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filter - Section D

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Our views, A6

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Sports, B1

THURSDAY
December 18, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Council delays vote on 'gold party' ordinance

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A plan to reign in "gold parties" has been put on hold so the Westland City Council can take a closer look at the proposed ordinance.

The council Monday evening agreed to delay a vote at the request of Councilman Charles Pickering.

"It needs to be discussed

more," Pickering said. "If you start regulating home parties, where does it stop?"

The proposal would require individuals and businesses who regularly buy jewelry from the public to pay a \$50 fee and register with the city.

According to City Attorney Angelo Plakas, the ordinance was requested by the Westland Police Department which has expressed concern about the

parties becoming avenues for peddling stolen property.

"What they're interested in is regulating the parties so as not to create a situation where stolen property could be fenced," Plakas said. "This doesn't apply to jewelry stores, but if you have a person who has a party four-five times a year, the police want them to register with us so they don't become a fence for

stolen goods."

When questioned by Councilman Michael Kehrer about whether the registration affected home parties or ones that take place in the marketplace, Plakas said that it was meant more for the latter.

"If you advertise you're going to have one of these exchanges than you'd have to register with the police department," Plakas said. "It could apply to

house parties as well."

"If you have a house party, you don't have to register, but if you have one over and over, then you become a dealer," he added.

According to Plakas, the ordinance would offer a way to keep track of the sale of precious metals and gems, since dealers would be required to maintain a record of any jewelry, precious gems and pre-

cious items purchased from the public and a complete record of the transaction.

"I don't know if it's going to curtail the sale of stolen property, but the police seem to think so," he said. "Ultimately what they want to happen is to have the dealer maintain a record of what was bought and what was sold."

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



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ken Kowalski and his 10-year-old daughter Grace sample the food at the Westland Community Foundation's Christmas Celebration.

'Gone by in a flash'

Sikorski hangs up his holster after 25 years as police officer

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Deputy Police Chief Gary Sikorski, the longest-serving member currently working for the 100-officer department, is calling it quits after more than 25 years on the job.

Sikorski is retiring this month, ending an ambitious career that saw him rise through the ranks of patrol officer, sergeant and lieutenant before he became a Westland deputy police chief in 2002.

"It is with some trepidation and a lot of excitement that I'm ending my career here," Sikorski, a 48-year-old Livonia resident, said. "This department



Sikorski

is definitely a great department."

Westland had been a city only 17 years on June 27, 1983, when then-rookie Sikorski took his first law-enforcement job with a department where he has spent his entire career.

It was the same year *The Big Chill* debuted in movie theaters, the final *M*A*S*H* episode aired on television and Madonna released her first record — remember vinyl? It was the

Please see SIKORSKI, A3

City puts out new 'welcome mat' on Web

The welcome mat is out for the City of Westland and you'll find its new and improved Web site at www.cityofwestland.com.

The city recently launched the redesigned Web site, which has some 100 pages and offers the newest in interactive community-based Web technology. The primary goal of the overhaul was to provide an online venue which enables residents to do business with the city in a more efficient manner and to provide non-residents an opportunity to learn more about the advantages of living in Westland.

"Whether it's paying their water bills or taxes, viewing a cable program, or reserving a prime tee time at the Westland Municipal Golf Course, we want to keep the public better informed, and ultimately make it easier for residents, visitors, and developers to do business with the city," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

This the first time the city's Web site has been revamped since it was launched in the fall of 2000.

The Web site has many new capabilities and features, such as an emergency banner that is activated in the event of gas main leaks and snow emergen-

cies. Another feature allows residents to participate in online polls which allows the administration to receive timely feedback on city services and events. Other online capabilities will be unveiled in phases based on level of priority during the next 60 days.

Designed and hosted by VR Metro of Westland, the Web site also serves as a marketing tool for the city with such highlights as a "Film Friendly" section geared toward attracting prospective film producers. There's biographical and geographical information about city as well as a photo gallery and the contact information of the city's film liaisons.

Residents also can get information about joining Mission: Green, a joint effort of residents, business owners, and elected officials to improve Westland through cost-savings, environmentally-friendly measures.

And that's not all. Visitors to www.cityofwestland.com might just see familiar faces in the new Westland Gallery that includes photos of recent city events. WLND programming, A Month in Review, and other local programs also can be viewed on the new Web site.

Party provides toys for Salvation Army

The spirit of giving filled the media center of John Glenn High School as Westland turned out for the Westland Community Foundation's annual Christmas Celebration.



Cody Bugee sings holiday tunes with the John Glenn Singers.

The John Glenn High School Chorale Ensemble provided the music while chef Tony Paquette and his culinary arts students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center provided the food for the party that had an admission of

an unwrapped toy.

The toys were for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps' Children's Christmas Gift program. The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army has long been a recipient of funds raised by the foundation through such events as its Christmas in July and Christmas Celebration.

The party attracted both adults and children and included a visit by the spe-



Glenn Shaw, Westland Community Foundation president, greets Santa Claus who made a special stop at the high school to meet with party goers.

cial man himself — Santa Claus — who chatted with party goers and handed out candy canes.

Toys, a variety of hats, mittens and

gloves and canned goods were collected for the Salvation Army which will provide help to more than 575 families this holiday season.

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Number 59



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USA
Coming Sunday:
'O little town of Bethlehem'

CLARIFICATION

The annual Women's Resource Center Spaghetti Dinner at Schoolcraft College will be Tuesday, March 10. The wine glow will be at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the program at 8 p.m.

Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

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.

Food collection

TCF Bank is making it easier for you to donate food to feed the needy in our communities this winter. Through Dec. 31, all of TCF's branches are serving as a collection site for non-perishable foods. Stop by the TCF branch at 37151 Warren Road and 360 S. Merriman, both in Westland to drop off your donation. Collected food will be donated to local food banks in early January. For your convenience, TCF Bank is open seven days. For more information, call 800-TCF-Bank (800-823-2263).

Charity Event

Brighten a child's Christmas while protecting your identity. Between noon and 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20, DC Document Destruction will shred up to 50 pounds of documents for a donation of a new unwrapped toy to its Toys For Tots collection campaign at its facility at 749 Manufacturers Dr., off Cherry Hill east of Newburgh, Westland. The

AROUND WESTLAND

ON THE WEB

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

free shredding and recycling is available to both businesses and individuals. Help area children in these difficult economic times by supporting this Toys For Tots program while protecting yourself against identity theft. For more information, call DC Document Destruction at (734) 394-1774 or go online to www.dcdestruct.com.

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.

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.

Count down to 2009 with fellowship and fun, when the Westland Salvation Army hosts "New Year's Fellowship @ The Sal" 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Enjoy a rockin' good time complete with ping-pong, arcade games, prizes, pool, live music, plus, an all-you-can-eat buffet which is \$10 per person and \$5 per child age 13 and under. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call Greg at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 20. The Westland Salvation Army is at 2300 Venoy between Palmer Road and Michigan Avenue.

Cooperative Preschool

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

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CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

CASE #1082F - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Verizon Wireless 120' Monopole and Telecommunications Facility, 27675 Joy Road, Parcels #001-99-0038-000 and -0039-000, South Side of Joy Road, West of Inkster Road, Leland Calloway (Robert J. Nicholas)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: December 18, 2008

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD DURING THE 2009 CALENDAR YEAR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Westland, Michigan will hold its regular meetings on the following dates during the calendar year of 2009, in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, except when a holiday falls on that Monday, in which case the meeting will be held on the next secular day that is not a holiday.

Scheduled Meeting	Thurs. Cut-Off Date	Scheduled Meeting	Thurs. Cut-Off Date
January 5, 2009	Dec. 18	July 6, 2009	June 18
January 20, 2009 (Tues)	Jan. 8	July 20, 2009	July 9
February 2, 2009	Jan. 22	August 3, 2009	July 23
February 17, 2009 (Tues)	Feb. 5	August 17, 2009	Aug. 6
March 2, 2009	Feb. 19	September 8, 2009 (Tues)	Aug. 20
March 16, 2009	Mar. 5	September 21, 2009	Sept. 10
April 6, 2009	Mar. 19	October 5, 2009	Sept. 24
April 20, 2009	April 9	October 19, 2009	Oct. 8
May 4, 2009	April 23	November 2, 2009	Oct. 22
May 18, 2009	May 7	November 16, 2009	Nov. 5
June 1, 2009	May 21	December 7, 2009	Nov. 19
June 15, 2009	June 4	December 21, 2009	Dec. 10

January 4, 2010 Dec. 17, 2009

Proposed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting and approved minutes will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. This notice is given in compliance with Act. 267 of Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

EILEEN DeHART
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: December 18, 2008

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- Family Candlelight Service
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- Special Children's Message
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Traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00 pm

- Adult Choir, Octet & Solos
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- Traditional Christmas Carol Sing

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Everyone is Welcome at Garden City Presbyterian Church

Teens collect toys at library

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you stopped by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland recently, you may have thought you were in a toy store.

The Teen Advisory Board at the library has been collecting toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots initiative. The collection drive started at Thanksgiving and wrapped up Tuesday.

"It's been really great, really great," young adult/adult librarian Andy Schuck said of participation by library patrons. "We weren't sure how much we'd get."

Schuck worked with colleague Bridget Sturdy, also a young adult librarian, and members of the Teen Advisory Board. The effort was undertaken "really just to give back," Schuck said.

"They wanted to do something at the Christmas season," he said. They had a lot of success with this program last year.

"We do a Christmas project every year," said Anastasia Guzik, 15, of Westland, vice president of the Teen Advisory Board. "It's just a thing that the teens do."

Guzik, a sophomore at Westland John Glenn High



Anastasia Guzik, Teen Advisory Board vice president and toy drive organizer, is proud of the group's work.

School, was pleased with the response last year at the library. She was headed there Tuesday afternoon for sorting.

"When you usually go to a library, you don't think of toy drives," Guzik said.

Sturdy also was pleased with the response. "I've been very impressed with it," she said. "We've definitely gotten more than we did last year."

She estimated that organizers doubled what was collected last year.

Schuck noted there were several good-sized bins filled with lots of trucks and Hot Wheels-type cars, among other Christmas presents. There were also arts and crafts-type kits, for drawing, painting and making jewelry.

"We have a lot of soft plush toys," he said. "Somebody donated a scooter."

Guzik organized the event,

including forming a committee and contacting Toys for Tots to make the library a drop-off location. Kaltra Kruja and Vicky Chu worked on the promotional posters.

Guzik noted the new toys are going to the Marine Corps effort, the gently used donated toys to another drive. "It just puts it out that there are teens who care," she said. "We want to give back to the community."

Guzik added there will be a TAB animal shelter or clothing drive effort for the spring/summer. Teens who are interested can talk to Sturdy at the library on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford.

"I am very impressed with how much they want to help other people," Sturdy said.

SIKORSKI

FROM PAGE A1

year before the Detroit Tigers claimed the team's last World Series title.

Sikorski worked under seven police chiefs and five mayors, and he has earned a solid reputation as a top law-enforcement trainer who has expertise with Taser guns, defensive tactics, use-of-force methods and firearms.

"He has knowledge of a myriad of law-enforcement issues," Police Chief James Ridener said. "We're certainly going to miss his institutional knowledge, but we all wish him well."

Sikorski has been a part-time faculty member with Schoolcraft College's police academy since its inception in 1989 — a position he plans to keep. In that capacity, he has worked with 46 police officer academies and nine reserve officer classes — in all, totaling 1,600 officers from some 50 law-enforcement agencies.

Earlier, he spent seven years with the Washtenaw Regional Police Academy in Ann Arbor. Sikorski became a 2001 graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, six years after he graduated from the

Northwestern School of Police, Staff and Command. He is recognized as a use-of-force expert by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, and he helped develop an array of training objectives now mandated at police academies across the state.

Sikorski has been involved in high-profile cases like the closing of the adult Melody Theater in Inkster and in solving the murder of suspected drug dealer Michael Connor in 2001 — an investigation that landed four defendants in prison.

He has worked closely with the Westland department's Special Investigations Unit, largely dedicated to fighting drugs, and with the five-agency Metro Street Enforcement Team, which carries out activities like surveillance and fugitive apprehension. He also helped start the local SWAT team, known as the Westland Tactical Response Unit.

Despite his leadership, Sikorski has a philosophy about police work that involves others.

"Policing is not something we do to the community; it's something we do with the community," he said.

Sikorski has had a few

scars during his tenure. One occurred when he and other officers were meeting a drug informant in a cemetery on the city's southeast side, and a neighbor who was tired of drug activity fired shots because he didn't realize the police were doing their work.

As deputy chief, Sikorski has been overseeing the detective bureau, special investigations, traffic bureau and support services.

Sikorski and wife Kelly have two daughters, Shaylyn, 17, and Savannah, 12. In addition to remaining with Schoolcraft College, he also plans to manage security and employee training programs for a non-profit, philanthropic organization.

Sikorski will be replaced as deputy chief by Mark Engstrom, a move that ushers in promotions for new Lt. Robert Swope and Sgt. Patrick Corby.

Reflecting on his career, Sikorski said his time seems to have passed quickly in Westland.

"It's really gone by in a flash," he said. "I'm proud to have served the community of Westland, and I'm proud to have served this department."

