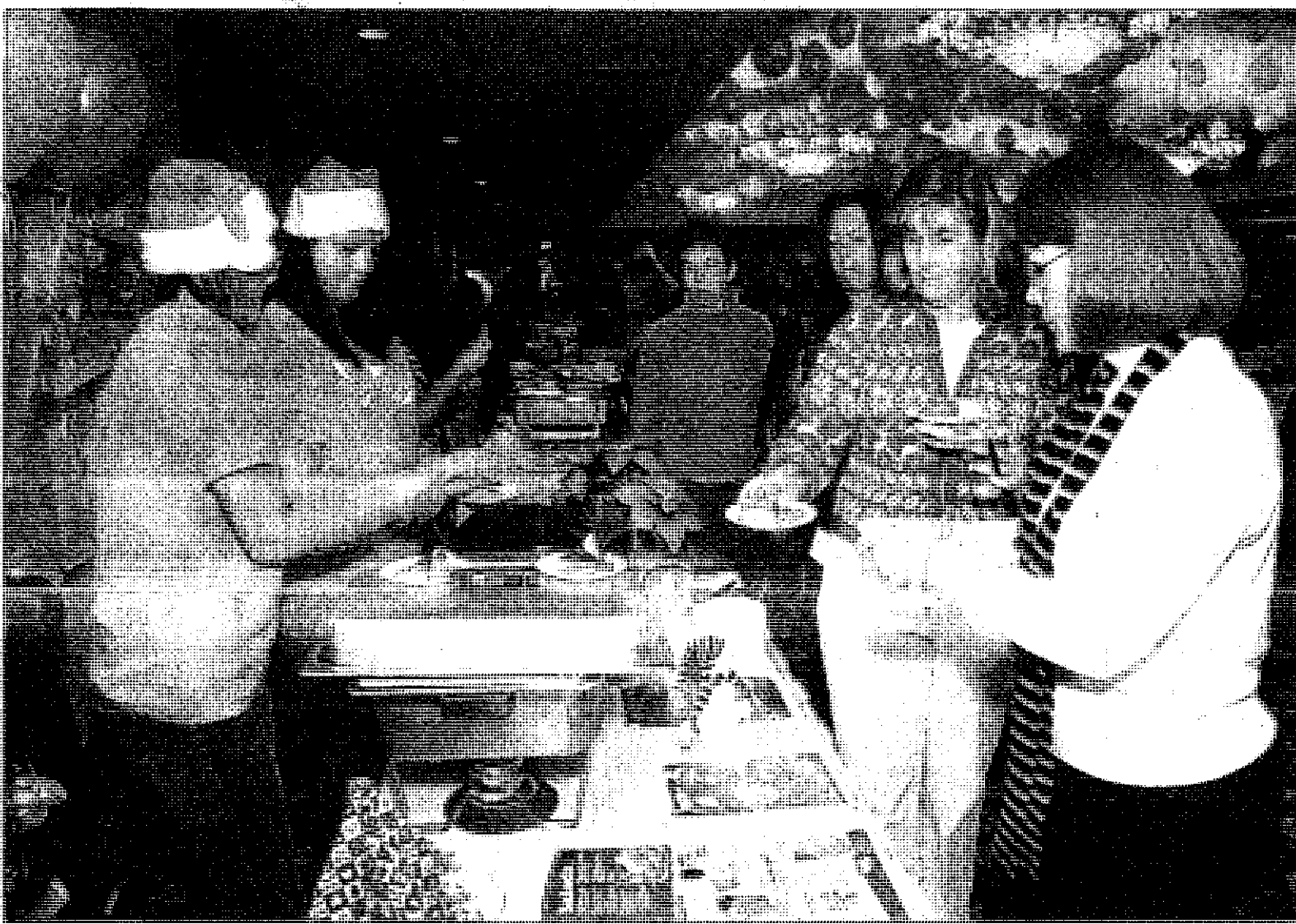
as a train stop — a decision that came amid vigorous lobbying from city officials and lawmakers such as state Rep. Richard LeBlanc and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, both Westland Democrats.

"The airport was the sell," Wild said.

Planners envision a pilot rail project for three to five years, in hopes that ridership will reveal a need for a permanent commuter system including the Westland stop.

"I think it's going to create

Please see **RAIL, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jessica McHugh and Michelle Durham, of Red Robin, pass out chips and salsa to Leslie Suchy-Kuclo of Superior Township and Dianne Schmitt of Westland.

Chamber Taste Fest a hit with holiday revelers

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The sound of music and smell of great food were apparent Tuesday evening at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

The occasion was the Holiday Taste Fest of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, which drew some 550 revelers for a night featuring 18 Westland restaurants. "Enjoying my favorite chamber

event of the year with wonderful food and friends," said Dr. Amanda Apfelblat, a Westland chiropractor. She's on the chamber board and was helping as a greeter.

Another chamber board member, Tim Weise of Garden City Hospital, also enjoyed his time at the Taste Fest.

"The food is amazing, the variety," said Weise, director of rehabilitation therapies for the hospital. It's a challenge to sample every-

thing. "But we try," he said with a smile. "Each year there's a little different variety. That always brings you back."

As a sponsor, Garden City Hospital had five tables for the Taste Fest. "By word of mouth, it just spreads," he said of attendance. "It's the holiday spirit."

Brookellen Swope, president and CEO for the Westland chamber, noted the event supports the chamber's Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship

Fund. "And we like to have a good party," Swope said.

There was dancing going on: "I think the Red Robin mascot started it out," she said.

The event takes some organizing, to get restaurants on board and get the word out to attendees.

"I think the restaurants see it as a great marketing opportunity," she said. Serving samples to 550 party goers is good for business.

Three men face trial in church break-in case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three men are facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court amid allegations they broke into a Westland church during an incident that police said was foiled by an alert citizen.

All three defendants face trial after they appeared Thursday in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokus and waived their right to a preliminary hearing — a decision that for now averted courtroom testimony.

The men — Aaron Ray Hanson, 22, his brother, Justin Morlyn Hanson, 21, and Jonathan Edward Morris, 20 — are charged with one count of breaking and entering and one count of possession of burglar tools, police Lt. Dan Karrick said. The younger Hanson brother and Morris also are charged as habitual offenders.

The Hansons are Westland residents; Morris is from Canton.

Westland police captured three suspects after an alert citizen called for help after seeing suspicious activity around 3 a.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at Our Savior Church, on the southeast corner of Warren and Venoy, Karrick has said.

Police caught one man near the church, another in a nearby apartment complex and a third who had gotten into an alleged getaway car near the scene. Officers arrived before anything was taken from the church.

The witness who called police "allowed us to get there quickly and catch these guys before they had a chance to steal anything," Karrick said.

Karrick and other police officials have often said they depend on quick action by alert citizens to help them make arrests in neighborhood crimes that might otherwise go unsolved.

Not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for the Hanson brothers and Morris as they face trial. Aaron Hanson remains jailed with a \$100,000 cash bond, while the other defendants have \$250,000 cash bonds due to their habitual offender status.

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

Police seek help finding drugstore robbery suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He walked up to a Westland pharmacy packing a pistol and demanding prescription drugs.

Without firing any shots, he walked out with more than 7,000 doses of drugs such as OxyContin, Ritalin and morphine.

For nearly two months, Westland police didn't release any information about the robbery,

which happened at 10:38 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, inside the Rite Aid store located at Wayne and Ford roads, near one of the city's busiest intersections.

Police Lt. Dan Karrick said authorities kept quiet because they didn't want to possibly scare away the suspect while they investigated the case.

They hoped to quietly nab him without alerting him. Weeks later, the investiga-

tion has produced no leads, so police Sgt. Steve Borisch has released a photo captured by an in-store surveillance camera, in hopes that someone might recognize the suspect and come forward to help authorities solve the case.

The suspect was described as an unshaven white male in his 40s.

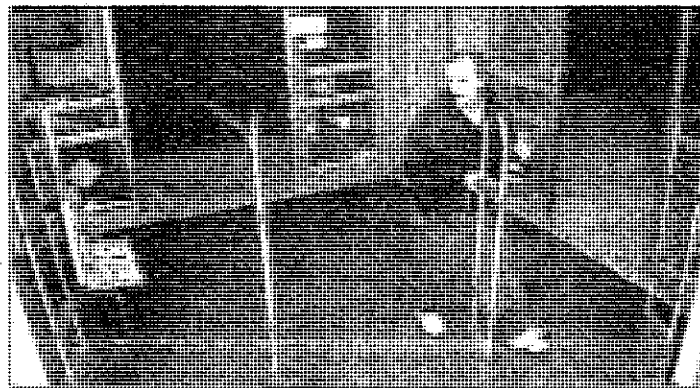
"He had a pistol in his waistband, which he showed to the pharmacy employee," Borisch

said in a statement issued by the police department. "He then took a large quantity of controlled prescription drugs and walked out the front door."

No getaway vehicle was seen.

Anyone who recognizes the suspect or who has information about the incident is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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



Westland police need help finding this suspect, accused of robbing a Rite Aid pharmacy of prescription drugs in October. To help, call (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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Coming Thursday
in filter



Artist Howard Nordlund uses raw minerals in his paintings

AROUND WESTLAND

Historic holiday

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

the same site will be open 1-4 p.m. that day.

Say cheese!

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

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

also will be refreshments and treats for the pets.

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

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

RAIL

FROM PAGE A1

jobs in that area, and it may spur a little economic development," Wild said, adding that Ford Motor Co. owns vacant land near the site.

Wild also called the proposed Westland station "an ideal site" because of "the ability of our residents to work downtown (Detroit) or in Ann Arbor and

have mass transit available to them."

Wild already is quite familiar with the site. He used to visit the library for the blind to get materials for his late grandmother, Joan Shilavinitz, who was legally blind.

Palombo conceded that the project still faces hurdles, although it looks promising. The plan will require a combination of funding, likely from federal, state and local governments along with private-sector

dollars. Palombo couldn't put a price tag on the railway.

Moreover, Palombo said agreements appear likely with Norfolk Southern Railway Co. and Conrail, but planners still have to reach an accord with Canadian National Railroad.

Like Wild, Palombo also predicted the project would have a positive impact on the Westland station and other train stops.

"There's an opportunity around those train stations for businesses and services that would cater to the people who would go to those stations," he said. "Potentially, we could even have some new housing in the vicinity."

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Sheila Cockrel to speak at Rotary

Sheila Cockrel, Detroit city councilwoman, will speak Thursday, Dec. 11, to the Westland Rotary.

Guests are welcome. The club will meet for lunch 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army corps, on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland.

"I'm very persistent," Rotary secretary Danny Wilson said of his success in lining up the high-profile councilwoman. He'd met her at a Wayne Rotary lunch he attended.

"I was just so impressed with her handle about what's going on in Detroit," said Wilson, adding Cockrel's the only non-African American on the Detroit council.

"It's a multicultural city and that's what the council should reflect," he said. Those who'd like to join Westland Rotary for lunch Dec. 11 should call Wilson at (313) 999-6685 by noon Tuesday. Lunch is \$10.

The club has many strong speakers, and Wilson hopes to bring in some who are high-profile. "Let's try it and see how it works," he said.

The eldest of six children,

Cockrel was born and raised in Detroit's Corktown. Her parents, Lou and Justine Murphy, led the Catholic Worker movement and devoted themselves to serving the most needy. Cockrel's parents ran a soup kitchen for hungry Detroiters from their home, and opened their door to homeless women and children.

Cockrel is currently serving in her second term on the Detroit City Council, according to the council Web site.

Cockrel's life as an activist began in earnest in the late 1960s when, as a Wayne State University student, she became involved with the West Central Organization. This grassroots group developed housing, urban renewal, health care and university expansion programs. Then in 1968, alarmed by an increase in cases of police brutality, she founded the Ad Hoc Action Group, a citywide organization that monitored the activities of the police department following 1967.

As a member of the Labor Defense Coalition, led by Detroit attorney, activist and leader Kenneth Cockrel, she and others battled the city's

deployment of the STRESS undercover decoy unit which was responsible for the deaths of 20 people.

In 1978, she married Ken and they shared a vision for social change and followed a politically active path. When Ken decided to run for the Detroit City Council in 1977, Sheila organized his successful campaign. During his term, she served as manager and administrator of his office. Ken died in 1989.

In 1993, Cockrel successfully ran for a seat on the Detroit City Council. During her first term she worked with Detroit churches to help develop faith-based and corporate economic development programs. Sheila Cockrel ran for re-election in 1997 and was selected by the voters of Detroit to serve a second four-year term.

A proponent of recreation and leisure activities for Detroiters, Cockrel chairs the Detroit City Council Recreation Task Force. Her leadership on the task force has helped increase the focus on recreation and leisure activities and helped shape the debate regarding the Belle Isle vehicle fee, the Web site notes.

In 1999, Sheila Cockrel was selected as a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow to attend the Senior Executives in State and Local Government summer program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Cockrel is a life member of the NAACP, a member of Gesu Parish and lives in Detroit with her daughter, Katy.

Observer staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

"Notice of Meeting

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on the Tuesday December 9, 2008 at 8:00 PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting."

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www.gardencitymi.org

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Publish: December 7 & 14, 2008

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk/Treasurer

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The following vehicle has been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction at 1686 S. Newburgh, Westland, MI, December 12, 2008 at 9:45 a.m. A 1997 Nissan Quest Station Wagon. VIN#4N2DN1115VD841809. Bidding will start at \$900.00 dollars.

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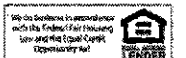
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Salvation Army kettle drive off to strong start as need grows

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salvation Army bell ringers have been manning the red kettles since mid-November, with hopes of raising \$8.5 million in the metro region. Goals locally are \$130,000 for the Wayne-Westland Corps, which also serves Romulus and Inkster, and \$175,000 for the Dearborn Heights Citadel, serving Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

"Right now collections are going fairly well," said Capt. Steve Merritt, commander for the Dearborn Heights Citadel with his wife, Christine. "This has always been a very generous area. When times are difficult, people come forward."

Bell ringing will continue at community sites through Dec. 24, with the Salvation Army taking Sundays off as a day of worship and rest. Steve Merritt believes many drop money in kettles because they know those



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign bell ringer Emil Niece gets a donation from Robert Szaal of Westland outside of Macy's in Westland Center.

who've experienced job losses and tough times.

"The need has hit home in a personal way this year," he said. Donations for Dearborn Heights

and environs are up about \$19,000 from last year, although collection started about a week earlier this year, compared to the Saturday after Thanksgiving last year.

"God willing, we will" meet the \$175,000 goal for the five communities, Merritt said. "He's in control."

Capt. Derek Rose is corps commander with wife Joanna for Wayne-Westland. "We are a little ahead of last year," Derek Rose said. "We really are seeking the community's full support."

Wayne-Westland has raised about \$60,000 of the \$130,000 goal, and will serve some 578 families plus additional arrivals for help. The Roses are grateful to those who've signed up for Adopt a Family, in which specific gift needs for a family are met. As of Thursday, 67 percent had been adopted, although Wayne-Westland expects additional inquiries for help this weekend, the final weekend to ask for yule adoption help.

Wayne-Westland did bell ringing in the street at Wayne and Warren roads, with one additional such session on tap.

"I'm always amazed," Rose said of community support.

"When things seem the worst people respond. I'm humbled and blessed that people are giving so much."

"The weather hasn't been a hindrance thus far, Merritt noted. "The Red Kettle Campaign is dependent on the shoppers. We watch the weather map, too."

Salvation Army leaders are grateful for donors' generosity: "We thank them for their giving in past years and this year," said Merritt, adding Dearborn Heights will help nearly 500 families including more than 1,200 children this year. "This season is the season for the collections, but the money raised helps our communities throughout the year."

Rose agreed, noting Wayne-Westland's support is appreciated

all year. "We couldn't do what we do without the people supporting us," he said.

You can volunteer locally as a Red Kettle bell ringer by visiting www.ringbell.org. There's also a virtual kettle online where you can donate. To find out more, visit www.salmich.org or call (877) SAL-MICH.

Texas Roadhouse, on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne (across from the Westland police station), is a drop-off site for donations of new unwrapped toys and nonperishables for the Salvation Army. For each toy donation and/or bag of nonperishables, the restaurant will give a thank you free "baby blossom" voucher (for an appetizer). In addition, the restaurant has adopted two local families through the Salvation Army.

NOW OPEN!



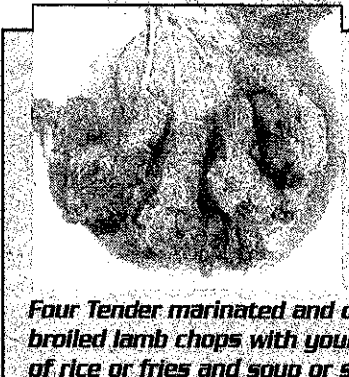
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Hospital offers wellness programs

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, Dec. 8
Exercise Express 12:30 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

Childbirth Education (sixth of six classes) at 6 p.m. This six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2½ hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, Dec. 9
Get Up and Move at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (fourth of four classes) at 9:30 a.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Cardiac Education Support Group at 5 p.m. Had a cardiac event or know

someone who has? Want more information about heart disease? Or just looking for a place to talk and share your feelings and concerns about heart attack or heart disease? Individuals who have heart disease and their family and friends are welcome to join the Cardiac Education Support Group in the Health Enhancement Center. The free support group will meet the second Tuesday of each month to discuss important topics and provide valuable information. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Exercise Express 12:30 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Attention CPAP and BIPAP users: Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Alzheimer's Support at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join this free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the lower level classrooms of the Allen Breakie Medical Office Building (attached to the main hospital), 6255 N. Inkster Road, Garden City. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Support Group at 7 p.m. Are you or someone you know hard of hearing? A free support group for people who are hard of hearing is

held every second Wednesday of the month. Call (734) 458-3381 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Get Up and Move at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (third of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Friday, Dec. 12
Exercise Express 12:30 p.m. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

Daily Programs
Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

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Commission votes to give parks money to local communities

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission made good on its promise to restructure the county's parks millage so a portion can be redistributed back to local communities for their own recreation projects.

The commission voted 10-4 on Thursday to give back 25 percent that each municipality contributes in taxes to the fund, which they will be able to use for capital improvements for local parks and recreation facilities. The remaining 75 percent will still be allocated for improvements and operations to the county parks system, which includes Hines Park and Elizabeth Park in Trenton.

