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Inside today's newspaper



SUNDAY
December 14, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos is reluctantly ending a judicial career that started in 1992.

'This is like a home to me'

'A natural for a job,' Bokos prepares to retire as district court judge

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Had he listened to his father, C. Charles Bokos might have missed his calling to become a Westland 18th District Court judge.

His father, George, had good intentions when he convinced him to study pre-dentistry at Wayne State University, but "I hated every minute of it,"

Bokos said.

The day Bokos walked into a comparative anatomy lab class to dissect a cat's brain, he knew he had to switch career paths. He talked to a department head who asked him what his dream was, and he surprised even himself when he blurted out that he wanted to study law.

It's a decision he has never regretted, even though he

was blocked from seeking re-election this year because he reached the state-imposed maximum age of 70 in October.

"I felt like I was sort of a natural for this job," Bokos said, sitting in his office and reflecting on a judicial career that began in 1992. "This is like a home to me, this court. I'm very sad about having to leave. I'm having a difficult time."

MOSTLY GOOD TIMES

Bokos' journey has been an incredible one, marked mostly by rewards with a few disappointments tossed in. Although he will retire this month, he can return from time to time to work as a visiting judge.

Bokos grew up in Detroit, the oldest of three children born to Greek immigrants George and

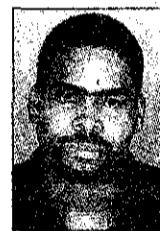
Please see **BOKOS, A2**

1st defendant in shootout pleads guilty

3 men face trial in January

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of four defendants has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from an Aug. 12 cocaine sting that erupted in gunfire outside a Westland shopping center, and a trial has been set in January for the other three men, authorities confirmed.



Reed

Roberto Debert Reed, 32, of Detroit is facing his sentencing on Jan. 23 in Wayne County Circuit Court after pleading guilty to charges of felony firearm, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, and possession of more than 1,000 grams of a controlled substance, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

Reed is accused of driving alleged gunman Benjamin Bernard Pringle, 32, of Detroit to the scene outside Bob's of Canton-Westland, a market near Warren and Merriman where police said the defendants intended to rob a Romulus police drug informant of \$60,000 in cocaine.

Miller didn't say how much prison time Reed is expected to get when he is sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway for his role in a drug sting-turned-shootout that left 28-year-old suspect Brian Thomas of Detroit dead. Pringle also was shot, but he survived.

The shootout stunned workers and residents near the shopping center and sparked criticism from some Westland city officials, who questioned the decision by undercover Romulus police to carry out an afternoon drug sting outside a busy shopping center.

Pringle is facing trial on Jan. 12 along with defendants Joseph George Boldizar, 50, of Garden City and Demond Nigel Sanders, 29, of Detroit.

Pringle, Boldizar and Sanders are facing trial on multiple robbery and drug charges. Pringle, who was an accused gunman along with slain suspect Thomas, has additional charges involving four counts of assault with intent to murder, four counts of felonious assault, felony firearms and being a felon with a gun.

If convicted, the defendants could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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

WW board hears 'positive things' about school improvements

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Glenda Verdon went before the Wayne-Westland school board last week to say thank you. A mother, a grandmother and an educator, the Canton resident spoke about the positive things going on the school district in light of an attempted recall of two board members.

"As an educator and a consultant I have been in a lot of schools in Wayne County. I've seen aging buildings, with leaky roofs and a media center where the newest books are 10 years old," she said. "But not here. The schools are clean, well lit, something kids can feel good about being in school."

Verdon added that her son and daughter were both well-prepared for college by their teachers and administrators and that she can see that her granddaughter, a fifth-grader,

is getting a quality education.

"In the midst of all things going around, we need to notice the very positive things going on in this district," she said. "Thank you to all of you."

Joining Verdon in voicing support for improvements that have been in school buildings and athletic fields were former John Glenn football coach Chuck Gordon, who lived in Westland and had two children graduate from John Glenn High School, and Wayne Memorial High School Principal Valerie Orr, a Wayne resident and Wayne Memorial graduate. The improvements, funded by the 1998 bond issue and sinking fund money have come under attack by angry parents who have said that the money could have been better used in the classroom than in new field houses and Astroturf fields.

Orr told the school board

it was disheartening to hear negative comments about upgrading facilities, the addition of a new gymnasium and new technology.

"We share three gyms with three boys basketball teams, three girls basketball teams, three competitive cheer teams, our JROTC Raiders, a step team and many other organizations," she said. "If our kids didn't have these gyms, we wouldn't have a Raider team that's second in the nation."

Orr also questioned why her students shouldn't have facilities that students in districts like West Bloomfield, Novi and Northville have.

"If you have an issue, I encourage you to stand with my kids and tell them why they don't deserve facilities like they have in Novi and Northville," she said. "They deserve it."

Gordon also defended the improvements.

"We had to bailout the kids," said Gordon who served on the bond committee. "The money wasn't misspent, the opposite occurred. The entire district was upgraded."

"I admire the board and Dr. (Greg) Baracy for having the vision of giving our kids the best facilities and environment they can. Our kids deserve the best we can give them period."

Brandi Smith who has been among parents questioning the school district's spending, agreed that students deserve good things, but said the focus should be on what's important. For her, it's the education of her children, she said.

"That's where the focus has been lost," Smith added. "Parents don't feel the kids don't deserve the best. The money could be used for books, papers and pens."

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

Burek tapped as Stevenson principal

A familiar face will be at the helm of Stevenson Middle School following the appointment of Scott Burek as principal.

Burek has been the assistant principal at the Westland middle school since 2002 and interim principal since October when Ginny O'Brien decided to retire.

"I look forward to working with the parents, the staff and the students at Stevenson and like our sign says, it's a pleasant place to learn and grow," said Burek, a Canton resident.

Burek received his bach-

elor of arts and master's degrees from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and his educational specialist degree from Oakland University.

He was a teacher and administrative intern at Fitzgerald High School and a summer camp director in West Bloomfield before joining the Wayne-Westland Community Schools as an assistant principal.

"Welcome to your new job. I'm sure you'll do a great job," school board Vice President Skip Monit said. "It's nice to see we can continue to promote from within."

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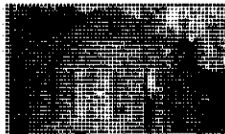
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Offers valid through 1/17/2009. No purchase necessary for Free Coffee offer. Discounts to senior citizens, high school and college students cannot be combined with other offers. Free item in buy one, get one half off, must be of equal or lesser price to purchased item. Fire On Ice Cafe Inc. may alter or discontinue offers without prior notice.

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Coming Thursday in filter



Westland Middle School principal Scott Burek is shown in the photo above. Burek is shown in the photo above. Burek is shown in the photo above.

AROUND WESTLAND

Bowling with Santa

Grab your ball and shoes and head for Town N' Country Lanes for Bowling with Santa from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. The event is sponsored by the Grange 389, Westland Parks and Recreation, and Town-n-Country Bowl. Each child will receive one game of bowling, shoes, hot dog, drink, a visit from Santa, and more. For more information, call Jeff Goodfellow at (734) 722-8324. The event will help raise funds for the Grange's third-grade dictionary program for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Hockey workshop

A free inline hockey workshop will be held from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, for boys and girls ages 6-14 at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland. The workshop is being offered by Eastern Michigan University inline hockey team players. Leagues at Skateland West start Jan. 12. For more information, call (734) 326-2801.

Get crafty

Running low on money or time, another valuable commodity during the holiday season? Come to the William P. Faust Public Library at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, and make a gift for someone special. Then stick around to gift wrap it. Already among the organized few who have already finished their shopping? Then save yourself some time by stopping in with your gifts to wrap them. The library will provide the paper, ribbon, bows

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

and tags.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or visit www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Family Christmas

Bell Creek Community Church will present a Family Christmas Production at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest in Livonia. Bell Creek Church is a non-denominational church that meets at Franklin High School on Joy east of Merriman at 10 a.m. Sunday. It has upbeat contemporary music, a children's program each Sunday morning and relevant bible teaching. For more information, visit www.bellcreek.org or call (734) 425-1174.

New Year's Eve

AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party from 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 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.



Jordan Brun of Canton has a role in the pilot episode of "New Directions."

Change, for better or worse

Local producer creates new dramatic series

BY REBECCA JONES
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

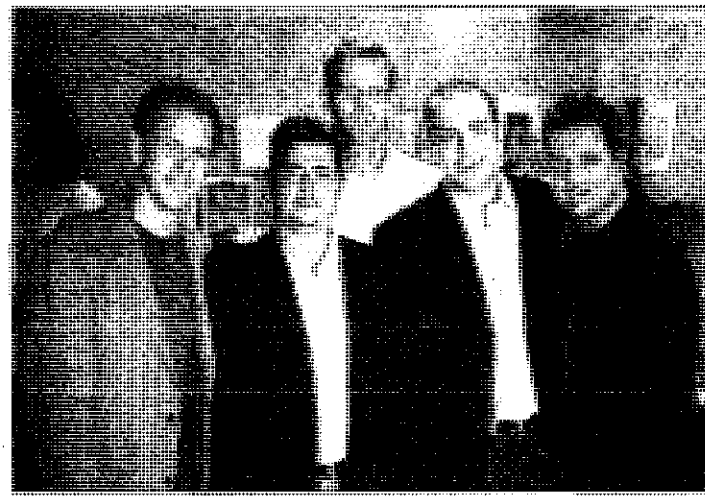
"Your life's about to change," says The Blind Man to Nolan Stokes in the pilot episode of *New Directions*, a dramatic series filmed in and around Detroit and being shopped to networks.

It's about a clandestine life makeover program that uses divining methods such as tarot cards, dice or a flip of a coin to determine where a person's life needs to go.

"It could be good, could be bad," said writer Michael Davis of Detroit.

"They make that come true no matter what," said executive producer Matthew Peach, of Livonia. And the results are filmed for the benefit of an Internet viewing audience.

The pilot episode, "The Makeover," was shown at a screening party Saturday at the Museum of Contemporary Art



The producers of "New Directions:" Chuck Cigrenski of Hamtramck (from left), Mike Davis of Detroit, T.J. Suliot of Mount Clemens, Matthew Peach of Livonia and Mike Madigan of Troy.

Detroit.

Principal character Nolan Stokes is a guy in his mid-30s. played by Vincent Rasnick of Clawson. Stokes is unemployed, broken up with his girlfriend, and lives like a slob. "His life kind of sucks," Rasnick said. When his friend recommends him for a life makeover, Nolan meets The Blind Man (David Durham of Garden City), who warns of trouble ahead.

Other local actors in the cast

include Jordan Brun of Canton, and Mary Gibbs of Redford. Mike Madigan of Troy is the director.

Davis and his writing partner T.J. Suliot of Mount Clemens created the series and have finished scripts for the entire first season, should the show be picked up. The Blind Man's motives are revealed, and other characters meet their fate, which is sometimes good, but more often creepy.

"It's a conspiracy theorist's



Mary Gibbs of Redford has a part in the pilot episode.

dream," Rasnick said. The pilot received great feedback at a screening in Royal Oak this summer, said Peach. His next step is to take "The Makeover" episode to New York for meetings with network executives.

"If we find someone who is really interested, that's great. If not, the Internet is a powerful tool. We'll be moving forward on our own," he said.

Pre-production work on future episodes is underway. "We're going to keep rolling," Davis said. "There's a lot of talent here."

CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties, the Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at: www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk/Treasurer

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BOKOS

FROM PAGE A1

Angeliki Bokos. He graduated from Redford High School and then attended Wayne State, where he received his law degree. He was in college when he met Hilda, his wife of 48 years and a retired school-teacher.

"I proposed to her seven days after we met," Bokos said, and they now have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

Bokos began a law practice in Detroit and later moved to Garden City, and the firm included current Westland City Attorney Angelo Plakas. In the 1970s, Bokos said his clients included then-fledgling police unions from cities like Westland, Livonia, Redford and Wayne.

Bokos was hired as Westland's city attorney when former Mayor Tom Taylor took office in January 1976, and he held the job until then-Gov. John Engler appointed him to replace retiring 18th District Judge Thomas Smith in 1992. It was when Bokos left his city post that Plakas came on board.

Bokos won over voters as a judge, and in three elections they cast ballots to keep him in office. Reflecting on his judicial career, he had nothing but kind words for court workers and two judges with whom he has worked, retiree Gail McKnight and current Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli.

Bokos will be replaced in January by new Judge Mark McConnell, for whom Bokos has had high praise. "This is a wonderful place to work," Bokos said, leaning back in his office chair. "The staff is incredible."

'BEST BOSS'

His court recorder and secretary, Carla Franceschi, has



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retiring Judge C. Charles Bokos reflects on his career.

worked for him since 1980, dating back to when he had the law firm.

"He's the greatest," she said. "He's the best boss anyone could ever have."

David Wiacek, district court administrator turned magistrate, agreed. "He's like a duck in water," Wiacek said. "He's the perfect guy for the job. We're going to miss him."

Bokos fondly remembers letters he has received from once-troubled people who told him that his court orders as a judge helped them kick alcohol and drug habits. He also said he has been proud of his association with the Westland Police Department.

One of his biggest regrets as judge came when he ordered a murder defendant to stand trial for killing a girlfriend who was bitten and stabbed. He relied on flawed testimony from a doctor, but the defendant was freed after spending nine months in jail.

"He lost his job and his house," Bokos said. "That case bothered me for a long time."

Bokos has helped send real murderers, child molesters, armed robbers and numerous other criminals to prison by ordering them to stand trial, and he also has handled misdemeanor crimes, civil cases, landlord-tenant disputes and small claims. Anyone sitting in his courtroom has noticed that he had treated everyone with respect and dignity, no matter what their situation.

"I've tried to treat everybody the way I would want to be treated," he said.

Bokos and his wife will spend some time here and some at their Florida home, and he looks forward to being a visiting judge.

He certainly has no regrets for not becoming a dentist. Other than being a judge, Bokos can think of only one career he might have liked.

"The only thing I would have wanted to do is play third base for the (New York) Yankees, but that wasn't going to happen," he said. "I like what I do, and this community has been good to me."

dclom@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Meijer, Salvation Army team up to feed hungry

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're looking to provide food for needy families, the Meijer store in Westland is a good place to start.

Meijer at Warren and Newburgh roads in Westland is selling \$10 gift cards for use at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army to buy food pantry basics.

"We're just happy to be a part of the community," said Tim Black of Pinckney, Westland store director. The cards went on sale before Thanksgiving and will be sold through Dec. 24.

Meijer and Salvation Army

leaders are pleased with the response.

"We really appreciate you thinking about us," Salvation Army Capt. Joanna Rose, Wayne-Westland corps commander with husband Derek, told Black. "We really appreciate you company doing this and being community-minded."