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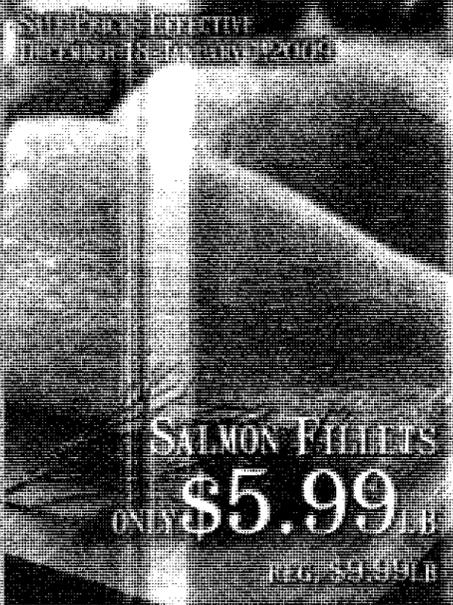
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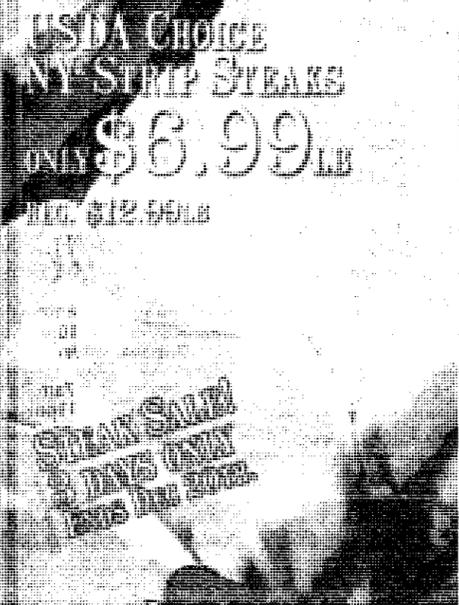
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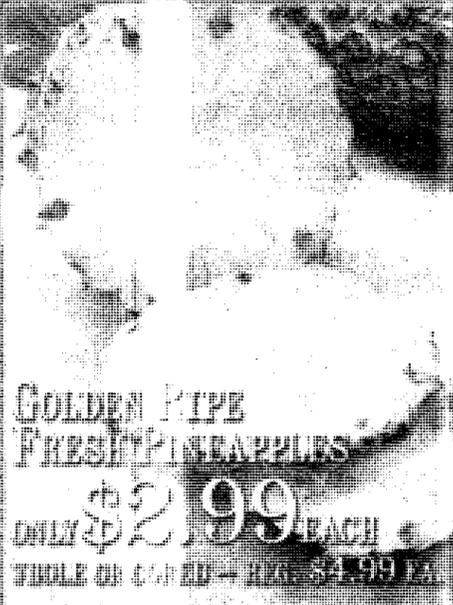
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CDs, fixed annuities have pros, cons

This year has been brutal for investors. Nearly every investment — stocks or bonds, international or domestic — has suffered. When people talk about risk, they are referring to the principal fluctuation of their portfolio. Unfortunately, principal fluctuation is just one risk to consider. Investors also need to be concerned with taxes and the increased cost of living. The idea behind a diversified



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

portfolio is you're dividing money into a variety of different areas with different risks. For investors who want a portion of their fixed income invested without any principal fluctuation, there are two investments to consider, CDs or fixed annuities. Each has its pros and cons. The key is to select the one that best suits your situation.

It is important to understand what a CD and a fixed annuity are. In selecting the best investment, it is important to understand how the investment works. Although, CDs and annuities have a lot in common, they are quite different. Certificates of Deposits or CDs are instruments issued by a bank. CDs pay a fixed rate of return for a set period of time. For example, a five-year, 4½ percent CD will pay 4½ percent interest each year for five years.

The interest that you earn on your CD, whether you have the money reinvested or paid to you, is taxable as ordinary income. During the life of the CD, you typically can withdraw the interest on a periodic basis, but if you need to remove principal, there is a penalty. CDs are insured up to \$250,000 and can be purchased in increments from three months on.

Annuities are a more complex. There are two main types of annuities, fixed and variable. There are many reasons to avoid variable annuities. That said, an investor who is looking for safety should consider the fixed annuity.

The fixed annuity comes in two different types, the traditional fixed and the equity index. The fixed annuity is similar to a CD because you get a guaranteed rate of return for a period of time. Some annuities will guarantee return for one year and some as much as five years or longer. Annuities are generally purchased for five, seven or 10 years. Annuities grow tax deferred. Taxes are only paid when money is withdrawn. Unlike CDs, if you withdraw money or close out the annuity before age 59½, in addition to the tax consequences, there is a 10 percent penalty. Annuities are insured up to \$100,000.

An equity-indexed annuity also pays a guaranteed rate of return — typically lower than a traditional fixed annuity. The major difference is how your return is calculated. One issue

that senior citizens should take into consideration is how their Social Security is taxed. Income from the CD is part of your Social Security tax calculation while income from an annuity that is growing tax deferred is not.

Whether you decide on an annuity or a CD, the key is to make sure you buy the right product.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money@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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OUR VIEWS

Change provides new opportunity

Moving to a new home can be exciting. A new place, a new view, new things to do. It also can be sad, saying goodbye to familiar surroundings, familiar faces.

Those of us who work for the *Observer Newspapers* have ridden a roller coaster of emotions these past few weeks as we've packed up our belongings and sorted through files filled with clippings and photographs dating back, in some cases, more than 30 years. It has been hard to determine what's important and what isn't. What if we left the wrong things behind. We hope we've made wise choices.

Our last day came Friday as we shut down our computers for the last time in the Livonia office. On Monday, we unpacked what we had deemed too important to leave behind and set about getting acclimated to our new offices in downtown Detroit.

Snail mail, phone calls and faxes call for a change in address and phone numbers, but we're still just an electronic click away by e-mail. How you reach us is your choice, but rest assured, we will respond. We can't and won't forget our roots.

After 37 years of serving as the headquarters for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, the building is closed. But its closing has opened up new opportunities for the staff of the *Westland Observer*. Technology allows us to remain close to you, our readers.

Our base of operations has moved, but we are still in the Westland community, providing the same news coverage you've come to expect of the *Observer*. Our commitment to provide the best coverage of the city, the schools and residents remains firmly in place.

The change will be in how we do that. Thanks to technology, we are now mobile journalists. Armed with laptops, we will be working in and around Westland. We have not lost sight of our mission. We will continue to cover the suburbs the way the dailies cover the city.

Snail mail, phone calls and faxes call for a change in address and phone numbers, but we're still just an electronic click away by e-mail. How you reach us is your choice, but rest assured, we will respond. We can't and won't forget our roots.

A lot has changed with newspapers in the past 30 years. Computers have replaced typewriters, and the Web has become another platform for getting the news to you. You can find the *Westland Observer* at news stands or have home delivery, but you can also find us on the Internet at www.hometownlife.com.

Whatever is your choice, take time to find out what's happening in your community by reading your hometown newspaper, the *Westland Observer*.

Hometowns offer unique shopping opportunities

Communication is important in any relationship, but when that dialogue box that says "system is not responding" appears on your computer screen, words can't express your feelings as that great deal you snagged online disappears.

There are better ways to shop for the holidays, and have fun while you do so.

Wandering through local downtowns, like in Farmington, Rochester, Birmingham and Plymouth, lends opportunities for unique gifts from specialty shops that just aren't carried online. Those shops also offer a chance to chat with the owner and learn why she thinks her products are special.

Hence, you carry a tale along with a gift to grandma's house.

Area shopping malls, such as Somerset, Northland, the Oakland Mall and Laurel Park Place, also offer a wide selection of gifts that you can see, feel and measure to make sure they're just right for that special someone.

Besides the merchandise, there are other benefits to shopping locally. You might meet a friend for a coffee break and drop a coin or greenback in the Salvation Army's kettles.

There are decorations galore to ogle that, for many of us, just can't be duplicated at home. And occasionally, local choir groups perform holiday music — and a chance for you to catch your breath.

Speaking of breath, local merchants are holding theirs in hope of a decent shopping season. By shopping locally, you'll breathe life into the economy, as well as the vitality of your hometown.

So talk it up, and ask a neighbor to join you for a day on the town — your hometown.



LETTERS

Work to help students

Recently there was a letter to the editor in the *Westland Observer* regarding, among other things, the performance of our high schools. The following statement was read at the Dec. 8, 2008, school board meeting:

I agree that our secondary, high school in particular, test results need to be higher. I don't believe there is board member, administrator or teacher who wouldn't like to see 100 percent of our students succeed. Many of our students are succeeding and have gone on to post-secondary education at prestigious universities, including Ivy League and Big 10. Many of our students far exceed the state and national ACT averages, scoring in the 30s where a perfect score is a 36. Currently all juniors, whether they are college bound or not, take the ACT as part of the MME. In 2008 our students scored 17.4 which is slightly below the state average of 19.6.

Recognizing that some students need a "little extra" and in an effort to help our students achieve success, the board, upon the recommendation of teachers and administrators, has implemented the following programs in the last few years:

- Restructuring of the way Algebra is offered. If a student fails it the first semester, they repeat the first semester during second semester.
- The creation of an Algebraic Foundation class for at-risk Algebra students.
- Summer school students that were successful were rewarded with reduced rates.
- The number of online classes has been increased to better prepare students for post-secondary education.
- We piloted PLATO online courses where students can learn at their own pace.
- We are offering a seventh-period credit recovery class.
- Since September 2006, we have approved \$2.5 million in high school textbooks adoptions alone to support the MME requirements.
- After-school tutoring and at Wayne Memorial, bus transportation to increase participation.
- Ninth-grade mentoring to aid in the acclimation of ninth-graders to the high school building.

These initiatives have proven to be successful and as administrators and teachers propose other initiatives the board will approve them for implementation.

It is true that our high schools did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, in the 2007-2008 school year. This was a result of a sub-group of students, such as students with disabilities or economically disadvantaged, not making AYP. This was a problem faced by many high schools across our state, including some of the best. Our administrators and teachers are diligently working on plans to help those students succeed. It is also important to point out that the district as a whole did make AYP.

And finally, it was said that "our graduation rate is decreasing and our drop out rate is on the rise." In 2007-2008, the state began using a new method to calculate graduation rate. Prior to 2007-2008, the district could take the

parent's statement of transfer as fact and count the student as a transfer. Students who leave the state are now counted as drop-outs unless a transcript request is received. I would commend our administrators and secretaries who have spent hours on the phone trying to contact the families of students who did not show up for school in September, but for who no transcript request was received to try and determine the student's true status. This has impacted not only Wayne-Westland's drop-out rate but the entire state as 35,000 children have left the state of Michigan over the last few years as their parents have sought jobs in other communities. In 2007 the state's graduation rate was 75.45 percent while Wayne Memorial was at 76.26 percent and John Glenn was at 87.79 percent, both above state average.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond. I felt that some background information on the facts was called for.

Cindy Schofield
secretary

Wayne-Westland Community School Board

Cox promotes himself

In the Thursday (Dec. 11, 2008) edition of the *Westland Observer* an article states "2 Westland men arrested in deadbeat parent sweep." Attorney General Mike Cox likes to get his name in print and his voice on the radio and TV. He reminds me a lot of the American Civil Liberties Union, they (and he) take on cases that only promote themselves politically.

In my case and as parent that paid more for child support than I was supposed to because the Wayne County Friend of the Court is so screwed up they can't get anything right. I have been paying on an account that was paid off for more than three years at the time (it's now five years) and as a desperate attempt to get my point across and heard I contacted Mr. Cox's office and was told "it was a federal thing and his hands were tied."

He can do anything it takes to collect, because this is a politically good thing, while my story would never make it to print so no need to help me in any way. He could have at the very least offered as to which direction I should pursue next.

Phil Solarz
Westland

Request not appropriate

On Oct. 7, 2008, Kyle Olson, vice president of the Education Action Group, a Muskegon-based, partisan anti-teacher union Web site, requested all of the e-mails from Aug. 1, 2008, for Wayne-Westland Education Association (WWEA) President Nancy Strachan.

Because the e-mails in question contained information which is exempt or not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, including private medical and student information, bargaining materials and internal union communications, the WWEA requested a temporary restraining order. The association

has a strong interest in promoting the success of the bargaining process and protecting the rights of its members.

Attorneys for the WWEA gave Mr. Olson advance notice of the legal action, and he participated by phone at the hearing. Judge MacDonald granted the request and ordered the parties to appear before her in January, to show cause why the order should not be permanent. The temporary restraining order prevents the premature release of documents before the court has an opportunity to make a decision.

Mr. Olson recently has made statements he was only seeking information as to whether the WWEA was behind the recall effort of school board members. However, his request was not that narrow and he hasn't sent a different request despite his assertions.

At this critical stage of the bargaining process, the WWEA believes the focus of the parties and the community should be on the fact-finding process and creating a positive learning environment, not being distracted by an outsider from Muskegon promoting his organization's own agenda.

Jeff Donahue
attorney for the WWEA

Selfish, hateful politics

The recent Republican election campaign was filled with signs reading "country first." How incredibly hypocritical and deceitful that slogan seems now. The shameful obstruction of Republican senators regarding the emergency loan package to financially distressed American automobile companies once again reveals their true colors.

Republican obsession with breaking the UAW, even if this is contingent on the bankruptcy of General Motors, Chrysler, and possibly Ford, means far more to the GOP than saving millions of jobs and assisting the economic recovery of America.

Anti-worker, union-busting, right-wing ideology trumps all. Country first? For the Republican Party, selfish and hateful politics is still all that matters, even when it seriously damages the nation they so piously claim to love.

Joe Golonka
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"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."

— Retiring 18th District Court Judge C. Charles Bokos about the only other career he would have liked besides law

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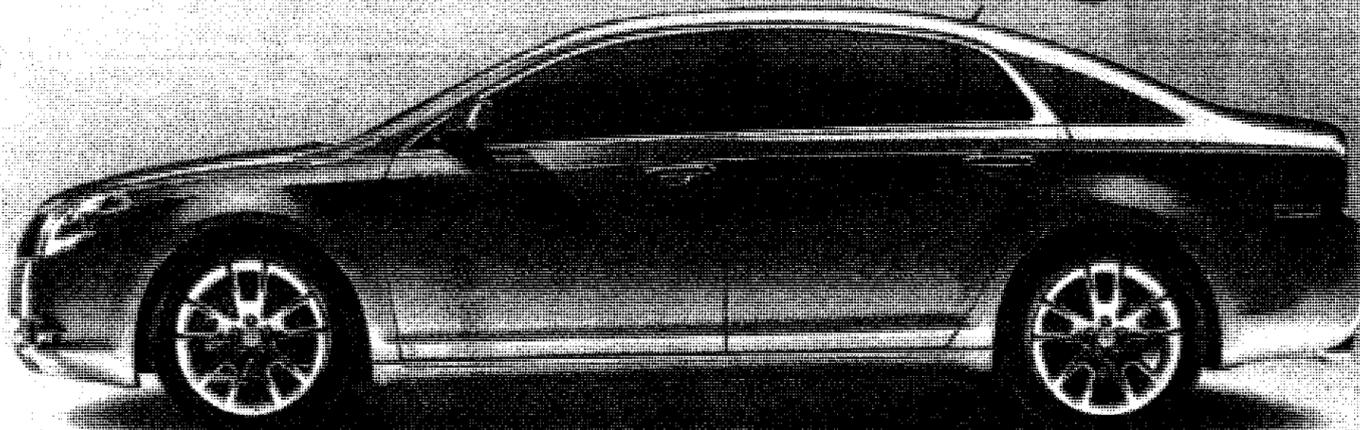
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SPORTS

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Thursday, December 18, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Ladywood's Kucharski continues binge with 6 goals

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS HOCKEY

If Livonia Ladywood's Shelby Kucharski continues to put up Gretzky-like numbers, they be calling her "The Great One."