Commissioners Kevin McNamara, D-Canton, Laura Cox, R-Livonia, Philip Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, Ronale Bowman, D-Westland, and Bernard Parker, D-Detroit, sponsored the new ordinance. The mea-

GETTING A LITTLE BACK

Community	2007 tax levy	Money to be allocated
Canton	\$1,000,440	\$250,110
Garden City	\$176,216	\$44,054
Livonia	\$1,253,897	\$313,474
Plymouth	\$117,302	\$29,325
Plymouth Twp.	\$500,093	\$125,023
Redford	\$348,582	\$87,145
Westland	\$567,896	\$141,974
Detroit	\$2,433,600	\$608,400

sure was opposed by four commissioners from Detroit, and Commissioner Jewel Ware of Detroit abstained.

McNamara said the new ordinance makes sense for several reasons. First and foremost, he believes it will help save local parks and recreation programming.

"Over the next two years, communities are going to go through extreme budget pressures. Usually when that happens, parks and rec programs are the first to get cut," he said. "This is our way to help out and save those programs."

McNamara said the measure will also help secure support from local communities when the millage is up for renewal in 2010, when it is set to expire.

"We are going to need their support. We need this millage. Without it, our parks will close," McNamara said.

Cox, whose district includes the Plymouths, Northvilles and Livonia, said the new ordinance will ensure the millage money is fairly.

"This brings more equity to the process, which is what our local communities have wanted," she said.

Wayne County voters initially passed the parks millage in 1996. The annual levy of .25 mills generates about \$12.7 million per year. The millage was renewed in 2000 and again 2005. It expires at the end of 2010.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano opposes the new ordinance. He will have 10 days from the time the ordinance is delivered to him to either sign it or veto it. The commission has a 10-vote veto proof majority.

However, Assistant

Executive Alan Helmkamp said Ficano is still weighing his options. He may still try to veto the ordinance or challenge it in court.

"We're still reviewing today's events," he said. "In our view it's illegal and it's bad policy."

If Ficano vetoes the measure, the commission would have 45 days to override it.

Phil LaJoy, Canton's new supervisor, welcomed the news, calling it "a step in the right direction." Under the new formula, Canton would

get approximately \$250,000 in 2009.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who has also been critical of the millage, praised the commission for the new ordinance. He says Livonia residents have contributed approximately \$14 million over the last eight years, but received less than \$200,000 back for local recreation projects.

Kirksey said he would support a renewal of the millage if language is changed that would keep the 25 percent in the local communities.



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10am-10pm Dec. 14	10am-10pm Dec. 15	10am-10pm Dec. 16	10am-10pm Dec. 17	10am-10pm Dec. 18	10am-11pm Dec. 19	10am-11pm Dec. 20

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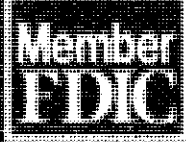
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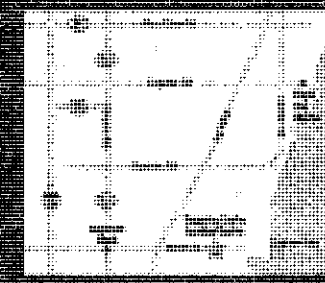


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Lyon area: 248-573-5023 Ann Arbor: 734-239-9015</p> <p>DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT Meaningful work. Assist persons we serve in their home and community. \$8.30 per hr. plus good benefits. Call: 248-960-9657, 248-437-7535 248-946-4425</p> <p>Driver</p> <p>55 New Driver Trainees Needed in Michigan! Learn to drive for Swift Transportation! \$750+ per week CDI in 3 weeks! No experience needed to start! Swift may cover costs if training at Nu-Way! 1-888-822-8743</p> <p>Drivers</p> <p>Van IC Drivers Reliable Delivery has immediate openings for independent contractors with vans. Must have good people skills and knowledge of the Metro Detroit/Tri-County area. Only those with reliable transportation need apply. Apply in person @ 6774 Brandt St., Romulus weekdays between 9 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Estimator/Project Supervisor for 24 HR Reconstruction company. Ambitious & hardworking. Communication and computer skills a must. Fax resume to 248-477-1777</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>Garage Door Repair Technician \$40-60k. will train the right guy. Must have clean driving record. Email resumes to premierdoorservice@gmail.com</p> <p>1-800-579-7355</p> <p>HVAC Service Technician Residential, light commercial. 5 yrs minimum exp. Fax resume to: 248-443-2792</p> <p>INTERNET MARKETER 3 yrs. Pay Per Click exp. Fax resume to Lover's Lane: (734) 414-0020</p> <p>MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN Plating Company needs a Maintenance Technician. Must have plumbing & electrical knowledge. Competitive wage, benefits, retirement. Fax resume: 313-341-0315</p> <p>MAINTENANCE PERSON Detroit/Redford Apartment Community. Minor plumbing/electrical, general maintenance. Self motivated, requires on-call duties. Fax resume to: 248-649-0775</p> <p>MAINTENANCE TECH Full-Time, Exp'd. for luxury apt. community in West Bloomfield. Qualified applicant must have valid drivers license, tools, knowledge of plumbing, electrical & be great with people. Fax resume to: 248-661-2170 E.O.E.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>Manufacturing</p> <p>Die-Namic</p> <p>MACHINISTS ALL POSITIONS ALL SHIFTS</p> <p>Die-Namic Inc. is now hiring for all machining positions at our Belleville location.</p> <p>Positions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polishing & Finishing • CNC Lathe, CNC Mill, Wire & Conventional EDM • Surface, ID & OD Grinding • Centric Grinding • CNC Programmer <p>A minimum of 5 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package. Apply in person between 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. at: Die-Namic Inc. 7565 Haggerty Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 or fax resume to: 734-710-3223 or email to: sthompson@die-namic.com EOE - M/F/D/V</p> <p>hometownlife.com</p> <p>SNOW REMOVAL Current drivers license required. Plymouth area. (734) 564-1273</p> <p>TUTOR TIME Teacher Seeks exp'd. LEAD TEACHER for our 2-4 yr. olds in Canton school. Requirements: CDA or 12 ECE credits. Competitive wages, benefits. Call Melanie: 734-981-8463 fax: 734-981-7163 Email: 6238@tutortime.com EOE</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>Telemarketing/Research Coordinator Telemarketing position responsible for business development & marketing research activities. Excellent verbal/written skills a must. P/T, approx. 20 hrs/wk. (flexible). Fax resume to: 248-818-1813 Email: gk@structuretec.com Dr Mail to: Structuretec 34119 W. 12 Mile Rd, Ste 270 Farmington Hills MI 48331</p> <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FINANCE PART-TIME Tech society in Farmington Hills seeks highly-organized and detail-oriented person to perform a wide variety of admin and finance duties: correspondence, coordination of government filings, cash and investment oversight, insurance applications, accounts payable, etc. Must be adept at multi-tasking; proficient in MS Office/Word/Excel/PowerPoint Great Plains exp a +. 20 hrs/wk beginning end of Jan 2009. Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org FAX: 248.848.3771 Director, HR - ACCGTG, P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094</p> <p>Customer Service/Office Assistant AVIDO, Inc., a Troy-based A/V company, has a full-time position available for a person with at least 2 years of documented customer service experience. 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Gingerbread spices up the holiday season

Among all the holiday memories held near to our hearts, the gingerbread house is for some, perhaps, the most memorable of them all. Building a gingerbread house is often a group effort, with friends or family members coming together to share time while creating a tasty work of art.

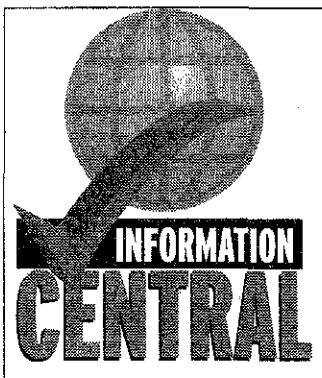
The ginger spice was first brought from Malaysia to Greece around 2000 B.C.E., by wealthy Greek families, in the form of spiced honey cakes. In the 11th century ginger was introduced to the Europeans who added a bread crumb mixture to the spice and gingerbread was born. During the Middle Ages, as Germany became the center of spice trade in Europe, ginger was in abundance and crafters began to use gingerbread to create different shapes. When molasses was added to gingerbread in the 17th century its appeal spread. It is believed that Columbus brought gingerbread to the New World.

If all this talk about spices has got you thinking about the history of the spice trade, why not check out Jack Turner's, *Spice: The History of Temptation*, or Michael Kronld's, *The Taste of Conquest: The Rise and Fall of the Three Great Cities of Spice*.

However, if all this talk about spices has turned your thoughts to food and the holidays, maybe a tastier list of titles is in order. The library has several titles that might be of interest including: Steven Stellingwerf's, *The Gingerbread Book* or Teresa Layman's, *Gingerbread for All Seasons*.

If you are ready to take a leap and create your own gingerbread house, pick up some tips in Christa Currie's, *Gingerbread Houses: A Complete Guide to Baking, Building, and Decorating*, or Aaron Morgan's, *Making Great Gingerbread Houses: Delicious Designs from Cabins to Castles, from Lighthouses to Tree House*, or Nonnie Cargas' *Gingerbread Houses: Baking & Building Memories*.

No time this year to create your own masterpiece? Why not stop by the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House to view their "Homes for the Holidays" display of gingerbread houses during the holiday season. (The Edsel



and Eleanor Ford House is one of the Museum Adventure Pass participants.)

For more information about gingerbread, spices, holiday celebrations, or any other subject, give us a call at (734) 326-6123 or stop by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland at 6123 Central City Parkway. Our Web site is www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities:

Musical Performance, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. Relax and enjoy an afternoon of piano music performed by local talented youth. Everyone is welcome. No reservations necessary.

Think Well Workshop, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Featured speaker Dr. Brian K. Brackney, D.C., talks about how changing your mind can change your life. Learn to challenge old concepts and discover new ideas and thoughts in this Think Well Workshop.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library, every Wednesday, 7 p.m. No matter your skill level, stop by and enjoy an evening of fun and friendship.

Computer Classes: Dec. 8, Internet 101, 2 p.m.; Dec. 9, Introduction to Microsoft Word, 11 a.m.; Dec. 10, Computer Basics, 11 a.m.; Dec. 10, Excel for the Beginner, 2 p.m.; Dec. 11, Introduction to E-mail, 11 a.m.; Dec. 11, Internet 101, 2 p.m. Stop by the library for a complete description and requirements for all classes. All computer classes are hands-on. Space is limited. Register in advance at the Reference Desk. (734) 326-6123.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Marilyn Kwik. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nutcracker Ballet

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

Craft Shows

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

New Year's Eve

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

Prison Family Support Group

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

loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com.

Friends of Rouge

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

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

Charity casino

If you are looking for a place to show your skills at Texas Hold 'Em, the hottest game in town, the Canton Charity Casino, Western Wayne County's only charity poker room at the Shark Club

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

on Ford in Canton every Thursday through Sunday. The Canton Charity Casino offers nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games and a venue for players of all skill levels. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the State of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. The hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.) and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.) The Shark Club is at 42070 Ford, just west of Haggerty in Canton. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend can call (734) 502-7033 or send an e-mail to spokertb@gmail.com.

Class reunion

Garden City High School Class of 1969 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight

Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gchst989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

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

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Dealing with IRS now is better than waiting, worrying

Dear Rick: I have not filed a tax return since the mid-1990s. I have no excuse, it's just that one thing led to another and now it's been over 10 years. I recently got married and told my wife about this. She is frantic and says I should immediately contact the IRS. I talked to



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

a friend who said it would be best not to do anything. He said if the IRS hasn't caught you so far, the likelihood of being caught is very slim. My wife said I should ask for

your opinion.

You do need to work out a resolution with the Internal Revenue Service. That does not necessarily mean that you should immediately contact the IRS, but rather begin the process of working out a resolution.

Your friend's advice is irresponsible at best. By not filing your tax returns you may be subject to substantial fines and penalties and even potentially the loss of your freedom. The fact the IRS has not caught you to date does not necessarily mean they will not catch you.

If the IRS does catch you and finds that you are not in compliance with the law, you will have a much more difficult and painful experience as opposed to you voluntarily filing your past returns.

In the situation at hand, generally I would not recommend that someone go to the IRS themselves. Even though I have found the IRS to be much easier to deal with today than they were in the past, it still is a government entity and there continues to be an adversarial relationship between the IRS and taxpayers.

Consult a professional such as a tax attorney to help you resolve the issues with the IRS. Being represented by an attorney who deals with the IRS provides you with a professional who won't be intimidated, understands how they operate and whose job is to protect you and only you.

Over the years, I have seen many individuals who have not filed tax returns for many years. The one thing they have in common is that they are constantly looking over their shoulder fearing the IRS will discover their deception. This is no way to live.

When people eventually filed their tax returns, not only did they experience a huge sense of relief by coming clean with the IRS, they also found they did not owe nearly as much as they had originally feared. The one comment I hear from people who settle with the IRS is, "I should have done this sooner."

If you do make a mistake in preparing your returns, or even if you have never filed your returns, it is always better to voluntarily come clean with the IRS as opposed to waiting to be caught. The IRS is much more forgiving in waiving penalties and working out payment plans with taxpayer's who voluntarily step forward. Anyone who has issues with the Internal Revenue Service, should be proactive and work with a professional.

One reason people sometimes fail to file a tax return is they do not have the money to pay the taxes owed. Even in those situations it pays to file the return. The IRS has payment plans and does waive taxes in case of hardship.

We all hate paying taxes, however they are a fact of life. Trying to evade taxes either by commission or omission will not save you money and it will cost you in dollars and in aggravation.

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

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Friends to gather for candlelight vigil

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

In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor a candle-lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Sunday, Dec. 14, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

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

The ceremony will include the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry

and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the world-wide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

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

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

For more information or to register a child, call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty, tcf-candlelight@yahoo.com or (734) 981-4528.



The Compassionate Friends sponsor a Christmas tree in Kellogg Park that features ornaments remembering children to be honored at the candlelight vigil, set for Dec. 14 in downtown Plymouth.



PHOTO BY GROUPPHOTOS.COM

The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team of Plymouth took its act to Broadway Thanksgiving Day, marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Giving their regards

Millions watch Briefcase Drill Team's Broadway stroll

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Fred Hill waited anxiously on Broadway in New York City for his 17-member Briefcase Drill Team's turn to step off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, he was approached by someone walking by.

"We were waiting for the parade to begin and enthralled with all the activity and up walks (actor) Alec Baldwin," Hill said. "He said, 'Old guys in dark blue suits with briefcases ... you better be good.'"

By Hill's account, the Briefcase Drill Team — a parody on men who wear business suits — never missed a beat. "The crowd reaction was bet-

ter, or more so, than we've ever had before," said Hill of the 3 million people who crowded the 2½-mile parade route. "That's something we didn't anticipate because we were new to them ... but they got it in a hurry."

"The crowd was 40-50 people deep and lined up on the side streets about half-a-block," he said. "And there were people 30 stories up watching us."

NBC-TV, which telecasts the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, gave each entry less than 30 seconds on camera at 34th and Broadway.

"During rehearsal Tuesday night, they had decided what moves they wanted us to do in about 25 seconds," Hill said.

"We added a few and they loved them, so we ended up doubling the amount of time we had originally."

Lee Harrison of Canton Township, who has been a member of the Drill Team for five years, said it was an exciting experience.

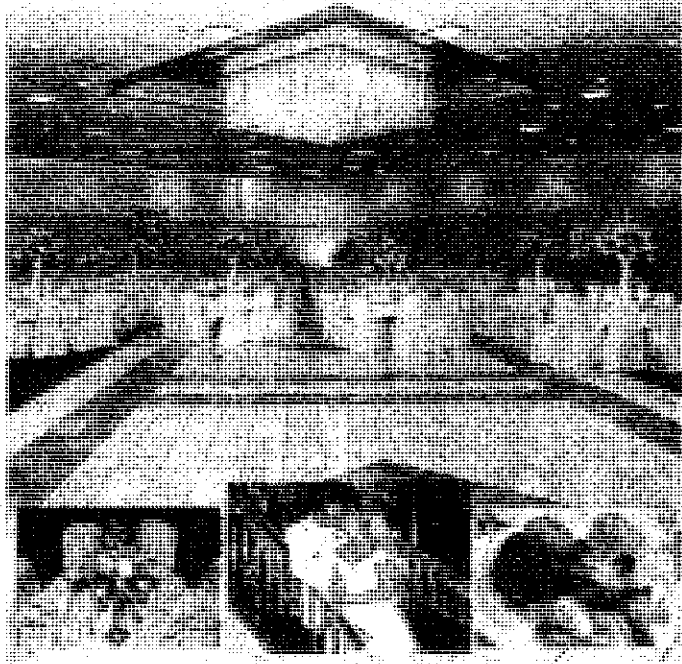
"I always thought the Detroit Thanksgiving parade and the others we march in were pretty special, but there's a different level at the Macy's parade," Harrison said. "It's really well done, with an enormity and excitement you don't see at the other parades. Everything in New York is bigger and more grandiose."

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Sunday, December 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Crusaders finish 0-3, bid 3 seniors adieu

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three seniors made their final appearances Thursday night as the Madonna University women's volleyball season came to a close in the final round of pool play at the NAIJA National Championships in Sioux City, Ia. Second-seed Biola (Calif.) University improved to 30-3 overall defeating MU in four games, 25-15, 26-28, 5-212 and 25-19, to advance to Friday's elimination round at the Tyson Events Center.

Meghan Warkentin led the victorious Eagles with 15 kills.

Eleventh-seeded MU, which lost all three matches in Pool B, finishes the year 35-7 overall. Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Year Lubovj Tihomirova (Riga Latvia) closed out her stellar four-year career with 20 kills in the loss, while fellow senior Whitney Fuelling (Milford) added 13 to lead MU. Senior Stephanie Parslow (Macomb Dakota) also had one block-assist in her final match as a Crusader.

Setter Inta Grinvalds finished with 43 assist-to-kills, while Brynn Kerr (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College)

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

and Amanda Koszela had 16 and 15 kills, respectively.

"There was balance overall because of the play-in games and there were no weak teams which made it a really great tourney," MU coach Jerry Abraham said. "We played great tonight. The games were close. It was a great match and we played to win. We played tough, played hard and hit tough. I wish I could say we played bad, but we didn't. It just wasn't good enough. I don't feel like and 0-3 team."

On Wednesday, it was another heartbreaking five-set loss for the Crusaders.

Unseeded Lubbock Christian (Tex.), getting a balanced hitting attack, downed the No. 11-seeded Crusaders, 28-26, 23-25, 25-16, 15-25, 16-14.

Kelsey Odell led Lady Chapparals (24-5) with 18 kills, while Courtney Yonke finished with a game-high 29 digs. Childress also had 16 digs.

Mary McGinnis paced MU with a career-high 26 kills, while Tihomirova and Fuelling collected 22 and 19, respectively.

Grinvalds finished the night

with 62 assists and 12 digs, while Kerr and Liz Dempsey (Livonia Franklin) recorded 20 and 15 digs, respectively.