She was joined by colleagues Sandy Kollinger, volunteer coordinator/administrative assistant, and Robin Rutledge-Clarke, case manager/Caring Ministries. The Salvation Army uses the cards to buy food for needy families.

"We happened to choose the



Capt. Joanna Rose of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army gratefully accepts a donated card from Tim Black, store director for the Westland Meijer at Newburgh and Warren Road.

Salvation Army in our area," said Black, noting food pantry cards are being sold for various charities at all Michigan Meijer stores. In addition to the customer cards, Meijer is donating \$100,000 for food pantries, including the Wayne-Westland one.

"There's definitely a need for it," Kollinger said. "We very much appreciate it," Rutledge-Clarke added.

Black noted the displays are by checkout lanes, drawing shoppers' eyes.

"I think everybody realizes it's a tough economy," he said.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Student's Name: Domonique Bergeron
School, Grade: Eugene B. Elliott Elementary, fourth grade
Parents: Sherri Bergeron and Victor Johnson

Nominated by: Principal Johnnye Summerville

Why is she being nominated? Domonique is a great student at Elliott. She enjoys bike riding with her brother and sister, writing and learning new things. She is also a super problem-solver. Domonique enjoys talking with her friends, playing games and reading. She is an honor roll student and always receives a good citizenship award from her teachers. Her hobbies include swimming and running.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A vet. Because I love animals and want to help them stay healthy.

What do you like about school? How teachers break things into smaller parts to make sure we all learn.

What is your favorite subject? Why?

Math. Because I'm very good at it!

Who are your roles models? My sister, Sade. If I have a problem, she helps me figure things out and

shows me how being respectful to others helps me grow.

Student's Name: Carmen Mata
School, Grade: Hamilton Elementary, fifth grade
Parents: Chad and Becky Mata
Nominated by: Principal April Quasarano

Why is she being nominated? Carmen is an honor roll student at Hamilton. She has earned all A's on her report card. Carmen was chosen to work in our school office daily. She sets a positive example for others to follow. She was chosen for this position because she is very responsible and makes good choices in tough situations. Carmen helps the younger students at Hamilton when needed.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I am not sure right now.

What do you like about school? I like being a safety.

What is your favorite subject? Why?

Math and spelling. They're easy for me when most people have trouble doing them.

Who are your roles models?

My dad and grandma. Because I think they make good choices and are hard workers.



Bergeron



Mata

Observer offices move from Livonia

As of Friday, Dec. 12, readers who wish to purchase back copies of the *Westland Observer* must do so at the circulation office at 41304 Concept D. in Plymouth Township. (see related map).

Customers can also place a classified ad and order photo and page reprints at the new office located in the Metro Plymouth Business Park off Haggerty Road between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads.

The *Observer* office at 36251 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia is now closed.

Customer service representatives are available on site weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Thursdays in the new Plymouth Township office.

Customers also can call toll free (866) 887-2737 for delivery

service and information regarding photos reprints weekdays and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to noon or visit us anytime online at www.hometownlife.com (click on customer service at the top of homepage).

Readers can also use www.hometownlife.com to contact any member of the editorial staff, send a letter to the editor, community calendar item, photograph or press release.

Fax a letter to the editor, press release or item for the community calendar to (313) 223-3318.

To reach the following editorial staff members, call: Sue Mason, community editor, at (313) 222-6751 and reporter Darrell Clem at (313) 222-2238.

The *Observer* also maintains a local retail advertising office in Plymouth Township. To contact an advertising representative, call (734) 582-8363.

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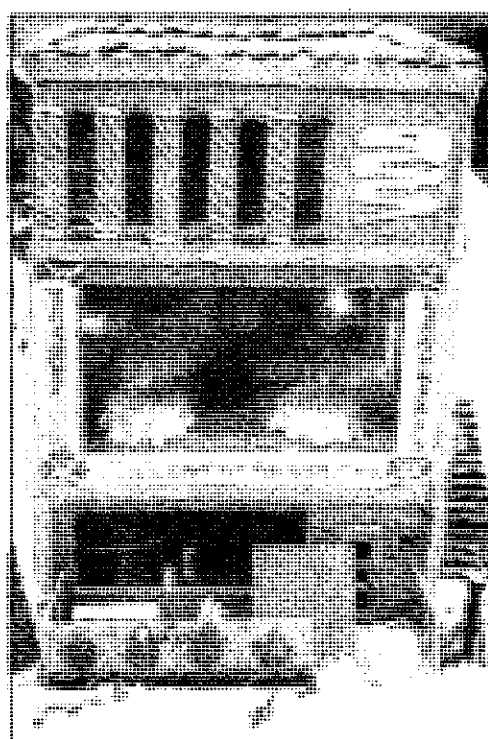
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Schoolcraft students create a sweet downtown



Third place winner Tina Czarney and Lisa Chin's construction La Saison in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.

The theme of this year's Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College is "Downtown." Students in the Culinary Arts Program have created a delectable vision of the city with such landmarks as Comerica Park and Macy's in sweet gingerbread.

The creations also include some imaginative buildings that only exist in the students' imaginations. The buildings include intricate details of fruits and vegetables, baked items, Scrooge and a snowman all down in candy and spun sugar.

And it's all edible, except for the gas lamp lighting system.

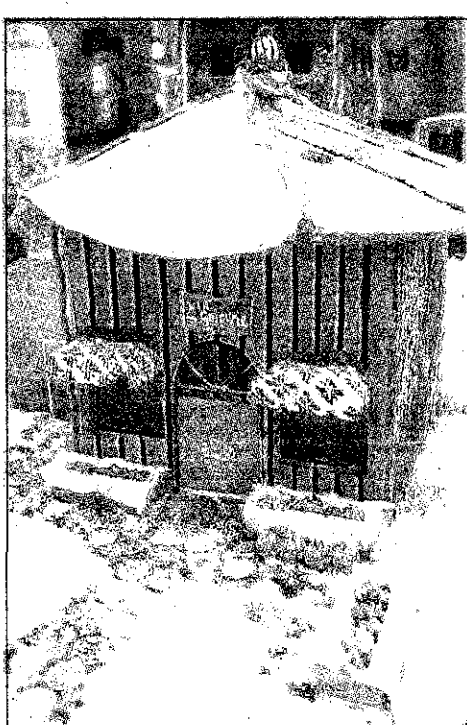
The 16 buildings were created by 30 students working individually and in groups. It will be on display at Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and is open to the public.

A panel selected four buildings for special recognition.

First place was awarded to Rudeepan Wattanapat of Plymouth for North Star Gallery.

Second place was awarded to Gabrielle Todd of Jackson for Epicurie and to Laura Camacho-Arguello of Dearborn and team mate Nancy Mechler of Brighton for Old Town Bakery.

Third place was awarded to La Saison by Tina Czarney of Allen Park of Allen Park and Lisa Chin of Canton.



Second place winner Gabrielle Todd's construction Epicurie in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.



First place winner Rudeepan Wattanapat's North Star Gallery in the Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Schoolcraft creates new Transitions Center

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College is now one of four programs within a new Transitions Center.

College officials say the change is to serve students and the community better but some longtime WRC advisory board members aren't happy with the change and how it was presented.

A meeting was held Tuesday at Schoolcraft to introduce the change. The Transitions Center, under director Stacey Stover, incorporates the Women Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs.

"We're excited about this, providing opportunities to more students and growing services to students and the community," Stover said.

Stover replaced Nancy Swanborg as director of the Women's Resource Center in July.

"This is an expansion of services. Services are continuing," Stover said. "It meets the needs of the community."

Laura Callow of Livonia has been an advisory board member since 1970, when the WRC was founded. She said the changes have been in the works since September.

"All the trappings of the Women's Resource Center were stripped, a quilt, pictures, plants. People could no longer refer to it as the

Women's Resource Center but only as WRC," she said.

She said Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress was concerned that a center for women at the college might be a violation of Proposal 2, the anti-affirmative action amendment approved by voters in 2006.

But Beth Allen of Farmington Hills, who has been on the WRC advisory board for 18 years, said the center has always welcomed and assisted men.

"It was called the Women's Resource Center because that's where most of the efforts were," Allen said.

Stover emphasizes that the change will not eliminate any of the services now offered. Allen and Callow say they understand that the services

will continue.

The Women's Resource Center includes a Divorce Support Group, programs to help women in transition and help with economic independence. Adult Student Services offers financial planning, income tax assistance, a workers in transition program and help for adult students. Family Resources offers campus recruiting information and a Web site for families and parents. Student Engagement sponsors a women's history month program, helps with student schedules, and a high school to college transition program.

Allen said what many on the advisory board are concerned about is that the WRC won't have a separate identity and that many of the women

who have come for assistance won't feel as comfortable under the new arrangement.

She said many women come in emotionally upset but through counseling are able to become economically self-sufficient.

"Many of us believe that with the changes you won't see that anymore," she said.

But Stover said she knows the history of the WRC is important and that it will continue under the new arrangement.

"One thing that was done well under the Women's Resource Center was the abil-

ity to work one on one, to sit down with students and work with someone," she said.

She said the program has "as wonderful base" of 48 volunteers who will continue their work.

"They are empathetic and knowledgeable," she said.

Another tradition that will continue is the annual WRC Spaghetti Dinner, which has raised scholarship money for adult students. Stover said the dinner will continue and funds raised will go to the Transitions Center.

The date scheduled is March 17, 2009.

Winter dark covers a world of wildlife

Winter Dark. It never really takes me by surprise. But it does send me inside early. I adjust and have come to realize that it's the near frantic scurrying of black walnut-hauling red squirrels, the huddling of chickadees against the wind and the sudden cessation of dripping icicles that warms me I have about 30 minutes to finish outdoor



Oakland Naturally

Jonathan Schechter

task.

So it is with winter dark, a more powerful warning than a ticking watch. I head in with a few oak logs for the night fire about the same time deer cautiously head uphill from their woodland edge beds of pine needles.

Winter Dark. The time

of the owl, the fox and the coyote. The time for the occasional rifle shot like crack of a frozen tree "explosion." One night soon the mysterious throaty groans of nearby lake ice join the dark noises. Winter dark is the time to wonder on the ways of nature and man as ranting winds rattle windows on my old hilltop home and send the occasional puff of smoke back drafting from the wood stove.

I may feel frustration these moments can be hard to share, but I find more pleasure in their peaceful solitude than the more common human trait in my small town of heading out or a drink or two. And I know that winter dark is followed by the sparkle of dawn, frosted windows and a new world of discovery laced with snow. Fresh snow sets the stage for discovery. More often than not those discoveries are found along the edge of my cross country ski tracks.

Technical books on winter

wildlife seldom mention the tiny intricacies that seem so obvious on a slow paced solitary ski sojourn. Perhaps it is because those writers are cloistered indoors and work from established facts rather than direct personal observations. Chickadees: We all know they huddle a bit against the wind. But look at them closely down among the dogwood thicket and some observations are quickly noted — their huddling is not random. Random behavior is not the way of successful winter survival. The chickadees huddle low and face into the wind. A trait that seems to be shared by most small winter "feeder birds." I can only surmise it is to keep the cold winds of winter dark from blowing up under their layers of insulating feathers.

Dawn, with her almost imperceptible slowness wakes the sleeping earth as I push on along the tree line. Crows call. A startled rabbit

bursts into flight and then freezes to "disappear." If I was a hunter it would be his end. And as the first clear rays of sunshine warm my cheek and soak the feathers of huddled chickadees, I ski over small logs that hide tiny earth-covered wood frogs, amphibians frozen into a comatose state of ice laden biomass until their time of spring. I enter the backwoods swamp, a place where winter dark's hand gives us a clear sense of time and place. I smile recognizing that if it was not for the slowing of the pace brought on by winter dark, the eye would not see and the mind would not absorb the subtleties of wilder mysteries, a world that on this dawn includes the painfully slow trek of an inquisitive young opossum with frost nipped ears and a dragging bent tail.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Reach him at Oaknature@aol.com.

Holocaust Memorial founder was 'selfless'

BY SARA CALLENDER
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig turned his personal tragedy into messages of tolerance and understanding.

Rosenzweig, whose family was killed by the Nazis, later created Holocaust memorial centers in West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills. He died Thursday of heart failure at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.



Rabbi Rosenzweig

Because his personal documents were destroyed in the Holocaust, Rosenzweig — who lived in Southfield — didn't know how old he was. Estimates range from 80 to 88.

"He was a selfless man who worked tirelessly to bring the knowledge and the tragedy of the Holocaust to many," said Alan Zekelman, a member of the board of the Holocaust center. "He knew that the only way to prevent hatred and genocide was to educate people about them."

Born in Ostrovitz, Poland, Rosenzweig immigrated to the United States in 1947, after his parents, brother and one of his two sisters and all of his aunts, uncles and cousins were killed.

Rosenzweig was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York in 1951. He served as rabbi at Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron from 1953 to 1993.

His passion was creating a permanent memorial to Holocaust victims and teaching the importance of tolerance.

Burial will take place in Israel. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Holocaust Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48334.

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Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Dear Rick: I need to purchase some life insurance. After listening to your radio show, I decided to buy term life insurance. I contacted

a friend of mine who sells life insurance and he gave me a bid. I went online and was able to find a policy with same terms that was considerably cheaper. Both of the companies are AAA rated. Is there any reason why I shouldn't buy the one online?

Congratulations for shopping around and getting competitive bids. I

don't have a problem with buying life insurance online particularly term where the policies are straightforward and easy to understand. The money you save looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else.

As far as I am concerned there are two types of insurance agents those who are salespeople and those that understand their

policies and the workings of insurance and client needs.

Those who are salespeople only don't understand the policies they sell nor do they understand individual needs. All they want to do is sell. These people provide no value to you so there is no reason to deal with them.

There are agents who understand complex insurance needs and they

are able to guide you to select the right policy for your situation. These individuals bring value to the process.

One of the reasons I like term insurance is because the policy provisions are easy to understand — you're buying insurance for a period of time and if you pass on during that period of time, your

beneficiaries collect on the policy. In most situations, I recommend term insurance because it fills a need and is cost effective. If you are considering term insurance, get competitive bids and remember, the Internet is a great resource.

Dear Rick: I want to take some losses by selling some good funds but I don't want to be out of the market. How can one find good comparable funds to replace those when making sales for tax losses? I want to sell Vanguard Explorer, Vanguard Wellington, Dodge & Cox International and Selected America. I never see this specific issue addressed. What do you suggest?

The real issue is to not violate the wash sale rule which says if you sell an investment with a loss, you cannot buy that same fund back within 30 days. If you purchase the same fund within 30 days, then you cannot take the loss for tax purposes. That does not mean that you cannot buy back a similar fund because you can. For example, if you are in a balanced fund and you sell that fund, you can immediately buy back another balanced fund without violating the wash sale rule.