The senior center scored all six of her team's goals, including the game-winner with only eight seconds remaining off an assist from Julie Bushart, as the Blazers stunned Plymouth-Canton-Salem, 6-5, in a Michigan Metro Girls

High School Hockey League game Saturday night at the Arctic Pond.

With the victory, Ladywood improved to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the league.

The loss drops the Penguins to 1-5 and 1-5.

Kucharski, a senior center playing her first year of high school hockey after a stint in travel hockey, now has 21 of Ladywood's 26 goals

this season.

"She has it all — speed, puck-handling skills, a great shot and a good head for the game," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We knew about her how good she was. I saw her play last year. We tried to get her four years ago and this year she finally came out. She's only played five or six years. She can definitely play college hockey."

The Blazers led 2-1 after one period on Kucharski's two goals — the first from Emann Frej and

the second from Erin Doyle.

Amanda Heisler scored for the Penguins from Katie Rokakis and Jennifer Fedon.

In the second period, Ellexus Montoya tied it up for the Penguins from Heisler and Fedon, but Kucharski answered on a goal from Bushart to keep a one-goal lead.

In the final period, Kucharski scored unassisted to make it 4-2, but the Penguins responded with two quick goals — Jennifer Fedon

(from Kelsey Nikkila) and Nikkila (from Rhianna Fleischer) to make it 4-4.

Kucharski tallied her second unassisted goal of the game to put the Blazers ahead 5-4, but Nikkila answered to knot the count at 5-5.

Ladywood held a 24-23 edge in shots.

Jessica Pavela was in goal for the Blazers, while Emily Bullock was in goal for the Penguins.

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Sidelines

MU women routed

Alison Lemon and Jenna Smith tallied 18 and 17 points, respectively, powering Cedarville University (Ohio) to an 84-54 women's basketball triumph Tuesday against host Madonna University.

Cedarville, ranked No. 7 in the latest NAIA Division II poll, improved to 7-2 overall.

Lydia Miller contributed 15 points for the victors, while Aubrey Siemon added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Tabatha Wydryck was the only MU player to score in double figures with 17 points.

Kim Olech (Plymouth) added eight points, while Christie Carrico grabbed a team-best eight rebounds.

The Crusaders trailed 48-29 at half-time. MU shot only 30 percent from the floor (17-of-56) and Cedarville scored 25 points off MU turnovers.

Ignition falls, 11-4

The Detroit Ignition suffered an 11-4 setback Saturday night to the host Milwaukee Wave in the inaugural game of the Xtreme Soccer League.

Ignition forward Mike Apple scored the first goal in XSL history at 3:44 of the first quarter, a two-point score with an assist from defender Josh Rife.

The Ignition held onto the lead until midfielder Marcelo Fontana put the Wave on the board with 12 seconds left in the half, tying the game at two-all.

Vahid Assadpour scored another two points for the Ignition under a minute into the third quarter, but Jacek Przednowek scored a hat trick to give the home team a 9-4 lead half-way through the fourth. Nathan Sabich scored on Detroit's open net to bring the final score to 11-4.

The Ignition will open their home schedule on Saturday against the New Jersey Ironmen. Kickoff is at 7:35 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

Mr. Big Shot

Clarenceville's Stewart nets 34 to sink Eagles

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What's the perfect way to end a high-octane basketball game filled with peaks, valleys and highlight-reel moments for both teams?

For Livonia Clarenceville, at least, it was to get the ball into the hands of "Mr. Basketball" hopeful Jamie Stewart and let him do the rest.

Stewart, a 6-foot-4 senior guard who scored 14 fourth-quarter points among 34 for the evening, spoiled things for host Redford Thurston Tuesday night — sinking the winning shot as Clarenceville earned a 79-75 non-conference victory.

"I just had to make the play," said Stewart, who wowed the crowd with two rousing slams earlier (including one on an alley oop from senior guard Nathan Clark (seven points). "I missed the free throws before that to ice the game, so I had to make the play."

"If we would have lost this game I would have gone into the locker room thinking it was my fault and 100 percent on me."

According to Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry, the way Stewart stepped up was no surprise.

"It helps to be able to put the ball in Jamie Stewart's hands," McKendry said. "He wanted to make up for that first game (a loss to Taylor Truman)."

The tiebreaker came mere seconds after Thurston's Ronald Brown tallied a layup to make it 75-75 with about 30 seconds remaining in the fourth.

Stewart dribbled along the right out-of-bounds line and seemingly floated into the key area where he sank a jumper.

Thurston coach Brian Bates congratulated Stewart for his clutch performance, but noted that the Eagles (0-2) "need to learn how to play in close basketball games. We need to

'I just had to make the play. I missed the free throws before that to ice the game, so I had to make the play.'

JAMIE STEWART

execute and we need to play better as a team, both offensively and defensively."

Although the Eagles received excellent games from senior guards Marcus Jones (22 points, 10 rebounds), Greg Morgan (19 points, seven rebounds), Josh Miller (16 points, 10 rebounds) and senior center Cameron Mitchell (seven points, 10 boards, five blocks), there were times when shots were rushed down the stretch.

Not helping was Mitchell fouling out late in the game.

"Cameron Mitchell played an outstanding game," Bates said. "He blocked, rebounded and he was strong around the basket."

Clarenceville's counterpart in the low post was senior forward Jeremy Gainer, who tallied 19 points along with 14 boards.

McKendry also praised the efforts of senior forward Josh Robinson and junior guard Dustin Csokasy in "the first significant varsity minutes for both."

"We knew it was going to be tough, we knew they're a very good basketball team," Bates said. "... We scheduled tough nonleague games to get us ready for the season, Catholic Central's a very good team, Clarenceville's a tough team."

The veteran coach said there was improvement over the disappointing opener against the Shamrocks and that he expects that upward trend to continue Friday, when the Eagles visit Southgate Anderson for the Mega Blue opener.

Please see **C'VILLE, B3**



Clarenceville's Clark Nathan looks to take the ball up to the basket against Redford Thurston's Tommy Burton during Tuesday night's game at Thurston.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Upstart Canton stuns Spartans

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Is Canton's hockey team on the verge of cracking the Division 1 state rankings?

You would think so after the Chiefs registered one of the school's most-impressive victories in history Friday — a 4-1 triumph over No. 9-ranked Livonia Stevenson.

The win over the powerful Spartans improved Canton's best-ever start to 7-0-1 overall and

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**

Big 1st half bolsters Patriots

KLAA GIRLS HOOPS

Livonia Franklin built an early first-half lead and improved to 4-0 overall with a 54-39 girls basketball win Tuesday night at home against Livonia Stevenson.

Twin sisters Brianna and Brittany Taylor paced Franklin with 17 and 15 points, respectively.

Sophomore Chelsea Williams also contributed 10 points for the Patriots, who led by as many as 20 points in the first half before Stevenson rallied in the second half.

Stevenson senior center Kaylee McGrath led all scorers with 22 points, including 6-of-7 from the foul line to go along with 14 rebounds. Freshman Jordan York, solid on both ends, and sophomore

Sarah Smith chipped in with eight points apiece for the Spartans (1-3).

"Stevenson is a good team, strong and physical," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We had to play hard the whole second half to keep the lead."

Stevenson nearly cut the deficit to single digits during the final period.

"We used our depth to get it down to 10, but then their talent (Franklin's) took over," Stevenson coach Paul Tripp said. "I'm proud of the effort. We're coming along."

Franklin was 15-of-17 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 9-of-

14. JOHN GLENN 52, FARMINGTON 24: Senior center Brittany Holbrook pumped in 17 points to lead three players in double figures Friday as host Westland John Glenn (3-1) downed the Falcons (3-2) in a non-league encounter.

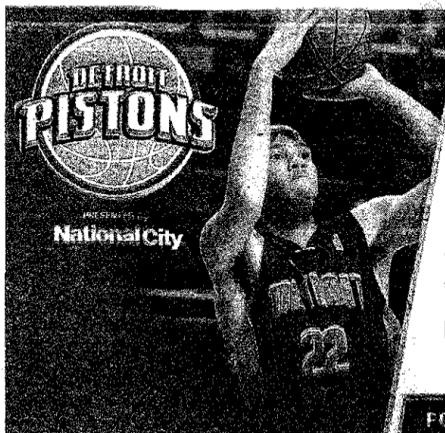
Chanel Payne and Nyah McReynolds chipped in with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

The Rockets led 20-4 after one quarter and cruised home for the win.

"Defensively we limited their shot selection," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said. "We gave up just one shot and pushed the ball up the court pretty well."

Melissa Lockhart paced Farmington with six points.

Please see **HOOPS, B3**



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Churchill better late than never in 2-2 deadlock with South Lyon

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

BY TOM MORELLI
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BOYS HOCKEY

Play until the final whistle. As cliché as it sounds, that adage proved true for the Livonia Churchill hockey team in its KLAAs crossover game against South Lyon on Friday night.

The Chargers (1-1-2 overall, 1-1-2 KLAAs South) off to a rough start by committing some unnecessary penalties, which caused the team to be short-handed for most of the game in their quest to counter the Lions' potent offensive attack.

Fortunately for the Chargers, they were able to catch a break in the third period, even if the opportunity arrived a bit later than usual.

With a power-play opportunity and a faceoff draw in the South Lyon zone, the Chargers had a minute left in the game to piece together one last scor-

ing chance.

Churchill won the draw, but quickly had the puck tipped away to the corners, where both teams battled vigorously for control. After a missed attempt on Lions' goaltender James Stratton, defenseman Dan Bostick gained control of the rebound and blasted a slap-shot from just outside the faceoff dot to score the game-tying goal with 51 seconds left.

Moments earlier, Chargers' coach Pete Mazzoni had called a timeout to tell his players just how crucial the faceoff was.

"Anytime you have a power-play faceoff in the offensive zone, the faceoff is extremely important," Mazzoni said. "We drew-up a little play and were fortunate to get the draw. They actually did a nice

job with their coverage, and we just caught them in their rotation."

The Lions (2-1-1 overall, 1-1-1 KLAAs) dominated the first period, thanks in part to a goal by senior Jacob Green just 47 seconds in.

The goal occurred after Joonas Jaskari fired a shot from the blue line that was redirected by Christopher Eckler. Churchill goaltender Adrian Motta was able to stop the initial blast, but Green reacted quickly to the loose puck and chipped it in from the left side.

Late in the period, the Chargers were able to draw even after a defensive lapse by the Lions in their own zone. Forward Mike Kutek intercepted the puck and passed across ice to Drew Carlson, who then fed a speeding Jacob Otto. A freshman, Otto moved left to right and used a back-handed shot to beat netmind-

er James Stratton.

Within the next minute, South Lyon won a faceoff in the Churchill zone that allowed them to regain the lead. Lighting the lamp this time was senior Michael Betz, who finished off a pass from Michael Hoy and Jaskari.

Despite giving-up a 2-1 lead in the game's waning moments, Lions' coach Mike Falahee was pleased with his team's overall performance.

"I was really proud of our boys in the first period, our speed and intensity was there," Falahee said. "We played very physical in the first part and I tip my hat to Churchill who came back in the second period and equaled our speed and intensity. Overall, I told the boys in the locker room that I'm very proud of them. Churchill is a heck of a team and for us to compete the way that we did, I was very proud of our game."

3-0-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Stevenson slipped to 4-2-1 overall and 2-1-1 in the Central Division.

"We beat a very good hockey team," said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "For about the first half of the first period we basically stood around and admired how fast they were. Once the boys realized they had to pick up the pace, we started to skate with them and create opportunities."

Abraham praised the play of senior goalie Zane Birchler, who stopped 35 Spartan shots.

"He made the difference," Abraham said. "He's been making the saves he has to make, plus he's been making saves a lot of other goalies wouldn't make. Offensively, we haven't been starting games strong, but Zane has given us time to get going."

Stevenson owned a 1-0 lead thanks to a John Vella goal until Canton senior forward Nick Tomilenko converted his 16th goal of the season 4:07 into the second period. He was assisted by Alex Berlin. Tomilenko cashed in the

eventual game-winner with 1:35 left in the period when he lit the lamp thanks to helpers from Mark Barath and Dan Bielak.

Anthony Bonnett (from Tomilenko) and Ryan Lash (from Bryan Davison and A.J. Rosales) tallied insurance goals in the third period.

Tomilenko was named "Player of the Week" for the state of Michigan by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

Three of Canton's goals came via the power play.

The Chiefs started the final period with a 5-on-3 after Stevenson took a pair of penalties with 10 seconds left in the second stanza.

"They're definitely a solid club," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said of the Chiefs.

G.P. NORTH 2, CHURCHILL 0: Justin Kovacs figured in on both goals Saturday as Grosse Pointe North (5-0) downed visiting Livonia Churchill (1-2-2) in a nonleague game.

Ben Scarfone scored what proved to be the game-winner with 12:11 left in the first period from Kovacs and Nick Hartman when Churchill failed on a clearing attempt.

Kovacs added a short-handed goal with 9:31 left from Alex Tomovski and Jon Neveux.

"North is an aggressive and gritty team," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "They move the puck well and force you to play faster. I thought we got better as the game went on."

"However, for the second game in a row, we gave a goal early. It is tough to play catch up against a good team like North. We limited them to one shot in the third and had about 8-or-9 odd man rushes and failed to get a shot on goal. We were in position to make plays and didn't. Give North credit."

North goaltender Mike Rahaim made nine saves to post the shut-out, while Churchill's Adrian Motta posted 17 saves.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarenceville's Dustin Csokasy goes in for the layup during Tuesday's game against Redford Thurston.

C'VILLE

FROM PAGE B1

"We're going to learn from the things we did well and we're going to learn from some of our mistakes," Bates said. "We are going to get better."

Coleman spurs Zebras to 1st cage win, 54-35

This girls basketball win proved to be right up Wayne Memorial's Allie - as in junior guard Allie Coleman - who poured in game-high 19 points Tuesday to lead the Zebras to their victory of the season, a 54-35 triumph at Livonia Clarenceville.

Both teams are 1-4 overall. Freshman guard Holland Boertje and senior forward Jalisa Simmons added 12 and 11 points, respectively, for Wayne, which trailed 22-19 at halftime before storming back with a 20-5 third-period run.

Ashley Devon tallied 10 points for the Trojans, who made only 9-of-22 free throws.

Wayne was 5-of-12 from the line.

LADYWOOD 55, BISHOP FOLEY 32: Caitlin Szczycka led a balanced scoring attack with 12 points Tuesday, carrying host Livonia Ladywood (3-2) to a Catholic League inter-sectional win over Madison Heights Bishop Foley (1-2).

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

STEVENSON 48, CHURCHILL 36: Livonia Stevenson (1-2) rode the hot shooting of senior guard Courtney Lewis on its way to a victory Friday night at home over rival Livonia Churchill (1-2).