"We lose three great seniors that will be hard to replace," Abraham said. "Both Lubovj and Stephanie have been to four straight National Tournament, while Whitney (Fuelling) has been to three. It will be hard to replace them, especially offensively. We need to get attackers, a middle and outside hitter, along with a setter for next year. But we have 12 players coming back."

SHOWCASES

Showcase at Edgar

The Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League will stage the first of its two Mini Showcases Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Matchups at the Stadium Rink include Novi-Detroit Catholic Central vs. Warren DeLaSalle (7 p.m.); Birmingham Brother Rice vs. Livonia Stevenson (9 p.m.); while at the B Rink will be University of Detroit-Jesuit vs. Port Huron Northern (6:30 p.m.) and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook vs. Grosse Pointe North (8:30 p.m.).

Tickets for the Mini Showcase are \$6 (adults) and \$3 (seniors and students).

The second MIHL Showcase will be Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Edgar and will include Livonia Churchill on the schedule replacing Stevenson.

"Most of our teams have a long history with Stevenson and Churchill teams - they are natural rivals, they participate in the MIHL Prep Showcase, and as a league, we respect their teams and coaches," CC coach Todd Johnson said.

Bulldog linebacker

Ferris State University senior linebacker Jeff Hollandsworth (Livonia Stevenson) recently completed his football career as the Bulldogs' 15th all-time career leader in tackles (296) and 10th all-time in assisted tackles (157).

Hollandsworth, who had 41 career starts, missed his final game of the season to a knee injury.

He earned All-Great Lakes Athletic Intercollegiate Conference honorable mention honors this season as the Bulldogs finished 6-5 overall and 5-5 in the GLIAC.

A three-time All-GLIAC Academic Team selection, Hollandsworth will graduate this month from Ferris with a degree in business.

Balanced attack bolsters Franklin

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Redford Thurston was geared to stop Livonia Franklin's own version of double-trouble - twins Brianna and Brittany Taylor.

The senior duo was held to a combined 14 points, but the Eagles couldn't stop the rest of the Patriots, who rolled Friday night to a comfortable 55-31 non-league girls basketball triumph.

Sophomore forward Chelsea Williams led Franklin, now 2-0, with 18 points and eight steals.

Brittany Milican added nine points, while Brittany Taylor had eight. Brianna Taylor and Mary Gilliland each contributed six.

Rennica Lee Merida, a 6-2 senior center, and Chelsea Carradine, a 5-10 junior guard, each scored 10 for the Eagles, who slipped to 1-1 overall.

"They (Thurston) had some big girls, but I thought we rebounded well," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We

moved the ball and had good spacing."

Thurston came out with a box-and-one defense on Brianna Taylor, but the Eagles fell behind 18-5 after one quarter and couldn't recover.

Franklin broke it open with another 18-5 run in the third period.

"Brittany and Brianna didn't have their best games offensively, but defensively they were a force to be reckoned with," McCall said. "Things got clogged up a little with our offense, but the other girls adjusted and came through as a team. Chelsea Williams was outstanding on both ends."

CHURCHILL 51, GARDEN CITY 29: Senior point-guard Lindsey Graciak showed no rust from the long volleyball season as Livonia Churchill (1-0) opened its 2008-09 season with a convincing 51-29 victory Thursday over visiting Cougars (0-2).

Graciak, who helped the Chargers to the Class A semifinals, which ended Nov. 21, scored a game-high 12 points.

"She played well, handled the ball

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Brittany Taylor gets bopped in the head by Thurston's Megan McMann, who attempts to stop her during Friday's non-league game. Also in on the play underneath the basket is Franklin's Seneca Scott.

Clarenceville's Jamie Stewart lays one in during Monday's Class B district game against Detroit Renaissance as Ian Larkin defends on the play.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

High aspirations Clarenceville cagers puts their skills to test

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a new season and a new way of looking at things for coach Corey McKendry and Clarenceville's varsity boys basketball team.

Last year's Lonnie Fairfax-led Trojans finished 18-3 and easily captured the Metro Conference - only to be knocked out by Detroit Renaissance in the first-round of the Class B districts.

McKendry and his cast of key returnees - such as Jamie Stewart, Jeremy Gainer and Darryl Whitaker - won't be happy with a repeat performance in 2008-09. This year's squad is hungry to make it all the way to Michigan State University's Breslin Center and be viewed as an elite program.

"(Winning the Metro) is defini-



McKendry

tely a goal," McKendry said. "Last year I think it was our main goal. But that's changed. Now, we want to get our program to where we're competing at a statewide level, whether it's for a district or a region."

Stewart, who McKendry considers a strong candidate for Mr. Basketball, is just as driven for major team success. He already is there individually, having averaged 22.5 points and six rebounds per game last season.

"I just want to go out there and play every night and compete at a high level, make my teammates better," Stewart emphasized. "Just go out there and compete and show we're better than the confer-

ence we're playing in. We're really good, you know?"

To help the Trojans overcome any "conference inferiority complex" that goes with playing in the Metro, McKendry booked his players for plenty of tough summer action against squads such as Orchard Lake St. Mary, Detroit Pershing, Romulus and Clarkston.

The third-year head coach noted that he wanted to make sure the Trojans were "focused on playing at a really high level" and geared for anything the postseason might throw at them.

Stewart, a 6-4 wing guard, added that the summer slate of games "got us into the mindset of playing good teams. We know what we have to do to get there and be one of those elite teams in the state."

Please see **CLARENCEVILLE, B2**

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CLARENCEVILLE

FROM PAGE B1

The first test is 7 p.m. Tuesday at Taylor Kennedy of the Mega Conference.

McKendry is confident his team is better and deeper than ever.

"We're going to be fast, we're going to be pressing, and running and trying to get up and down the court as fast as possible," McKendry said. "We're not real big, but I think we have the best senior in the state."

"If we get up and down fast, and teams aren't able to double-team him (Stewart), I think we'll be tough to stop."

One player with size and strength who will need to be an interior force is 6-2 Gainer, who averaged 8.7 points and seven rebounds per game last season. He is the only forward slotted for the starting five.

"Jeremy knows his ticket is football, but if he wants to he could be a college basketball player, no question," said McKendry about Gainer. "He's just a tremendous leader for us, he's our hardest worker."

"He's just one of those kids who is a joy to coach."

Clarenceville's starting lineup probably will feature four guards.

In addition to Stewart - described by McKendry as a "pure scorer" and complete offensive player - are 6-2 sophomore point-guard Anthony Lavallis, 5-11 senior Whitaker and 6-1 senior Nathan Clark.

Obviously, how quickly Lavallis learns the point position will be crucial to the Trojans' early success.

If the struggles at all, the Trojans have 5-8 junior defensive specialist Levonte Brooks ready to step in at point guard. Brooks also will see minutes elsewhere in the backcourt.

The Trojans will also lean on senior forwards and third-year players Josh Robinson (6-0) and Matt Garant (6-1) to provide some size when needed.

Another player worth keeping an eye on is 6-7 sophomore forward Jalen Reynolds, a varsity newcomer.

"We're not rushing him," the coach said. "He's got a chance to be pretty good around here."

McKendry is banking on talent and motivation more than making up for the dearth of physical size.

"We're very athletic, we've got nine guys that can dunk the basketball," he said. "We just have to make sure we're in proper position, (that) we can get above the rim to get rebounds and cover some bigger people."

BOYS BASKETBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Jim Solak, seventh year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 12-9.
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Rosenick (first-team All-Area); Andrew Vagnetti (fourth-team All-Area); Ryan Whitlum, Daran Carey, Nick Seger.
Leading returnees: Ryan Woods, 6-0 Sr. G; Scott Senczynszyn, 6-0 Sr. G; Alex Bay, 6-2 Sr. F; Cameron Norscia, 6-7 Sr. C.
Promising newcomers: Adam Bedell, 6-6 Jr. F; Raynard Allen, 6-0 Jr. PG; Tony Frezzell, 6-0 Jr. G; Steve Hovermale, 6-1 Jr. F.
Solak's 2008-09 outlook: "The kids are playing hard. We were hit hard by graduation, kids moving out of state, and injuries. We're getting after it in practice and we had a great scrimmage. They're playing together as a team. We don't have a ton of experience. I like this group and they like each other, which is important. We're extremely athletic, but they have to get used to each other, play together and learn as a team. We have some size, but we're going to go as far as our guards go. And they've been doing a great job so far."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Jeremy Rheault, second year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 5-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Matthey (fourth-team All-Area); Kevin Percin.
Leading returnees: Connor Leidal, 6-4 Sr. F; Jeffery Poole, 6-3 Sr. F (14.3 ppg); Nate Coleman, 6-4 Jr. C; Garrett Gumm, 5-9 Sr. G; Kyle Kopja, 6-0 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: Mike Gadsby, 6-0 Jr. G; Issac Cadet, 6-2 Sr. F; Andy McCaffery, 6-3 Jr. G; Hudson Cadet, 6-8 Jr. F; Jack Chinavare, 6-3 Jr. F; Tom Percin, 5-9 Jr. G; Robert Freed, 6-0 Jr. G; Anthony Crechiolo, 6-0 Jr. G; Nick Binder, 6-4 Jr. F.
Rheault's 2008-09 outlook: "We will be better. Our skills and understanding have improved. Offensively, while sharing the ball, we have to increase our three-point shooting from last year, which was very low last year (26 percent), along with free throw problems (62 percent). Our opponents also shot 100 more free throw attempts. Poole and Leidal are both very good scorers as drivers, around the rim, and from the perimeter. We have made adjustments with this group to defend drives and give us a better rebounding chance. We have to play hard and aggressive every game. This is a great group of player who enjoy each other and have been working hard this season."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Mike Allie, second year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 9-12.
Notable losses to graduation: None.
Leading returnees: Ricky Chrzasz, 5-10 Sr. G; Gary Cobb, 6-3 Sr. F; Jordan El-Sabah, 6-4 Jr. F; Mark Grisa, 6-0 Sr. F; Bobby Naubert, 5-10 Jr. G; Brian Rowe, 6-1 Sr. F; Kendal Snow, 6-4 Sr. F; Austin White, 5-10 Jr. G.
Promising newcomers: Kyle Bambach, 5-10 Jr. G; Michael Beyer, 6-2 Jr. F; Jonathan Campbell, 5-10 Soph. G; Nick Marzec, 5-11 Jr. G; Frank Sopko, 6-1 Jr. F; Joe Swingle, 6-4 Jr. F; Nick Tomasi, 5-11 Jr. G.
Allie's 2008-09 outlook: "I am looking forward to a special year where the entire team grows together on and off the court. We have tremendous athleticism and our depth gives us an opportunity to attack teams in different ways and will make it more difficult for opposing teams to attack us. In our practices, we've continued to get better in all facets of the game, and as the schedule picks up, I expect to see our development show itself each contest this season. A renewed focus on defensive pressure and intensity will put us in a competitive position. We've been working very hard, day in and day out, and now we're not just coming out to play - we're coming out to win."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Dan Young, third year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 19-3.
Titles won last year: WLA A (Lakes Division).
Notable losses to graduation: Earl Hardison (first-team All-Area); Keshawn Martin (second-team All-Area); Stefan Marken (third-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Austin Anderson, 6-2 Sr. G; Jeremy Langford, 6-2 Jr. G-F; Derrick Crosby, 6-2 Sr. F; Dorian Prather, 6-4 Sr. F-C; Jon Swagerty, 6-5 Sr. F; Brandyn Jenkins, 6-4 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: Marquise Graves, 5-8 Fr. G.
Young's 2008-09 outlook: "This is a great group of kids. We have good chemistry and we're trying to continue our tradition of team defense and sharing the ball. Austin Anderson has started at guard since the 10th-grade. He's a one-two combo guard who can score and defend. Langford is a great athlete (lined 4.4 for football) and is an outstanding defender and improved shooter. Crosby is a great rebound, defender and leader, while Prather scores inside and goes out to the three-point line. Swagerty is a good athlete, defender and rebounder

who is also a shot-blocker and slasher. Jenkins is long, a shot-blocker, defender and rebounder, while Graves is a one-two combo guard. He's quick with a great feel for the game. He shoots well and is physically strong."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Wayne Woodard, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 19-3.
Titles won last year: Western Lakes Activities Association and Western Division.
Notable losses to graduation: Mike Lee (first-team All-Area); Martez Abney (second-team All-Area); Jeremy Lovelady (fourth-team All-Area); John Hill, Matt Lewis, Willie Pompey, Ryan Collop.
Leading returnees: Robert Woodson, 6-0 Sr. G (third-team All-Area); Daniel Hill, 6-3 Jr. F; Jimmel Bennett, 6-2 Sr. F; Jesse Dorow, 6-3 Sr. F; Joe Barton, 5-8 Sr. G; Delorean Holland, 6-2 Sr. F; Jeremy Vandegrift, 6-2 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: Mike Safford, 5-8 Sr. G; Jamil Strickland, 5-11 Soph.; Jamele Robinson, 6-2 Jr. F; Derric Horton, 6-2 Jr. F; Reggie Reeves, 6-1 Jr. G; Nick Mills, 6-5 Jr. C; Jon Bausley, 5-10 Jr. G.

Woodard's 2008-09 outlook: "I think Robert (Woodson) is kind of a sizzler giant. People don't know how good a player he is and what a good teammate he was last year. He was the glue for us last year. Even though he was a junior, he was a captain because he leads by example. With the exception Woodson and Hill, we're inexperienced. We're learning on the run. We're pretty small, so rebounding is a concern along with consistency. We haven't been able to string a couple good practices in a row until this week. We're trying to be consistent in our daily approach."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Corey McKendry, third year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 18-3.
Titles won last year: Metro Conference.
Notable losses to graduation: Lonnie Fairfax (second-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Jamie Stewart, 6-4 Sr. G-F (first-team All-Area, 22.4 ppg; 6.2 rbs.); Jeremy Gainer, 6-3 Sr. C (third-team All-Area); Darryl Whitaker, 5-11 Sr. G; Levonte Brooks, 5-8 Jr. G; Nathan Clark, 6-1 Sr. G; Josh Robinson, 6-0 Sr. F; Matt Garant, 6-1 Sr. F; Randy Aubrey, 5-10 Sr. PG; Corey Reynolds, 6-2 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Anthony Lavallis, 6-2 Soph. PG; Jalen Reynolds, 6-7 Soph. F.
McKendry's 2008-09 outlook: "(Winning the Metro) is definitely a goal. Last year I think it was our main goal. But that's changed. Now, we want to get our program to where we're competing at a statewide level, whether it's for a district or a region. ... We're going to be fast, we're going to be pressing, and running and trying to get up and down the court as fast as possible. We're not real big, but I think we have the best senior (Stewart) in the state."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND
Head coach: Brandon Bekius, second year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 6-17.
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Baglow, Nate Bachert.
Leading returnees: Sam Ahlersmeyer, 6-2 Sr. F; Josh Kruger, 6-0 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Austin Baglow, 5-10 Jr. G; Gage Flanery, 5-10 Jr. G.
Bekius's 2008-09 outlook: "Collectively, we are a little bit smaller than previous years but we're more athletic. Our success is going to depend on how well we dictate the tempo of the game. Our goal is to play more of an up-tempo style and create offense through defensive pressure. In order to successfully play this style, rebounding has to be a priority. We must not allow teams second-chance opportunities and take advantage of missed shots by scoring in transition."

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Head coach: Jim Ott, ninth year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (West Division).
Last year's overall record: 4-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Jones, Gerhard Press.
Leading returnees: Aaron Howell, 5-10 Soph. F; Kyle Tacia, 6-4 Sr. F; Chad Fieck, 6-5 Sr. C; Austin Tranchida, 5-8 Sr. G; Bryan Gruenewald, 5-10 Jr. G; Tyler Wagaman, 5-1 Jr. G; Mark St. John, 5-10 Jr. G.
Promising newcomers: Ian Lee, 5-9 Soph. G; Matt Kempainen, 5-11 Jr. F; Matt St. John, 6-1 Soph. F-C; Jacob Thompson, 5-10 Jr. F; Andy Falk, 5-11 Sr. F.
Ott's 2008-09 outlook: "Last year we had a tough season. However, we were competitive all year long and lost a lot of close games. Our record last year does not reflect the growth we had as a team and look forward to building on that growth this year. So far that growth has been very evident in practice as we try to adapt to the changes we see in the physical growth and their athletic abilities. Our conference was a very tough division last year and looks to have a lot of changes this year as well. We are hoping to do very well in our conference and are looking forward to an over-500 season."

Flint Powers Catholic topples Ladywood

Flint Powers Catholic came out nailing four first-quarter 3-pointers en route to a 53-40 non-league girls basketball victory over host Livonia Ladywood.

The Chargers made their 22-8 lead hold up to post the season-opening win over the Blazers, who fell to 0-2 overall. Lindsey McPherson paced a balanced Powers scoring attack with 10 points. Megan Rybar and Stephanie Kelly added nine apiece.

"We put pressure on them early, but their dribble-drive penetration hurt us because everything was going down with their outside shooting," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "Once we made an adjustment we play even with them the rest of the game."

"Our intensity was better tonight (than Tuesday's 48-24 loss to Franklin) and I thought overall we played pretty well." Cara Miller, a freshman guard, scored eight of her team-high 10 in the third quarter as Ladywood cut the deficit to 42-34.

GIRLS HOOPS

Molly Gacloch and Mary Fitzgerald added eight and seven, respectively.

RU 65, CLARENCEVILLE 37: Redford Union's defensive pressure Friday night proved too much for visiting Livonia Clarenceville (1-1) as the Panthers (2-0) rolled to a non-conference victory.

The Panthers, racking up 27 steals on the night, built a 25-8 lead after one quarter and padded that to a 43-14 margin at the break.

Senior forward Jasmine Johnson led RU with 20 points and 10 rebounds, while junior guard Nakia McKinney added nine points and 10 rebounds.

Junior guard Ashley Devon led the Trojans with 14 points, while senior forward Marlene Azar contributed 11 points and 13 rebounds.

INTER-CITY 56, HURON VALLEY 23: On Thursday, Korryne Claypool poured in a game-high 23 points and Amanda Ison contributed 10 points and 12 rebounds to lead Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (2-0) past Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-2) in a crossover game between Michigan Independent Athletic Conference teams.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

and played good defense," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said.

Kia Griffin contributed 10 for the Chargers, who led 17-6 after one quarter and 31-12 at halftime.

"We ran our offense pretty well, but we missed some makeable shots," Jenkins said. "We pressured the ball and got some baskets off transition. But we gave up too many offensive rebounds."

BRIGHTON 58, WAYNE 19: On Friday, Wayne Memorial (0-1) couldn't overcome a 17-0 first-quarter deficit in its season opener against the Bulldogs (2-0).

Dayna Modrzynski led Brighton with 12 points, while Sarah Spring contributed nine.