In your situation, I like all the funds you are selling. Although, they've all had a difficult time of late, they are all good funds. Therefore, there are a couple things that you can do. You can sell the existing funds that you're in and then reinvest the money into an index fund for that category, hold the index fund for over 30 days, then sell them and re-buy the same funds you have sold. This would allow you to still deduct your losses for tax purposes and remain invested. Therefore, if the market does have a short-term run you'd be in a position to benefit from it.

In your situation, the index fund that you can use to substitute for the Vanguard Explorer will be the Vanguard Small Cap Index. A substitute index fund for the Vanguard Wellington would be the Vanguard Index Balanced Fund, a substitute for the Dodge & Cox International would be the Vanguard Index International, and a substitute for the selected American Shares Fund would be the Vanguard Index 500 Fund.

Another strategy as opposed to using the index fund is just to buy some very good similar funds. In that case, I'd consider the Baron Small Cap Fund as a replacement for the Vanguard Explorer. Instead of Vanguard Wellington, the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund would be an excellent substitute. To replace the Dodge & Cox International, you could use the Vanguard International Value Fund, while replacing the Selected American Shares with the Dodge & Cox Stock Fund.

I believe you never want to let the tax tail wag the dog. In other words, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons and tax reasons alone. However, if you can do something that makes sense economically and it saves you on taxes, then that is a strategy worth pursuing.

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

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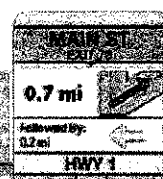
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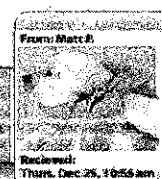
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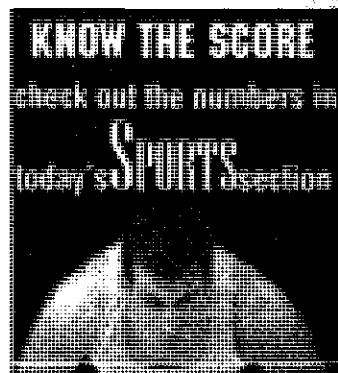
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Sheila Cockrel has message of city-suburb cooperation

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Sheila Cockrel

Detroit Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel, like many, is concerned about the future of the U.S. auto industry.

Cockrel envisions a future without three domestic auto companies, and notes there will be huge consequences for housing, government structure and others.

She told Westland Rotarians "the vilification of the titans of the automotive industry" in Washington, D.C., was uncalled for. Cockrel, speaking Thursday, Dec. 11, to Rotary at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, urged her listeners to take up the cause of city-suburban-cooperation.

"We really are all in the same boat," the councilwoman said, adding that there are

divisions between black and white, white collar and blue collar, and city and suburban dwellers.

"We've made division an art form," she said, decrying the "travesty that's been going on in Washington, D.C. We're all Detroit and we're not on the cutting edge of history in the minds of a lot of folks."

She reminded her audience of the auto industry's quick retooling as World War II hit home, with Detroit as the arsenal of democracy. "People do have short memories. It will outdo in my opinion what we saw in the Great Depression," if the auto industry goes under, she said.

Cockrel, who brought greetings from the council and her stepson, Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr., said metro residents need to figure out how to respond to current challenges.

"We really have to rethink who we are and what our future's going to be," she said.

That means a focus on education, which Cockrel considers second only to public safety in city services. Young people also must be able to compete in the global economy.

"We're not competitive, we have to change that," she said.

She agreed public officials need to put the public back in their service. The Kilpatrick scandal had a "cathartic quality that is going to be positive," she said. City department heads are already less guarded in conversations.

There will be multiple elections next year in Detroit, a challenge she envisions. Cockrel talked about asking President-elect Barack Obama for money to take down vacant, abandoned buildings in the city.

"I think we will overcome, but it's going to take working together," she added.

Jeff Juenemann, a club member who owns a Westland insurance business, asked about retail possibilities in Detroit.

"It's rooftops, it's density," she said. Most cities have dense downtowns; in Detroit, people grew up in neighborhoods, many defined by the local Catholic parish.

"People owned their homes, their piece of America," she said of 1950s Detroit. That means there are empty homes

now in the city. Detroit needs a downtown with enough density to support high-level retail, and must address issues of safety, including police response and lighting.

"Come in on any conveyance you want," she said of the need for regional mass transit, when asked about Livonia and other suburbs opting out of the SMART system. She likes for workers to be able to get around, and for suburbanites to visit the city with ease and with spending money.

"Our future is together. It's finding common ground," she said.

Detroit native Roger Ratkowski, a caterer and president-elect of the service club, asked about housing projects like Herman Gardens on the city's west city. The U.S. Housing and Urban

Development model was for mixed-income housing, she noted, adding Herman Gardens got off to a rocky start in the mid-20th century. It's better now with the Salvation Army building a youth center as part of development there.

City government now has little to do with public housing, Cockrel added.

Rotarian Margaret Harlow, a Westland tire business owner, likes going to downtown Detroit and feels safe there. Harlow asked about media coverage focusing on crime in the city.

Cockrel referred to the "1967 Rebellion" in Detroit, a term she uses rather than "riot" for people systematically victimized then by the Detroit police. She agreed the media culture about the city is limited.

Style without the attitude

Sisters put their own touch into Hair Vibe salon

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you combine an "uptown Mayberry" barbershop with some slick styles and cuts? Hair Vibes.

The salon, located at 8589 N. Lilley Road in the Golden Gate plaza, was taken over by three sisters in August 2007 and has begun to take on a new identity under its new ownership.

"I have worked in larger salons with all of the drama and I am not having it here," said stylist Mel Quinn, whose sisters, Marianne Della and Kathy MacKenzie, have joined her in business. "We don't have any attitude here and we have a lot of fun together."

Quinn, who has been a stylist for 20 years, had been at the salon for about four years when the previous owners announced they were moving and wanted to sell the business.

"It had always been a dream of Mel's to have her own salon and I had been looking for business oppor-

tunities," said Della, who was working in the insurance industry. "Being that there were three of us, no one person had to bear the burden of the costs alone so the risk was not so great and we decided to go for it."

While Quinn, a Canton resident, oversees the day-to-day operations of the salon, Della, who lives in Westland, handles its finances.

MacKenzie, a Flint resident, is largely a silent partner but drives down on weekends to pitch in.

"I never expected it to be easy working with family but so far, so good," Quinn said, joking that the main disagreement she had with one of her older sisters was whether they should move the salon's front desk. "I thought we would have way more issues than we do."

Della, who has been coined the "go-to girl," left the insurance business to focus on Hair Vibes. The sisters are joined by two stylists, Carolyn "Red" Mitchell and Melissa Rosenberg.

Mitchell, a longtime stylist and resident comedienne



The crew of Hair Vibes: Carolyn "Red" Mitchell, co-owner Mel Quinn, Melissa Rosenberg and co-owner Marianne Della.

of the salon, recently moved to Canton and said she went through four salons in 10 months because she couldn't find the right chemistry.

"I had to go through a few salons in order to find someplace that I wanted to stay," she said. "I don't do egos and it was easy to talk to (Quinn)

so I said 'alright then.'"

Rosenberg found Hair Vibes through an online listing in May.

"We do have a lot of fun together," said Rosenberg of Farmington Hills, as she joked that she needed a catchy name such as Mitchell's self-appointed

"Hair Goddess" title.

"Hey, it's on my business cards," Mitchell said.

In efforts to make the salon their own, Quinn and her sisters have put up artwork, mirrors, painted a couple walls and removed a batch of fake trees.

"It was like a hair jungle in

HAIR VIBES

Owners: Mel Quinn, Marianne Della, Kathy MacKenzie.
Address: 8589 N. Lilley Road.
Telephone: (734) 454-0288.
Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday & Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome.

here," Mitchell quipped.

In addition, the salon has donated its services to local groups and has partnered with other local businesses in an effort to survive the economic times.

"No one in small business wants to see another business fail," Della said the cross promoting.

Quinn agreed and said that while the hair industry has taken a hit, she sees promise with Hair Vibes.

"There has been a big swing in the industry with people stretching the amount of time in between cuts and colors but we are seeing good things happen even now," she said. "All of our hard work will be worth it and even though we work a lot of long hours, I'm not going home saying that I hate my boss."

tparks@hometownlife.com
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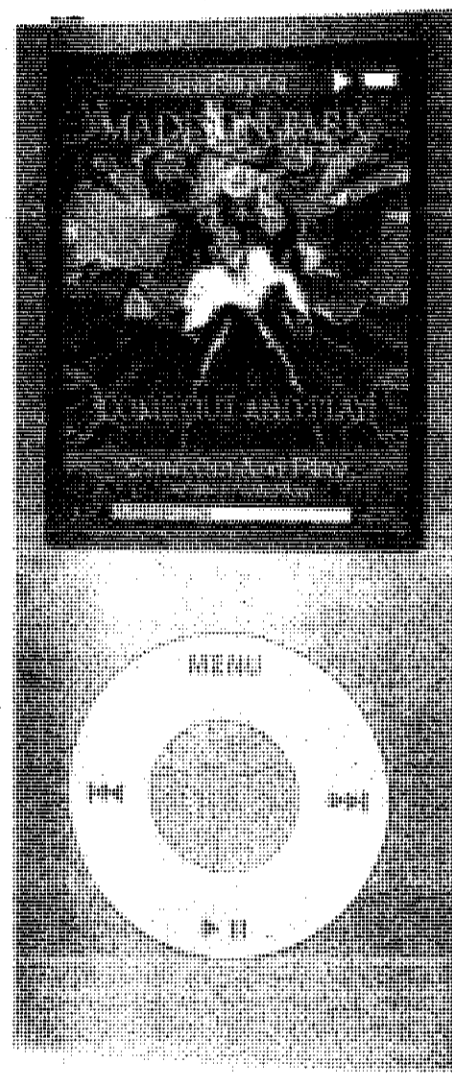
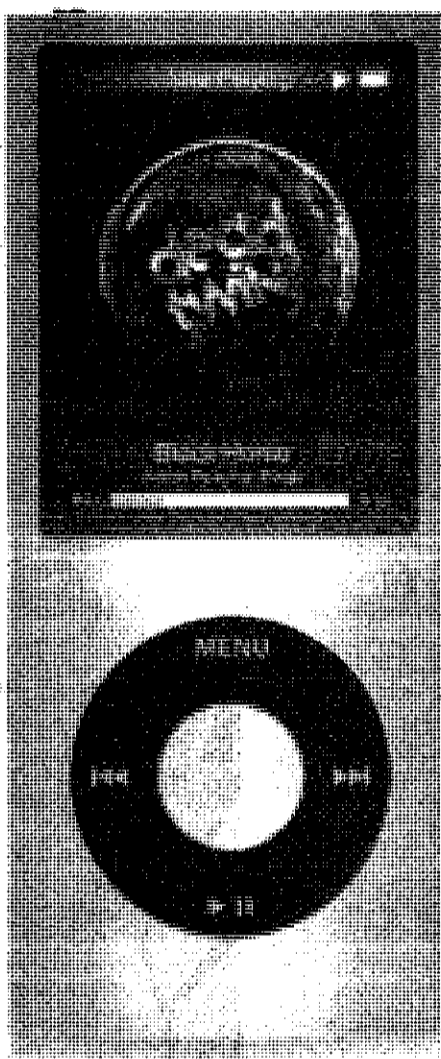
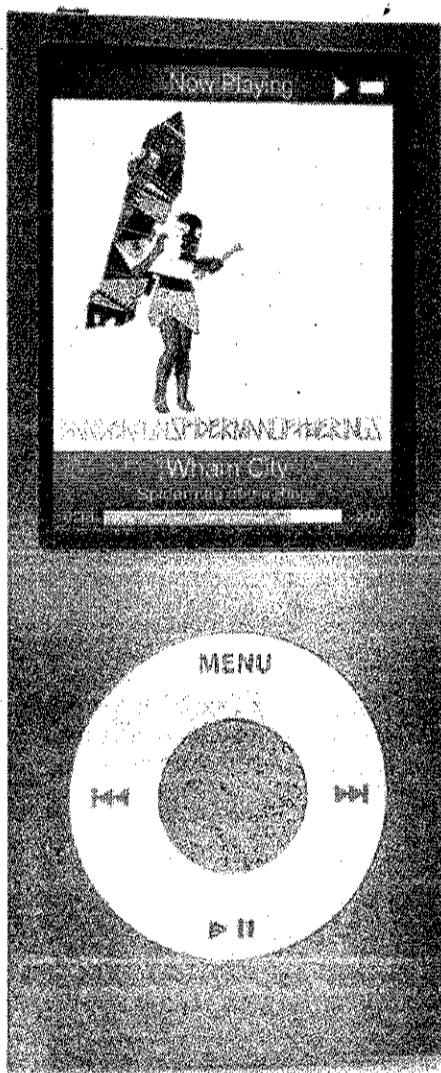
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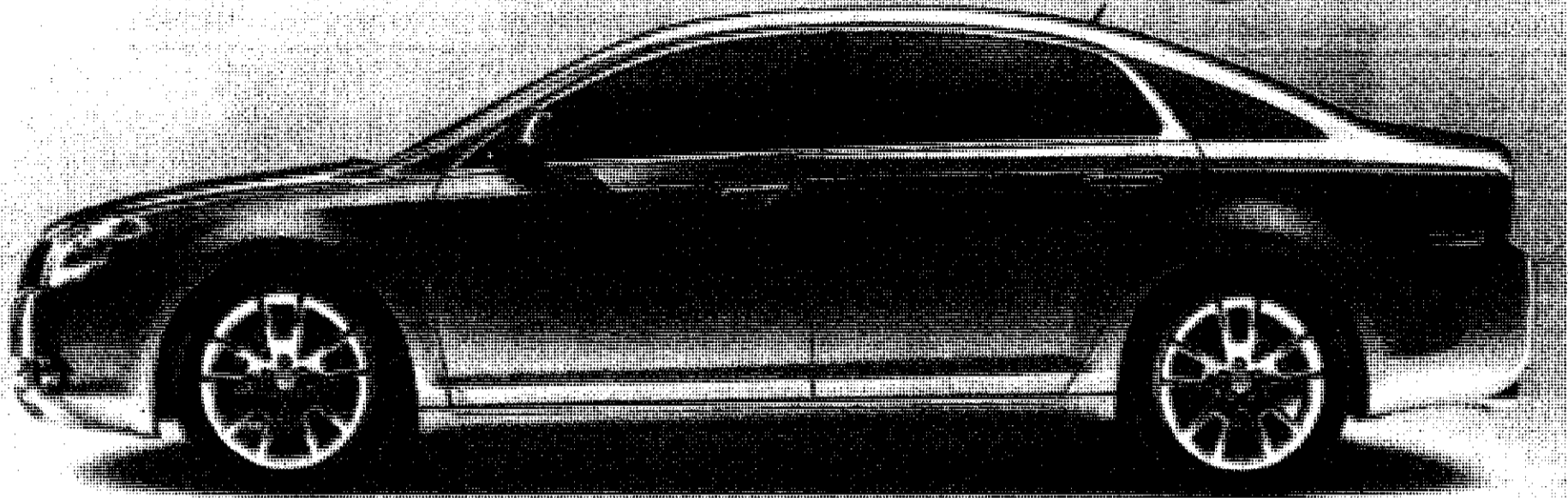
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Sunday, December 14, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Patriots lock down fourth straight City mat title

Chargers 2nd; Spartans 3rd

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A banged-up Franklin wrestling team got off the mat Wednesday night and captured its fourth straight Livonia City Championship.