Stevenson trailed 19-16 at halftime before going on a 16-8 third-quarter run as Lewis scored 11 of her game-high 16 points, including three 3-pointers. Lewis also had three steals.

Kaylee McGrath chipped in with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Spartans, who are now 1-2 overall. Emily Hollandsworth (four points) sparked the second-half defensive effort as

There was little separation between the teams all night, as Clarenceville held leads of 25-24 and 44-43 after the first and second quarters, respectively.

Thurston amped up the defensive pressure to open the third, and had a 60-59 edge entering the fourth.

The Eagles then went on

an 11-6 spurt, sparked by Mitchell's putback, a triple from beyond the top of the arc by Morgan and a banker by Jones. But the Trojans just as quickly regained control, outscoring the hosts 14-4 the final four minutes (nine by Stewart).

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GIRLS HOOPS

Molly Gacloch and Mary Fitzgerald each added 11 points for the Blazers, who outscored the Ventures 19-7 in the second period and 20-8 in the final quarter to put it away.

Amber Williams tallied eight for Foley, which shot only 6-of-13 from the foul line.

The Blazers were 13-of-23 at the line.

"We were able to get out on the break and score on the run," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "And when we ran our offensive sets in the half court we also scored. We play decent defensively throughout. Overall I'm happy with the effort."

PLY. CHRISTIAN 43, LUTH. WESTLAND 42:

Senior forward Megan Greve scored 17 points and senior guard Autumn McKenzie contributed 10 Saturday as host Plymouth Christian Academy (2-0) edged Lutheran High Westland (0-2).

Senior guard Allyson Yankee paced the Warriors with 15 points, five rebounds and three assists, while junior center Emilie Freeman contributed 10 points and four rebounds.

"I'm pleased with the desire and hustle of my players," Lutheran

Stevenson held the Chargers to 17 points.

"Our goal was to keep them under 15 in the first half, we didn't do that, but we were playing good defense and limiting their second shot opportunities," said Stevenson rookie coach Paul Tripp, who notched his first win. "We were scrapping for rebounds, playing good defense and they started to believe in themselves and believed they belonged in the game."

"We had good rotation on the offensive end and Courtney hit some big shots. She played both ends and was something else."

Kia Griffin paced Churchill (1-2) with 14 points.

The Chargers were only 7-of-17 from the foul line, while Stevenson hit 9-of-10.

"Those three '3s' in the third quarter got them (Stevenson) going," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said. "They (Stevenson) got after it. They were aggressive and beat us to loose balls. Give them all the credit."

MILFORD 71, WAYNE 21: On Friday, Lindsay Vandyk and Patricia Santini tallied 13 and 12 points, respectively, leading the host Mavericks (2-1) to a KLAA crossover win over Wayne Memorial (0-3). Junior guard Allie Coleman paced the Zebras, who trailed 41-2 at halftime with a team-high 13 points.

Wayne did not shoot a free throw while committing 18 fouls.

Milford, meanwhile, did not get whistled for a foul and made 10-of-16 from the line.

Norscia catalyst in Churchill win

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Duke University calls Cameron Indoor Stadium its basketball home.

And Livonia Churchill's 6-foot-7 senior center Cameron Norscia made it his own house Friday night scoring 21 points and grabbing 15 rebounds as the host Chargers held off a late Livonia Stevenson rally for a 65-58 boys victory.

Churchill, now 1-1 overall, led by as many as 19 points early in the fourth quarter before the Spartans rallied to within five on two different occasions in the final three minutes.

Norscia's back-to-back baskets with 41 and 23 seconds remaining helped seal the victory.

"Cam has been working hard and has improved every day since last year," Churchill coach Jim Solak said of the 230-pounder. "Last year he was a project and you saw what he was tonight. He's been fighting a bad shoulder, too. I'm proud of him."

Senior guard Ryan Woods contributed 18 points, while senior forward Alex Bay and junior guard Anthony Frezzell chipped in with 10 and nine, respectively.

"Woods and Frezzell came to play, and when they play

BOYS HOOPS

together, we're tough," Solak said. "Our guards were tremendous in the half-court. They were working hard, running the offense, getting good shots and finishing. They're going to have to do that for us."

Stevenson, playing its season opener, trailed 31-19 at the half on Woods' three-pointer with 2.3 seconds left. The Spartans' only highlight of the first half was a spectacular back-door, alley-oop dunk by Gary Cobb off a high feed from Brian Rowe.

The Spartans were then outscored 16-11 in the third quarter and fell behind 47-30.

Over the first 24 minutes, Stevenson shot just 10-of-36 from the field (27 percent) and committed 18 turnovers.

"I'd like to say it was first-game jitters, but that's a bad excuse because we have eight veteran players back from last year," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "We worked on Churchill's 1-2-2 trap the last two days and we played like we've never seen it."

"The kids looked out of sync. We rushed way too much offensively and tried to force passes. We tried to make the exceptional pass instead of the simple pass, and then we'd

turn it over."

Stevenson, which lost three players to fouls, outscored Churchill 28-18 in the final quarter as junior guard Bobby Naubert got hot, scoring 14 of his team-high 17 points.

The Spartans closed to within five, 54-49, on Mark Grisa's basket, but could not get any closer the rest of the way as Churchill held on for the win.

"The kids played the way I expected them to play the rest of the game (fourth quarter), but I expect that all 32 minutes," Allie said.

Senior Brian Rowe added 13 points for the Spartans, while Grisa and Jordan El-Sabeh added eight each.

Churchill went cold in the final quarter, 5-of-19 from the field, and hurt itself from putting the game away earlier by making only 19-of-39 free throws on the night (compared with Stevenson's 18-of-26).

"The fourth quarter you could tell we had a lot of inexperienced players - a lot of juniors and varsity players who weren't in the rotation last year," Solak said. "We missed free throws and missed shots, but give them (Stevenson) credit for staying in the game. They kept attacking us. But we'll learn from this."

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Spartans hold off Patriots in OT

BOYS HOOPS

Livonia Stevenson overcame Jeff Poole's game-high 25 points to post a 57-56 overtime victory Tuesday over visiting Livonia Franklin.

Senior center Kendal Snow led the victorious Spartans, who improved their boys basketball record 1-1 overall, with 16 points, while teammate Brian Rowe added 13.

"Kendal played his best game in a Stevenson uniform tonight," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "Brian Rowe was a spark for us early hitting three 3-pointers in the first half. Ricky Chrzasz (seven points) and Jordan El-Sabeh gave us solid minutes tonight as well. Gary Cobb came up big for us in overtime with a miracle shot to seal the victory."

"This game was a step in the right direction for these kids, but they understand we need to keep improving if we want to be competitive in our division.

Poole hit 8-of-10 free throws and added three triples. His attempt to win it in OT fell off as the Patriots dropped to 1-2 overall.

Connor Leidal contributed 12 for Franklin, who outscored Stevenson 15-10 in the final period to force OT at 47-44.

Stevenson was only 6-of-20 from the foul line, while Franklin hit 14-of-22.

"We had some excellent

opportunities at the rim, but we missed some layups that allowed them (Stevenson) to build an early (18-9 first-quarter) lead," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "I like the way we played and I thought Stevenson played very well."

GARDEN CITY 51, CHURCHILL 49:

Nathan Kalinowski scored 18 points, including a big three-point play down the stretch, to give the Cougars (2-1) a non-league victory Tuesday at Livonia Churchill (1-2).

Ron Pummill added 11 points for Garden City.

Churchill senior guard Ryan Woods, whose last-second shot fell off, led all scorers with 28 points.

"It shouldn't have come down to that," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We were up four (points) and had two chances to ice it, but we had two turnovers and they scored off of them on transition."

Garden City was 14-of-23 from the line, while Churchill was 13-of-19.

LUTH. WESTLAND 64, PCA 56: On Saturday, Josh Kruger notched 15 points and Ryan Rakovalis added 13 to propel Lutheran High Westland (2-0) to the non-conference win over host Plymouth Christian Academy (1-1).

The Warriors led 31-28 at halftime and padded their lead by outscoring the Eagles 18-14 in the third period.

"The kids played hard and created a lot of scoring opportunities by stepping in the passing lanes and scoring off turnovers," Lutheran

Westland coach Brandon Bekins said. "I thought the second half we played a little more under control, but we have to improve our free throw shooting (19-of-43), especially in the fourth quarter if we're going to close out games in future."

Spencer Wiard led PCA with 23 points, while Brent Zinn added 12 for the Eagles, who were 12-of-20 from the foul stripe.

BELLEVILLE 42, JOHN GLENN 32:

Westland John Glenn (0-1) kept it close for three quarters Friday night in its season opener before state-ranked Tigers (2-0) pulled out a 10-point win.

Mohamed Conde paced the victorious Tigers with 13 points. Nate Hand added 10, including 6-of-6 from the free throw line during the final quarter as Belleville outscored the host Rockets, 11-4.

Austin Anderson and Jeremy Langford tallied 10 and nine points, respectively, for Glenn.

Belleville was 12-of-16 overall from the foul stripe, while Glenn was only 1-of-5.

MILFORD 51, FRANKLIN 49: Art Dreimanis scored 22 points and Nate Kesto added 16 as the Mavericks (1-1) pulled out a non-league victory Friday night over Livonia Franklin (1-1).

The Patriots rallied from a 16-6 first-quarter deficit and took a 35-33 lead heading into the final period. Dreimanis nailed three key triples in the final quarter to give Milford an 18-14 scoring edge.

Jeff Poole, a senior forward saddled with three first-half fouls, scored 15 of his team-high 17 points in the second half. Connor Leidal added 13.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Glenn baseball training

Westland John Glenn High School will host a six-week Spring Training 2009 baseball program for players in grades 1-12 from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22.

John Glenn varsity coach Tom Wakefield will direct the program in conjunction with the Midwest Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching and catching with a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited and registration is underway.

For more information, call toll-free at (866) MBA-HITS; or visit www.baseballacademy.net.

MU softball hitting camps

The Madonna University women's softball program will stage two sessions of hitting camps from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20 (I)

and Sunday, Dec. 21 (II).

The cost for each session is \$30. For more information, or to register, call MU coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or visit www.madonnacrusaders.com.

WYAA basketball signup

Basketball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Age groups offered include: Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12), Varsity (13-14-15) and Senior (16-19).

JV- and Varsity-age players involved in middle school basketball will be eligible for WYAA play once their seasons conclude.

For more information, call the WYAA build-

ing at (734) 421-0640.

Prep coaches wanted

Westland John Glenn High School has coaching openings for varsity girls soccer. Those interested can apply online at www.wvcsd.net.

Livonia Ladywood has openings for the following coaches: girls varsity track and field (2009 spring season); girls cross country (2009 fall season); and girls JV golf coach (2009 fall season).

Those interested should fax a resume to Ladywood High School at (734) 591-2386.

Baseball Academy

The Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be conducting showcase sessions for high school players as well as skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

The latest pro pitch trainer will be used and former Phillies pitcher Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

Practice with Kessel

Play It Again Sports in Canton and Livonia, along with Nike Bauer Hockey, will be offering a "A Practice of a Lifetime" national sweepstakes to award one lucky hockey devotee, along with 20 teammates, to win a personal practice session with Boston Bruin Phil Kessel, the fifth pick of the 2006 NHL Entry Draft and Master Memorial Trophy winner his rookie year.

The drawing ends Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.playitagainsports.com.

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Ronnie Williams
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Floors
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130-62
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WEEK #16 GAMES
Thursday, December 18, 2008
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
Saturday, December 20, 2008
Baltimore at Dallas
Sunday, December 21, 2008
Arizona at New England
San Diego at Tampa Bay
San Francisco at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Tennessee
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Miami at Kansas City
New Orleans at Detroit
Houston at Oakland
Buffalo at Denver
New York Jets at Seattle
Philadelphia at Washington
Atlanta at Minnesota
Carolina at New York Giants
Monday, December 22, 2008
Green Bay at Chicago

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month 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.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages.

Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Advent Sunday

The Gift of Love 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Choir cantata

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church presents Hope Has Hands choir cantata 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

Christmas Eve services

5 p.m. (Children's Service), 7 p.m. (Family Worship and Candlelight), and 11 p.m. (Lessons, Carols, Communion and Candlelight), at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Christmas services

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, two blocks south of Plymouth Road. Call (313) 937-3170. Christmas Eve Candlelight services 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, Family Musical: Angels We Have Heard, a multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music, closing service with individual candles (nursery provided for preschool children), and 10 p.m. with adult and hand bell choirs, communion and candle lighting, 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, Blessing of the children and their toys.

Advent worship

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, worship: Christmas pageant, at First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Rd., north of 8 Mile, Southfield. Call (248) 569-2972.

Christmas Eve service

Brass Quintet performance at 6:45 p.m., Candlelight Communion Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Christmas Eve service

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at

Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722

Christmas Eve services

7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. All are welcome. Call (734) 427-3660.

Christmas Eve worship

8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster road in Livonia. The services will include candlelight and communion. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Christmas worship

5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells Wednesday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Candlelight Christmas service

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Rd., north of 8 Mile, Southfield. Call (248) 569-2972.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

UPCOMING

Worship service

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association is sponsoring a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. If you have any questions, call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support

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

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.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverage, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course II, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals

Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change

Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livoniafaith.org.

Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

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

Eucharistic adoration

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

Worship schedule

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

Sunday worship

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

Reformed Protestant services

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

Sanskrit chanting

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

Church schedule

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

Single Place Ministry

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

Prince of Peace Church

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

Tai Chi and strength classes

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

Tai Chi class

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

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule

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

Day of service

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

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

Worship Service

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

Worship

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

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m., and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

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

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship

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

Worship services

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

Men's breakfast

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

MOPS meetings

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

MOPS groups

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

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join

Please see CALENDAR, B7

Passages

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EVERLYN M. ALTAFFER

Age 76. Of Livonia, MI. December 13, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



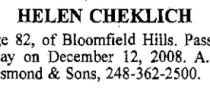
FREDERICK KIPP CODY, JR.