"They're fundamentally strong," Wayne coach Leslie Williams said

of Brighton. "They don't miss in the red zone - they finish shots. But their coach said we played hard every minute and that we were better than last year."

Williams used all 13 players with senior guard leading the Zebras in scoring with nine points.

EDEL FORD 60, STEVENSON 36: On Friday, Michelle Gaedke scored 18 and Charisse Carr added 16 to propel host Dearborn Edsel Ford (1-0) to a season-opening win over Livonia Stevenson (0-2).

The Thunderbirds led 39-25 at halftime and broke it open with a 13-0 third-quarter run.

Kaylee McGrath, a senior center, led Stevenson with 13 points, while Tasi Newton provided a spark with seven points.

"Tasi hand the ball well, was strong defensive and brought a lot of energy," said Tripp, whose team was 11-of-19 from the foul line.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL	Girls
Tuesday, Dec. 9 Churchill at Dearborn, 7 p.m. Franklin at Wat. Kettering, 7 p.m. Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Taylor Kennedy, 7 p.m. Luth. South at Huron Valley, 7 p.m. Roeper at Luth. Westland, 7:30 p.m.	Churchill vs. G.P. North at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena, 5:45 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 10 John Glenn Quad Meet, 5 p.m. Livonia City Meet at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m. Wayne at Gib. Carlson, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m. Milford at Franklin, 7 p.m. Belleville at John Glenn, 7 p.m. (St. Joseph Mich. Lutheran Tourney) Howardsville vs. Academy of Flint, 6:30 p.m. Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 11 Clarenceville, Gab. Richard, Clawson at Lutheran Westland Quad, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Howell Invitational, 9 a.m. Avondale Invitational, 9 a.m. EMU Duals, 9 a.m. Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m. BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING Monday, Dec. 8 Churchill at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 Garden City at Wayne, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 John Glenn at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Rocket Relays at John Glenn, noon.
Wednesday, Dec. 10 Churchill at Dearborn, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Oak Park (M.S.), 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 Hartland at Franklin, 7 p.m. Ladywood at Monroe St. Mary, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Farmington at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Wayne at Milford, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at S. Field Christian, 7 p.m.	BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING Monday, Dec. 8 Wayne vs. Clarenceville at Country Lanes, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 Wayne vs. Lakeland at Westland Bowl, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 John Glenn vs. Pinckney, Wayne vs. Lakeland, at Whilmara Lanes, noon. GIRLS FIGURE SKATING Sunday, Dec. 14 Team Competition at Hartland, 8 a.m. GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER Saturday, Dec. 13 Ladywood at Harrison, TBA. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 10 Glen Oaks CC at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 (Mich. Edu. Credit Union at Madonna) Taylor-Ft. Wayne vs. Rochester, 6 p.m. Madonna vs. Holy Cross (Ind.), 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Mich. Educational Credit Union Tourney at Madonna, 6 & 8 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 10 Madonna at Marygrove College, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13 Luth. Westland at Ply. Christian, 3:30 p.m. Mich. Lutheran Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Monday, Dec. 8 John Glenn at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m. Garden City at Wayne, 7 p.m. Huron Valley at Luth. South, 7 p.m. Edsel Ford at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 Churchill at Dearborn, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Oak Park (M.S.), 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 Hartland at Franklin, 7 p.m. Ladywood at Monroe St. Mary, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Farmington at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Wayne at Milford, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at S. Field Christian, 7 p.m.	PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Dec. 9 Stevenson vs. Brother Rice at Edgar Arena, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 Franklin vs. Northville at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Ladywood vs. Ann Arbor at A.A. Veterans Arena, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 Churchill vs. South Lyon at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Stevenson vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Ladywood vs. Ply. Canton-Salem at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.



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Valentine's Day/Celebrate Mom
- Fri. Feb. 20 vs. Chicago** 7:35 pm
Get Out! Get Active!
- Sat. Feb. 28 vs. New Jersey** 7:35 pm
Family Fun Night
- Sun. Mar. 8 vs. New Jersey** 4:35 pm
Scorch's Birthday Party
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 A145B- Randall Frye- TV, Microwave, Fax Machine
 A175- Gina Solomon- TV, Stereo, Safe
 A332- David Moraniec- 2 Speakers, Computers, Stereo
 A353- John Johnson- Computer, 20 Bags
 B133- Randall Frye- Fax Machine, Shop Vac, 20 boxes
 B142- Jerisha Hawkins- Bike, Table, 30 Boxes
 C123- Andrew Weaver- Tools, Hutch, Microwave
 C191- Latesha Davis- Stereo, Dresser, 3 Totes
 C194- Mark Hughey- Tool chest, Computer, Exercise Equipment
 D166- Kenneth Siebert- Display Racks, Display Case, Tote
 E150- Marita MacNall- Volvo, Generator, Tools
 E155- David Quarles- 2 Dressers, Mattress, Record Player
 RV10-Randolph Valentino- 1960 Grey Cadillac
 RV11-Randolph Valentino-Ford F-7
 RV50-Beverly Brown- 1984 Ford Bronco
 RV53- Beverly Brown- 1955 Mercury Villager

Publish: November 30 & December 7, 2008 OEG0804261-2x4

All-Observer swimmers set high standards, low times

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Lauren Seroka, Fr., Salem (200 freestyle): Seroka, a 4.0 student, established herself as the most successful freshman in the history of Salem girls swimming. She not only set varsity records in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle and as a member of the 400-free-style relay quartet, but she earned All-State honors in the 200 free (third place) and the 500 free (second place). Seroka was the KLA conference champion in the 200 IM and she took second in the 100 butterfly.

"Lauren was always a big part of the team, every practice, competition or team function," said Salem coach Chuck Olson.

Ashley Gordon, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (200 IM): The junior enjoyed a highly productive Division 1 state meet placing eighth in the 200 IM in 2:10.75 (after going 2:09.14 in the prelims), along with a seventh in the 100 backstroke (1:00.18).

She was also runner-up in the 200 IM and third in the 100 backstroke at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Ashley was our team MVP for 2008," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said.

Kari Schmitt, Soph., Canton (50 freestyle): The 10th-grader enjoyed a stellar season for the Chiefs. She finished first in the 50 freestyle and fifth in the 100 freestyle at the KLA South Division championship. Schmitt qualified for the Division 1 state meet in the 100 free and was part of Canton's state-qualifying 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

"Kari's times have all dropped this year," said Canton coach Ed Weber. "She's a talented athlete with a lot of promise in swimming. I look forward to seeing what she can do next year."

Carla McNamara, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (diving): The junior finished 10th in the Division 1 state finals (381.05 points) after placing fourth in the regional and first in both the Kensington Conference (395.45) and KLA Central meets.

She also posted an 11-dive area best of 413.75.

"Carla is a very talented diver," Phill said.

Ashley Sells, Sr., Westland Glenn (100 butterfly): The four-time All-Area pick was 24th in Division 1 and posted a personal best of 1:01.41. She also won the KLA South Division title and was fourth in the KLA Kensington Conference.

As a junior she took fifth in Division 1 where she holds the school record in the 100 butterfly.

Sells qualified for the D1 state meet in the 200 IM (27th overall) after posting a season-best 2:16.46 to qualify.

"We will miss Ashley," Glenn coach Randy Ferguson said. "She has blessed us with her talent and leadership here at Glenn. I wish her the best of luck in whatever she decides to do."

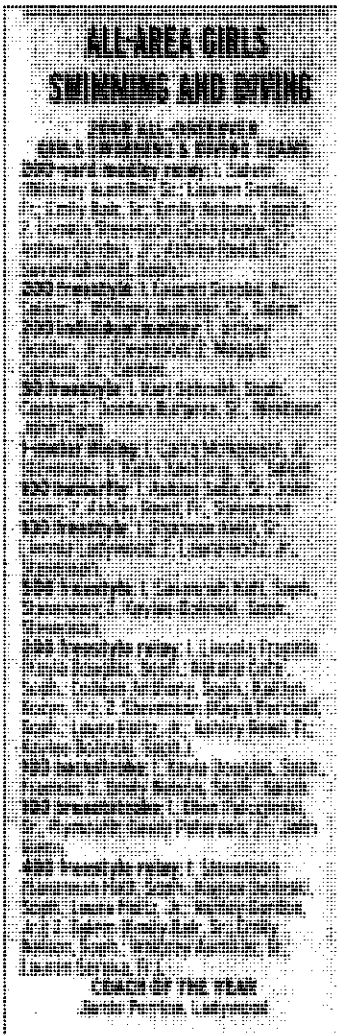
Shannon Kelly, Sr., Liv. Ladywood (100 freestyle): The senior captain placed in two events at the Division 3 state meet including a 12th in the 50 freestyle (25.25) and a 16th in the 100 freestyle (54.87).

She also placed sixth and eighth, respectively, in both events at the Catholic League meet breaking school records established in 1995.

Kelly also was a member of Ladywood's school record 200 medley (1:58.63), 200 freestyle (1:46.45) and 400 freestyle (57.38).

"Shannon took her swimming to a new level this year," Ladywood coach Jamie Perrine said. "Last year she did not make the top ten times list at the end of the season and this year she is at the top of it. She was determined to leave her mark at Ladywood and her hard work earned her just that with five school records. She's a great leader for the team in-and-out of the pool, and I'm proud to have been her coach."

Savannah Hatt, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (500 freestyle): The 10th-grader took third in Division 1 (5:05.39) and also posted the area's second-best time in the 200 freestyle (1:56.13) with a run-



ner-up finish in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Savannah had an excellent year and has a bright future," Phill said. "Hard work is something she clings to. Finishing third in the state says a lot for the next two years."

Kayla Douglas, Soph., Liv. Franklin (100 backstroke): So much for the so-called sophomore jinx as the 10th-grader took fourth in Division 1 in the 100 backstroke (58.91) and added a 12th in the 100 butterfly (1:00.43).

Douglas was also runner-up in the 100 backstroke at the conference meet.

"Kayla really began to develop as a team leader in the water," Franklin coach Kevin Hafner said. "It was very exciting to see her break 1:00.0 for the first time in the backstroke at the state meet. She put a good effort into all of the practices this year and it really paid off for her at the end of the season. Kayla is becoming much more focused on her goals. This will help her to continue to be a strong competitor over the next two years."

Ellen Palczynski, Sr., Plymouth (100 breaststroke): The senior earned the distinction as the school's first All-State girls swimmer as she placed eighth at the Division 1 state meet in the 100-yard breaststroke. A four-year varsity performer, Palczynski became just the eighth Plymouth swimmer to earn All-State consideration.

"Elle has been an excellent swimmer and captain for us," said Plymouth coach Doug Schade. "She improved her time in most of her events every year she was on our team. She is one of the most gracious and kind young ladies I've had the opportunity to coach."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

Salem, 200 medley (Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.; Emily Bair, Sr.); Emily Nelson, Soph.: This foursome placed 12th at the D1 state finals.

"This is a very talented group that enjoys practicing together," said Olson. "All four were selected to the KLA All-Conference team and all four could swim any stroke in the medley relay with similar results."

Franklin, 200 freestyle (Kayla Douglas, Soph.; Natalie Cote, Soph.; Colleen Anthony, Soph.; Kaitlyn Kozyn, Fr.): This quartet made school history by qualifying for the state meet and finishing 15th overall in a school record 1:42.06.

Made up of all underclassmen, the Patriots also took fourth in the Kensington Conference meet and first in the KLA South Division.

"They were the youngest relay at the meet and we knew we had a chance to score some points," Hafner said. "The girls went above and beyond expectations when they dropped three seconds from their entry time. The girls are committed to improving their place over the next couple of years. It has really generated a lot of positive momentum for the team and future teams here at Franklin."

Stevenson, 400 freestyle (Savannah Hatt, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.): This quartet, all underclassmen, placed 14th in Division 1 with time of 3:42.84 after going 3:40.8 in the prelims. They also took first in the KLA Kensington Conference meet (3:41.11).

"They were pretty much together all year and they always did the job when needed," Phill said. "It looks good for the future."

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Whitney Aumiller, Sr., Salem (200 freestyle): The senior was a four-year varsity swimmer, improving her times each year. She placed fourth in the 200 free at the KLA conference meet and 14th at the Division 1 state meet.

"Whitney has been very dedicated to doing everything to prepare herself year-round in her efforts to reach her personal goals," said Olson. "Whitney served as captain in 2008 and took the responsibility of leadership and setting team goals."

Maggie Carlson, Jr., Canton (200 IM): The junior was the Chiefs' top point-earner and a hard-working role model for the team's young contingent of swimmers. She placed first in the 200 freestyle and second in the 100 breaststroke at the KLA South division championships. Carlson qualified for the D1 state meet in five individual events.

"Maggie came into this season with many goals," said Canton coach Ed Weber. "Her hard work and dedication before the season and during the season has been the gateway for her success. I look forward to her accomplishments next year as a swimmer and a captain."

Jordan Burgess, Sr., Westland Glenn (50 freestyle): The fourth-year varsity member swam her best 50 freestyle time of the year against Ladywood (26.09) in a dual meet.

The senior captain also took runner-up honors in the KLA South Division meet and was sixth in the conference. She also is a member of the school-record 200 medley relay squad.

Burgess also qualified for the state meet in the 100 freestyle (68th overall) after posting a personal-best qualifying time of 56.86.

"Jordan has been a valuable swimmer the past four years for Glenn," Ferguson said. "She has represented the team at the state meet all four years, this year in the 200 medley relay and 100 freestyle."

Katie Koetting, Sr., Salem (diving): The senior, who is a 3.47 student, has been the Rocks' No. 1 diver for four years — and a very good one. She has been an All-Conference diver and Regional state qualifier all four years.

"Katie has earned All-American qualifier in diving this year," said Olson. "She was picked as captain this season because of her leadership and competitiveness."

Ashley Reed, Fr., Liv. Stevenson (100 butterfly): The ninth-grader qualified for the Division 1 state meet and finished 36th after finishing fifth in the Kensington Conference meet in 1:02.12.

"Ashley's learned to work hard and has had lifetime bests in all events," Phill said. "We look forward to three more years with her."

Laura Holtz, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 freestyle): The junior ranked third in the area in the 100 freestyle (56.06), while qualifying for the state meet (36th overall).

Holtz also took a fourth in the 100 freestyle at the conference meet.

"Laura does a great job for Stevenson in relay events," Phill said. "She swam in two state relay

and we'll welcome her back for her senior year."

Kaylee Dolinski, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (500 freestyle): The sophomore placed 15th in the Division 1 state meet after going 5:12.25 in the prelims.

Dolinski also took 16th in the 200 freestyle after going 1:58.09 in the prelims. She also added a third in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Kaylee is another sophomore that works very hard for a top 16 finish in the 200 and 500 freestyle," Phill said. "With two years left at Stevenson, we're excited for the future."

Emily Nelson, Soph., Salem (100 backstroke): The sophomore qualified for the Division 1 state meet in the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke. She helped the Rocks to a 12th-place showing in the medley relay and a 15th in the 400 freestyle relay.

"Emily is very team-oriented in that any event she needs to swim for the success of the team, she is fine with," said Olson.

Casey Peterson, Jr., Westland Glenn (100 breaststroke): The junior swam her best time at the state meet (1:12.24) to finish 25th in the Division 1 prelims. Peterson also took third in the KLA South Division and sixth in the conference.

The third-year varsity member also is a member of the school-record 200 medley relay.

"Casey has improved each year making the state meet this season for the first time in an individual event," Ferguson said. "She has also represented the team at the state meet all three years in the 200 medley relay and will lead our team next year as captain."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

Stevenson, 200 medley (Sara Healy, Sr.; Ashley Gordon, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Savannah Hatt, Jr.): This quartet wound up 18th in the Division 1 state meet with a season-best time of 1:54.43. They also placed third in the Kensington Conference (1:54.74).

"These four girls didn't get together until the end of the season and with three out of the four returning, the future looks bright," Phill said.

Stevenson, 200 freestyle (Kayla Perchall, Soph.; Laura Holtz, Jr.; Ashley Reed, Fr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Soph.): This foursome, all underclassmen, wound up 23rd overall in Division 1 with a time of 1:44.49.

"Although these girls didn't get a chance to swim together very often, they came together when it counted and swam very well at the state meet recording our best time of the year," Phill said. "The future looks bright."

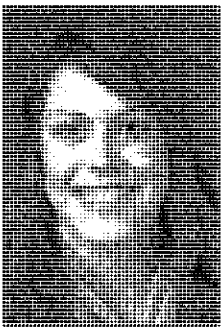
Salem, 400 freestyle (Emily Bair, Sr.; Emily Nelson, Soph.; Whitney Aumiller, Sr.; Lauren Seroka, Fr.): The Rock-solid quartet set the school record in the very first meet they swam in this season. They continued to get better and peaked at the D1 state meet with a 15th-place showing. "These four young ladies are what the term 'student-athlete' is all about," said Olson. "Every coach would be proud of all their accomplishments in the classroom and the competition pool."

COACH OF THE YEAR

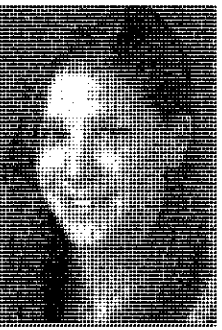
Jamie Perrine, Liv. Ladywood: The eighth-year coach, despite just 14 swimmers and one diver, guided the Blazers to eight school records and qualified for seventh different events at the Division 3 state meet (25th in the team standings).

"We had an amazing season in terms of fast swims and high diving scores," Perrine said. "The team really pulled together, and with their hard work and dedication, were able to have the best season since I started coaching."

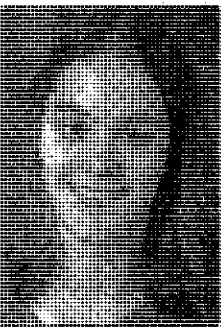
"This team has set the example of what we expect in future Ladywood teams. I really enjoyed watching the senior class grow over the past four year and I'm proud of their athletic accomplishments this season. Although the seniors leaving are irreplaceable and will be greatly missed, I look forward to next year with the young talented girls I have returning."