The Patriots, boasting eight individual winners and a pair of runners-up, tallied a team-best 210 points followed by Churchill (149.5), host Stevenson (128) and Clarenceville (79.5).

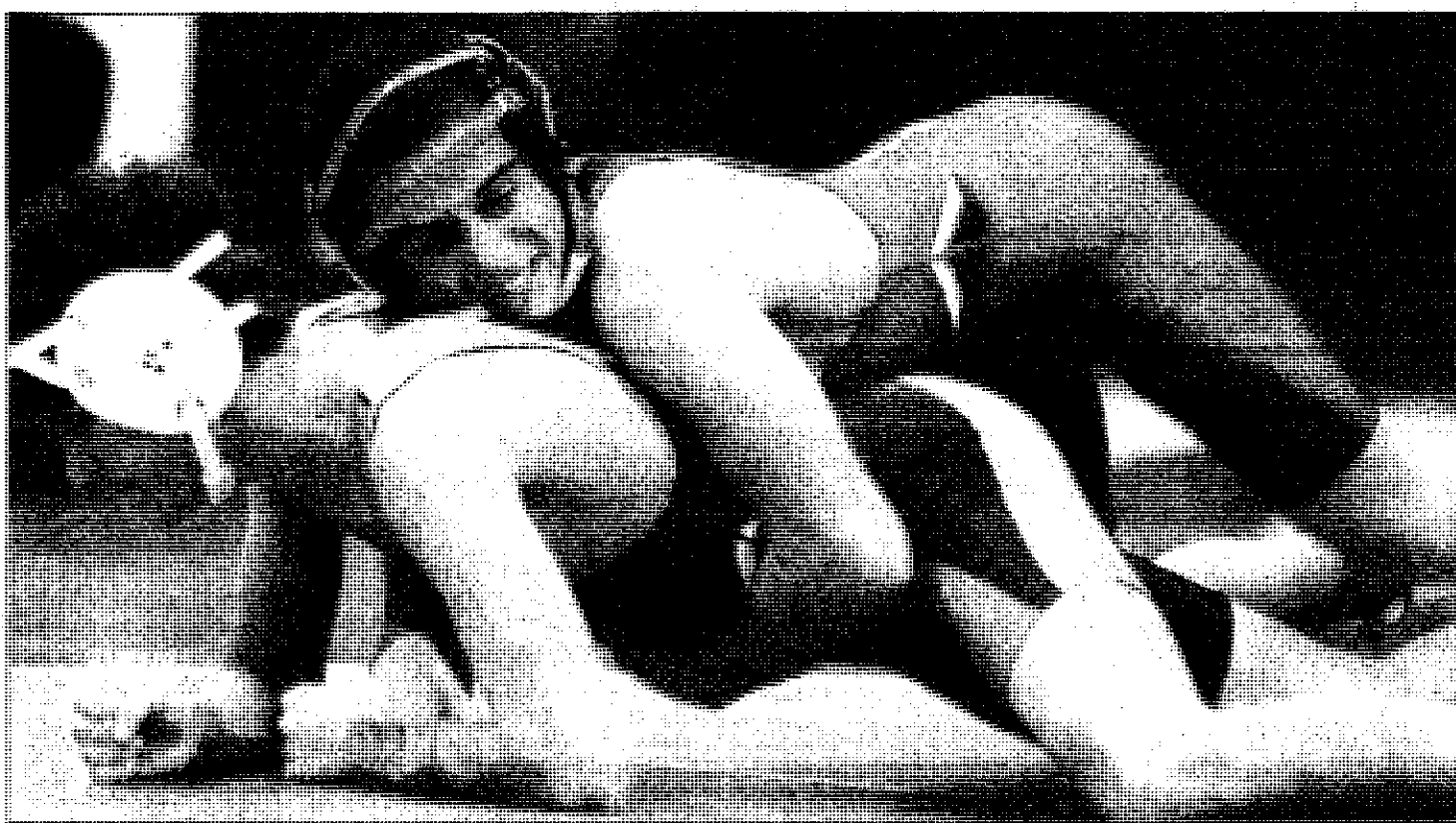
Franklin opened its season last Saturday at the Westland John Glenn Rocket Invitational and finished 3-2 in the team-duel format with losses to Clarkston and Roseville.

"Tonight I was worried because we had four serious injuries coming out of that meet," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "Our seniors wanted four years of winning the city meet. We had four seniors wrestle super hurt and I wanted to bench them, but they were ready to go."

Franklin winners included Paul Hanni (112), Steve Tuyo (119), Justin Jacobsen (130), Brandon Billiau (152), Elvin Ferreira (160), Don Stratz (171) Garrett Hay (189) and Mike Modes (285).

Ferreira was named co-MVP along with Stevenson's Raz Markosian (140). The Franklin senior captain edged Churchill's Grant Morgan in an entertaining final, 13-10.

"I had a hard time deciding (MVP) between Stratz and Ferreira," Chiola said. "It was



Franklin's Paul Hanni (top) keeps the upper hand on Stevenson's Joe Sellinger as he takes first place in the 112-pound weight class during Wednesday night's Livonia City Tournament held at Stevenson High School.

a coin flip between the two. Both are solid kids. Both are hard workers and team leaders. They're training partners and go against each other every day in practice."

Also bringing a smile to Chiola's face was the performance of Tuyo, a sophomore, who edged Churchill's Matt Hecksel, 12-10.

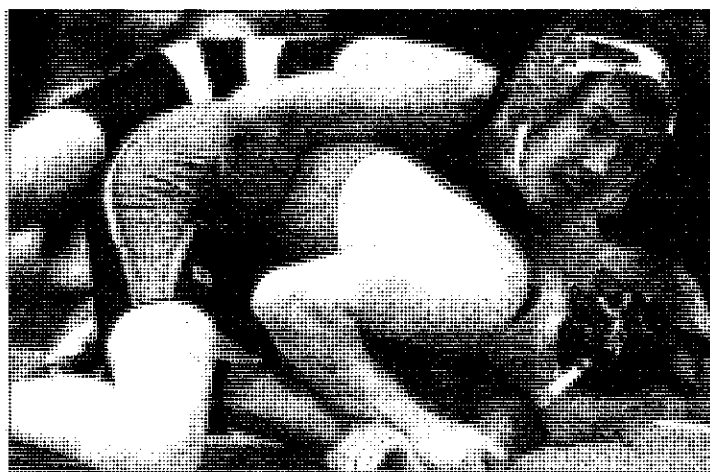
"That was an upset for us at 119," the Franklin coach said. "That wasn't something we expected."

Churchill, meanwhile, has been battling the injury bug, too, after winning four matches Saturday at the Clarenceville team tournament.

"Team-wise we did a little better than I thought, but individual-wise a little poorer — if that makes sense," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "A few of the seniors did not win their final matches, which is disappointing. But not to make excuses, they've only been on the mat a short time because of injuries. A lot of them haven't had a lot of reps, but they did a good job for being out there."

Churchill's Jacob Meadows, a sophomore, took the 103-pound title over Franklin's Rian Klein, 10-8. The Chargers also got a win at 145 from

Please see PATRIOTS, B2



Churchill's Jacob Meadows (top) takes control against Franklin's Rian Klein en route to a first-place finish in the 103-pound weight class during Wednesday night's Livonia City Tournament held at Stevenson High School.

Siemens

MU quartet hailed

The American Volleyball Coaches Association announced its 2008 All-Region and All-America teams Thursday and four Madonna University players were recognized for their efforts.

Senior Lubovj Tihomirova (Riga, Latvia) earned first-team All-Mideast Region and first-team All-America honors after ranking 11th nationally in kills per set (4.08). She ranks fifth all-time in school history in kills (2,413) and holds the single season record in kills (967 in 2007).

Fellow senior Whitney Fuelling (Milford), who ranked 10th nationally in attacking percentage (.385) made second-team All-America and first-team All-Mideast.

Also making All-Mideast Region was junior Inta Grinvalds (Portage Central), who was tied for fourth nationally with 10.8 assist-to-kills per game. She currently ranks second all-time in MU history with 5,322 career assists.

Junior Mary McGinnis (Fraser), who averaged 3.2 kills per set for the 35-7 Crusaders, was named honorable mention All-Mideast.

Prep hockey action

Northville scored seven times in the opening period en route to a 9-1 KLAAs Kensington Conference boys hockey win Wednesday night over host Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

The Mustangs, who outshot Franklin 37-8, improved to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in the KLAAs Central Division.

Franklin falls to 0-4 overall and 0-4 in the KLAAs South Division.

Angie Chronis notched a hat trick, while Rachel Freeman and Julia Franceschi added two goals apiece Thursday as host Ann Arbor Pioneer improved to 4-0 with a 10-2 Michigan Metro Girls Hockey win at Veterans Arena over Livonia Ladywood.

Shelby Kucharski tallied her 12th and 13th goals of the year for the Blazers (2-2).

Livonia Blue eyes another big year

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gymnastics teams from around the state could be seeing lots of Blue once again.

That's in Livonia Blue, a combined team made up of 18 gymnasts from Stevenson High and three from Franklin coming off a third-place finish with a score of 144.725 in the MHSAA state team finals.

The defending regional and conference champions finished last year with a 10-1 dual-meet record while losing only one senior to graduation, Kelly Tapella, who finished 11th in the Division 2 individual all-around (35.50). Tapella also finished seventh on floor exercise (9.175) and eighth on uneven bars (8.775).

Livonia Blue junior Emily Quint is one of the state's top returning Division 1 gymnasts for third-year coach Lisa Fierk and assistant Michele Hahling.

Quint was third in the all-around (37.65) after placing runner-up on floor exercise (9.55), third on vault (9.6) and fifth on balance beam (9.475).

"Her goals are set and there's no reason she won't hit them," Fierk said. "She is a great asset to our team. She always brings a smile and some hip-hop moves into the gym."

Senior Laura Nomura is also another top-notch performer who returns. She finished 12th in Division 2 all-around (35.05), while earning All-State honors with a third on floor (9.325) and fourth on vault (9.15).

Please see BLUE, B2



Livonia Blue's Emily Quint returns after finishing runner-up in the Division 1 all-around.

Stevenson coach Gabel steps down

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Coming off the back-to-back most successful state playoff runs in school history, Livonia Stevenson is suddenly searching for a new varsity football coach.

Tim Gabel, who guided the Spartans to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Division 1 state finals in 2007, along with a state semifinal this fall, resigned unexpectedly Friday afternoon.

Gabel, who guided Stevenson to nine state playoff appearances and an overall record of 92-47, submitted his letter of resignation during the fourth-hour class period to Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman.

"I just feel like it's time," the 41-year-old Gabel said. "It wasn't a snap decision, it's been coming a number of years. It's something I've been contemplating."

Hyman was shaken and stunned at the news. "Tim resigned for his own personal reasons and it was nobody else, he decided on his own," she said. "I'm devastated. I've worked with him for the nine years I've been here, and he's been a tremendous asset to the our staff. I'm taking it pretty hard, but I understand and respect his decision."

"He's done a wonderful job and he's had such a presence here. He's not only been a good football coach, but he stands for so much more. We'll miss him not only for his integrity, but he's also been



Gabel

Please see GABEL, B3

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Clarenceville at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Stevenson at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Clarenceville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Brighton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Wayne at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Annapolis at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Hartland at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Ladywood at Notre Dame Prep, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Stevenson vs. Plymouth
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. Farmington
at Farm Hills Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Franklin vs. Crestwood
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC
at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Warren Regina
at St. Clair Shores Arena, 8 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Franklin at Allen Park, 5:30 p.m.
Brother Rice, Lake Orion,
Garden City at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
John Glenn at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Oakland County Tourney at Troy, TBA.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Patriot Invitational at Franklin, 9 a.m.
Pinckney Invitational, 9 a.m.
Michigan Center Tourney, 9 a.m.
Oakland Co. Tourney at Oxford, TBA.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Tuesday, Dec. 16
John Glenn at Redford Union, 6 p.m.
Country Day, Monroe at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Churchill at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
Trenton at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Livonia Red at Farm. Unified, 6 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
Monday, Dec. 15
John Glenn, Wayne vs. Lakeland
at 300 Bowl (Waterford), 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16
John Glenn vs. Waterford Mott,
Wayne vs. Waterford Kettering
at Novi Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Clarenceville at Flat Rock, 4 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 14
Ladywood at Team Competition
at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Madonna at Notre Dame (Ohio), 7 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 18-20
Schoolcraft at Saddleback (Calif.), TBA.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Cedarville (Ohio) at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Madonna at Olivet College, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21
Schoolcraft at Scottsdale (Ariz.), 2 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 22
Schoolcraft at Glendale (Ariz.), 1 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.



Turning up the Heat

The Livonia YMCA Heat F.C., an under-11 boys team, captured the Western Suburban Soccer League's Division 1 title with a 7-1 record while outscoring their opponents, 29-13. Members of the Heat include (front row, from left): Conrad Kean, Nate Leach, Danny Ismail, Keith Yermak, Ryan Bohr, Jordan Whitt, Jad Al-Fara; (middle row, from left) Robbie Gulick, Diego Martinez, Drew Padgen, Aaron Laslett, Wytson Werden, Trevor Furkas; (back row, from left) strength and conditioning coach Wells Werden, assistant coach Kevin Yermak, technical coach Mario Tartaglia and head coach Matt Warner.



Livonia Jets champs

The Livonia Jets, made up of fourth-graders from Buchanan Elementary School, captured their six-team division with a 5-0 record in the Michigan Flag Football State Championships held Nov. 15-16, at Walled Lake Northern High School. The Bloomfield Packers were runner-up with a 4-2 mark. The event attracted 63 teams from across the midwest vying for seven different age-group titles. The Jets, coached by Joe Jakacki, also won the Michigan Youth Flag Football League's regular season title with an 8-0 record. Members of the Jets include: Craig and Connor Jakacki, Adam Heaman, Cade Bunton, Jack Bushart, Scott Findlay and Nick Poulos. Assistant coaches include Dino Poulos, Jim Findlay and Brian Bunton. The Jets will resume play Sundays beginning April 19 at Livonia Franklin High School in the Spring Flag Football League. For more information, or to register, visit www.MichiganYouthFlagFootball.com.