Age 60, died December 11, 2008 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac after a brief illness. Fred was born October 5, 1948, in Detroit. He was a long-time resident of Birmingham with strong childhood ties to the Grosse Pointe area. Fred graduated in 1966 from Austin High School in Detroit and attended Michigan State University, where he received a degree in business and marketing in 1970. Fred traveled the world in his role as director of marketing for Chrysler International and was instrumental in launching the "Jeep" brand in China, Egypt and throughout all of Europe. After leaving Chrysler, Fred joined Jucy, Inc. as a partner. Jucy, headquartered in Palm Springs California, is a pioneer in "Green" advertising for major corporations. Fred was a member of Holy Name Church in Birmingham and was an avid art collector who loved gardening. As a loyal friend of Bill W., he reached out to numerous people. Fred is survived by his siblings, Mary Lou and Daniel A. Miller of Olympia, Washington, Fredericka Cody of Atlanta, Georgia and Angela and Thomas Gonzales of Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy R. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Gerard F. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sokolick, five great-nephews, two great-nieces and cherished cousins, friends and business associates too numerous to list. Mr. Cody is preceded in death by his parents, Frederick K. Cody, Sr., Nancy Ryan Cody and Rosemary Brennan Cody. He loved you all. Memorial Mass at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon St., Birmingham, Saturday 12:30pm. Friends may gathering at church beginning at 12noon. Interment in St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms. Memorials may be made to the charity of donor's choice. Condolences at www.lyncfuneraldirectors.com



PATRICIA A. JANTOVSKY

Age 82, December 16, 2008. Beloved wife of Larry. Dear mother of Judy Spehar, Kevin (Barbara), Lawrence M. (Shree) and the late Paul Michael. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of ten. Visitation Friday 3-9pm. Funeral Service Saturday 10am at the John N. Santeiu and Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).



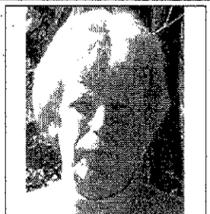
HELEN CHEKLICH

Age 82, of Bloomfield Hills. Passed away on December 12, 2008. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.



BRENDA DIAN REOTT JOSEPH

Born May 13th, 1959, has gone to heaven to join her dad and baby sister December 3rd, 2008. Brenda is the loving wife of Dwight Joseph and precious daughter of Patricia Westwood. Brenda's life is being celebrated by three brothers, five sisters and their families; also by four step-brothers, three step-sisters, and their families and a multitude of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends throughout the USA. Brenda is dearly loved and sadly missed by her family, friends and little dog, Poncho. A memorial service is being planned for late spring of 2009 at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile Road at Beech Daly, Redford, MI.



DAVID R. GOODE

Age 57, died December 11, 2008, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. David was born September 27, 1951, in Pontiac; He was a graduate of Seaholm High School and a life-long resident of Birmingham. David was owner/broker of Goode Real Estate in Birmingham - a family business since 1964. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, particularly during the summer at his cottage in Central Lake, Michigan. David is survived by his wife, Kathy and son, Jeff. He is also survived by his brothers, Gilbert and Ronald Goode and sisters, Judith Moran and Mary Smith. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. Interment in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Arrangements entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, 248-435-0660.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

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

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

For more information call:
Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115
or Charlotte Wilson 586-826-7082
or toll free 800-579-7355
ask for Jennifer or Charlotte

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Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

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

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

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

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

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

Thrift Shop
9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian

Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.
Registration
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

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

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

Higher Rock Cafe
Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

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

Sunday worship
10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland.

For information, call (734) 728-3440.
Sunday services
Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

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

Worship services
Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

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

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

For information, visit www.celebrater-recovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

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

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

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

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

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

TOPS
Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church,

555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study
At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service
Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093 for information.

Eucharistic adoration
The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Unity of Livonia
Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services
The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim
Services open to all in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3664 or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach
A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks
A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

English classes
Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Sunday school
Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

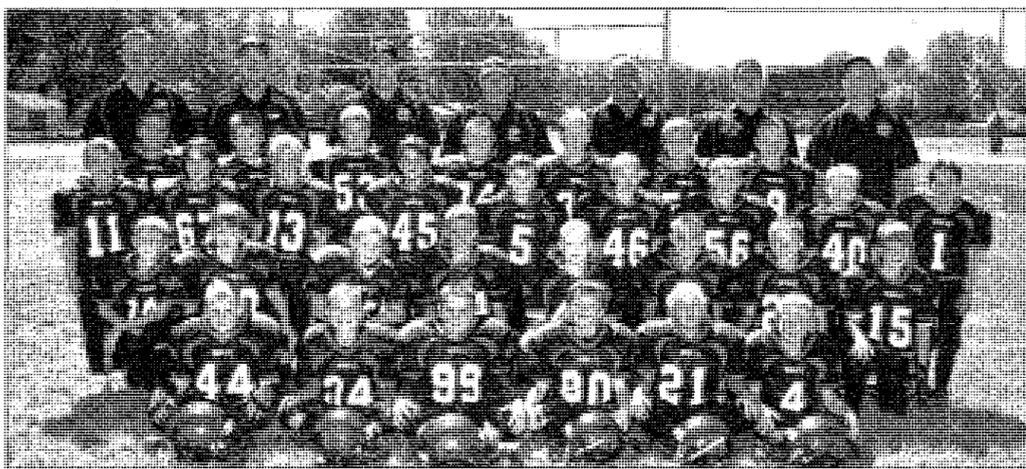
Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1670 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Frl. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly • (313) 937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org</p>
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a</p> <p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p>Cherry Hill United Methodist 321 S. Ridge Road Canton, MI 734-495-0035 Rev. Merlin Pratt Worship 10:30 Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30 www.cherryhillunmc.org</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional</p> <p>Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	<p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 a.m & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.</p> <p>Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 46601 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>	<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosealegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>
<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p>	<p>ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>
<p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Church Pastor Milton Schemm 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (Just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m. http://ourchurch.com/members/immmanueldinths The Friendly Church on the Trail</p>	<p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>

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

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

ROCKET RELAYS
BOYS SWIM MEET
Dec. 13 at Westland John Glenn
200-yard medley: 1. Redford Union (Jeff Matties, John Webster, Harry Santti, John Matties), 1:56.23 (record); 2. Redford Thurston, 2:01.9; 3. Wayne Memorial, 2:07.39.
800 freestyle: 1. Thurston (Steve Bloetscher, Tim Castle, Ryan Bellis, Nathan Galagos), 9:20.47 (record); 2. Wayne, 9:37.74; 3. John Glenn, 10:11.17.
Diving: 1. John Glenn (Cody Roe, Conner Monroe), 144.30 points; 2. RU, 133.10.
400 individual medley: 1. RU (Jeff Matties, Dan Webster, Santti, J. Webster), 4:37.24; 2. Thurston, 4:40.44; 3. Wayne, 4:45.41.
100 butterfly: 1. RU, 58.26; 2. Thurston, 1:03.34; 3. John Glenn, 1:13.94.
200 backstroke: 1. Wayne (Zack Williamson, Corey Robbins, Mike Gabriel, Steven Ogg), 2:14.0; 2. Thurston, 2:21.23; 3. John Glenn, 2:27.26.
100 breaststroke: 1. John Glenn (Pat Kemp, Levi Cavender, Addison Queen, Joey Wakeford), 1:11.97.
200 freestyle: 1. John Glenn (Billy Lyons, Paul Gutu, Ryan Boes, Wakeford, 1:46.17.
100 medley: 1. John Glenn (Dave Vader, Queen, Jon Lara, Gerard Salter), 1:06.45; 2. Wayne, 1:08.72; 3. Thurston, 1:13.4.
1,500 freestyle: 1. John Glenn (Boes, Tim Moran, Aaron Sabal), 21:59.06; 2. Lincoln Park, 22:32.66.
100 freestyle: 1. John Glenn (Lyons, Cody Roe, Gutu, Dave Wilton), 50.29 (record); 2. RU, 57.87; 3. Wayne, 58.24.
200 breaststroke: 1. RU (Jeff Matties, D. Webster, John Matties, John Webster), 2:13.98; 2. Thurston, 2:18.21; 3. Wayne, 2:33.05.
100 backstroke: 1. Lincoln Park (Mike Higgins, Justin Jacob, Roland Norelli, Shane Julet), 1:05.59; 2. RU, 1:13.58; 3. Wayne, 1:13.95.
200 butterfly: 1. John Glenn (Gutu, Lyons, Lara, Sabal), 2:07.94; 2. Thurston, 2:08.05; 3. Wayne, 2:23.98.
400 freestyle: 1. Wayne (Ogg, Adam Karson, Josh Higgs, Gabriel), 3:57.08 (record); 2. RU, 4:04.74; 3. Thurston, 4:07.28.
DUAL MEET RESULTS
REFORD UNION 94
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 88
Dec. 16 at RU
200-yard medley relay: 1. RU (Jeff Matties, John Webster, Harry Santti, John Matties), 1:55.8.
200 freestyle: 1. Alec Martin (RU), 2:19.3.
200 individual medley: 1. John Webster (RU), 2:31.6.
50 freestyle: 1. John Matties (RU), 25.2.
1-meter diving: 1. Cody Roe (WJG), 175.20 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Santti (RU), 1:05.5.
100 freestyle: 1. John Matties (RU), 57.4.
500 freestyle: 1. Daniel Webster (RU), 6:31.2.
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Billy Lyons, Cody Roe, Joey Wakeford, Paul Gutu), 1:55.4.
100 backstroke: 1. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 1:10.5.
100 breaststroke: 1. John Webster (RU), 1:11.0.
400 freestyle relay: 1. RU (Jeff Matties, Santti, J. Webster, John Matties), 4:00.4.
Glenn 2nds: Lyons, 50 freestyle (25.6); 100 freestyle (58.3); Wakeford, 200 freestyle (2:19.5); Gutu, 100 butterfly (1:10.0); Aaron Sabal, 500 freestyle (6:47.1).
Dual meet records: RU, 1-0 overall; John Glenn, 11 overall.

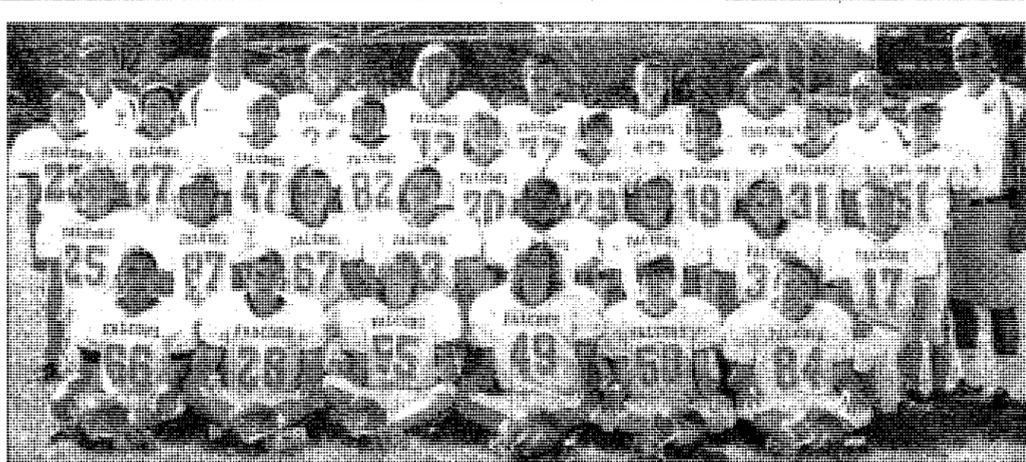


Orioles perfect 10-0

The Orioles, a freshman level team from the Livonia Junior Athletic League, capped off a 10-0 season on Nov. 8 by capturing the Western Lakes Junior Football League title with a 20-7 win over the Novi Bobcats in a game played at Stevenson High School. Members of the Orioles, coached by Ted Monroe, include: Kevin Baies, Alfred Becker, Mitchell Carroll, Ethan Caruana, Jacob Chantres, Evan Cummins, Connor Drake, Logan Evanoff, Andrew Ferguson, Logan Freier, Chase Gardner, Gabriel Garfinkel, Bryan Ineich, Jake James, Anthony Leopardi, Brenden Massey, Nathan Micallef, Joseph Mielke, Jake Osen, Rocco Parrelly, Christopher Peters, Cole Rorabacher, Hunter Scandrett, Joseph Schmidt, Steven Sellers, Matthew Smith, Sean Stenzel, Cooper Tiernan, Dakota Van Camp, David Wallis, James Weiss and Alexander Zoltowski. Assistant coaches include Steve Freier, Dave Cummins, Mike Massey, Eric Osen, Tony Parrelly, Jerry Tiernan and Tom Zoltowski.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 18
 Stevenson at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
 Clarencville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Brighton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 18
 Annapolis at Clarencville, 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
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
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
Thursday, Dec. 18
 Churchill at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
 Trenton at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 14
 Ladywood at Team Competition at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 18-20
 Schoolcraft at Saddleback (Calif.), TBA.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
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.



Falcons soar to title

Saved by a late interception, the Falcons of the Livonia Junior Athletic League captured the Western Lakes Junior Football League varsity level title with a 36-39 win over the Orioles in the Super Bowl held Nov. 8 at Stevenson High School. Coach Fred Miller earned his ninth perfect season (9-0) in 37 years with the victory. Members of the Falcons include: Matthew Boris, Jack Cole, Cody Coleman, Giovanni D'Agostino, Kenneth Doody, Dylan Dunn, Austin Farwell, Dominic Ferrera, Thomas Gorzalski, Aaron Hodge, Aidan Huerta, Devin Kelly, Chandler Langley, John Law, Patrick Lee, Brandon Martin, Sean McCann, Matthew Miller, Joseph Mims, Chadwick Northey, Tommy Orlich, Kody Roy, Ross Shaw, Joey Spala, Benoit Sweetman, Tyler Szerlag and Adam Wheeler. Assistant coaches include Sonny Micallef, Tom Gorzalski, Rylan Phelps and Mike Wheeler.

VISIT
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
 Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sales at Public Storage located at 12900 Newburgh Rd Livonia MI 48150 (734)591-6447 on 12/19/08 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.
 Personal property described below in the matter of:
 C025 - Michael Losey - Bike, TV, Tools
 C024 - Dawn McGuinness - Dryer, Washer, TV
 C065 - Denise Simpson - Stove, TV, Refrigerator
 B015 - Tony Pagoto - Bed, Couch, Dresser
 D034 - Mark Thomas - Stereo, Couch, Big Screen TV
 Publish: December 11 & 18, 2008

CITY OF LIVONIA LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia-Housing Commission, Michigan as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**, at the administrative offices of the Livonia Housing Commission, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

SCOPE OF WORK

Renovations to the McNamara Towers #1 and #2 senior citizen housing communities including bathroom renovations, apartment and common area door replacement, flooring improvements, carpeting, painting and improvements to fire protection systems. All modernization items are described and shown on the drawings and specifications as prepared by James Childs Architects Inc., South Bend, IN. The project is to be funded by the HUD Capital Fund Program.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Drawings, specifications and other bidding documents will be available beginning **Thursday, December 18, 2008** at the Office of the Director of the Housing Commission, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the Director of Housing which are included in the Project Manual.