Lauren Seroka Salem



Ashley Gordon Stevenson



Kari Schmitt Canton



Ashley Sells John Glenn



Shannon Kelly Ladywood



Savannah Hatt Stevenson



Kayla Douglas Franklin



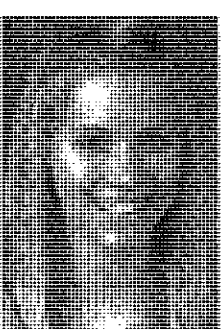
Ellen Palczynski Plymouth



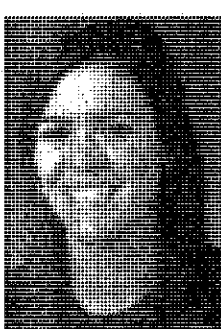
Whitney Aumiller Salem



Maggie Carlson Canton



Jordan Burgess John Glenn



Katie Koetting Salem



Ashley Reed Stevenson



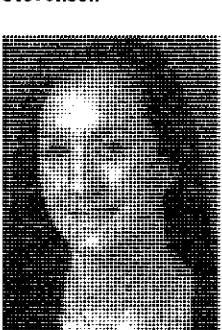
Laura Holtz Stevenson



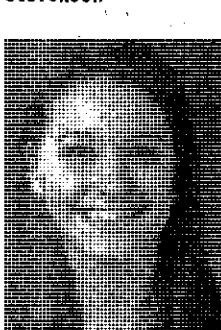
Kaylee Dolinski Stevenson



Emily Nelson Salem



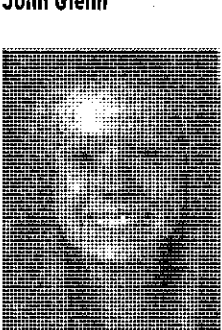
Casey Peterson John Glenn



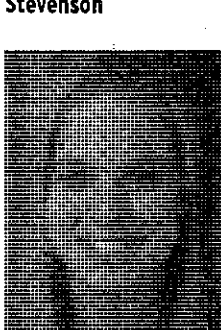
Sara Healy Stevenson



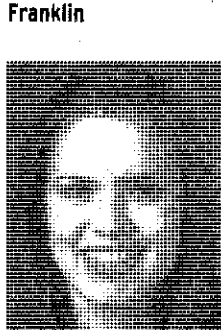
Kaitlyn Kozyn Franklin



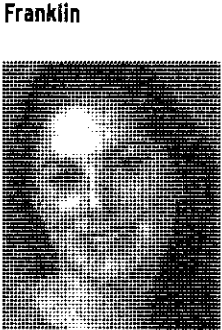
Colleen Anthony Franklin



Kayla Perchall Stevenson



Emily Bair Salem



Jamie Perrine Ladywood

FINAL GIRLS SWIM LISTINGS

FINAL OBSERVER GIRLS SWIM BESTS

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Salem 1:54.00
 Livonia Stevenson 1:54.43
 Plymouth 1:56.47
 Westland John Glenn 1:56.85
 Livonia Ladywood 1:58.63

200 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:54.67
 Savannah Hatt (Stevenson) 1:56.13
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:57.68
 Kaylee Dolinski (Stevenson) 1:58.09
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 2:01.74
 Kaitlyn Kozyn (Franklin) 2:02.12
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 2:02.74
 Michelle Chang (Plymouth) 2:03.52
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 2:03.81

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 2:09.14
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 2:10.97
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 2:12.87
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 2:16.46
 Catherine Irwin (Canton) 2:17.59
 Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 2:16.68
 Emily Bair (Salem) 2:17.69
 Emily Nelson (Salem) 2:17.74
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 2:18.44
 Casey Peterson (John Glenn) 2:20.38

50 FREESTYLE

Shannon Kelly (Ladywood) 25.25
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 25.43
 Kari Schmitt (Canton) 25.98
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 26.09
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 26.09
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 26.14
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 26.62
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 26.68
 Colleen Anthony (Franklin) 26.78
 Kaitlyn Kozyn (Franklin) 26.84

1-METER DIVING (11 DIVE TOTALS)

Carla McNamara (Stevenson) 413.75
 Katie Koetting (Salem) 388.00
 Allison Spitzley (Ladywood) 358.25
 Katina St. Pierre (Churchill) 348.55
 Mallory Hudak (Canton) 332.80
 Desiree Clenney (John Glenn) 330.25
 Jennie Humbach (John Glenn) 295.35
 Robyn Plowowar (Canton) 292.55
 Kari Pierce (Canton) 283.95
 Kay Borst (Plymouth) 270.60

100 BUTTERFLY

Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 1:00.34
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:00.65
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:01.41
 Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:02.12
 Emily Bair (Salem) 1:02.74
 Ellen Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:03.65
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 1:04.25

100 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 54.31
 Shannon Kelly (Ladywood) 54.87
 Laura Holtz (Stevenson) 56.06
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 56.36
 Kari Schmitt (Canton) 56.39
 Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 56.52
 Michelle Chang (Plymouth) 56.60
 Kayla Eyster (Canton) 56.70
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 56.86
 Samantha Reid (Churchill) 56.91

500 FREESTYLE

Lauren Seroka (Salem) 5:03.67
 Savannah Hatt (Stevenson) 5:05.39
 Kaylee Dolinski (Stevenson) 5:12.25
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 5:20.91
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 5:24.72
 Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 5:26.25
 Emily Bair (Salem) 5:32.70
 Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 5:34.65
 Natalie Cote (Franklin) 5:34.65

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Franklin 1:42.06
 Livonia Stevenson 1:44.49
 Salem 1:44.91

100 BACKSTROKE

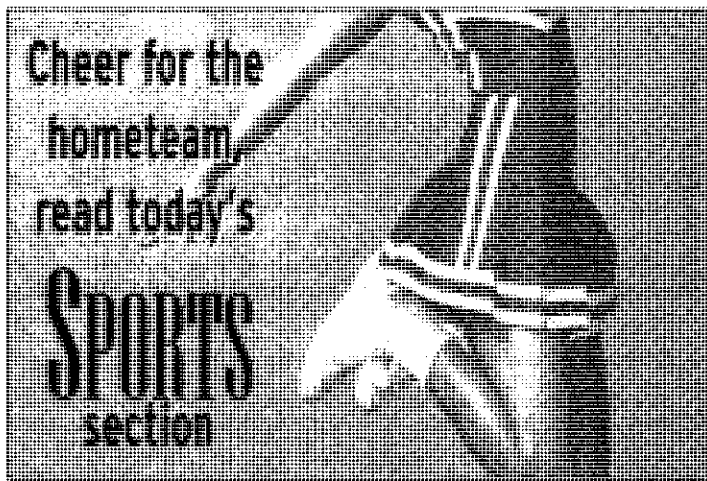
Kayla Douglas (Franklin) 58.91
 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:00.06
 Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 1:00.18
 Emily Nelson (Salem) 1:01.86
 Sara Healy (Stevenson) 1:03.91
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:05.34
 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:05.47
 Stephanie Matsui (Plymouth) 1:05.61
 Charlotte Buckley (Stevenson) 1:05.81
 Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:05.87

100 BREASTSTROKE

Ellen Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:08.47
 Maggie Carlson (Canton) 1:09.71
 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:11.16
 Casey Peterson (John Glenn) 1:12.24
 Sara Krebs (Canton) 1:13.30
 Khiry Sparks (John Glenn) 1:13.49
 Kayla Perchall (Stevenson) 1:13.96
 Sara Spala (Salem) 1:14.11
 Kelly Bedro (Canton) 1:15.04
 Kari Alosi (John Glenn) 1:15.91

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 3:40.80
 Salem 3:43.03
 Canton 3:47.41
 Franklin 3:50.61
 Plymouth 3:54.74



Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149. hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Buying Michigan food makes sense, cents

The golden delicious apples looked, well, delicious that sunny October Saturday at Joe Randazzo's in Westland. We'd stopped at the market at Newburgh and Warren to get some produce. I picked four apples and was headed to the register when my husband stopped me. He noted we had Washington golden delicious apples, and equally appealing Michigan golden delicious apples were available for the same price. It took only a moment to make the switch and I felt better about supporting homegrown producers of food — even if we do have family in Washington state.



Julie Brown

I'd gotten to thinking about Michigan foods a few days earlier, when I got my newsletter from the Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women. Along with the timely election 2008 guide, editor Sue Sayers had included an e-mail

list from member Kay Paupore of Canton, a retired Garden City schools teacher.

The list and text encouraged us to shift \$10 per week of our grocery spending to products from Michigan companies. Many Michigan-owned grocery stores support other Michigan businesses on their shelves, the article noted. If every household started spending just that \$10 a week of its current grocery budget on locally-grown foods, more than \$37 million would be kept circulating in Michigan's economy.

The list included the ever-popular Bill Knapp's cake and other baked goods from Livonia's Awrey, which we've always supported, as my father-in-law, Stan Rembacki, worked there for more than 40 years. Of course, Kellogg cereals out of Battle Creek are a staple atop our refrigerator, and Absopure water out of Plymouth Township is even closer to home.

I e-mailed the contact in the newsletter article, Mary-Jelisse Bonello, and soon heard back from the Pinckney resident who started this initiative after reading an article in *Hour* magazine.

"I'm not associated with anyone, I'm just me," Bonello said of her effort that started a year ago. "That seemed like a no-brainer to me."

Bonello did her homework and sent the e-mail results to friends. "It's been going around ever since," said Bonello, whose e-mail is maryjelisse@gmail.com.

She'd contacted a woman involved with Michigan agritourism, Jeanne Lipe, and Bonello ended up contacting Michigan food businesses individually.

MICHIGAN ONLY

"I was really surprised at how big the response was," she said. Her goal was "to make sure the money ended up in Michigan." Thus, she didn't include Gerber baby foods, which was bought out by Nestle.

"You had to make some rules, and those are our rules," Bonello said. "Everybody can do it," even if they're not buying the gourmet foods. "It takes a little bit of thought."

She cites jobs, payroll taxes and other economic benefits Michigan sees from local grocery shopping. "This is a little bit of 'Ask not what your state can do for you,'" she said with a chuckle.

She cited the "triple dip" of buying Michigan products from Michigan's Spartan stores, where the product is made in Michigan, the grocery store is independently owned by a Michigan family, and the Spartan stores headquarters is located in Grand Rapids. Other independent Michigan retailers like Hiller's, Busch's (with Spartan ties), Holiday Market, Westborn or Randazzo's have a similar "double dip" value.

"There's a bunch of them in Ann Arbor," said Bonello, who works for True Value Hardware stores. "So I guess I have a natural bias for independents."

She's changed the way she shops for her family, and has received a lot of e-mail back on her initiative. There've been tips for feedback and thank yous.

Bonello may update her list, but has her job and family to attend to as well. "It was good and I really enjoyed it," she said of the response. She's lived in Michigan all her life, and didn't know Keebler was Michigan-based.

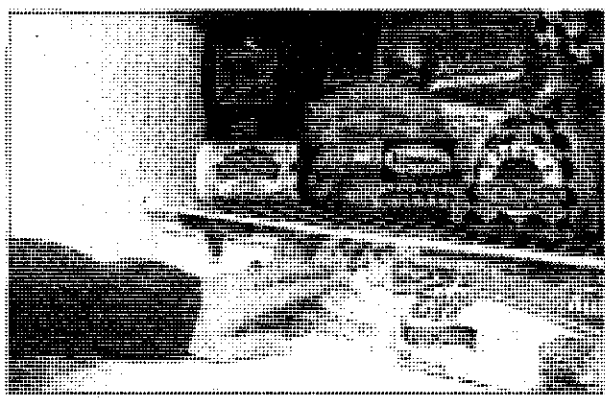
"I was doing it for myself," said Bonello, who heard from one man who did a New Year's Eve dinner with all Michigan products.

"You can't do it all," she concluded, but local shopping helps. "You're supporting the local people that own that store."

I felt energized after my talk with Bonello. My husband does the grocery shopping in our family, and he's good at it. It got me to thinking, though, how much of a difference we could make in our economically-troubled state if we'd make an effort to support these businesses.

Julie Brown is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.

Think Michigan first



Freezer and meat products from Michigan companies featured on Lisa Diggs' Web site.



Livonia resident Lisa Diggs displays a selection of products from Michigan companies that are included on her Web site.

Livonia woman's Web site brings holidays home

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
& E STAFF WRITER

Lisa Diggs opens the well-stocked freezer to show she's doing her part to boost the Michigan economy while preparing for the holidays. She especially can't wait to make the Hudsonville chocolate chip cookies. Diggs not only enjoys the aroma of baked goods wafting through her Livonia home, but the knowledge she's making it easier for consumers to buy all kinds of Michigan products by offering a list of companies on her Web site during one of the busiest shopping times of the year.

Diggs has created an additional grocery guide just in time for the seasonal onslaught of family and friends. Diggs spent hours reading labels in food stores before assembling the list of cheese, dips, cracker, snack and ice cream companies, but her research wasn't all drudgery. She visited a half dozen of the state's 60 wineries.

"The biggest single thing we need to think about is where something's coming from before we buy it," said Diggs. "Think Michigan first. If it didn't come from Michigan did it come from a Michigan store? What part of my dollar can be contributing to the Michigan economy?"

The Michigan Department of Agriculture estimates that if every Michigan family bought \$10 of Michigan fruits and vegetables a week it would keep \$37 million here at home. Diggs can only imagine the impact if consumers purchased a variety of foods produced in the mitten state, Diggs isn't encouraging shoppers to spend more, but shift their dollars to home-grown and produced items bought at Michigan stores like Meijer, Hiller's, Joe Randazzo's, Holiday

Market, Joe's Produce, and Plum.

BUYING LOCAL

It easily looks like Diggs could host a party with the bags of Better Made chips, Michigan potatoes and apples, and sausage filling the dining room table. The Al Dente Pasta came from the locally-based Westborn Market, La Jalisciense corn tortillas from Mexican Town. Tamales Express in Redford makes not only tamales, but enchiladas and salsa.

"I buy Michigan first if at all possible even if I pay a little bit more," said Diggs. "But in some instances it may not cost as much. Faygo compared to national sodas is usually less. The same is true of Michigan wines including sparkling wines and you can buy Michigan wines just about anywhere. It's not as difficult as people think. When they're grocery shopping with two kids to make it easier, print out the list and take it with you."

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Diggs offers dozens of ideas for not only preparing holiday meals, but gift giving at her Web site, www.buymichigannow.com. She loves the decorative Bullfrog Candles from Charlevoix but thinks women would equally appreciate outerwear from Wolverine in Rockford or Carhartt in Dearborn. She's just as excited about giving family passes to The Henry Ford or Detroit Zoo or putting together a gift basket with items from Harmony Hollow Bell Works in Ann Arbor, ornaments from Two Bees in Northville and Pewabic Pottery in Detroit, and truffles from The Chocolate Garden in Coloma.

"For children there are Uncle Goose wooden blocks handcrafted in about 13

Please see **MICHIGAN, C4**



Products from Michigan featured on Diggs' Web site.

Shoppers honor loved ones during holiday season

It always means the holidays are near when Angela Hospice's Tree of Life graces the halls of Laurel Park Place in Livonia. The annual fund-raiser supports programs for hospice patients and the community while offering a way to remember those dear to us at a special time of year.

"I've been involved with the Tree of Life for many years," said Rebecca Hyman, bereavement and social work manager for Angela Hospice, "and I've seen how meaningful the experience is for people who participate."

Angela Hospice's Tree of Life display features six large lighted trees. Visitors are invited to place an ornament featuring their loved one's name on any of the trees when they make a donation to the Tree of Life effort. The Tree of Life display, located next to Von Maur, opened in late November with a ceremony which included a performance by the Angela Hospice choir.

"Whether it has become a tradition they participate in year after year or whether it's the first time someone visits the Tree of Life, it really touches people to honor their loved ones in this way," said Hyman.

Tree of Life is an important fund-raiser for Angela Hospice, and the staff has been preparing for weeks as donors mailed in requests for angel ornaments.

"We were really surprised and pleased to see how many ornament requests we received through the mail this year," said Barb Paul, development coordinator. "At the Tree of Life opening, we already had over 1,500 angels on the trees."

Now in its 20th year, Tree of Life began as a small fund-raiser held in the house from which Angela Hospice operated in 1988. Just as the Tree of Life has continued to grow, Angela

Please see **TREE, C3**



LISA NORTON

Lynne Fuhrman of Redford attended the Tree of Life opening ceremony in honor of her mother Eleanor Kokoulen, as did her father John Kokoulen, a Dearborn Heights resident.

Experts have packed everything from soup to nutty gifts

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Not sure how to pack that fresh bowl of homemade chicken soup you plan to send loved ones for Hanukkah?

Wondering how you'll get that antique WWI plane propeller into a box and off to grandpa before Christmas?

And what about the preserved sheep's head you promised to out-of-town relatives?

Sue Sefton has shipped lots of soup without spilling a drop and Eric Ladwig has never met an item he couldn't pack securely.

"We tell people to freeze it and put it in a Styrene cooler with ice packs and then bring it in at 5 p.m.," Sefton described her soup-packing method. "We do a lot of frozen holiday food for people with kids out of state."

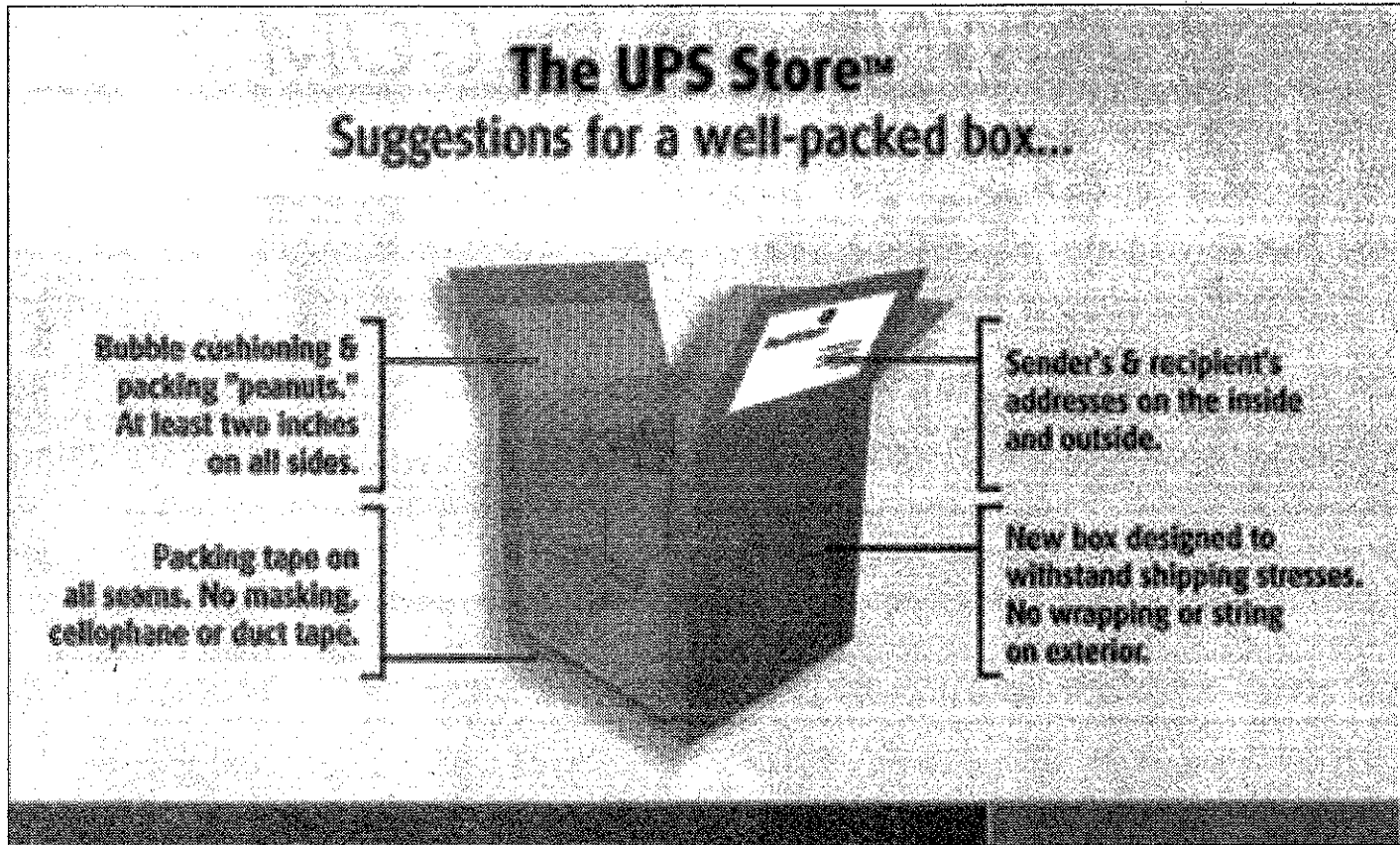
"I've never had any feedback that someone had an issue with a plant or food that we shipped. There's a baker who does these layer cakes and we've shipped those all over the country."