Ultimate Soccer Arenas to host Chinese Women's National team

In preparation for their Dec. 17 soccer match against the 2008 Olympic gold medal champion United States, the Chinese Women's National Team will hold a training session on Monday, Dec. 15 at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. The session, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. is free and open to the public. Monday's training is scheduled to last about 90 minutes. The match, set for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff Wednesday at Ford Field in downtown Detroit, is the first U.S. Soccer event to be held in the metro area since the 1994 FIFA World Cup and the first women's match in 15 years. While both teams will train at Ford Field on Tuesday, the Chinese team arrives in Detroit on Sunday night in preparation for the international friendly. Livonia native Dan Duggan, Michigan Bucks Chairman and CEO Dan Duggan, was contacted by U.S. Soccer in search of some assistance in promoting the game in the metropolitan area. "We are always happy to help out the Federation in supporting the highest level of soccer in Michigan," Duggan said. "It is not very often that we have the honor of our National team in the area, so we have offered to help in any way. As a result, the Bucks will be providing many of the necessary volunteers to make this a highly successful event." This will be the first of many high level soccer teams to play at Ultimate Soccer Arenas during the next several months. According to George Derderian, managing partner of Ultimate Soccer Arenas, the facility is in top shape and ready to welcome the Chinese with open arms. "We are honored to have the Chinese National team visit us and use our facility for training next Monday," he said. "We are sure that they will not only be impressed with the field conditions, but with the entire facility as well. I suspect they will tell us they have never encountered a soccer facility like this anywhere in the world." Tickets for the USA-China match are \$18, \$28, \$40 and \$55 and can be purchased through Ticket Master or at Ultimate Soccer Arenas. The Bucks still have the best seats available in each of the four seating categories at USA. Tickets at Ultimate Soccer can be purchased with personal check (made out to US Soccer) or with their credit card. For more information, please call the Bucks office at (248) 334-7460; or visit the Bucks web site at www.bucksoccer.com.

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ARE WE A MATCH? SWF, 38, very happy, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shopping, pool, dining. Seeking SWM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. #226961
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HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU WWF, 57, homeowner, independent, a life lonely, dog owner, enjoys a lot of time together. #226963
TAKE A CHANCE SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown hair, NS, no children, enjoys a lot of time together. #226964
LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Outgoing, laid-back SWF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SWM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. #225010
LET'S GET TOGETHER Sexy, mature, intelligent SF, 35, 5'9", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. #226965
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HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME SWF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, ND, NS, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays concerts, reading. Seeking SWM, 35-51. #224388
ARE YOU THE ONE? SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet a honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. #226967
SEARCHING FOR A MAN... 40-60, who's looking for commitment, funny and sexy. Only Jewish men please. #226968
CURVACEOUS SWF, 47, 5'7", 150lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SWM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. #226969
I'M UNIQUE... complex with a good sense of humor, good listener and great talker. God-fearing, enjoys movies, music, books and more. Searching for a male companion with the same or similar qualities. 35-50. #230109
A NEW BEGINNING Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-55, with the same qualities: minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. #2279171
CALLING ALL GOLFERS! WWF, 62, seeking partner, best friend, 60-70, must be honest, NS, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. #2279179
CLASSY LADY I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. #226235
ATTRACTIVE BLONDE SWF, 55, 5'9", NS, HW proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, working out, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SWM, 45-63, for dating, possible LTR. #2269774
READY FOR A FRESH START? DWF, 51, 5'7", 120lbs, long black/brunette, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventure, mature gentleman. #2269549
WHY NOT CALL? SWF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-50, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. #2271724
WARM SMILE SWF, 21, NS, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly marriage. Come be fun and get to know each other. #227197
LET'S HAVE FUN SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SWM, 35-65, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. #226968
LIVE LIFE 2 THE FULLEST SF, 18, enjoys music, creative design and trying new things. Seeking SM, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? #227162
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 for coffee, let me know. #2262181
HELLO THERE Asian woman, 5'2", 150lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, ND, NS. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. #226970
A WOMAN OF CLASS SWF, 68, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? #2271065
GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, being outdoors. Seeking similar SWM, 25-45, for companionship. #2269578
LET'S GET TOGETHER SWF, 54, 5'8", NS, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SWM, 48-62, NS, for friendship or more. #2262444
MUSICAL GIRL Christen WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 18-25, who enjoys the same things. #226228
OUTGOING BF, 24, student, looking for BM 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. #226240
PRETTY EYES SWF, 33, voluptuous in all the right places, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. #2269870
TRY THIS ONE Looking, sincere SWF, 68, easygoing, looking for a good-hearted, Christian gentleman with The Lord in his heart to share life, laughter, happiness and possible LTR. #226224
WORTH A CALL SWF, 55, loves movies, trying new things, sporting events, motorcycles, sewing and more. Seeking suitable SM, with similar interests, to share the special times in life. Friendship first, possible LTR. #2245005
BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'6", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, movies, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 40-55, with like interests/qualities, for friendship. LTR. #2246846

MORE YOU. MEN SEEKING WOMEN
SEEKING LOW DRAMA SWF, 38, long brown hair, NS, athletic build, pretty, animals lover, in search of attractive, fit, funny, easygoing SWM, 27-43, with no children, for dating, possible LTR with right man. #226954
GREAT EXPECTATIONS Good looking SWF, nice intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 37+, 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. #227475
NATURE MAN WANTED SWF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SWM, 25-40, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining, water. #226956
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. #226957
ARE YOU LONELY? Attractive female, 5'9", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, redhead, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 35-45. #226958
SEEKING A MATURE MAN Attractive SWF, 36, NS, N/Drugs, would like to meet respectable, happy SWM, 25-50, to enjoy life together. #226959
HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME SWF, 44, NS, motherly, to explore all life has to offer! I enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. #226960
VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH SWF, 37, 5'7", 125lbs, blonde, nice walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball games. Seeking SWM, 30-43. #229911
ARE WE A MATCH? SWF, 38, very happy, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shopping, pool, dining. Seeking SWM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. #226961
VERY ATTRACTIVE SWF, 37, mother, looking for attractive, easy, tall, dark-complexioned, employed, intelligent BM, 35-50, for friendship possibly leading to LTR. #226962
HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU WWF, 57, homeowner, independent, a life lonely, dog owner, enjoys a lot of time together. #226963
TAKE A CHANCE SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown hair, NS, no children, enjoys a lot of time together. #226964
LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Outgoing, laid-back SWF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SWM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. #225010
LET'S GET TOGETHER Sexy, mature, intelligent SF, 35, 5'9", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. #226965
GOD SENSE OF HUMOR? WF, 48, 5'3", brown hair, has pets, NS, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 40-50, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. #226966
HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME SWF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, ND, NS, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays concerts, reading. Seeking SWM, 35-51. #224388
ARE YOU THE ONE? SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet a honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. #226967
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Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh. Guidelines: Personal ads are for adults 18 or over seeking non-committal relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding video messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2638.

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

Holidays a time for sharing

Everyone has been affected by the economy, but some a lot more than others. This year, the need is greater than ever for charities caring for the less fortunate. I was reminded of this last week when I spoke to nonprofit organizations in our communities. Even though we might not be able to give as much as in the past it's important to do what we can.

JA'NOAH HOUSE

Audrey Mattson of Livonia is still taking clothing and food to the poor and homeless in the Norway area of Westland, Brightmoor, Cass Corridor, and Brewster Projects even though her husband, Carl, died in April 2007. The Livonia woman continues their work through the Ja'Noah House. Call (734) 522-5077 to help.



Linda Chomin

In years past, the couple was able to fill 250 holiday gift bags for children, this year only about 50.

"Every little bit means a lot even socks for the homeless, hats and gloves," said Mattson. "We're seeing more homeless on the streets. Even though they can go to the shelters at night, they have to walk the streets during the day and they're hungry."

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHENS

Sister Nancy Ann Turner is concerned about those with homes, but no heat. The Livonia nun runs the tutoring program at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Conner location. She's asking for educational and hand-held games for the 60 children and socks, blankets and hand and body lotions for everyone. Call (313) 822-8606, Ext. 210.

"I try to give the moms a food card. We have a lot more coming for meals," said Sister Turner. "For the low income it's kind of their way of life. Others they're struggling for the first time because they lost their job. Last year, we had families living without heat and people got sick."

Brother Vincent Reyes used to collect toys for the children at the Meldrum kitchen. This year, he's asking for caps and gloves for the kids in addition to underwear and tube socks for the homeless shower program. Call (313) 579-2100, Ext. 203.

"We're seeing more people at the Meldrum kitchen," said Reyes. "The family pack we give feeds a family of four for a week and usually includes 15 pounds of chicken now only 10 pounds, and the numbers jumped from September to October from 4,300 families to 5,100 families. It's going to be even worse next year. The economy is becoming more of a problem and people can't give what they haven't got."

FIRST STEP

Judith Barr has been busier than ever at First Step which helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Around 75 families need to be adopted for the holidays by this week. Call (734) 416-1111.

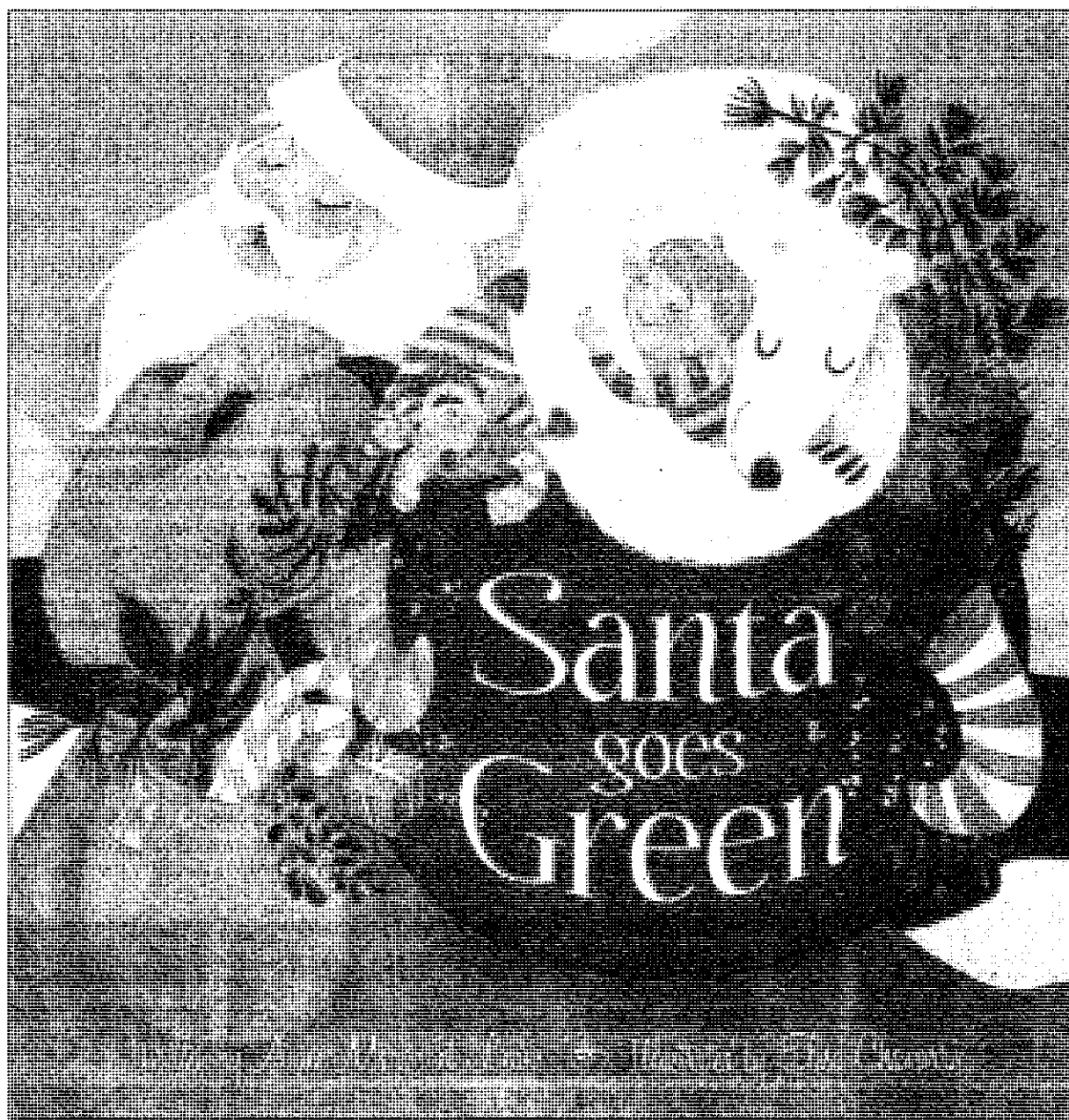
"When the economy is hurting and people are underemployed there's more stress which leads to an increase in family fighting and domestic violence. We're seeing more calls to the 24-hour line, seeing more women afraid to leave and prosecute because they need the income, the bread and milk," said Barr, associate director of the agency based in Plymouth. "We're in need of coats, pajamas, sweat suits used for assault response. When they go to hospitals and police stations, clothes are generally taken. We do need underwear, all sizes of socks, gas cards. People can't afford gas anymore to go to court, to park. We need disposable phones with minutes, food cards. We're trying to help people sustain. For children, we're giving non-violent, durable toys. We still have hats and mittens because of the generosity of churches last year."

First Step does need small or individual sizes of juice, protein bars and canned goods for the shelter that provides a haven for women and children.

"First Step is in a transition. We're looking for a new way to house people to be safe. Our building is 60 years old. We're halfway in a capital campaign for a new facility. If someone makes a cash donation then we're able to go out and buy what a family needs, an alarm system to ensure their safety."

If you need help, call (888) 453-5900.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2145 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.



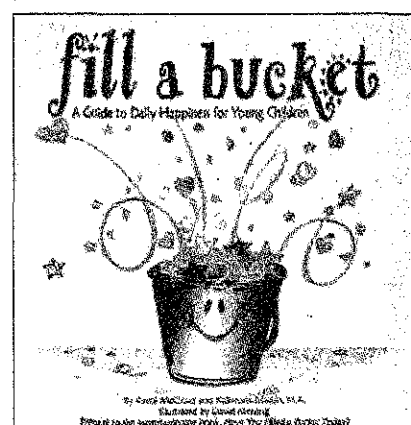
Santa helps a little boy save the polar bears in this new book illustrated by Tima Charvart of Northville.



Willow is a free spirit in this new book from Sleeping Bear Press.