All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to James M. Inglis, Director, Livonia Housing Commission, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, Michigan 48152.

Bids must be on the form provided with the project manual accompanied by a non-collusion affidavit and bid bond in the amount of not less than 5% of the bid. Additional bid requirements are outlined in the Project Manual. Each successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bond or bonds.

The City of Livonia-Housing Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informalities in the bids received.

Furthermore, the Housing Commission encourages Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises to submit proposals for this project. This project is subject to Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Wage Rates.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the Housing Commission.

PRE-BID SITE VISIT/ACCESSIBILITY:

In order to facilitate site examinations, the Housing Commission will be available to accompany bidders starting at **3:00 pm, Tuesday, January 6, 2009** beginning at the offices of the Livonia Housing Commission, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. All principal subcontractors are strongly encouraged to visit the site to review the scope of the work.

James M. Inglis, Housing Director
 Jack E. Kirksey, Mayor
 CITY OF LIVONIA

Patriot matmen 5th at Howell Invite

Eight of 11 placed as the Livonia Franklin wrestling team took fifth Saturday at the Howell Invitational. Saginaw Swan Valley captured the team title followed by Rochester Adams, Clarkston, Thornapple-Kellogg and Franklin. The Patriots were led by tournament champ Don Stratz (160). Teammate Elvin Ferreira (152) finished runner-up. "Stratz and Ferreira are wrestling really well right now and I'm seeing improvement from everyone else," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. Meanwhile, Rian Klein (103), Steve Tuyu (112), Paul Hanni (119), Brandon Billiau (145) and Mike Modes (285) all went 4-1 on the day and to earn fifths. Cody Hay (215) added a sixth. "Overall I thought we wrestled much better than the week before, which is

all I can ask," Chiola said. "We knew it was a tough tournament and we knew we were down two of our best kids - Justin Jacobsen at 125 and Garrett Hay at 171. "We only finished 15 points out of second place, so to do that without two of our seniors was pretty good. I really liked this tournament. It had competition from as far away as Traverse City, Alpena and Ohio. These were teams we never get a chance to see anywhere else." Franklin returns to action at 9 a.m. Saturday with the Patriot Invitational. **Spartan grapplers 1-4** Livonia Stevenson finished 1-4 Saturday at the Auburn Hills Avondale dual-match tournament. "It was a rough, but competitive day,"

said Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan, whose team slipped to 4-6 overall. "We lost four duals by two or less matches." The Spartans' lone win came against Bloomfield Hills Lahser (65-18), while losses were incurred against Rochester Stoney Creek (34-27), the host Yellow Jackets (41-19), Madison Heights Lamphere (39-20) and Warren Fitzgerald (36-34). Stevenson's 140-pounder Raz Markosian was the only unbeaten wrestler on the day with a 5-0 mark. He defeated No. 2-ranked Charlie Cordero of Stoney Creek, 6-4. Going 4-1 on the day for the Spartans included Mitchell Gonzales (135), Dan McCarthy (152), Josh Seibert (160) and Matt Greenman (215). Charlie Kokenaks and Dustin Poisson also combined for a 4-1 record at 145.

Annapolis staves off Churchill for mat title

BY TIM SMITH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's not who won or lost that the annual Garden City Christmas Wrestling Tournament is about - it's about getting plenty of useful experience that hopefully will pay off later in the season. The 44th annual holiday invite proved to be a much better experience for Livonia Churchill, the runner-up with 202.5 points. The Chargers were edged by tourney champion Dearborn Heights Annapolis' 204 points. Churchill's Bryan Fortney was champion at 140, having earned a 6-4 decision over Allen Park's Trent Wolf. Grant Morgan also won at 160 with a technical fall over Wayne Memorial's Josh Mills. "I'm happy with our performance today," Chargers assistant coach Mike Gaffke

said. "We got caught in a few spots where we could have saved ourselves some points. And that ended up being the difference." Livonia Clarenceville placed eighth out of 14 teams with 86 points. "It's a good opportunity for the boys to learn and improve," Clarenceville coach Anthony Salcicioli said. "And, for our seniors to show that they are decent wrestlers before Observerland comes around (in late January)." The Trojans had some highlight performances, with 189-pound runner-up Andrew Jasmer falling to North Farmington's Rahmi Chaghouri (3:56) and Joe Haapala winning the bout for third place (a 6-0 decision over Riverview's Jake Fletcher). "Competition here is strong, but it's not so strong where the kids are demoralized so it's a happy medium," Salcicioli added.

"You don't want a total cupcake, you don't get anything out of that. And you don't want Davison and Hartland just wiping the mat with every kid you have." Meanwhile, Wayne Memorial took ninth with 79 points, while Lutheran Westland placed 10th with 61 points. "I think it's a good learning thing for us," Warriors' coach Dennis Tuomi said. "There are some awfully good wrestlers here." Lutheran Westland's top finisher was Stephen Kemp, who was runner-up at 171. MVPs for the lower weights (103-140) and upper weights (145-285) were Melvindale's Gamal Yahia and Annapolis' Mike Hotvedt, respectively. Yahia won all three of his bouts at 103 while Hotvedt went 3-0 in the 171-pound weight class.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

GARDEN CITY CHRISTMAS INVITATIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Dec. 13 at Garden City H.S.
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 204 points; 2. Livonia Churchill, 202.5; 3. Riverview, 155.5; 4. Allen Park, 144; 5. Melvindale, 141.5; 6. Southgate Anderson, 103.5; 7. North Farmington, 96; 8. Livonia Clarenceville, 86; 9. Wayne Memorial, 79; 10. Lutheran Westland, 61; 11. Garden City, 51; 12. Berkley, 41; 13. Grosse Ile, 31; 14. Inkster, 12.
INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
103 pounds: Gamal Yahia (Mel.) pinned Brendan Cummins (DHA), 1:04; **3rd place:** Jacob Meadows (LC) decisioned Chris Carroll (R), 7-4; **5th place:** Tristen Jarogicwicz (WM) p. Jake Polenciewicz (AP), 2:32.
112: Noel Guevara (DHA) p. Kane Kanouse (LC), 3:35; **3rd:** Jordan Russell (NF) p. Cody Shornack (B), 3:44; **5th:** Brandon Hernandez (R) d. Darryl Ison (WM), 13-5.
119: Justin Cummings (DHA) won by major dec. over Bryan Bouliware (Mel.), 8-0; **3rd:** Caleb Riley (AP) p. Matt Hecksel (LC), 0:34; **5th:** Brett Gilman (C'ville) dec. Jeff Czajka (R), 4-3.
125: Justin Walls (R) dec. Matt Lueder (B), 10-4; **3rd:** James Cusin (AP) dec. Laith Francis (LW), 8-5; **5th:** Matt Jaisie (NF) dec. Jake Ruth (C'ville), 8-2.
130: Justin Warrington (R) dec. Justin Palka (LW), 1-0; **3rd:** Jonny Bannoura (LC) p. Garrett Fisk (NF), 4:20; **5th:** Jacob Dombbecki (DHA) Alex Pinkowski (SA), 0:25.
135: Steve Burkett (DHA) dec. Abdul Yahia (Mel.), 8-0; **3rd:** Robbie Luciani (R) dec. Brett Appel (LC), 6-4; **5th:** Devin Ashley (GC) dec. Chris Rich (AP), 6-1.
140: Brian Fortney (LC) dec. Trent Wolf (AP), 6-4; **3rd:** Tavin Hines (WM) dec. Will Snider (G), 14-7; **5th:** Jake Johnson (GC) p. Randy Jolly (Mel.), 0:43.
145: Ryan Steckroth (Mel.) dec. Jon Meece (AP), 5-2; **3rd:** Ruben Guevara (DHA) p. Ben Heskamp (LC), 0:28; **5th:** Tyler Twigg (GC) dec. Darius Robinson, 9-5.
152: Brett Gross (DHA) dec. David McGrath (Mel.), 8-2; **3rd:** Josh Gustitus (LC) p. Brian Miller (NF), 2:04; **5th:** Dakota Daughtry (R) p. Austin Fuller (Ink.) 4:35.
160: Grant Morgan (LC) won by tech. fall over Josh Mills (WM), 3:48; **3rd:** Jacob Blowers (NF) dec. Alex Edwards (DHA), 6-0; **5th:** Steve Niedowicz (AP) won by tech. fall over Derek Volgyi (R), 18-1.
171: Mike Hotvedt (DHA) dec. Stephen Kemp (LW), 3-1; **3rd:** Curtis Castlebrier (LC) dec. Matt Gals (R), 5-4; **5th:** Derek Robbins (C'ville) dec. Shane Miller (GC), 5-4.
189: Rahmi Chaghouri (NF) p. Andrew Jasmer (C'ville), 3:56; **3rd:** Jim Kifwood (R) dec. Devin Crawford (SA), 10-3; **5th:** Tyler Hill (AP) p. Dimitrios Renfrore (WM), 4:06.
215: Jonny Shekell (LC) p. John Beck (SA), 3:13; **3rd:** Joe Haapala (C'ville) dec. Jake Fletcher (R), 6-0; **5th:** Josh Songer (AP) p. Rayshaun Booker (LW), 2:35.
285: Jacob Moore (SA) p. Jesus Ouezada (Mel.), 3:04; **3rd:** Matt Gable (Mel.) p. Jordan Rush (G), 1:26; **5th:** Dylan Korzetki (WM), p. Rupert Miller (AP), 3:27.
MVPs: Mike Hotvedt, 171, Annapolis (upper weights); Gamal Yahia, 103 Melvindale (lower weights).

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

CHARITABLE EVENTS

Toys for Tots

Brighten a child's Christmas while protecting your identity. Between noon and 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20, DC Document Destruction will shred up to 50 pounds of documents for a donation of a new unwrapped toy to its Toys For Tots collection campaign at its facility at 749 Manufacturers Dr., off Cherry Hill east of Newburgh, Westland. The free shredding and recycling is available to both businesses and individuals. Help area children in these difficult economic times by supporting this Toys For Tots program while protecting yourself against identity theft. For more information, call DC Document Destruction at (734) 394-1774 or go online to www.dcdestruct.com.

Food collection

TCF Bank is making it easier for you to donate food to feed the needy in our communities this winter. Through Dec. 31, all of TCF's branches are serving as a collection site for non-perishable foods. Stop by the TCF branch at 37151

Warren Road and 360 S. Merriman, both in Westland to drop off your donation. Collected food will be donated to local food banks in early January.

For your convenience, TCF Bank is open seven days. For more information, call 800-TCF-Bank (800-823-2263).

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts

Have a coat hanging in the closet you don't know what to do with? Why not donate it to the second annual Warm Hearts and Warm Coats Drive taking place through Jan. 16. You can drop off coats for men, women and children at the Burlington Coat Factory store at 35555 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Coats should be in good condition with working fasteners, no rips and no stains. Donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes. The coats will be distributed to the needy by the Detroit Rescue Mission.

Toy drive

Century 21 Castelli is sponsoring its annual Garden City Goodfellows Toy Drive. New, unwrapped toys will be collected through Dec. 21 at the office at

1812 Middlebelt, south of Ford. For more information, call Barb Carreon-Haworth at (734) 644-2402.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Say cheese!

Put on your best clothes and bring a smile to Holdwick Event Photography, where Christopher Holdwick is offering half off the sitting fee for family portraits during the month of December. Pay only \$25 for the sitting; prints are extra. And you don't have to go far. Holbrook comes to your home. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., but he takes phone calls at any time. For more information, call (734) 812-4637 or go online to www.holdwickphoto.com.

Holiday Escape

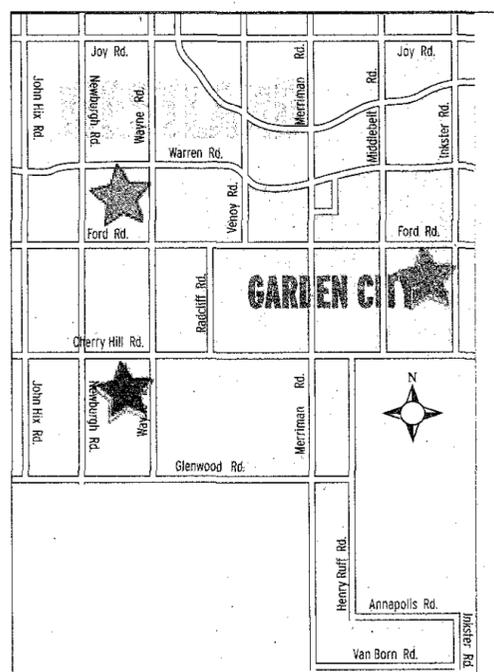
If the hustle and bustle is getting to you, plan an escape to the Premier Salons in Macy's at Westland Shopping Center where you can get a manicure, pedicure, classic facial and 25-minute therapeutic massage for \$99. Don't delay, schedule your escape by calling (734) 458-5577. Westland Shopping Center is at Warren and Wayne roads in Westland.

Webkins and more

Looking for a Webkin for your child to call his or her own. You'll find a nice selection at Nankin Hardware & Hobby in Westland. Skip past the plumbing and electrical supplies and head to the rear of the store where you'll find Webkins, Ty Beanie Babies, arts and craft supplies, radio controlled cars, boats and airplanes, rocket kits, even Lionel trains. The store is open seven days a week. You'll find it at 35101 Ford east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 722-5700.

All that glitters

Last-minute shoppers can find stunning jewelry pieces at affordable prices at Orin Jewelers in Garden City. Be sure to stop in and check out the diamond and sterling star pendant for \$99 or the diamond and sterling circle pendant and matching earrings and bracelet starting at \$125. Orin Jewelers also offers a large selection of jewelry starting at under \$20 that will give your special someone that great fashion look this holiday season. Orin Jewelers is at 29317 Ford at Middlebelt in Garden City. For more information, call (734) 422-7030.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

David Goldsworthy is the owner of BluesAirmen Guitars on Ford in Garden City. The store specializes in guitars and basses, guitar and amp repair and guitar lessons.



FILE PHOTO

BluesAirman is guitar store of old

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

BluesAirmen Guitars specializes in guitars and basses, guitar and amp repair and guitar lessons.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

What makes BluesAirmen Guitars unique is that it is owned and operated by professional musicians. If you have a question about guitars you can be sure that someone on the staff will know the answer. We also have hard to find and one of a kind items that you won't find at the big box stores.

We are the only place in town to get hand wired effects pedals and guitar pickups for the professional guitarist. We also cater to the beginner as well. We have beginner guitar packages that start at \$99.