Sefton, whose UPS store is located at Orchard Lake Road and Maple, in West Bloomfield, is wrapping, boxing and shipping her way through her 22nd holiday season.

Ladwig, who owns a UPS store at Newburgh and Five Mile in Livonia, has packaged and shipped everything from airplane parts to a full-sized motorcycle over the past 13 years.

UNUSUAL GIFTS

"I have done some interesting stuff," said Ladwig, whose father owns a UPS store in Northville. "I did a WWI propeller last Christmas for one of our eBay guys. It was 6 feet but only about 6 inches in



diameter. We had two boxes we put together.

"I had one guy who tried to ship his brother's remains, but only the U.S. Postal system can do that. I've done a stuffed, taxidermed sheep's head. We bubble wrapped it and double boxed it. It had horns, so we had to put big tubes on them and then we bubble wrapped them. It was for an eBay guy. Someone had bought it from him for Christmas."

There was the time Ladwig built a crate to ship a motorcycle to California. "That was back in 1999. It cost about \$1,500 (packing and shipping). Today it would be around \$3,000."

Customers may not ship anything as elaborate this year during the current economic recession, but both Sefton and

Ladwig are bracing for their busiest week of the year, starting Monday Dec. 15.

Sefton shipped about 3,000 packages during December 2007. That's double her usual monthly volume.

"We may have people this year, who instead of sending two boxes (of gifts), just send one box," Sefton said.

NO FLIGHT FEES

Both she and Ladwig say that even if fewer people ship gifts this season, more are sending vacation luggage through UPS to avoid additional airfare fees and to make sure their personal belongings arrive at their destination before they do.

"They'll ship it out so they don't have to mess with checking it in," Ladwig noted. "It's great for us. We can do a pre-

paid shipping label for them to send luggage back.

"I think we'll have a good (holiday) season."

Ladwig said about 60 percent of his customers ask him to wrap as well as ship their items. It's about 50-50 at Sefton's store.

"I'd hope it would be 100 percent," Sefton said, adding that she gives over-the-phone packing advice to customers who insist on doing it themselves.

Here's some of what both she and Ladwig advise customers who pack their own holiday items for shipping:

- Don't use brown paper or string to wrap boxes.
- "Brown paper tears on a conveyor belt," Sefton said.
- Don't use crumpled paper or real popcorn to cushion

items. Use packing peanuts.

"Brown paper doesn't absorb shock," Ladwig explained.

■ Don't use an old box.

"We say, 'Can this box be dropped off a two-story building and withstand a drop of that magnitude?'" Sefton said. She pointed out that used boxes may not be as strong as new ones.

■ Don't ship perfume or cologne, which are considered hazardous materials.

■ Take batteries out of toys before shipping.

■ If you decide to let a professional pack your items after all, make sure you know which wrapped gifts are breakable, so they can be packaged separately.

■ Avoid shipping on Mondays. It's the busiest day of the week for packing and sending items.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Make a centerpiece
7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10 and Thursday, Dec. 11 at all seven English Gardens stores. \$24.99 fee. The stores' floral designers will help you create a centerpiece to decorate your holiday table. Sign up online at www.englishgardens.com or in the store.

■ **Dearborn Heights location** - 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive; (313) 278-4433

■ **Ann Arbor location** - 155 N. Maple; (734) 332-7900

■ **West Bloomfield location** - 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple; (248) 851-7506

Storytelling
Children, ages 2-10, can hear classic and contemporary holiday stories from 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at all stories English Gardens stores. The program is free.

■ **Ecosystem Restoration Workday**
Join Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arboretum staff in working to remove invasive plant species from the arboretum to promote native plant growth, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 13. The experience mixes a little bit of hard work with education about the arboretum and restoration ecology work here and in the local area. Dress to work outside. Snacks and tools will be provided, but participants may bring their own loppers or pruners. Call (734) 647-8528 for more info about the work site and to sign up. Matthaei Botanical Gardens is located at 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. www.mbgna.umich.edu.

■ **Winter Stonely Search**
Join a team to search the Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonely, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 24, 2009. Search starts from the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center. Sign up available now through monitoring@therouge.org. Or call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621. For a flier, visit www.therouge.org.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Easilygoing DWF, early 30s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 30-35, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **2271971**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Good looking SBF, high intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7", 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **2147056**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME
PFF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 38-43, to share what life has to offer. **222022**

TAKE CHANCE
SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium complexion, N/D, NS, no children, enjoys drama films, shooting pool, playing cards, sporting events, long drives, more. Seeking SM, 45-55, who enjoys the same. **2253036**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
WWF, 57, homeowner, independent, a little lonely, dog owner, enjoys quiet times, good talks and brainstorming. Seeking a kind mate to share these. **2211330**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, NS, mother, seeks out-fashioned BM, 28-40, NS, somebody to explore all life has to offer! I enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. **2274519**

MUSICAL GUY
Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 19-25, who enjoys the same things. **2222258**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH
SBF, 37, 5'5", 125lbs, slim build, enjoys nice walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball games. Seeking SM, 30-43. **2299111**

ARE WE A MATCH?
SBF, 38, very shapely, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shooting pool, dining. Seeking SBF, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **2259793**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR?
WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, NS, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. **2280581**

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, 5'2", 160lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, N/D, NS, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SBF, 39-51. **2284368**

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD
SWF, 21, red hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 160lbs, mature body/mind, looking for a lonely handsome man, 20-30, raze open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. **2262913**

GLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, good valet/morris. **2207254**

VERY ATTRACTIVE
SBF, 37, mother, looking for attractive, sexy, tall, dark-complexioned, employed, intelligent BM, 33-50, for friendship possibly leading to LTR. **2282115**

HONEST & DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, honorable, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. **2295421**

SEEKING A MATURE MAN
Attractive SBF, 35, NS, NS, would like to meet respectable, happy SBF, 25-50, to enjoy life together. **2230660**

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-50, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. **2217234**

I NEED LOVE
Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SBF, 18-30, who shares my life for life. **2230010**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT
Outgoing, laid-back SBF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. **2255010**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. **2267654**

HONESTY A MUST
BF, 42, 5'4", 180lbs, shapely, brown/brown, seeking an honest man, 40-50, N/D, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dancing, dining out, good company and working out. **2256608**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...
White Knight, Spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor, I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. **2241298**

HELLO OUT THERE
SWF, 39, years young, seeks SBF, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dancing, dining out, movies, the parks/walks, travel and life in general. Friendship first. **2241298**

JUST A NICE PERSON...
Looking for a nice man, Tall SBF, 45, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-65, WM a plus. **2249320**

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'9", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active SM, 30-42, F, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **2256442**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST
SBF, 38, 5'10", NS, short hair, no children, looking for SBF, 35-50, who enjoys festivities, travel, spending time together. **2280950**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Sexy SBF, 40, NS, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-50, for friendship first, maybe more. **2270132**

LONELY VIRGO
SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for SF, 30-55, with same interests. **2269375**

BEAUTIFUL
SBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for SBF, 25-40, raze open, D/D free, HW appropriate. You must be confident with who you are. **2251147**

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **2239947**

ARE YOU HONEST, LOYAL?
Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 35-75. **2251147**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. **2296217**

CHARISMATIC
SWF, 47, 5'7", 150lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Looking for a SBF, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. **2269629**

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!
WWF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, NS, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. **2276914**

CLASSY LADY
I am in my early 30s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 30-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. **2292305**

SEEKING LOW DRAMA
SWF, 36, long brown/ash, NS, athletic build, pretty, animals lover, in search of attractive, fit, funny, easygoing SBF, 27-43, with no children, for dating, possible LTR with right man. **2269534**

HAVE A GOOD HEART?
WF, 33, 5'5", blond/green, looking for WM, 22-45, who loves NASCAR, classic rock and more. **2292320**

HONEY BLONDE
SBF seeks down-to-earth SM, 25-35, with morals and values, who knows how to have fun in life, is family-oriented. **2294929**

IN THIS BOX U CAN FIND...
A 42-year-old SBF, 150 SBF, 5'8", for friendship and possibly more. I'm sociable, affectionate 5'7", 120lbs, long dark curly hair, N/D, NS, DD-free, never married, no children. Interested? Call! **2224746**

COULD IT BE YOU?
SBF, 44, professional, hard-working, independent, enjoys church, shopping, more. Looking for a SBF, 44, employed, open-minded, warm-hearted and considerate, to share all life has to offer. **2236598**

HERE I AM GUYS
Loving, sexy SBF, 34, caramel complexion, 5'5", 150lbs, brown eyes, independent, employed, secure, Seeking warm-hearted intelligent, committed-minded man who wants to share something real. **2267654**

WARM SMILE
SBF, 21, NS, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possible romance. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other. **2271787**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-50, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **2230964**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 51, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/brunette, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SBF, 45-57, 6'1", 220lbs, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventure, merry gentleman. **2262549**

MATURE MAN WANTED
SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SBF, 25-40, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining. **2281655**

CHOCOLATE TREAT
Refined, romantic, creative divorcee, enjoys an eclectic lifestyle. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving, 60s, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking fit non-smoking gentleman, 50+. **2281197**

AWAITING YOUR CALL
Honest, attractive SBF, 25, 5'2", 150lbs, mother, employed, caring, looking to meet someone, child-friendly, respectful Christian man to enjoy dinner dates, good talks, family, friendship and fun. **2253232**

LET'S HAVE FUN
SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SBF, 35-53, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. **2247162**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST
SF, 18, enjoys music, architectural design and trying new things. Seeking SM, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? **2247162**

ACTIVE WOMAN
SWF, dark hair and eyes, NS, social drinker, likes bowling, bingo, garage sales, funny movies and more. If you would like to meet or coffee, let me know. **2251147**

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 52', 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, NS. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **2213901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SBF, 45-60, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **2271085**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!
Patrice SBF, 35, 150lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **2256025**

GREAT-LOOKING BF.
35, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me; you won't be disappointed! **2281172**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...
37, seeks SBF, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. **2271683**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT
SBF, 47, 5'7", full-figured, NS, likes roller skating, dancing, movies, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2237305**

A POLISHED DIAMOND
Attractive, sexy SF, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **2278057**

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY
Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, serious SBF, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. **2273603**

A NEW BEGINNING
SBF, 47, 5'4", likes action movies, swimming, dancing, plays, outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SBF, 45-55, for friendship or more. **2289151**

PETITE AND CUTE
SWF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SBF, 35-45, who will love me for me. **2294943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE
SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnic, just chilling. Looking for SBF, 39-45, for possible relationship. **2256025**

SEEKING STRONG BM
Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, tall BM, 40-62, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, glib, etc. **2269534**

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

LOOKING FOR MZ RIGHT
WWF, 45, 6'1", 220lbs, is easygoing, fun-loving, enjoys a variety of activities, indoor/outdoor. Looking for LTR, with the right person. **2265344**

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
Handsome, mature gent SBF, 50, traditional values, romantic, and thoughtful, enjoys cultural events, antiquing, short trips, etc. Seeking SWF for friendship and companionship. **2276497**

SEEKING THE RIGHT WOMAN
Male, 5'7", 165lbs, brown/olive, likes horseback riding, camping, long walks, more. Would like to meet a woman for friendship first, possibly leading to LTR. **40-55, 2281298**

HOW ARE YOU?
DWM, 37, 6'1", 220lbs, athletic build, medium blond hair, employed, outgoing and fun, hard-working, looking to meet like-minded lady to share talks, casual dates, friendship more? **2246129**

NO DRAMA
SBF, 38, 5'11", 165lbs, slim build, medium complexion, well-groomed, D/D-free, N/D, spiritual, drama-free, no children, independent, romantic, college-educated, smart, caring, seeks cute, slim, down-to-earth female, 30-49. **2299775**

ARE YOU MISS RIGHT?
SBF, 42, 5'10", 225lbs, light-complexioned, from Detroit East Side, business owner/NS, N/D, no drama, no children, independent, romantic, artistic, walks and more, offering a good friendship to a warm-hearted woman, with inner-circle beauty. **2230038**

EASYGOING
Sharp, sociable SBF, 45, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. W/MT SWF for dating and fun times. **2218714**

ROMANTIC AND ATTRACTIVE
DWM, 60, good listener, enjoys cards, travel, no drama, homespun, friendly, seeks strong woman, 25-35, who is sexy, determined, assertive and together. **2300038**

NEW TO THE AREA
SWF, 35, 5'11", 200lbs, brown/hazel, smoker, the arts, walks and more, offering a good friendship to a warm-hearted woman, with inner-circle beauty. **2299907**

ENJOY THE VIEW
Romantic, thoughtful SBF, 38, is looking for love, enjoys hugs, kisses and cuddling; seeks kind, attractive SBF, age and area open. **2211835**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
BM, 6'1", 220lbs, would like to meet a woman, 25-48, who knows what she wants in life, for fun, dating, companionship and possible LTR. **2292907**

SEEKING A GIRLFRIEND
SBF, 35, 6'3", 180lbs, brown eyes, likes singing, travel, basketball. Seeking similar woman, 20-35. **2299411**

LET'S TALK
SWF, 35, 5'11", 180lbs, seeks SBF, 18-30, for possible relationship. **2299949**

LET'S TALK
SBF, 20, looking for SBF/WM, 19-25, who is down-to-earth, doesn't lie or cheat, and has a good head on her shoulders. **2230029**

TAKE A CHANCE
Sociable SM, 45, hard-working, considerate and kind-hearted, outgoing and open-minded loves humor and action films, nice times at home, snuggling and good talks. Seeking compatible lady who appreciates the same. Friendship/dating? **2246859**

HARD-WORKER
SWF, 45, 5'3", short brown hair, grown kids, enjoys music, playing guitar, travel. Looking for similar SF, 35-45. **2296987**

TALL, DARK, HANDSOME
SBF, 39, seeks quiet, artistically creative woman, 40-51, with a beautiful mind. I hope you are the right one! **2230079**

IMMATURE
WM, 61, good-looking, good sense of humor, interested in politics, sports, the arts, food. Seeking BF, 45-65. **2278602**

RETIRED
SWF, 65, smoker, wants to meet a SBF, 48-67, prefer heterosexual, for friendship first. I love cooking, devoting time to a loving companion. **2284764**

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 55, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest, educated, fun-loving woman, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. **2269546**

LOOKING FOR YOU
SWF, 50, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks SBF, 35-62, who enjoys Backgammon/Chess, dancing, working out at Bally's, piano bars, comedy clubs, coffee houses, art galleries. Must be social drinker, NS, HW proportionate. **2218827**

LET'S GET GOING!
SWF, 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, friendship, spontaneous fun, and laughter; seeks personable SBF for dating and more. **2212832**

TAKE A CHANCE



LISA NORTON

Angela Hospice volunteers Lil Korsog of Dearborn Heights; Barbara Keppen, Livonia, and Stella Smith, Plymouth assisted visitors at the opening of the Angela Hospice Tree of Life. More than 1,500 angel ornaments have already been placed on the trees.

TREE

FROM PAGE C1

Hospice has been expanding and providing hospice services to more and more patients each year. This past spring, Angela

Hospice announced plans to expand its Care Center facility on Newburgh, enabling more patients to receive inpatient services at Angela Hospice's "home-away-from-home."

"We've been hoping to expand our facility for many years in response to the com-

elling community need," said Bob Alexander, business development manager for Angela Hospice. "An event like Tree of Life, which demonstrates such a heartfelt connection between Angela Hospice and the community we serve, is a powerful testimony to that important and

timeless relationship we share with the people around us."

The Tree of Life remains on display through Dec. 24. To make a donation, visit the trees display area during mall hours, or call (734) 464-7810. Visit www.angelahospice.org for more information about the work of Angela Hospice.

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OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE HAND

Osteoarthritis of the hand is the most common form of arthritis. The features of osteoarthritis are sufficiently distinctive to identify it by examination alone.

The finding of enlargement of the distal or first joint of the finger is a hallmark of osteoarthritis. In most instances this enlargement is not painful, or the period of discomfort is short lived. Similar firm enlargement can occur at the middle finger joint or at the knuckles. All of these sites have in common the development of a small amount of bone around the joint.

Heredity or past injury determines the pattern of hand arthritis.

What bothers people with hand osteoarthritis is not the pain, which usually is limited to a few weeks. Nor is there disability associated with the condition, though at times osteoarthritis can shift the first finger joint into an awkward position. What bothers individuals with hand osteoarthritis is the appearance of the fingers.

Nothing is possible to make the hands look better. No medication will cause the bone about the joint to re-absorb, no injection into the finger joint will shrink the enlarged area, and no hand surgery is capable of removing the ridge of bone.

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REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School
Class of 1989
 Planning a 20th reunion and searching for classmates. Sign up at "Yahoo groups-brighton high school class of 1989" for more information.

Class of 1959
 50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1969
 Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoenbridge @ Kliviingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Bridg
Class of 1959
 Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Garden City High School
Class of 1960
 Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989
 20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight). Ticket \$65 before March 1, 2009, \$75 from March 2 to June 1, 2009. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar,

dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchsi989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North
Class of 1991
 Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School
 Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Franklin
Class of 1969
 A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com.