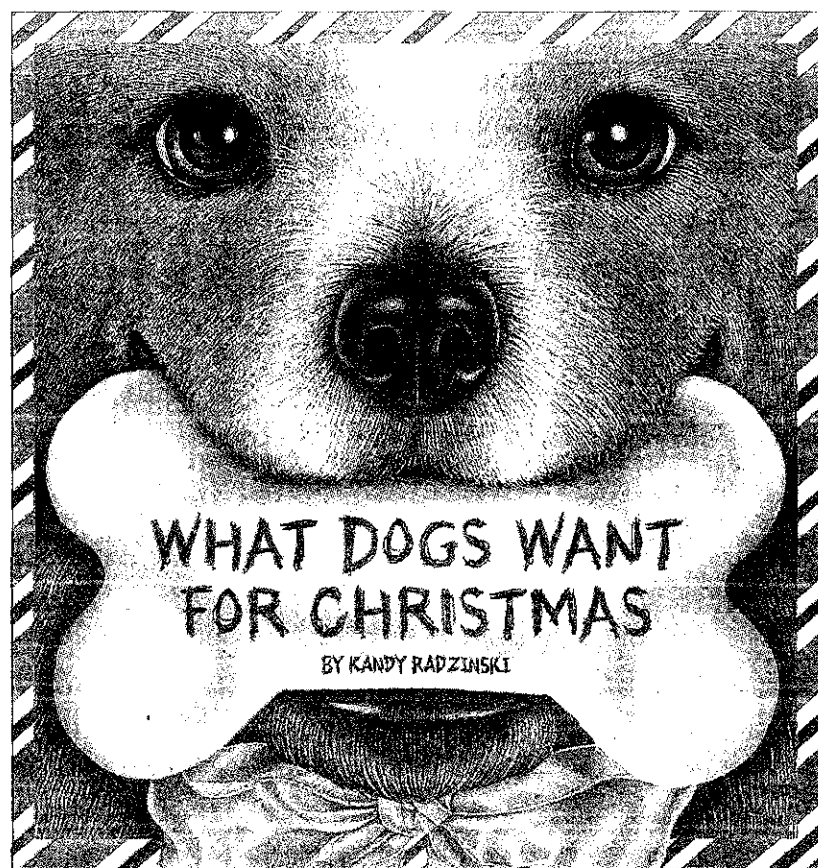


Richard Michelson's new book is a primer for Jewish tradition.



David Messing of Livonia illustrated this new book written by Carol McCloud.

Child's play



Dogs write Santa with their Christmas wishes in a new book by Kandy Radzinski.

Authors use imaginations to create fun books

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

All Sam wants for Christmas is something warm to wear. While that might not seem unusual for a little boy or girl, this wish comes from a chihuahua. The short-haired pup is just one of the characters in Kandy Radzinski's *What Dogs Want for Christmas*.

Children's books open a world where animals can write Santa with their requests. Several new tales this season take creativity to the limit. Nowhere is that more true in the Oklahoma author's new book, a sequel to *What Cats Want for Christmas*, from Sleeping Bear Press in Chelsea.

WHAT DOGS WANT FOR CHRISTMAS
Radzinski's rescue dog provided plenty of inspiration as evidenced when Beanie asks for something new to chew besides a nice leather

shoe. Radzinski took a photograph before painting the watercolor of the innocent-looking trouble maker. Her love shines in these beautiful renderings. Radzinski grew up with dogs before going on to teach art at Central Washington State College and the University of Tulsa.

"I'm probably closer to dogs than people. They're always there for you," said Radzinski, who also lives with a Scottie named Kirby. "The book mostly revolves around Beanie. She was the most expensive. There's the living room leather chair with one arm. In the dining room, one chair is garbage. She chewed the throw pillows just enough to ruin them, but we love her."

WILLOW
Denise Brennan-Nelson and her sister, Rosemarie Brennan,
Please see **BOOKS, C2**

Celebrate Christmas Irish-style

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Not much has changed for Mick Gavin since he left County Clare in 1973. Give the Irish any reason to celebrate and out come the dancing shoes and fiddles. This year, Gavin is inviting everyone to step out to his annual party on Dec. 20 at the Monaghan K of C Hall in Livonia.

At least twice a year, the Redford musician calls his performer friends together for gatherings. This Saturday, Wallace Hood of the Irish Rovers and Ray Maguire of Plymouth join Gavin on stage. There will be step and ceili dancing with students from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance based in Livonia. Kitty Heinzman brings her students from the Hibernian Club in Redford and Gaelic League in Detroit. They'll take turns kicking up their heels with Anne McCallum's Set Dancers. "We do encourage parents to bring their kids. It's a family event," said



Mick Gavin (back row) and his students perform at two Celtic shows during the holidays. Pictured are sons Sean (left front row) and Michael, Colleen Shanks (back row), Kelsey Lutz and Holland Raper.

Gavin. "We'll have about 12 to 14 local musicians playing *Bells of Belfast*, *Silent Night* and a sing-

along. There will be food including Christmas cake and Irish scones, and step, set and ceili dancers. It's

CELTIC CHRISTMAS

What: Christmas Songs & Ceili Tunes
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20
Where: Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Livonia
Cost: \$10, kids under age 12 free. Call (313) 537-3489.
Related events: The Irish fun continues at the Crossroads Ceili 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Admission \$16. Call (734) 761-1800. Workshops for fiddle, flute, tenor banjo, penny whistle, uilleann pipes, guitar accompaniment, button accordion and mandolin performance off by advance registration only on Saturday afternoon. For information or to register, call (313) 537-3489

really a party, a Christmas party." John Heinzman grew up dancing, but turns the floor over to his students at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance. The team of eight advanced dancers will be accompanied by Heinzman on flute and Irish whistle, and Jo Ryan on keyboards.

Please see **CELTIC, C3**

Canned goods are sought for annual Holiday Food Drive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

This year more than ever, Livonia Councilwoman Laura Toy hopes the community puts politics aside to help the needy. On Thursday, Dec. 18, she'll join with state Rep. John Pastor and state Rep.-elect John Walsh to collect canned goods and nonperishables for Gleaners Food Bank from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, in Livonia. Toy started the annual drive when she was in the state Senate. Over the last six years, she's collected everything from gently used coats to books to brighten the holidays of the less fortunate. "I started it to do something to help people during the holidays. The natural thing would be to do some-

thing with toys because of my last name, but in my district I looked and saw there was a need, particularly in the south end of the district, Westland and Redford as well as Garden City," said Toy, who now is the community outreach specialist for the state Senate in Lansing in addition to being a Livonia councilwoman. "This year, the food shelves are empty. I felt between the three of us we could rally all of our supporters. Besides canned goods and nonperishables, people could provide a gift certificate for a grocery store or favorite bakery or deli, or any cash donation." Cash donations can be mailed to Rep. John Pastor at 15417 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48154. "Gleaners serves Southeast Michigan and maybe not all the help goes to Livonia but it makes us better to help our neighbors," said Toy.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE C1

really used their creativity to write about Willow, an independent thinker, for Sleeping Bear Press. The recently released book was illustrated by Cyd Moore, who formerly lived in Birmingham and Beverly Hills. Willow paints pink trees and blue apples in Miss Hawthorn's art class. "I hope kids, teachers and parents learn or realize that the more free you are to explore in art and writing and probably reading, the better," said Moore, who now lives in Sylvania Lake with three cats and one dog. "My mother was a painter and art teacher but never sat us down and told us you have to do it this way. We always provided reams of paper, clay. We always got new crayons and markers for Christmas so I was just free like Willow who was not following along." The Brennan sisters were careful not to cast a negative light on teachers but still relay a message. Although this is Denise's eighth children's book, it is her first using human characters. The Howell author is best known for *Buzzy the Bumblebee* and *Grady the Goose*. "It's the fact Willow doesn't see Miss Hawthorn the way anybody else does and her ability to unleash creativity in Miss Hawthorn," said Denise Brennan-Wilson. "Using our imaginations is so important. Nobody sees art the same way. Everything being the same isn't near as much fun. My sister and I originally started talking about trees, willow and hawthorn. The metaphor is there about the difference in trees and part of the underlying messages."

SANTA GOES GREEN

Elisa Chavarri especially had fun illus-

trating Anne Margaret Lewis' story about saving a polar bear in *Santa Goes Green* from Mackinac Island Press in Traverse City. A boy named Finn is concerned about Leopold and the sea ice so necessary to hunt for food. The melting glaciers could mean the extinction of the species. Chavarri was born in Peru but eventually moved to Michigan where a trip to the Detroit Zoo left her with an idea for portraying the big white bear fond of nose-to-nose kisses. "I always liked polar bears so I was excited. The way Anne described him he was a lovable character," said Chavarri of Northville. "The book makes it seem that it's attainable that we can save the polar bears. Anything you can do will make a slight difference and all of those add up if everyone starts being more aware."

FILL A BUCKET

Carol McCloud revisits the topic of helping others in *Fill a Bucket: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Children*. The book is illustrated by David Messing of Livonia. The book is a prequel to her *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* McCloud has given more than 800 presentations in elementary schools since the book was published in 2006 by Ferne Press (www.bucketfillers101.com). "It's perfect for new babies and first-time parents," said McCloud of Brighton. "Kids at age 2 can start taking dishes off the table. It gives them a sense of accomplishment and pride. When you fill others' buckets it fills yours."

A IS FOR ABRAHAM

Richard Michelson wrote *A is for Abraham* for a younger version of himself, but adults as well as children can learn about Judaism from this book. Michelson grew up in Brooklyn without

any religious education even though his family were Jews. It wasn't until deciding to marry a woman outside his culture that Michelson became curious about his background. She eventually converted to Judaism and they raised their children in the faith. Although he represents illustrators through his R. Michelson Galleries in Massachusetts, it was an editor at Sleeping Bear Press who suggested Ron Mazellan for the drawings that seem as if from an earlier age. "It's a Jewish family alphabet. I thought of it as a fun encyclopedia for families to share," said Michelson. "I'm culturally Jewish but didn't understand where the traditions came from or why things were being done. My mother had grown up in a Jewish household and rebelled. We didn't keep any traditions, didn't celebrate the Sabbath 'cause my dad was busy making a living. I was trying to be a regular kid and fit in. As an adult I'm not alone. A lot of people don't understand the basics of their tradition." Michelson recently read African and Native American alphabet books just to learn about the cultures. "I hope non-Jews turn to this book as a primer, but obviously Jewish people are the most likely audience for it," said Michelson. "I hope they get fun and education. It's hard often to have the second without the first. I generally write poetry, stories. The best way to communicate is through a good story in this case in fun word play. It's difficult to reconcile the tradition. There are so many different branches of Judaism so I tried to be general enough. For those steeped in one tradition it can be used as a jumping off point."

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CELTIC

FROM PAGE C1

"They'll be dancing a variety of Irish step dances, and ceili old folk dancing intermixed with Christmas music," said Heinzman. "Last year it was a nice event. Even though we had a bad snowstorm, we still had a good crowd. Kids danced and turned the stage over to Mick and his music students. We had people from the audience come up and do ceili dancing. There's food and drink so people can come out and have an entire evening and participate a little bit. It's like a cabaret kind of day."

Heinzman's mother Kitty is from Westport, County Mayo, and he started dancing at age 5. That was 39 years ago. About 15 years ago, he and his sister, Liz, opened their studio, then known as the Heinzman

School of Irish Dance. They bring a select few of their students to Crossroads Ceili Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Paddy Homan, winner of the 2001 Thomas Moore Cup for solo Irish tenor, will be joined by Hood, Gavin and his students, and Maguire who played with the popular Irish group, Pat's People, in the 1970s and 1980s.

"It's just a way of life for us. My mom still is a very involved part of the Irish community," said Heinzman. "She teaches ceili which means together or group dancing. We teach solo dancing or step dancing now at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance in Livonia with locations in Redford, Wixom, Taylor, Grosse Pointe, Warren, Lansing, Toledo and Windsor."

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



Dancers from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance kick up their heels at a Celtic Christmas party Dec. 20, in Livonia. Pictured are Grace Carey (back row), Kim Bell, Jackie Harris, Elizabeth Gallagher; Paula Ryan (middle row), Jobi McCarthy, Maddie Calderon-Jackson, and Emily Wheeler (front row), Victoria Gallagher and Sarah Quinn.

Art classes to start in January

Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) is offering winter art classes beginning Jan. 7, 2009. Classes in drawing, watercolor, mixed media, portraits, and color technique are available. A pastel workshop with Michigan artist, Jerry Power, is also offered on Feb. 5-6, 2009.

VAAL is dedicated to advancing knowledge and appreciation of the creative arts by offering studio classes and twice yearly exhibits, all open to the public.

For more information about VAAL or to receive a free catalog of classes, call (734) 838-1204.

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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 July 25, 2009 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at kkelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

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: Kaynini@aoi.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klvingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Bridgid**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 gchsf989reunion@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@sbcglbl.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: Kaynini@aoi.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.



The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

Finnish singers present 'The Scenes of Christmas'

The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

Carols from many countries will be performed by this mixed chorus of 25 voices with Henry Naasko, director, and William Gramzow, accompanist.

There will be solos and duets as well as a song by a quintet. Following the concert will be

a Finnish coffee table with home-made open-faced sandwiches and desserts. All of this is for a donation of \$10. Chorus members will hold a Bake Sale of Finnish Cardamon coffee breads made in fancy shapes and decorated for Christmas.

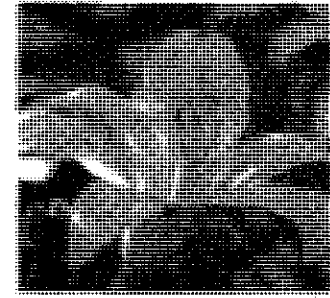
Passages

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ARTHUR ANTHONY ARDITO

Age 86+. Born July 31, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. Passed away December 10, 2008 in Florida. Loving husband of Edna (deceased). Beloved father of Richard A. (Pilar) Ardito and Susan M. Sanderfer. Grandfather of Angela, Renae, Stephen, Mandi, Korby and Gina. Great-grandfather to Falyn and Rylee, of Florida. Brother to Marie T. Caldwell of Grosse Pte. Woods, MI, Delphine F. Ardito of Clawson, MI, John R. of Florida and Barbara A. Kerr of South Lyon, MI. Uncle of many loving nieces and nephews. He served his country in World War II in the Army Air Corp, as a bombardier and retired as a Major from the Air Force Reserve. He was a school teacher at St. Francis School for Boys' in Detroit. He graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit and was the number one car salesman at Lou LaRiche in Plymouth, MI. He loved sports, a professional bowler, ardent golfer, pool player, fisherman and card player and was a baseball and football fan. Arthur traveled the world - loved nature, animals and music. He played the piano, accordion and harmonica. A member of the Italian-American Club. He was a lifetime friend, associate, companion and was admired. He is with the Lord, may he rest in peace. Services in Florida, on Sunday, December 14, 2008, 2-4 p.m. Donations to Preston James or Susan Sanderfer, Compass Bank, 7205 Forrest Oaks Blvd., Spring Hill, FL 34606.