In fact, we are offering 1 free guitar lesson with the purchase of a beginner package throughout December. Every guitar is inspected, calibrated and set up before it leaves the store. It doesn't matter if it is a \$99 beginner guitar or a \$6,000 collector piece, the same care goes into every guitar.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

I decided to open the store because as a musician, there were no small guitar shops left after the giant corporate guitar stores took over. There were no places left that sold used and vintage gear or to have your guitar and amp serviced. There are people that come in on a daily basis that tell me how happy they are that there



It may be a small storefront, but there's plenty of guitars and amps packed into BluesAirmen Guitars in Garden City.

BLUESAIRMAN GUITARS

Business name: BluesAirmen Guitars
Address: 30955 Ford, Garden City, MI 48135
Name and Title: Dave Goldsworthy, owner
Hometown: Novi
Business opened: May 2005
Number of employees: 3
Business specialty: Guitars, guitar and amplifier repair and service
Hours: 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sundays during December
Business phone and Web site: (734) 525-9101, www.bluesairmenguitars.com and www.myspace.com/bluesairmenguitars

is a store like ours in the area finally. It reminds them of the old guitar stores that were around back in the day.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Garden City community?

I decided to locate in Garden City because I grew up here in the area. I know a lot of the people here. The people are

great and have made me feel very welcome here. Garden City has a history of having great music stores going back 30-40 years and I wanted to carry on that tradition. I also have a son (Ryan) who goes to Burger School and a daughter (Jenna) who goes to St. Raphael school, and I wanted to be close to them.

CHAMBER CHAT

WESTLAND CHAMBER

The Westland Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to help the business community grow. We also serve as a liaison between the business community and our local residents.

In an effort to help our residents become aware of all that Westland can offer, we have

published our 2009 Membership Directory and Community Profile Guide. These books are free and can be found throughout the City of Westland. Starting Wednesday, Dec. 17, you will be able to pick one up at Westland City Hall, the Senior Friendship Center, and several other City buildings. They will also be available at the Chamber Office.

When finishing your holi-

day shopping, or doing any of you're shopping throughout the year, please consider using a Westland business. If you need a recommendation for a great carpet cleaner, plumber, banquet facility, or any other type of business call us at (734) 326-7222. We are here to help!

Brookellen Swope
President and CEO

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Doug Deykes

Cooper-Standard Automotive recently promoted Doug Deykes of Garden City to vice president, internal audit. In this position, he will be responsible for Cooper-Standard's internal audit and internal control-global compliance activities. Deykes will report functionally to the Cooper-Standard Automotive Board of Directors' audit committee and administratively to Allen Campbell, chief financial officer for the company.

"Given Doug's established track record and proven leadership capabilities, we are pleased to announce his appointment to vice president," Campbell said. "For the past three years, Doug has done an excellent



job managing Cooper-Standard's audit and control activities."

Most recently, Deykes served as director, internal audit and internal control-global compliance, responsible for both internal audit and Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance activities and was instrumental in securing SOX compliance for Cooper-Standard in 2007. In his new assignment, Deykes is responsible for directing the company's global auditing operations and will continue to work closely on SOX compliance activities. Prior to joining Cooper-Standard in 2005, Deykes was audit manager at Delphi Corp. in Troy, as well as director at Deloitte in Detroit. Deykes earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and holds several professional designations, including certified internal auditor, certified information systems auditor and certified fraud examiner.



Dr. Loren Chudler

Dr. Loren Chudler has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital. Chudler is a board certified family physician and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association. He practices at Universal Health Group located

8191 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Chudler received his medical education from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed his internship at Botsford Hospital. He completed his family practice residency at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing.

Kenneth Barnhill

Kenneth Barnhill Jr. has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Starfish Family Services, a human service agency serving families in southeastern Michigan. Barnhill will serve a three-year term and help guide the agency in providing exceptional services and proactive programs to vulnerable families in the community.

"We are honored to have Ken join our board of directors. He played an integral role in shaping Starfish, and he is passionate and committed to our mission of helping children and families," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "The agency will continue to flourish under the leadership and vision of exceptional people like Ken."

Barnhill was an entrepreneur who started several businesses in the 1970s including an apartment management firm in Ann Arbor and a national compact refrigerator renting company for college students. In 1984, he worked as the Director of Youth Enterprises for Youth Living Centers, the organization that would later become Starfish Family Services headed up by his late wife Ouida Cash. He also was vice president



of a real estate management firm and served on the Wayne-Westland school board and served as the treasurer from 1985-1990.

"Starfish is very special to me. I saw Ouida grow this agency from a small organization with only a few programs and services into a large and very effective agency serving thousands of children and families annually," said Barnhill. "By helping on the board, I want to do my part to insure that Ouida's visions and hopes for the agency continue and are enhanced even more by the dedicated people she helped to gather and inspire."

One of Barnhill's areas of focus will be to improve and grow the Family Success Model program into a local and national initiative for other agencies to incorporate. It was the number one goal when Ouida Cash retired. Starfish Family Services offers programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in western Wayne County, including free preschool programs, a crisis shelter for teens, after-school and summer programming, an organic children's garden and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services. The agency serves more than 7,600 children and their families at its numerous service sites each year. More information can be found online at www.starfishonline.org.

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SWEET TREATS
Professional pastry chef offers holiday recipe for elegant dessert.
PAGE D2

Check out our picks for this weekend's entertainment.
PURE PICKS
PAGE D4

A Christmas movie

In theaters or at home, holiday films lift your spirits

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

I jumped the Red Ryder BB gun this year and decorated my Christmas tree on Thanksgiving night. Maybe I felt like the act of doing so would spread some holiday cheer that much sooner — when we all seem to desperately need it. But now that temperatures have plummeted and I've scraped the first snow from my car windows, it's time to check the size of the Grinch's heart, hear the Who's harmonizing, and hope that ornament won't tip over Charlie Brown's bare little tree.

Holiday movies are more than a common thread among us. They're a link to the wonder of childhood, a collective symbol of simpler times. When Mickey Mouse stands in Bob Cratchit's shoes, I imagine myself in single-digit years, sporting footie pajamas, and waiting intently for the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future in the glow of the TV and twinkling lights. When Ralphie's forced to wear a pink bunny suit, I remember recounting all the lines of *A Christmas Story* with my sisters. I still make time, after the festivities wind down late on Christmas Eve, to watch *It's a Wonderful Life* from start to finish in black and white.

In honor of all these holiday film traditions, FILTER has compiled a list of annual must-see movies:

FOR LAUGHS

Home for the Holidays (1995) — Holly Hunter embodies every uncomfortable situation that might arise on a trip home to see the family. Get out your puffy coat and get ready for your great grin-and-bear-it moments.

Home Alone (1990) — Every time someone pulls into the driveway of the McCallister's home, they knock over a metal statue. It always makes me laugh. The film endures because every bit of it feels like Christmas — every song, every red and green accent, scenes in snow and at church. It's chock full of holiday goodness.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) — From the endless strings of white lights coating the Griswold's home to the demise of one cat and one toupee, this is a Chevy Chase holiday favorite.



"A Christmas Story" shares many a cautionary tale.



Debra Messing stars in Overture Pictures' recent release "Nothing Like the Holidays," now in theaters.

GOING TO THE MOVIES

If you're headed out to the theater this season, here are some films — new and old — sure to get you in the holiday spirit:

Nothing Like The Holidays (2008): The Rodriguez family is converging in Chicago for a week of family upheavals and holiday traditions. John Leguizamo, Freddy Rodriguez and Debra Messing star. Rated PG-13 in theaters now.

Four Christmases (2008): See what happens when Kate's and Brad's exotic vacation getaway devolves into a family-centric holiday with four hectic stops, each threatening to change their relationship more. Seth Gordon directs and Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star. Rated PG-13 in theaters now.

Polar Express (2004): Tom Hanks gives voice to multiple roles in this magical train ride. Rated G. See it 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 19-21; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 or 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21 at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Tickets \$3; Call (734) 453-0870. Hitch a ride in IMAX by catching this film at The Henry Ford IMAX Theater; showtimes vary through Jan. 4, 2009; visit www.thehenryford.org. Tickets \$8.25-\$10. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Call (313) 271-1570.

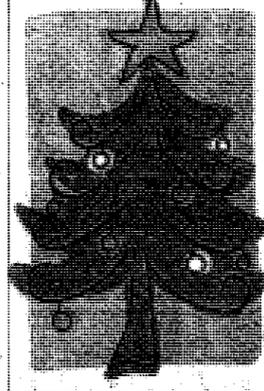
White Christmas (1954): You can't go wrong with a musical tribute to snowfall at a quaint Vermont inn. See it at 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 or 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at The Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$4. Visit redfordtheatre.com.



The Heat Miser gets steamed over Christmas in a "Year Without a Santa Claus."



"It's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart is a holiday classic.



Holiday Happenings

Events
The Big, Bright Light Show: Downtown Rochester lights the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, through Jan. 4, 2009 attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam but it's still a sight to behold.

Wayne County LightFest: Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.

Holiday Nights: Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows on Dec. 21, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Call (248) 645-6666.

With heart and soul: Hear The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, Dec. 18-19, The Masonic Temple Theatre, Cass and Temple, Detroit. Tickets \$25-\$68. (248) 645-6666.

Home for The Holidays: Thomas Wilkins conducts holiday songs and spreads cheer, Dec. 18-21, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com

On Film
Penn Theatre: *Polar Express* is showing at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 19-21, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21, at 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Tickets \$3, call (734) 453-0870.

Redford Theatre: Sing your heart out to *White Christmas*, 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; tickets \$4. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

The Henry Ford: See *Polar Express* in IMAX, through the holidays, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. (313) 271-1570.

On Canvas
Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Get ready for handmade holiday-themed works in glass, ceramic, fiber and more with *Holiday Objects Up and Down*, through Jan. 3, 2009, at 407 Pine Street, Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110.

On Stage
Clowny Christmas: Director Rob Papineau brings *A Christmas Carol*, as adapted by Doris Bazley, to life through the antics of a clown trio; show times 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 21, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6302 or visit www.trinityhouse.org.

Home for the Holidays: Join the DSO's holiday sing-along and stirring annual show, 8 p.m. Dec. 18; 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19-

Please see **HAPPENINGS, D8**

Greenfield Village brings back its joyful 'Nights'

My warmest scarf still smells like burning embers. It's a sort of souvenir from Saturday night's visit to Greenfield Village for the annual celebration known as Holiday Nights. And yes, what they say is true. Wandering into the historical village does feel like stepping back in time. The sold-out event ensured visitors of all ages would fill the

snow-covered streets, dodging the occasional horse-drawn carriage or Model T. We'd barely made it onto Main Street, three friends and me, before couples in period costume, called Mummers, sauntered by wishing us a Merry Christmas. And soon the smell of roasting beef, being carved directly from a spit, filled the air. Visitors had already queued up for a taste, bread-in-hand. Though I regret the decision now, we kept on moving, wandered past the carousel and the fur-trimmed coats of carolers outside of Town Hall. We couldn't pass

Please see **NIGHTS, D8**

HOLIDAY NIGHTS
When: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28
Where: Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn
Tickets: \$12.75-\$17, call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.com. Event may sell out.
What Else: Plan ahead to enjoy holiday dinner at the Eagle Tavern. Seatings are at 5 p.m. or 8 p.m. and range from \$64.50 to \$68.50, call (313) 982-6001.



Wander the lantern-lit, greens-draped streets during Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village.

Noise Patrol
Stephanie Casola

Papa Joe's pastry chef Ken Kozma holds up Caramelized Apples with Eggnog Sabayon.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Professional pastry chef offers holiday recipe for elegant dish

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Ken Kozma knows times are tough for everyone.

But that doesn't change the way he makes his desserts: his quality ingredients remain the same even though the prices on the pastries were lowered.

Kozma is the pastry chef at Papa Joe's gourmet markets in Rochester and Birmingham and as a holiday gift to the public he offered a recipe:

Caramelized Apples with Eggnog Sabayon.

The dish is one that would impress even the most elite food connoisseurs and, like many great sweets, the ingredients don't overwhelm each other: apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, vanilla, yolks, sugar, nutmeg and rum.

For Kozma, pastries are his life. He and his wife, who are a team at Papa Joe's, constantly experiment with new dishes to entice customers. The ingredients he uses often depends on what's in season.

"If we have too many mangos in the store, I just may make a mango mousse," Kozma said. "The owners of this store have never once asked me to skimp on quality. Never once."

That freedom is why Kozma is allowed so much experimentation and why the bakery counter at the market is packed with so many pastries: from the mango mousse to a coconut mousse in a cup; flourless chocolate cake; carrot cake with chantilly cream or a Mignon Torte, for example.

He also delights in family recipes.

"The fun part of this job is when customers come to us with their grandmother's recipe and tell me that Grandma Mary is too tired to make her



If creating an elegant dessert is too difficult, Papa Joe's is specializing in affordable, yet interesting desserts such as layered Carrot Cake of cream cheese filling decorated with Chantilly cream, white chocolate shavings, cinnamon and praline crunchies.

apple pie," Kozma said. "So they ask me to make it for her. I love to do that, to see those home recipes."

continue to cook until tender. Transfer apples to shallow oven proof serving dish.

CARAMELIZED APPLES WITH EGGNOG SABAYON

For the apples:
6 Granny-Smith Apples, peel, core, and slice approximately 1/2-inch thick
2 tablespoons of butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Melt butter in skillet over medium heat, add apples and cook stirring occasionally for 4 to 5 minutes, add brown sugar, cinnamon and vanilla and con-

Eggnog Sabayon
6 egg yolks
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons of either, bourbon, rum, or brandy
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Combine yolks, sugar, and liquor in a heat proof bowl, and place over a pan of simmering water.

Stir constantly with a wire whip until mixture is light in color and thick.

Pour sauce over apples, sprinkle top with nutmeg. Place apples in pre-heated broiler just until sauce starts to brown one to two minutes.

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Master Baker Darcy Martin and general manager John Gallis at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in Troy gearing up for the busiest season.

Easy cookie recipes for the holidays

Here is our last installment of the Easy Holiday Cookie recipe request. We received so many responses and thank everyone who submitted recipes to share with the community. Happy Holidays!

SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD

by Kathleen McCarroll's from Auto-Corn Associates of Bloomfield Hills

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup fine sugar
- 1/2 cup rice flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 pound butter, room temperature

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix until crumbly with pastry cutter.

Pat into 9- by 13-inch pan. Bake 25-30 minutes or until just barely brown.

CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS

by Kathleen McCarroll

- 2 1/2 cups unsifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup soft butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 12 ounces chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix flour, soda and salt in a small bowl.

In mixer, combine sugars, butter and vanilla until creamy. Beat in eggs, then gradually add flour.