Milford High School
Class of 1978
 Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Dinner dance tonight

The Moon Dusters Dance Club presents its popular annual Holiday Dinner Dance 6-10:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft near Inkster road, Livonia.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with a family-style dinner at 6 p.m. Alcohol beverages available at affordable prices. Ballroom dance music will be provided by the Tommy James Band from 7:15-10:45 p.m. Formal attire is requested but Sunday best will do.

Tickets are \$29.50 and available by calling Joe Castrodale at (248) 968-5197. Some of the proceeds are donated to charities.

Everybody is welcome: singles, couples and married. The nonprofit club holds its regular dance to live music 8:30-11:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington roads. Lessons are available before the dance (7-8 p.m.) for \$6. Cost for both the lessons and dance are \$10.

ENGAGEMENTS

Swartout-Simon
 Brien and Carol Swartout of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Scott Simon of Bloomington, Ill. He is the son of Lionel and Elaine Simon of Hamilton, N.J.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and a 1996 graduate of Michigan State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English. She earned her master's degree in English at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and is a doctoral candidate at Illinois State University, where she is studying educational administration and foundations. She works as an associate professor of English at Heartland Community College in Normal, Ill.

The groom is a 1992 graduate of South Brunswick High

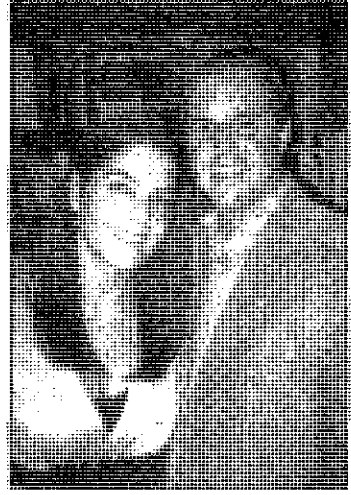


School in New Jersey and a 1998 graduate of Kutztown University. He works as a technical analyst at State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Ill. The couple plans a June 2009 wedding in Bloomington, Ill.

Sittig-Hannah
 Robert and Marilyn Sittig of Sewickley, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, Meredith, to Brian Hannah of Chicago, Ill. He is the son of Andrew and Ann Hannah of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Quaker Valley High School and a 2004 graduate of Northwestern University. She currently works as a consultant for Accenture.

Her fiancé is a 1999 graduate of Catholic Central High School and a 2003 graduate of Northwestern University. He is a medical writer for Goble & Associates.

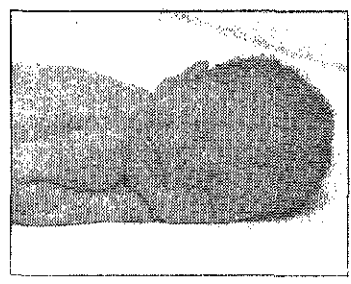


The couple plans a May 2009 wedding at Allegheny Country Club in Sewickley Heights, Pa.

BIRTHS



Kathryn Anne Ryan
 Scott and Sara Ryan of Canton welcome their daughter, Kathryn Anne Ryan, born Nov. 12, 2008, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins big sister Addison, 2. Her grandparents are Jim and Renee Casillas of Plymouth and Jerry and Carol Ryan of Las Vegas, Nev.



Duncan Alexander Buijink
 Peter and Rebecca Buijink of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, Duncan Alexander Buijink, born Oct. 15, 2008 at Park Providence Hospital in Novi. He joins sister Emily, age 6. His grandparents are Nancy Hall of Bowling Green, Ky.; Tom Hall of Santa Barbara, Calif., and Marie Buijink, who resides in The Netherlands.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

Filter In your paper every Thursday!
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Have your picture taken with Santa

The St. Vincent DePaul thrift store in Westland wants children everywhere to enjoy this holiday season so Michael Saine and his staff are offering free photos and a chance to visit with Santa from 3:30 p.m. on at 6613 Wayne Road.

Everyone is welcome. Santa needs no appointments. Just come and enjoy the season. Cookies and punch will be served.

Saine said part of the reason the store is making the photos available is because many families, due to the cost, have given up this tradition in these troubling economic times.

Passages
 Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com
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JANE D. FERRISS
 Age 77, December 3, 2008. Beloved mother of Michael (Andrea) and Dave (Kristine); dear sister of Joan Sackett; and cherished grandmother of Elizabeth, Arthur, Michael, Laura, Joseph and Katherine. Memorial tributes suggested to Mariners' Church of Detroit, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit, 48226. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington. (248) 474-5200. heeney-sundquist.com

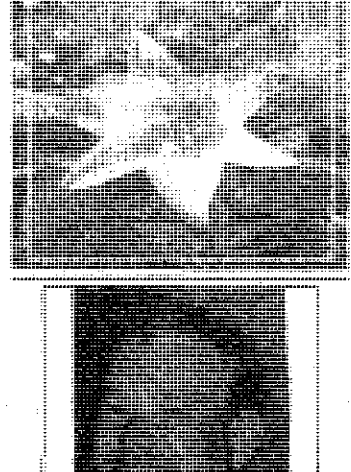
CAROL SCHELL
 Of Westland, formerly of Redford Twp. and Dearborn Heights. Passed away November 27, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, of 56 years. Children Denise (John) Maynard, Ken (Cheryl) and Jeanine (John) Patla. Grandchildren Jessica, Matthew, Jerod (Laine), Amanda, and Lauren. Sister of Gordon (Glenda) Richards. Services were held on December 1st with burial at Glen Eden Cemetery.

WILLIAM VAN BUREN
 Age 81, December 3, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Marilyn. Loving father of Carol Hawley, Debra James, Glenn and the late Brian Van Buren. Dear grandfather of Janice and great-grandfather of Thomas. Brother of Vera Mularz. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 1545 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday, from 3 until 9 pm with Funera Service at 6 pm.

SHERRY LYNNE HARRIS
 Age 46. Of Livonia, MI. December 4, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington.

THEODORE "TED" LOCKEY
 Age 83. Of South Lyon, MI. December 2, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

THOMAS A. PLUM
 Age 74, of Royal Oak. December 3, 2008. Loving husband of Marlene. Dear father of Thomas and Christopher. Grandfather of Ava and Claire. Father-in-law of Stacy. Administrator for Traveler's Insurance. Graduate of Cranbrook and University of Michigan. Avid tennis player, sailor and storyteller. Memorial Service Monday 11:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Royal Oak, 1314 Northwood Blvd., Royal Oak, MI (248) 288-4220. Memorials may be made to South Oakland Shelter.



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

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

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

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318

For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charollette Wilson 588-826-7082 or toll free 800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charollette

Goodwill collecting toys for local clients' families

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit has kicked off its "12 Days of Christmas" campaign, designed to help needy families buy holiday gifts for their children.

The organization asks Metro Detroiters to donate new, unwrapped toys to its "Santa Shop," where they will be sold at discounted prices to individuals who receive employment training and assistance from Goodwill.

Anyone who donates a toy will receive a coupon good for \$1 off a beverage purchase at any of the 19 Caribou Coffee locations in Southeast Michigan.

"Due to various employment barriers, many of these parents are unable to provide their families with everything they want this holiday season," stated Lorna G. Utley, president and CEO, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. "While our programs help them become trained, trusted and ready to work, gift donations allow these hardworking individuals to focus on getting their lives on track, knowing their children will have a happy holiday season."

The campaign continues to Wednesday, Dec. 16. These local Caribou Coffee stores are accepting donated toys:

- Ann Arbor: 1423 Stadium Boulevard
- Livonia: 17378 Haggerty
- Novi: 47490 Grand River Avenue
- Plymouth: 44601 Five Mile

In 2007, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit successfully placed nearly 1,500 residents in new jobs in the tri-county area. For more information about Goodwill Industries and its Christmas campaign, visit www.goodwilldetroit.org

MICHIGAN
 FROM PAGE C1

different languages and Braille in Grand Rapids. Kids, parents and grandparents can sit down and do it together," said Diggs. "Mathmosis was developed by a teacher. The CD uses music and games to build math skills."

For men Diggs suggests a subscription to Car & Driver, Swedish Pimple Fishing Lures from Gladstone, or an American Coney Island package of 12 Dearborn Sausage hot dogs, buns, sweet onion, chili sauce, instructions, and two hats.

Inside Detroit designs custom tours for those interested in history, architecture, world-class cuisine, or bar hopping. Jeff Daniels' CD benefits The Purple Rose theater in Chelsea.

"It's an effective tool for the holiday season," said Diggs. "They might find something else by that company if they don't want the item listed."

Companies can take advantage of the campaign as well by listing their information for free or adding a link for \$100 a year. Diggs believes everyone can make a difference by taking the pledge to buy Michigan. She used a local company to build the Web site that features photographs taken by her father, Larry Diggs, a Livonia lensman.

"I'm working full time on the Web site on top of my full time consulting business because I believe in this," said Diggs, founder of The Catalyst Company which nationally helps organizations attain and sustain success.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Donate a toy to brighten a sick child's holidays

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF) has formed a partnership 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 56-year-old, Michigan-based foundation (www.leukemiamichigan.org) is collecting toys for their holiday toy program and 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 will receive a 10-percent discount on a purchase, excluding gift card or gift certificate purchases. This year, it is expected that nearly 5,000 toys will be needed for about 1,200 toy packages that will be shipped to families and to provide hospitals with toys for those battling cancer throughout the state. Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan relies heavily on toy drives and donations to support the program.

According to Kristen West, CLF Patient Services Director, "Families affected by cancer face many

strains on their time, finances and emotions. To combat some of these stresses and make the holidays brighter for these families, CLF provides gift packages each year. This is a great opportunity for families, businesses, schools and community groups to consider if you are planning on an activity to give back this holiday season and the new partnership with Morley candy makes it easier than ever."

New, unwrapped toys suitable for infant through age 12 are needed as well as gift cards for teen patients. The CLF website, www.leukemiamichigan.org has specific informa-

tion on the types of toys that are suitable. Some examples include electronic hand-held games, dolls, arts and crafts kits, books, action figures, board games, and sports equipment.

To drop off toys or donate to this program, bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the Morley or Sander's store locations including Rochester (436 S. Main Street), Livonia (Laurel Park Place Mall on 37702 Six Mile Road), and Birmingham (745 E. Maple Road). Toys or gift cards may also be dropped off at the CLF office at 29777 Telegraph, Suite 1651, in Southfield prior to

Dec. 24. The holiday toy collection and special discount offer at Morley's will end on Dec. 24.

Questions about the holiday toy program may be directed to the patient services department at (248) 353-8222.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is a statewide organization that provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma, and related blood disorders. Since 1952, Children's Leukemia Foundation has served more than 11,000 families in Michigan.

Be Santa to a local senior citizen

Many seniors served through the Wayne County Senior Alliance Holiday Meals program this Christmas will get gifts, too, thanks to Home Instead Senior Care.

Every year, the company sponsors "Be a Santa to a Senior," a national non-profit program that provides gifts and companionship to socially isolated and lonely seniors. In Wayne County, the local office takes the program a step further by partnering with Senior Alliance to provide extra assistance and awareness as well as an extra touch of holiday cheer by helping to sell holiday meal cards for homebound seniors.

The cards from the Senior Alliance are being sold from

the Home Instead Senior Care in Livonia office until Christmas.

"When you buy a meal card from us, our Home Instead office will match that donation with a gift to be delivered along with the meal to seniors on Christmas Day," said Glenna Yaroch, owner of Home Instead Senior Care in Livonia. "We hope that the local community will support our efforts as a way of giving back to the seniors in our area who have given us so much."

This is the fourth year that Yaroch and her staff have partnered with the Senior Alliance, which will serve approximately 750 seniors this Christmas season. For the 2008 holiday

season, Yaroch has chosen large print word search books for the seniors receiving meals.

"Home Instead Senior Care has come up with a very thoughtful way to approach Holiday Meals this winter," said Linda DeVore, Senior Alliance Program Manager. "We appreciate their generous support and know how much seniors will appreciate receiving a gift along with their meals."

"Selling Christmas cards helps the organization purchase meals throughout the year," said DeVore. "The Senior Alliance hopes to sell 3,000 cards so each senior receives multiple cards on Christmas Day."

The meal cards cost \$5. To

purchase a card through the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program and ensure that seniors will receive a matched gift, call Home Instead Senior Care at (734) 525-5300. For information on the holiday meals program, call Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2017.

In 2008, "Be a Santa to a Senior" volunteers will surpass one million gifts delivered to needy seniors since the inception of the program in 2004. "Be a Santa to a Senior" program has become the largest gift-giving project of its kind for older adults. Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest provider of comprehensive companionship and home care services for seniors.)

Santa, dinner events to help pet shelters

Petsmart in Rochester Hills will donate \$5 to the Michigan Humane Society from every \$9.95 photo package it sells now through Dec. 21.

The package includes a digital photo of your pet with Santa Claus and a holiday frame.

Stop by the store for a photo session from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., today, Sunday, Dec. 7, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14 and 20-21.

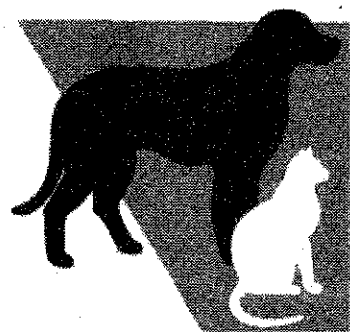
The store is located at 2724 South Adams. (248) 844-5101

MORE SANTA SNAPS

The Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan also offers pet photos with Santa, noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20.

The cost is \$5 and includes one photo and a decorative frame.

The no-kill rescue organization maintains a shelter at 27796 John R, south of 12 Mile, in Madison Heights. After meeting Santa, check out the adjacent PetBeastro, a premium pet food store specializing in frozen raw cuisine. The store also stocks collars, collar charms, pet beds, leashes and toys. Call Pet Beastro at (248) 548-3448 or visit www.thepetbeastro.com.



PET PROJECTS

Call the Animal Welfare Society at (248) 548-1150 or visit animalwelfare.org.

FILL YOUR BOWL

Buy tickets now for the Almost Home Animal Rescue League fund-raiser on Monday, Dec. 15, at BD's Mongolian BBQ of Novi, 5 Main, Suite 200, Novi.

Adult dinner costs \$25 and a youth dinner is \$15. The menu will include one entree bowl, soup, salad, pop, tax and tip. Add \$2 for unlimited food.

Seatings will be at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. The rescue league operates a no-kill shelter in Southfield. See its adoptable animals at www.almosthome-animalrescue.org.

Compiled by Sharon Dargay

Armenian Genocide Committee accepting essays

Students with winning essays about the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 and its relationship to other genocides of the 20th century, will be awarded \$100-\$500 in the second annual competition, funded by the Hagopian Family Foundation.

The contest is sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Committee and is open to middle and high school students.

Edgar Hagopian, chair of the Armenian Genocide Committee and patriarch

of the Hagopian Family Foundation, stated that the project "is a critical and vital key to perpetuating the history of the Armenian people in the minds of students as well as having them learn that a comprehensive study of the Armenian Genocide will aid and educate legislators and leaders to avert future tragedies."

"It is the youth of our nation that will look back to help not only this country move forward, but hopefully, one day the world," Hagopian said.

Suggested essay themes are:

- Events that precipitated the Armenian Genocide, as well as others.

- Government and individual responses to the Armenian Genocide and other 20th Century genocides.

- Should the U.S. government formally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 13, 2009. Members of the Metro Detroit Armenian Community will judge the entries. Winners will be announced on March 27,

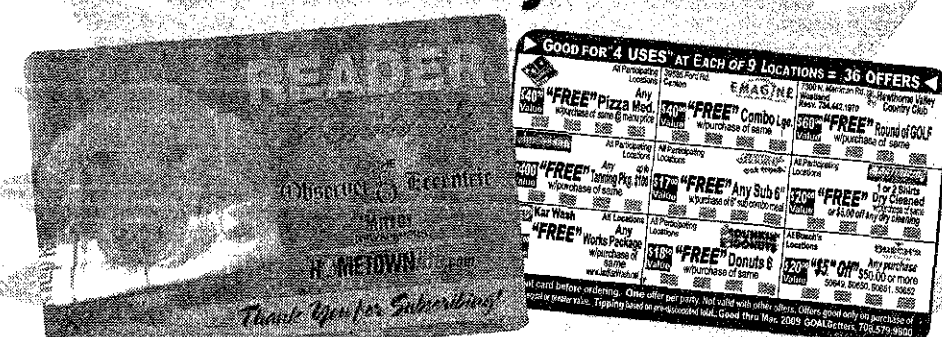
2009. High school students will win \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place. Middle school students will be awarded \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. Each teacher of a student submitting a winning essay will be given a \$100 appreciation award. For complete guidelines visit www.armeniangenocideessay.com. For more information, call Hagopian at (248) 646-7847.

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Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Toxic toys

Testing reveals trouble in toyland

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The recall of 45 million toys in 2007 reinforced the way Mike Shriberg shops for his two young children. Two years before the Consumer Product Safety Commission became involved Shriberg was testing everything from rubber ducks to teething rings for the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor. The nonprofit released its annual guide to toxic chemicals in toys Dec. 3 (www.healthytoys.org). On Saturday, Dec. 13, Shriberg visits the Ann Arbor District Library, Mallets Creek Branch with a hand-held X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer to test toys for free. Chemicals such as bromine have been shown to permanently affect the developing brain and reproductive system, and possibly cause cancer.

"One class of toy that stands out is children's metal jewelry. It remains the most contaminated category two years in a row and is five times more likely than other products to contain lead greater than recall levels," said Shriberg, Ecology Center policy director. "Lead causes brain damage. Pediatricians will tell you there's no safe level of lead. We recommend consumers avoid low cost children's jewelry of undescribed metals. Several Hannah Montana brands (Disney) with high levels of lead were found as well."