WILLIAM O. BLISS

Age 87, of Farmington, MI, passed away December 10, 2008. Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, MI, 248-474-5200

FRANK DONALD BLOCK

December 9, 2008. Age 89, formerly of Redford, MI. Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, 248-684-6645

SUZANNE WILLIAMS BUSCH

Age 79, Notre Dame, IN passed away Nov. 23, 2008. Thomas J. Busch, her husband, survives along with five children, and 15 awesome grandchildren. Upon Tom's retirement from Bendix Corp., Suzie and Tom moved from Birmingham, MI to Savannah, GA, then to Kalamazoo, MI and Notre Dame, IN to be with family. Suzie enjoyed her family, community service, playing golf, bridge, and parties with friends. Memorials may be donated to the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan or to the Center for Hospice, South Bend, IN.

PAUL DONOVAN

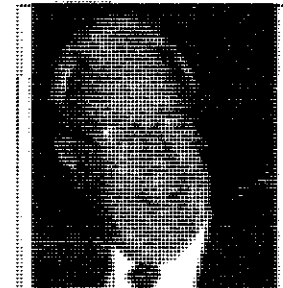
Age 86. December 10, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Rosemary for 52 years. Loving father of Sue Watts (Don), Linda Underwood (Craig Gross), Laura Bunker (Jeff), Paul Donovan and Lisa Walker (Joe). Cherished grandfather of Amy (Tim), Kyle, Victoria, Autumn, Jacob, Ian, Joshua, Jillian, Joey, Emily and Nicole (Mitch). Proud great-grandfather of Lori Lee. Memorial Mass Monday 11 AM at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, 27835 Shiassee, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Disabled American Veterans or Maryknoll Sisters. www.thayer-rock.com

DONALD E. FRASER, SR.

December 9, 2008. Age 91. Beloved husband of Shirley for 63 years. Dear father of Don Jr. (Gina), Ray (Valerie), Jim (Sally), Wendy Routhier (Charles) and the late Lawrence. Also survived by nine grandchildren. Brother of William (Joanne). Father-in-law of Danielle. Memorial service Saturday, January 3, 2009 12 noon at North Congregational Church, 36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or North Congregational Church. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

CHARLOTTE G. (Zavitz) HESTER

Age 81, of Farmington, MI, passed away Dec. 12, 2008. Visitation at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2-5 with funeral service Monday, Dec. 15 at 11am at the funeral home.



JOHN "RUSS" HILL

Of Bloomfield Hills, lost his battle with cancer on December 9, 2008, at the age of 77. He died peacefully at home under the care of Mercy Hospice, with his family and dog at his side. He survived by his loving wife, Dolly, two sons, Bruce (Mary Beth) and Stephen (Tracy), and four outstanding grandchildren, Douglas, Kathryn, Brad, and Daina. Graduated from Wayne State University in Electrical Engineering in 1955, and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Employed by Chrysler Corporation until retirement in 1991. A devoted husband, father, grandpa, and friend, he will be missed by all. A memorial service and gathering of friends and family was held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, on Saturday, December 13, inurnment at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. In lieu of flowers memorial tributes to Mercy Hospice, 281 Enterprise Court, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, or Michigan Animal Rescue League, 290 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

JERRY LAMBERT JR.

Born in Malden, Arkansas, he moved to Bradenton in 1989 from Plymouth, Michigan. He is a member of First Church of the Nazarene of Bradenton and retired after 34 years of service as an engineer for General Motors Corp. of Livonia, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Barbara E.; daughters, Anthonette Beach of Johnson City, TN, Debra K. Carter of Bradenton and Sondra L. Raubacher of Shanghai, China; sons, Jim D. Lambert of Toledo, OH and Terry L. Lambert of Mesa, AZ; sister, Laveda Miller of Ankeny, Iowa; 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth Monday from 11:30am until time of funeral service at 1:30pm. Entombment Glen Eden Cemetery. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.

ROBERT G. MARKS

July 26th, 1926 to December 9th, 2008. He passed away peacefully surrounded by family early on the morning of Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Bob was a navy veteran of W.W.II serving in the Pacific Theatre as a navigator with a squadron of P.B.Y.'s. Robert lived most of his life in the metro Detroit area- Old Redford, Wayne, Dearborn. The last seven years he resided in Lantana, Florida with his wife June (Rigg). He was a long time professional educator in the Livonia Public Schools, holding a variety of positions; elementary teacher, M.S. administrator, coach, and H.S. media center director. He changed to this career later in life for he wished "to make a difference" and in his final days mentioned how content he was with that decision. In that new career he was very successful impacting the lives of countless children in schools, libraries, and on the sporting fields/courts in and around Livonia and the greater Metro-Detroit area. He was especially important in the lives of his four children: John, Tom, Sue, and Doug, and greatly enjoyed touching the lives of his 21 grandchildren and his 17, soon-to-be 18 great-grandchildren. Robert loved a good book, a good card game, a good debate, a good word puzzle, a good sporting contest (even two or three at a time), a fine meal, a cup of tea, travel, music in all forms, and the outdoors. Most of all it was time spent, or activities with, his family and good friends that made him most happy. He would appreciate these words from Dr. Seuss at this moment, "Don't cry that it's over, celebrate that it happened". Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert H. & Lillian M. Marks, his wife of 44 years Alice K, and his younger brother Doug. He is survived by his wife of 9 years, June, his four children and their spouses: Patti, Amy, Paul, Glenda, and Judy, his four step children: Chris, Robin, Heather, and Craig, his sister-in-law Sandy and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss him very much. Robert was truly a member of America's "greatest generation" and we who carry on are thankful for the model of living he represented. We will be forever blessed that he shared so much of himself with his family and extended family of friends. Peace. A private family service is planned for Friday at the Palm Breezes Park in Lantana. A Memorial Service for family and friends is being planned for the spring in Dearborn, Michigan with details to be announced early in the new year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Focus Hope Inc. of Detroit or Hospice of Palm Springs, Florida

FRED C. NELSON

December 6, 2008. Age 88. Resident of Plymouth. Retired in 1981 after 33 years as a vocal music teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Schools. Survived by wife Lois, sons Jim (Nancy), Bill (Susan), and granddaughters Melissa and Kathy. Private service held already.

JEREMY D. ROWLANDS

Age 30, formerly of Farmington, MI, passed December 7, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

WEDDINGS

Nastase-Lambert

Sam and Kathy Nastase of Algonac announce the marriage of their daughter, Stacey, to Chad Lambert, son of Jean Lambert of Clinton Township.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She works in sales. The groom is a 1994 graduate of Henry Ford II High School and a 1998 graduate of Stetson University. He also works in sales.

The couple wed Sept. 19, 2008 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. The Rev. Michael Maras officiated.

They spent their honeymoon in the Greek Islands.



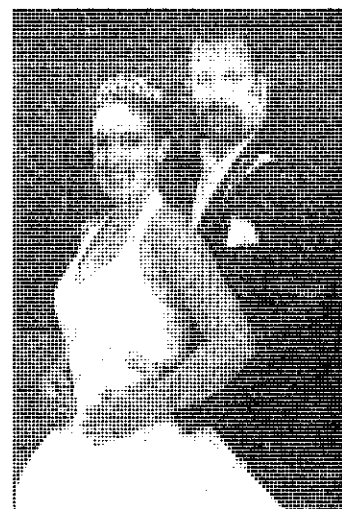
ARISING IMAGES

Spencer-Jacovetti

John and Laurie Spencer of Lakeland, Fla., and formerly of Redford, announce the marriage of their daughter, Crystal Marie, to Christopher Andrew Jacovetti, son of Bill and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia.

The bride is a 2000 graduate of Redford's Thurston High School and she currently attends Daytona University. The groom is a 1997 graduate of Catholic Central High School and he works as manager of Sunbelt Rentals in Ormond Beach, Fla.

The couple wed Aug. 8, 2008 at the First Church of the Nazarene. A reception followed at the Italian American Club.



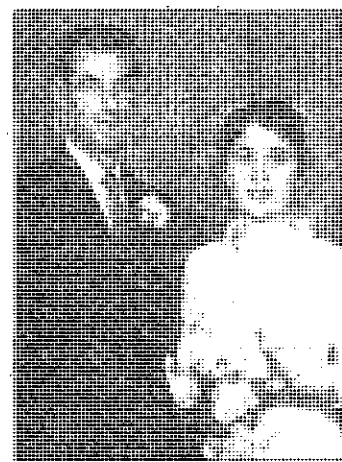
The couple spent their honeymoon at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

ANNIVERSARY

Golden anniversary

Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. The couple wed Dec. 27, 1958 at Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia. They have lived in Livonia for 58 years and are parents to James VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township. They have one grandchild.

Cornelius VanBoven worked at Teamsters Trucking and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools until retiring 23 years ago. They've been members of the American Legion in Plymouth



for 43 years. The couple will celebrate their anniversary with a trip to Hawaii.

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Stain problem with no cure

They have put some of my work in the World Book Encyclopedia and called me

to court cases as an expert witness and yet I don't have the smarts to answer the problem described in the following e-mail. Please read it and if you have a solution to this

lady's frustration, please drop me a note and tell me what you think about all this:

"My husband and I have had a laundry problem for several years that has caused us constant frustration. The problem is that when we wash

dark-colored clothing at our house, it often comes out with grease-like stains that were not on the clothing prior to washing. The stains usually come out after treatment with color-safe bleach and re-washing. We have tried many different detergents and we don't use fabric softener, so we know that our washing products are not the source of the problem. We had thought that the problem could be the washing machine, so we replaced it with a new front loader a couple of years ago, but we have continued to have the problem. We wondered whether the problem was the dryer, but we have had the spots on some clothes that we have air dried or dried elsewhere.

"We know that the problem is not the hot water heater because it happens to clothes washed and rinsed in cold water. We have consulted with an appliance repair person (when we had the previous washer), a handyman, and a plumber, and none of them can figure out what is wrong. We have city water and we wonder whether there could be something in our pipes, but they are copper including the pipe to the water source. We were told that corrosion would be unlikely. We are desperate to find an answer to this problem, and we have tried everything that we can think of. Can you offer some advice? Thanks Christine."

I am sitting here scratching my head just the way Jim Carrey did it in the movie, *Dumb and Dumber*. Let's look at some facts about stains that occur on items being washed and how they get there. We are not going to blame the washer because you illuminated that possibility in your e-mail to me.

Fabric softener has always been a leading contender in the stain race but that is also out of the picture. The hot water heater is also removed from the story, which leads us to the only area of possibility, the rubber fill hoses. But wait, it can't be the hoses! You had a new washer installed and I'm sure they used the new hoses that came with the washer, right? Transmissions can leak oil into a washer tub but that's been ruled out as well. Your washer doesn't have a transmission. My dear Christine, I would love to give you an answer to this problem but I am stumped. I will count on some of the readers to come up with a prescription and pass it on to you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. E-mail questions to apl@tdmi.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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Staying on track

Enjoy but choose holiday food carefully

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's all right to enjoy that slice of pumpkin pie or cookie at a holiday gathering, just remember to get back on track at the next meal. That's the advice of local registered dietitians this season. Gail Posner plans to eat the delicious foods at her family's Hanukkah celebrations, but limit portions. She cautions clients at Healthy Ways Nutrition Counseling in West Bloomfield not to arrive at parties hungry, but fill up on vegetables and fruits before leaving the house.

"The goal is not weight loss but weight maintenance. Who wants to deal with an extra five to seven pounds, the average gain over the holiday?" said Posner. "A cup of eggnog is 500 calories, martinis and daiquiris a good 350 calories. Try some alternatives like red vitamin water which has holiday color and is loaded with antioxidants: acia, blueberry and pomegranate, a good protector for our health with extra vitamin C. If you are going to drink, I encourage people to go every other drink, have a glass of water, Perrier, in between. Enjoy the holiday specials but keep them in check."

When it's time for dinner, make sure one half of the plate is vegetables, the other one table-spoon servings of high calorie items.

"You can always go back and try all the different things that people make, and eat slow,"

'After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests.'

GAIL POSNER, registered dietitian

said Posner. "After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests."

For Thanksgiving, Posner arrived at her sister-in-law's home with a salad, spinach Parmesan side dish, and fruit for dessert. In addition to vegetables, she ate turkey and a bite of sweet potato. Her motto is don't eat an entire serving when a taste could satisfy the craving.

"It's fine to enjoy these holiday items, but if you're going to eat a cookie have a glass of water between each delicious item, have one and then a cup of tea or water before enjoying the next one," said Posner. "We all get off track, don't wait till Jan. 1 to get back on."

As a certified diabetes educator at Troy Beaumont Hospital, Judith Pegg offers tips anyone can use to avoid weight gain. She especially warns those with a family history of diabetes to be aware of the consequences of obesity.

Pegg's mother died of complications and her grandmother had both legs amputated because of diabetes. Her hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is a precursor to the disease.

"You don't have to avoid anything in their diet. You



have to learn to put it in your diet. Figure that chocolate in if that's going to help you feel satisfied," said Pegg, a registered nurse who gives presentations for the American Diabetes Association. "If you're going to a party allow one carbohydrate, a few crackers and cheese, for your evening snack. People shouldn't be drinking unless blood sugar is under control and depending on medication and then one drink for women, two for men. And don't stand by the

appetizer table. If you're going to stand there talking to someone, turn your back."

For many, weight loss means changing their lifestyle.

Pegg grew up in a large Italian family where food was the focus of celebrations. For Thanksgiving, she cooked a traditional dinner but made the stuffing with less fat and then baked it separately. Pegg admits she wasn't always conscious of her choices until her husband had a heart attack

two years ago at age 55.

"Changing the way you do anything during the holidays is difficult. It's important to stay focused," said Pegg. "If they have pre-diabetes with numbers higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed, they need to start living different, learn to change their lifestyle. They could possibly avoid ever going into diabetes. It's a chronic disease with no cure."

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

Karmanos to offer help to quit smoking

As Detroit area residents prepare resolutions for the New Year, those wishing to conquer smoking can receive free assistance from the American Lung Association to accomplish their goal.

Karmanos Cancer Center is offering the American Lung Association's highly acclaimed Freedom From Smoking clinic, a program that will consist of 8 classes held on Tuesday evenings Tuesday, Jan. 6, through Feb. 17, as well as Thursday, Jan. 29.

All classes will be held 5-6:30 p.m. at Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R., Detroit, MI 48201.

Registration is required. Contact Andrea Layman at (313) 576-8129 or laymana@karmanos.org.

As the American Lung Association's premiere smoking cessation program, Freedom From Smoking is a highly structured and comprehensive behavior modification approach to smoking cessation in a group support setting.

Freedom From Smoking is based on the premise that smoking is a learned behavior.

The 8 session format provides for tracking personal habits, developing coping strategies and practice in a supportive environment with others who are experiencing the same feelings and challenges.

Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion



HOPE proudly presents the release of the documentary:

Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together

(90 minutes - 13 chapters)

For the first time in one informative documentary, **Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together** will provide practical advice and answers to questions about this debilitating condition.

The documentary will enhance your knowledge and awareness of Fibromyalgia as well as provide insight in the management of chronic pain.

With its easy to use menu, viewers can search chapters that correspond to one's specific concerns and interests.

List of chapters:

Ananias C. Diokno, M.D.
Daniel Clauw, M.D.
Martin Tamler, M.D.
Craig Hartrick, M.D.
Martin Tamler, M.D.
Leon Rubenfaer, M.D.
Kenneth Peters, M.D.
Dennis Dobritt, D.O.
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Virginia Drouin-Berry, MT
Peter Ianni, Ph.D.
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Diagnosis & Tender Point Exam
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Interstitial Cystitis and Pelvic Pain
Trigger Point Injections
Emotional Component of Chronic Pain
Physical Therapy & Exercise
Managing Pain with Massage
Biofeedback & Behavioral Pain Management
Support and Advocacy

Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion (H.O.P.E.) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance knowledge and awareness of Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue syndrome through programs that educate families, friends, the public, the media and the medical community.

To order the documentary go to: www.hffcf.org
or contact Sharon at: smo23915@aol.com

1.5 CME credits are available,
for information contact Sharon at: smo23915@aol.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Gluten-free food fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Hiller's, 39950 W. 14 Mile (at Haggerty Road). Call (248) 960-1990.

Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Mondays to Dec. 15, and Wednesdays to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

Breast cancer support group

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

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.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7:09 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

UPCOMING

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 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. Registered dietitian Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. 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, pre-registration not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

Butterfly ball

The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets \$250 per person and include The Butterfly Ball will be highlighted by music and will include a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and a live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica Jimenez, Development Specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@aiam.org.

ONGOING

Caregiver's support group

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

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones and offers valuable information at meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options available. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. For information or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Physical performance classes

Incorporates jump-rope training, core work, and functional strength training using dumbbells and body weight for resistance 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. An Exercise Therapy class

for a mid to lower intensity workout that stress functional fitness, core, balance, strength and flexibility 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. One hour sessions run through November at Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Drop in sessions \$6 each, 10 sessions \$48. These classes are both lead by Jeanie Weaver with the concept of training to spare the joints and improve back mobility and strength. She is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 to register. For information send e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Flu shots

Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinic in Wayne 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday (walk-ins), Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday (by appointment only), at 33030 Van Born at Venoy. The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15, \$35 for pneumonia vaccine is also offered for \$35. Medicare (Part B) and Medicaid are accepted. Vaccines are offered for adults and children. For information about family flu vaccinations at Wayne County's public health clinic locations, call (734) 727-7000. For additional influenza and flu prevention facts, visit www.waynecounty.com/hhsvcs/public/pamphlet.htm.

Flu shots

For adults and children over 6 months of age available at Oakland County Health Division locations at 1200 N. Telegraph in Oakland County Complex Bldg, 36 East in Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield, north of 11 Mile at Catalpa Road in Southfield, and 1010 E. West Maple at Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Cost is \$11 (cash only). Medicare and Medicaid accepted. Bring photo identification and insurance cards. For information, call (800) 434-3358 or visit www.oakgov.com/health.

CPR classes

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



PHOTO BY KAREN ARSENEAU

Ryan Maiké, 18, of Farmington Hills, practices his song during a recent rehearsal for the Farmington Community Chorus holiday concert at Oakland Community College.

Chorus member carries on family tradition

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ryan Maiké remembers being in awe of the Farmington Community Chorus, when he would attend concerts with his grandparents.

Maiké's grandparents, Jim and Dorothy Miller, were long-time members of the chorus, but have since moved out of the area.

Since they're in Arizona, currently, Maiké, 18, said he plans to send them a video of the concert, in which he will perform a solo of the song, *God Bless the Broken Road*, at the FCC's holiday concert, "Joy!" at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, at the L.C. Smith Auditorium at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Maiké said his grandparents have always been a musical couple who encouraged his pursuit of music.

"I grew up with them always singing," he said. "I would listen to tapes of them singing. Throughout the years, my

grandparents were big advocates for me getting involved in music."

They paid for Maiké to take piano lessons, guitar and voice lessons.

Maiké, who is a student at OCC, was looking to join a singing group and saw the FCC notice at OCC.

"For the last couple of years, I had been singing in a group," he said. "Once I graduated from high school, and was in college, I knew I had to find a place to sing. I didn't know this was the same group that my grandparents were in, but once I found out, all of those memories came back. I was like, 'Wow! I have the chance to be in that choir!'"

He's enjoying his FCC experience so far.

"I've enjoyed getting to know people," he said. "There is such a wealth of knowledge about music and about life."

Maiké, who lives in Farmington Hills, said he enjoys the leadership of Director Steve SeGraves.

"He does a really incredible job of leading us," he said.

The Farmington Community

Chorus is a 80-voice mixed chorus, which will be joined by dancers and instrumentalists for the concert.

This year, for the first time, talented music students from OCC have auditioned to join the FCC and are earning college credit. Directed by SeGraves and accompanied by assistant director Susan Garr, the chorus will perform a variety of holiday music including *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, *Boogie Woogie Hanukkah*, *Christmas Joy*, *It's the Holiday Season*, and *Still, Still, Still* as well as solo and small group numbers.

Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered in advance. A limited number will be available at the door. To order advance tickets, call the FCC ticket line at (810) 632-4067 or the Costick Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills at (248) 473-1800. Tickets may also be bought from FCC members.

For more information about the Farmington Community Chorus, contact manager Kathy Hall at (248) 471-4516 or visit www.farmingtonchorus.com.

Celebrate winter solstice with music, dance, stories

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

If you dread winter's arrival next week, the Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi and the Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation might just change your mind. She and her congregation are busy transforming the American Legion Hall — where they hold weekly services in downtown Rochester — into a winter wonderland of snowflakes and icy silver and blue decorations.

"We go bozo mundo with decorating," said Bugleisi, who will lead the church's Fifth Annual Solstice Ritual at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, in the hall at Third and Walnut, a block west of Main.

The celebration will be heavy on cultural arts, too. The church choir will sing; the Lake Orion Drummers will sound out the beat on their African hand drums; dancers gracefully will glide into the hall to the music of Sarah McLachlan; and the sounds of Toronto musician Loreena McKennett will set the mood for contemplation.

TELL ME A STORY

Dramatic storytelling, complete with gods and goddesses, ice fairies, elves, trolls and a Viking-druid solstice tale about the mischievous Loki, a shape-shifter, serves as the centerpiece of the event.

"It's an old story that taps into the druids and the meaning of mistletoe, which was called 'all heal' and was said to avert ill luck to herds. The kissing thing came later with the English," Bugleisi noted.

The congregation and visitors will have lots of opportunities to participate in chanting, dancing and music-making. Shakers and other small percussion instruments will be on hand for their use and everyone will join in on the final song, Ritchie Havens' rendition of *Here Comes the Sun*.

"Last year we did a pine cone exchange. Every pine cone had a peace message on it. They were in baskets and everyone took one and read the message. Then they exchanged pine cones. I might do it again this year."

Participants will spend some time in personal reflection and meditation and in a guided visualization.

"Someone gave us a good CD last year of the

WINTER SOLSTICE

What: Celebration of winter's arrival and the return of the sun

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19

Where: Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in the American Legion Hall, located at Walnut and Third, a block west of Main in downtown Rochester

Parking: Public lots are located on Walnut and within walking distance

Attire: Wear something gold, silver or black to become a part of the wintry audience

Details: Music, storytelling, drumming, dancing, meditation, all in a winter wonderland setting

Contact: Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi at (248) 202-1711

Afterward: Stroll Main street just a block east of Walnut and take in the eye-popping Big Bright Light Show with its 500,000 lights.

Actual solstice: 7:04 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

sounds the sun makes. We also have this cool noise, the scientific voice of the sun."

MARKING THE DATE

Bugleisi said the winter solstice is universally celebrated in all cultures because it signifies the start of gradually lengthening days and the return of the sun.

"We are all so dependent on the sun and its return ... it's the juxtaposition, the contrast of the darkness and of wanting the light to return," she said. "It's a metaphor spiritually ... we carry the light within us."

She refutes the idea that celebrating seasonal change is anti-Christian.

"We are trans-Christian. We study Christianity and other religions," she said. "I'd encourage people to check out the Web on Newgrange Ireland and Stonehenge in England. They'd see that something was going on before Christianity. Our ancestral stories go back long periods of time and are richer than just one culture."

Both the monuments at Stonehenge and the tomb at Newgrange were built so that they aligned with the solstice. At Newgrange, for example, a shaft of sunlight penetrates the tomb's central chamber at dawn on the winter solstice.

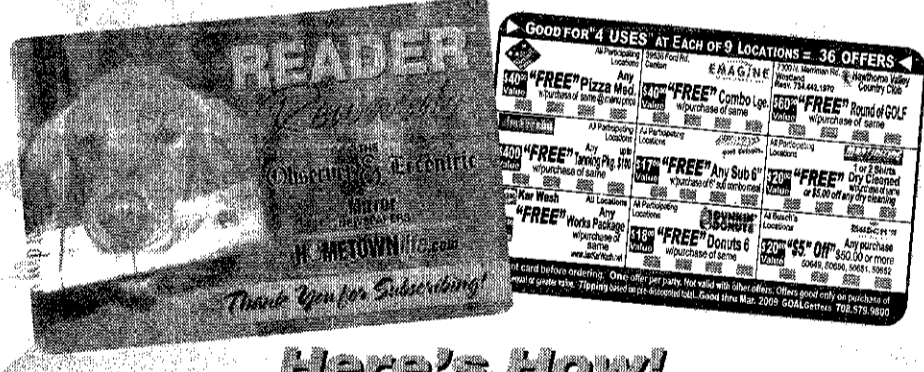
Bugleisi describes the annual gathering at her church as a "totally commercial-free ritual that transcends all religious interpretations of the holidays." It's designed for ages 6 and up.

"Some people last year brought their teenagers and they (the teens) loved it. They said 'This is the first service we went to that we didn't feel bad or guilty.'"

"People really appreciate it. Hopefully, they're coming here annually for it."

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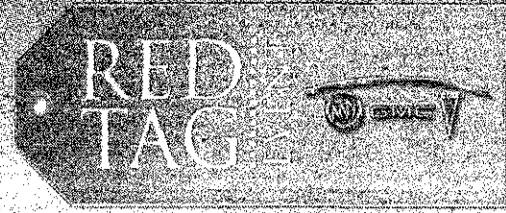
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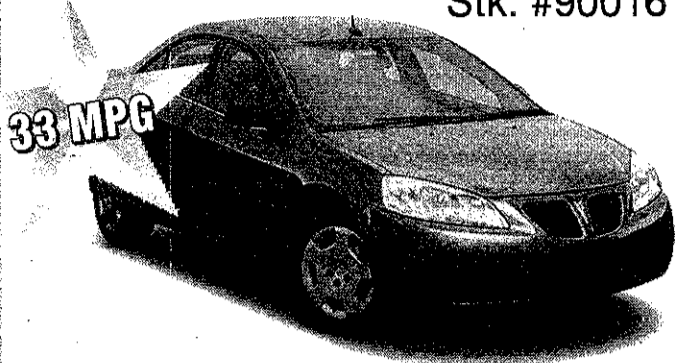
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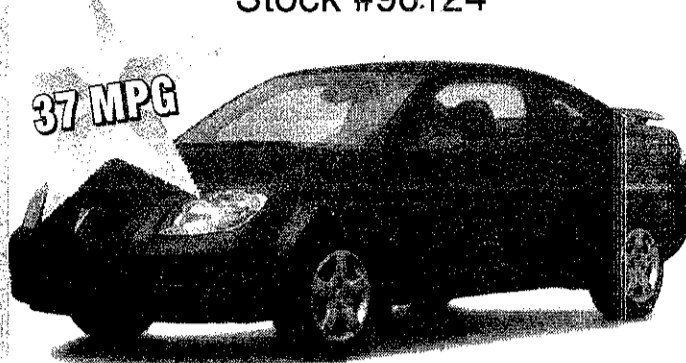
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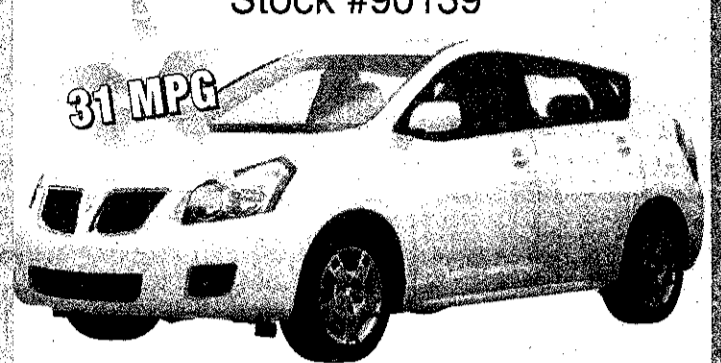
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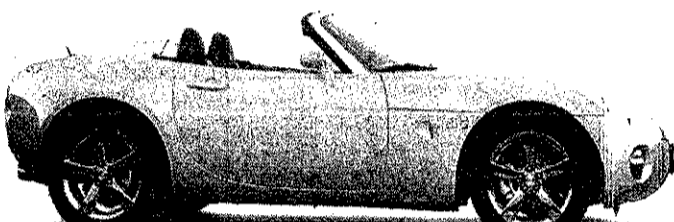
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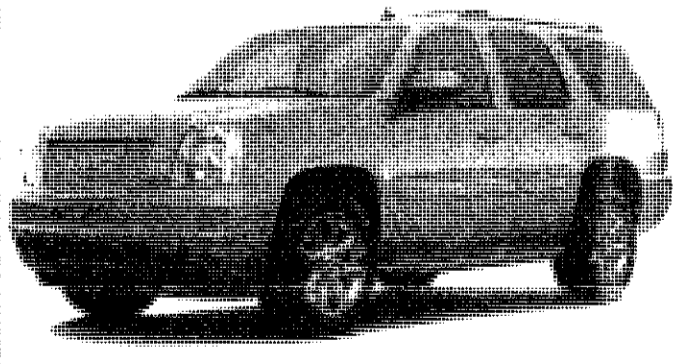
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Stock #90770

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New 2008 Ford F-250 Plow Truck

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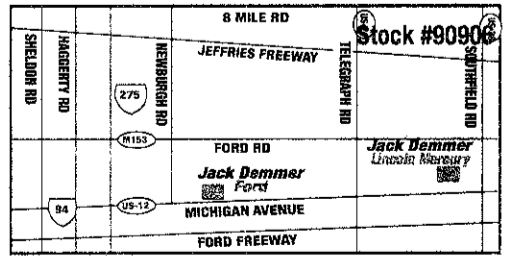
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