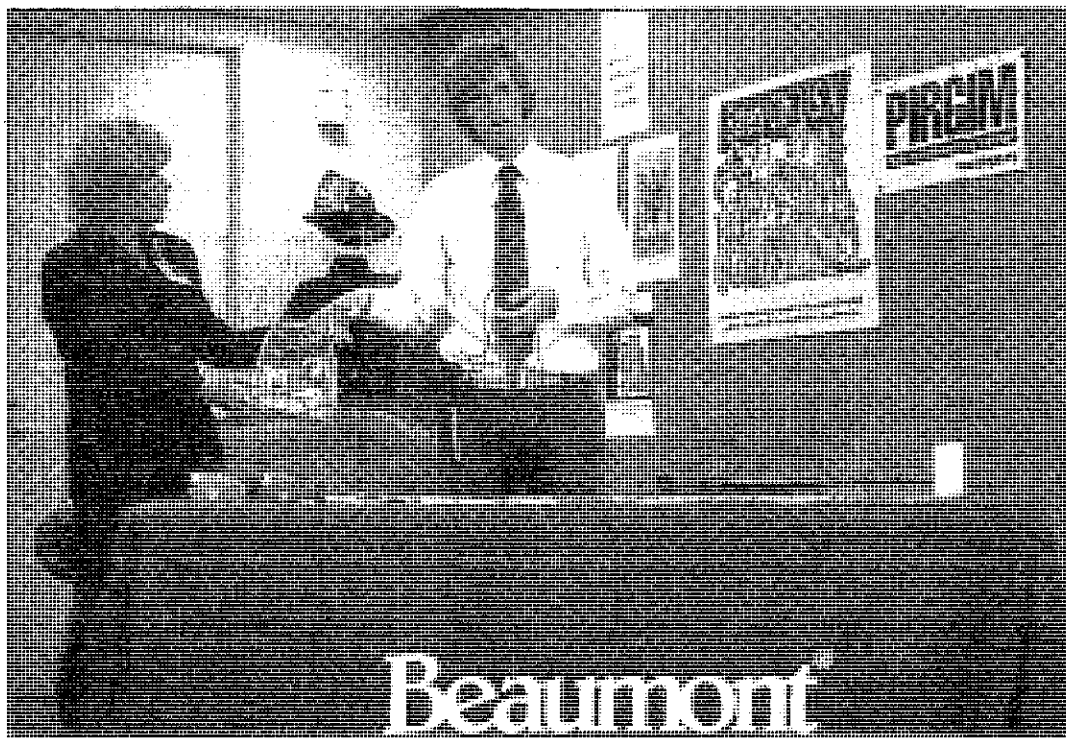
Holly Bair won't be buying her 6-year-old niece a Pony Land Scented Pony

Pet for Christmas because it made the Trouble in Toyland report for phthalate levels 95 times the amount allowed by the pending February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Bair is just as concerned about toys which present choking hazards. Toys are still the number one reason children end up in the Emergency Room at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Bair was an emergency room nurse for eight years before becoming Beaumont's Trauma Care coordinator and director of Safety City U.S.A., a facility for teaching prevention programs. She and Nate Housley, field organizer for PIRGIM, held a press conference there recently to announce the 23rd annual report from the public interest group (www.toysafety.net).

"Choking is the leading toy related death for children across the U.S. either on parts of toys, balloons, balls, those things small enough to fit into a toilet paper tube for children under age 3," said Bair. "But there are toy related injuries as well. The magnets that come in toys if kids swallow one magnet it may move through without injury. If they swallow more it could create bowel obstructions."

Bair recommends parents pay attention to age appropriate warning labels and inspect toys regularly for sharp edges or loose parts.

"They need to do their research, be a good consumer, read the report, take the report with them (when they



Holly Bair, Beaumont Hospital's Trauma Care coordinator, and Nate Housley, field organizer for PIRGIM, recently held a press conference to announce the 23rd annual Trouble in Toyland report from the the public interest group.

TOY TESTING

What: Free testing for toxic chemicals in toys
When: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Ann Arbor District Library, Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 East Eisenhower Pkwy. (Meeting Room A/B), Ann Arbor
Details: No pre-registration required. For information, call (734) 761-3186, ext. 125

shop," said Bair.

Housley hopes parents heed Bair's advice.

"They can find dangerous toys on any store shelf. Not all toys are tested before they go on store shelves," said Housley. "If a toy is made out of soft plastic, it shouldn't be allowed to be chewed on or swallowed. Toys with soft plastic may have phthalates in them. Even after Feb. 10, the CPSC issued a legal opinion that said they will allow toy manufacturers to continue

selling toys with phthalates until they run out of stock."

Housley agrees with Shriberg that there's no way to tell if a toy on a store shelf is safe. Country of origin is no clue either. Between 80 to 90 percent of toys come from China so the majority of problems come from Chinese toys, but the Ecology Center hasn't found a consistent correlation between where a toy is manufactured and safety.

"Chinese products don't fare any worse. It's not a China problem but a regulatory problem with our system. Because it's made in the U.S. doesn't mean it's safe," said Shriberg. "The good news is we found 21 percent did not contain toxic chemicals. It shows toy manufacturers can make toys without chemicals of concern."

While Shriberg is looking forward to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act going into effect Feb. 10, 2009, the reforms don't go far enough. The Ecology Center

together with organizations like the Michigan Nurses Association formed the Healthy Michigan, Healthy Kids coalition to work with state lawmakers to draft the Safe Children's Product bill package to protect children from toxic toys and other children's products. "We hope it will be introduced in January and to get it done so it's in place by the holiday season 2009," said Shriberg. "It would eliminate, lead, mercury and arsenic in toys, and chemicals of concern like bromine, bisphenol-A and phthalates would likely make the list. Parents would be able to make a decision of whether to buy toys through a government Web site requiring disclosure of chemicals. And it would provide incentives for companies to develop safer alternatives and to locate and grow in the state."

For a list of recalled toys, visit www.cpsc.gov.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Qi Gong workshop

With Daisy Lee Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winter Health for all, and 1-4 p.m. (women only), sponsored by Michigan Tai Chi Association, 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. at Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 591-3530 for information and form.

Overeaters Anonymous


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

Jingle Bell run/walk

For The Arthritis Foundation Sunday, Dec. 7, at Northville Downs Race Track, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at Covington School in Bloomfield Village. Both festive events offer competitively timed 5K routes, 4-mile children's Snowman Shuffles and post-race chili parties. Call 1-800-968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road, Dec. 10, is Diabetes and the Holidays: Strategies to Maintain Control, with registered dietitian Katie Dooley presenting strategies to help maintain control of your blood sugar and weight during the holiday season as well as ideas for healthy resolutions for the new year. Dooley returns Jan. 14, for Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control. On Feb. 11, registered dietitian Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.



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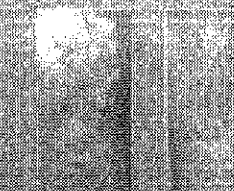
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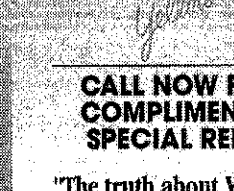
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SECRETS TO WINNING COUNTEROFFERS



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L. Culp

It was 2001. The dot-com crash had put Patrick Lannon in job-hunting mode twice. He and his wife, expecting their son, left Portland, Ore., for Knoxville, Tenn. The offer Lannon landed after extensive internal interviews surprised him. He countered, asking "If it would be worth it to pay me 20 percent more if it would positively impact the business." He then recommended that it take effect 90 days after he started or they'd part company.

That counteroffer wasn't an isolated incident. Sharing the wealth, Lannon has been involved in six counteroffers, three for other people, increasing the total value of the offers by \$130,000. Today he telecommutes as a workforce business analyst at the city's Kronos Inc., a company with about 3,400 employees in 60 countries. Lannon sells HR-related software and hardware to retailers in North America.

The economy makes many people fear job hunting, let alone bargaining. Dan Dugan, HR manager over 1,500 employees at Denver's Service Corporation International Inc., a \$2 billion funeral and cemetery provider in Canada and the United States, recalls that he wanted to negotiate for his first job, an internship. He told the employer and received what he wanted, plus an unexpected \$3,000 signing bonus. More recently, he coached a

friend to identify the "missing ingredient," the one that would make the offer "perfect" — tuition reimbursement. The friend won a \$20,000 salary bump, provision for his Executive M.B.A. program expense and modified telecommuting.

Victor Brown, vice president of Business Development at the Birmingham, Ala., regional Chamber of Commerce, remembers telling an employer in his native Atlanta that he wasn't "comfortable" with an offer, that he'd go home and discuss it with his wife. "They sweetened me right there on the spot \$2,500," he reports. Years later, a recruiter called him. That led to an offer from another company of \$58,000 plus \$9,000 in bonuses. When he demurred, the company said it couldn't offer much more.

"But I was confident I wasn't going to leave my home, where I'd lived my whole life," he adds. "They'd tried to tell me the cost of living in Birmingham was lower than Atlanta, but I'd done some research. I told them that housing prices in Birmingham were a bit higher." They settled at the top of the scale:

- \$76,000 salary;
- 20 percent relocation package, which grew to almost \$20,000;
- \$12,000 signing bonus; and
- with 12 months of good performance, 500 shares of stock.

TECHNIQUES

People successful at counteroffers recommend a range of techniques. Lannon stresses familiarity with the psychology behind a counteroffer. "An employer who made an offer," he remarks, "clearly wants you... Establish your value to the

organization to make the decision easy." He comments that a 90-day period makes the offer "fully invested" and much more likely to meet your demand than take on the added expense of recruiting and hiring someone else. Meanwhile, work toward accomplishing the goals you set with the company for that period.

Dugan, the HR manager, advocates a certain "mindset, a shift from selling yourself to negotiations. Once you have an offer, your relationship with the hiring company has changed. Know your market value and be psychologically comfortable with your requests. You need to be able to walk away."

Brown advocates "interviewing for positions like the interviewer — to determine whether you're a good fit, whether you have the attitude and commitment. Understand the position you're looking for and your interests. In any negotiation you just can't be anxious or to desperate."

Bobbie Stone of executive search firm Bobbie Stone International L.L.C., in Princeton, N.J., advises candidates to "make sure you have a salary in place (in your current company) and find out whether a bonus there (is) guaranteed." Not everyone has that luxury.

Still, Lannon observes, "I think a lot of people seeking a position feel lucky getting it and don't spend much time thinking why they get the offer. It's not's looks. Think why and get back. Use it as leverage."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



Patrick Lannon, here in his home office, is a workforce business analyst at Kronos Inc., in Knoxville, Tenn. His negotiating skill includes helping people succeed at making a counteroffer.

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CAReport



**By Kevin Koloian
Avanti News Features**

The Impala nameplate dates all the way back to 1958, when it was the ritziest Chevrolet in the company's full-size car lineup.

The 2008 Impala, as always, is targeted at buyers who want a sedan with good size, a reasonable price and a decent amount of usable storage room.

Changes for 2008 are relatively minor. Satellite radio is now standard on all models, while the lower-level LS and LT models received a standard six-way power driver seat. Stability control is now standard on 2 LT, LTZ and SS trim levels, and the 3.9-liter V6 is now E85 ethanol-gasoline compatible.

A throwback, the Impala is one of the few cars available with a bench front seat. The optional 40/20/40 front seat isn't a traditional bench, but the center armrest of the middle section can be folded up to create a bench.

With this setup, you can sit three across the front and three in the back, making the Impala a true six-passenger sedan. This is a dying breed nowadays.

The Impala comes in four trim levels: LS, LT, LTZ and SS. The \$21,255 LS model includes 16-inch wheels, a front bench seat, air-conditioning, full power accessories, a tilt steering wheel, a power driver seat, a single-CD audio system with an MP3 jack, and keyless entry.

Moving up to the LT model adds dual-zone climate control and remote vehicle start.

The LTZ includes 18-inch alloys, performance suspension, heated leather bucket seats, a Bose audio system and an auto-dimming rearview mirror.

The SS comes with monochromatic exterior paint, a performance-tuned suspension, 18-inch wheels and a rear spoiler.

Options for the Impala LS consist of a Luxury Edition Package that includes front bucket seats with leather, a flip-and-fold-flat rear seat, steering-wheel-mounted audio controls, OnStar, a rear spoiler and anti-lock brakes with traction control.

The LT has two sub packages called 1 LT and 2 LT that include features such as leather seating, a six-CD changer, satellite radio, heated front seats and 17-inch alloy wheels. The LTZ's only options are a CD changer and a sunroof, while the SS can be ordered with heated seats, a power front-passenger seat, Homelink



The Chevy Impala is a dying breed. Thanks to the optional 40/20/40 front seat, it's one of the few cars in its class that can comfortably seat six.

transmitter and an auto-dimming rearview mirror.

There are three different engines for the Impala, depending on what trim you order. The LS comes with a 3.5-liter V6 engine that produces 211 horsepower and is E85 compatible.

Available on the LT and standard on the LTZ is a 3.9-liter V6 that is good for 233 horsepower, which is now built with Active Fuel Management technology. This system deactivates half the cylinders while cruising to save fuel.

The SS has a 5.3-liter V8 making 303 horsepower. All models have the same four-speed automatic transmission and are front-wheel drive.

Fuel mileage on the 3.5 liter V6 is 18 miles per gallon in the city and 29 mpg on the highway, on regular gas.

As for safety, anti-lock brakes and traction control are standard on the LTZ and SS, and optional on other models. Full-length side curtain airbags, OnStar and a tire-pressure monitor are standard on all Impalas, and stability control is now standard on 2 LT, LTZ and SS trim levels.

In crash tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Impala earned a perfect five star rating for driver and front-passenger protection in frontal impacts. In side-impact testing, an Impala equipped with the side airbags scored five stars for front passengers and four stars for those seated in the rear.

You'll notice interior comfort immediately when you enter the Impala. Its instrument panel has a soft feel with a simple design. The gauges themselves are sophisticated, yet easy to use. Buttons for the radio are wide and flat, while a large central knob operates with little effort.

The control knob system is found in new Buick models as well as the Cadillac DTS, all of which feature a similar center console.

The Impala offers many solutions to your cargo storage needs. They include its forward-flipping rear seat cushions that reveal a storage tub underneath that can contain spills or carry smaller items. The tub also serves as a covered storage area beneath the seat with cushions down.

There's also a decent-sized pass-through from the trunk that can be accessed by flipping the seat bottoms forward and the seat backs flat. The Impala's trunk holds its own. It is larger than many other mid-size cars' trunks at 18.6 cubic feet.

To keep you going in the right direction, all Impalas include the new Generation 7.0 OnStar as standard equipment. This system offers Turn-by-Turn navigation with the optional Directions and Connections service. Turn-by-Turn navigation directs the driver by using the digital readout lines in the radio head. Directions are downloaded by the OnStar advisor to the vehicle and can be played back or paused anywhere along the route path.

And to keep you going and going, like the Energizer Bunny, all Impalas come with a three-year or 36,000 mile limited warranty with a five-year, 100,000-mile powertrain warranty.

The Impala should be a good fit for people who need an affordable car with a roomy interior.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group @2008, Fracassa Communications.

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GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY		EVERYONE	
BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
\$15,652*	\$16,575*	\$20,765*	\$21,952*
LEASE	LEASE	LEASE	LEASE
\$224** 36 Mo. Lease	\$239** 36 Mo. Lease	\$309** 36 Mo. Lease	\$345** 36 Mo. Lease
36,000 Miles \$224 Total Due		36,000 Miles \$309 Total Due	

36 Mo. Lease

2009 TRAVERSE

6 Speed, Auto Transmission, Onstar, 3.6 V6, Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Stereo CD. WAS \$29,065

Stock # 2060

GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY		EVERYONE	
BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
\$20,765*	\$21,952*	\$20,765*	\$21,952*
LEASE	LEASE	LEASE	LEASE
\$309** 36 Mo. Lease	\$345** 36 Mo. Lease	\$309** 36 Mo. Lease	\$345** 36 Mo. Lease
36,000 Miles \$309 Total Due		36,000 Miles \$345 Total Due	

36 Mo. Lease

2009 COBALT

Protection Package, Onstar, Air, Power Steering, More. WAS \$15,925

Stock # 6160

GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY		EVERYONE	
BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
\$12,260*	\$12,918*	\$12,260*	\$12,918*
LEASE	LEASE	LEASE	LEASE
\$209** 36 Mo. Lease	\$229** 36 Mo. Lease	\$209** 36 Mo. Lease	\$229** 36 Mo. Lease
36,000 Miles \$209 Total Due		36,000 Miles \$229 Total Due	

36 Mo. Lease

2009 IMPALA

Auto V6, Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Power Seat, OnStar, Much More.

Stock # 6141

GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY		EVERYONE	
BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
\$14,336*	\$15,326*	\$14,336*	\$15,326*
LEASE	LEASE	LEASE	LEASE
\$229** 36 Mo. Lease	\$249** 36 Mo. Lease	\$229** 36 Mo. Lease	\$249** 36 Mo. Lease
36,000 Miles \$229 Total Due		36,000 Miles \$249 Total Due	

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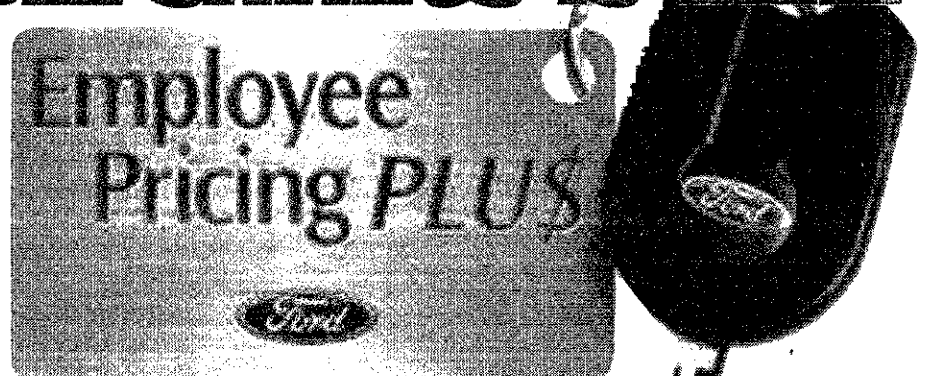
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Stock #90586

New 2009 Ford Focus 4 Door SE

Lease for 36 Months **\$212**** mo.

\$1121.85 DUE AT SIGNING

GREAT VALUE!



Stock #91017

New 2009 Ford Edge

Lease for 36 Months **\$296**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

EXTREMELY ROOMY



Stock #90447

New 2009 Ford Taurus SE

Lease for 36 Months **\$269**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG.



Stock #90586

New 2009 Ford Fusion SE

Lease for 36 Months **\$182**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG.



Stock #90770

New 2009 Ford Escape XLT Fwd

Lease for 36 Months **\$238**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

Hurry! Only 3 left at this price!



Stock #83437

New 2008 Ford Edge SEL

Lease for 36 Months **\$308**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

\$750⁰⁰ Extra for your Trade Coupon**

24 MPG Hwy. Rated



Stock #90009

New 2009 Ford Flex SE Fwd

Lease for 36 Months **\$279**** mo.

\$2426 DUE AT SIGNING

SIX DECOR PACKAGE



Stock #90906

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72 Mo. with **\$0 DOWN**

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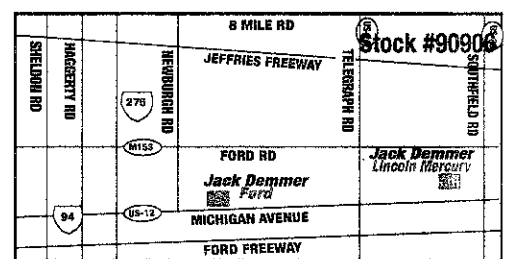
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