Stir in chips and nuts. Spread into a well-greased 15- by 10- by 1-inch pan.

Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Grand Traverse Pie Company offers more than pie

Think of the popular Grand Traverse Pie Company and what comes to mind?

The Caramel Apple Crumb topped with pecans and drizzled caramel? Or perhaps the sugar-free Splenda Cherry pie, Leelanau Raspberry Apple Crumb, Mocha Cream, Pecan Chocolate Chip and award-winning pumpkin pie.

Pie, pie, pie.

But unknown to many, the company that opened 12 years ago in Traverse City now has 16 franchise locations including Troy, Plymouth, Ann Arbor and Sterling Heights. And it's serving breakfast, lunch and dinner items: pot pies, quiche, salads, sandwiches, soups, muffins and bagels.

A weekday afternoon, the Troy location is packed with business people on lunch break and holiday shoppers warming their bodies with thick soups and hot beverages. Kids munch on PB&J and quiches.

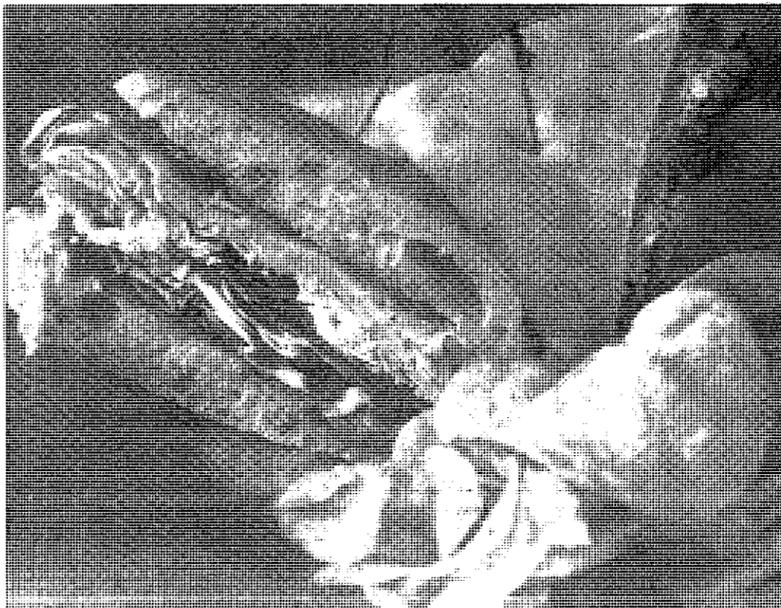
Breakfast items include

sandwiches, bagels and cinnamon rolls. There's a large salad and sandwich list including: Mediterranean Veggie which is roasted red pepper, red onion, cucumber, tomato, feta cheese, salt and pepper, romaine and spring mix plus roasted red pepper hummus on freshly baked focaccia bread. Also popular is the Grand Traverse Club with oven-roasted turkey, cherry wood-smoked bacon, Swiss, tomato, romaine and spring mix, salt and pepper, on sourdough with pesto mayo.

In honor of Traverse City and its connection to cherries, the house dressing at Grand Traverse Pie Company is appropriately Berry Cherry Vinaigrette. One interesting salad is Strawberry Fields: romaine and spring mix, fresh apple, Mandarin oranges, fresh strawberries, red onion, toasted pecans and Parmesan cheese.

And of course, after lunch, get a piece of pie.

- Lana Mini

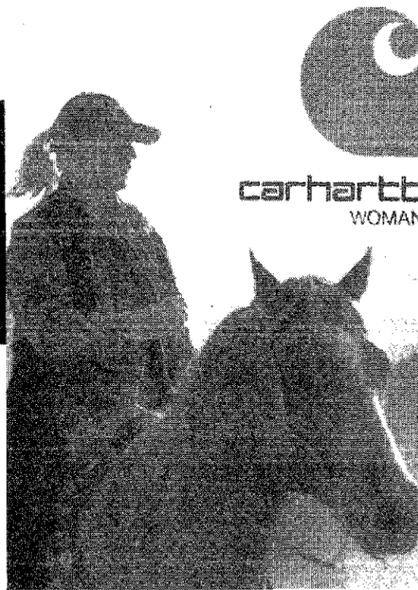


The Grand Traverse Pie Co. also serves lunch.

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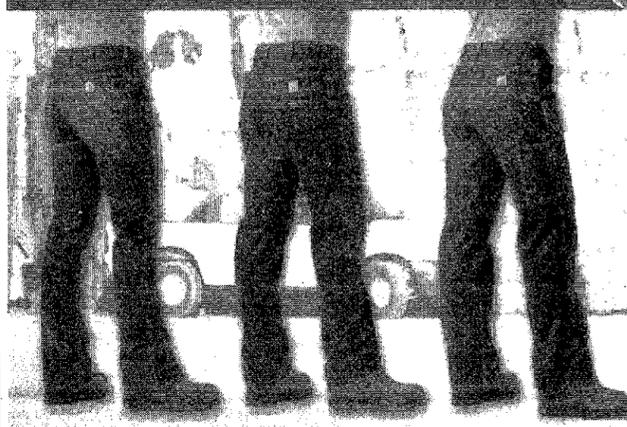


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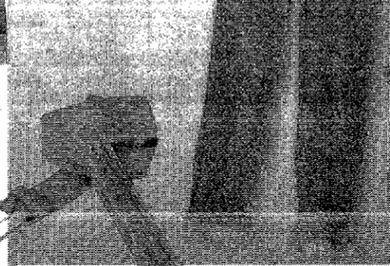
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Boot-cut leg openings	Straight leg openings fit over work boots	Straight leg openings fit over work boots



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\$91.95 Carhartt Arctic Quilt Lined Duck Traditional Coat

- 12-ounce, firm-hand 100% ring-spun cotton duck
- Nylon lining quilted to extra-weight polyester insulation
- Corduroy top collar with snaps underneath collar for optional hood



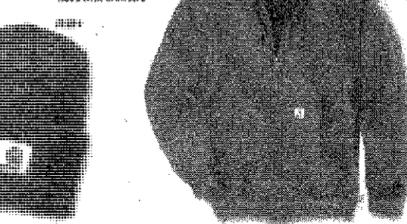
\$82.95 Carhartt Duck Bib Overall Quilt Lined

- 12-ounce, firm-hand 100% ring-spun cotton duck
- Zipper fly
- 100% nylon quilted to polyester midweight lining



\$62.95 Carhartt Arctic Quilt Lined Zip-Front Sweatshirt

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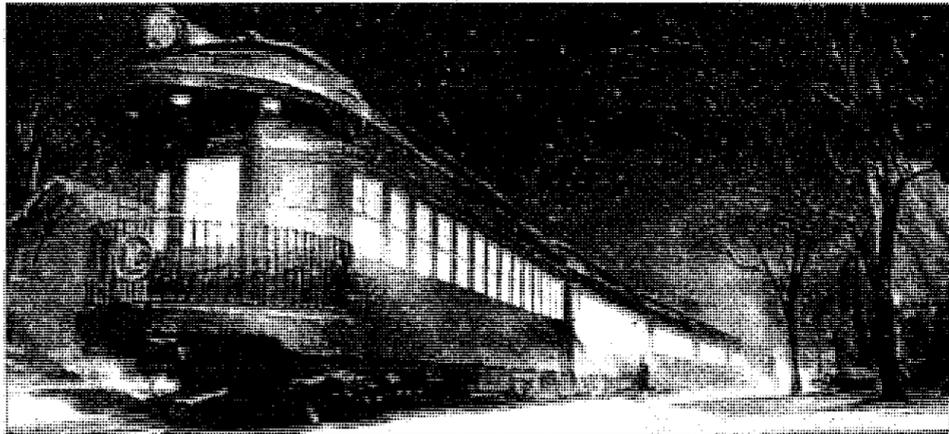
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The Polar Express

Pure Picks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Filtering your pre-holiday entertainment picks beginning Thursday, Dec. 18:

18 Come *Home for the Holidays* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, as Thomas Wilkins conducts the symphony for a mix of holiday classics, contemporary carols and music from across the globe, at 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. today at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$24-\$62, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.



Wilkins

19 Hitch a ride on the *Polar Express* at 7 or 9 p.m. today. It's the final installment in the Penn Theater's holiday features for the month of December. Tickets are \$3 and the Penn is at 760 Penniman, in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0870.

20 The Farmington Players take on the trials and tribulations of George Bailey, and his angel second-class named Clarence in a stage rendition of the Frank Capra classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. This is the last chance to catch the



The Farmington Players prove "It's a Wonderful Life."

show, directed by John Boufford, at 8 p.m. The barn theater is at 32332 W. 12 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Tickets \$13-\$15, call (248) 553-2955 or visit www.farmington-players.org.

21 Meadow Brook Theatre wraps up its annual Scrooge-tastic classic, *A Christmas Carol*, with two final shows, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. today at the theater, on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$32-\$34, call (248) 377-0300 or visit www.mbtheatre.com.

22 Downtown Rochester sparkles under more than 500,000 lights along Main Street for its annual *Big, Bright Light Show*. The free event, going on now, will draw more than 1 million visitors into the New Year. Take a stroll or slow drive and expect to be wowed.



JOHN STORMZAND | O&E STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Main Street in Rochester is decked out during "Big, Bright Lights."

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A photo from the early days of the Trash Brats, from left, Toni Romeo, Ricky Rat, Brian O'Blivion and T.T. Barr.

Detroit's wild glam band The Trash Brats reunites

I am so excited for the Trash Brats reunion show Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Small's Bar in Hamtramck.

Forget the pre-holiday preparation. Forget that it's a Tuesday. Put your go-go boots and dancing shoes on and come out. The Trash Brats were a wild, excessive, fun glam rock Detroit band that packed the nightclubs in the '80s and '90s, who also held a respectable international following.

Lana Mini

In 13 years they released five full-length albums, compilations, videos and singles.

Trash Brats shows were legendary. Like many musicians that challenge the mainstream — like Iggy Pop or the New York Dolls — things happened there that aren't fit for newspaper print. But if you're a Detroit music fan over 30, chances are you were there or had friends who begged you to come.

Even if you're under 30, you may have been there 10 years ago. Historically, under age teens find ways to sneak into nightclubs to see worthy bands.

But hey, we've all grown up and what remains is some timeless music.

Hear it at myspace.com/trashbrats. If you're a fan of rock, garage, glam and some glitter get your ticket soon.

I spent years jumping around the dance floor with the Trash Brats at popular night spots like St. Andrew's

TRASH BRATS

What: Trash Brats concert
Genre: Glam/punk

When: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23

Where: Small's, 10339 Conant Street, Hamtramck, (313) 873-1117

Tickets: \$10 buy now at www.smallsbardetroit.com

Hall, Lili's, The Ritz and Paycheck's. The crowd was upbeat and varied with fans — both male and female — dressed in pink fishnets, faux leopard fur jackets, sequined police hats or top hats, striped tights, patent leather and tons of black eyeliner. Fans included other Detroit musicians who would often play their own shows at other venues earlier in the evening and then rush over to catch the Brats' shows.

See live video on YouTube, keyword search "Trash Brats."

The lineup for this show includes Trash Brats original members including Ricky Rat on guitar, vocalist Brian O'Blivion, bass player Tomi Romeo and drummer T.T. (Troy) Barr.

The members are still playing serious music today: Rat has toured the world with bands such as Kevin K and is in reputable bands such as Bootsey X & The Lovemasters and Car City Callgirls. O'Blivion has a solo music career where he performs Americana music and is a prolific singer/songwriter; Romeo is in the critically-acclaimed, largely cel-

ebrated, hard-rocking Easy Action. Barr, who left Michigan for the quieter state of Iowa, hones his musician chops in his church band.

The songs are fun with lyrics often about Detroit (*3873 Marlboro Street*), love (*Little Me in You*), sex (*Smut*) and life disillusion (*If I Was God*). Those four are also my favorites.

The band performs original music except the occasional cover of perhaps Iggy Pop, Kiss, Jayne County or Jim Carroll.

I asked Rat a few questions recently about the reunion:

Why the reunion now?

Now seems to be about a good of a time as any. Mike (the owner) of Small's had been wanting to do the show for some time and finally we all felt that the time was right.

How long have you been toying with the idea?

It's kinda of funny, within a year of us breaking up (2002) we had people and clubs asking about a reunion! They didn't even let the blood dry up just yet.

I myself had been thinking on and off for the past year that it would be fun to do a show with the boys again.

When was the last time you played and where?

Last show was in December 2002 at Don Hill's in NYC. We decided to call it a day while sitting in our van in front of a club in Boston the night prior. It was BEYOND time to let it go.

Songs that you will play that night: Everything from Brats history? Or music made when Troy was in the band?

All of the hits for fans of all ages! We are working with a list of 30+ songs. If we don't watch it we will end up doing a Bruce Springsteen-Stones show-length wise!

Will we see the Brats on stage like the old days? The glam clothes in drag? (O'Blivion in a corset, Rat's ratted up hair, Romeo with pink hair and Barr dripping in eyeliner.)

I think it would be a bit silly seeing grown men in their 40s in some of those outfits, huh?! I mean it was silly enough when we were in our 20s...

No worries though, we will still be plenty flashy and 100 percent rock and roll!

To someone who didn't see any of your shows but are curious, what can you tell them to expect?

They can expect to see a FUN rock and roll show — the way that it's meant to be. More than ever, shows have become way too boring with no excitement whatsoever as well as crappy songs. You will not get that at a Trash Brats show!

Is this show a one-time thing?

It was supposed to be, but now it's looking like we may be doing a New Year's Eve show in Indianapolis with our old friends Sloppy Seconds; and a few others here and there. So, who knows what will happen! Nothing full-time though that's for sure! But hey if some promoter in Europe or the US wants to do us right — we're there!

(Rat performs Europe often with Kevin K)

MOVIES

FROM PAGE D1

CAN'T MISS CLASSICS

White Christmas (1954) — Blame this pick on my college roommate. She used it to convince me that I liked musicals after all. Thanks Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, for the unbelievably catchy songs. Viewers can count on singing Irving Berlin's *Sisters* for days.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947) — Just accept it, Edmund Gwenn is Kriss Kringle. No question in my mind. Pen your letters to Santa and watch a young Natalie Wood become a believer.

REPEATS FOR A REASON

A Christmas Story (1983) — This comedy runs continuously on TBS. If you've ever feared a mall Santa or dared to stick your tongue on a frozen light pole, well, it's required viewing.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) — The quintessential holiday classic, it's hard to imagine Dec. 24 without Jimmy Stewart, Zoo Zoo's petals and Clarence's wings.

CHILDHOOD-APPROVED

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) — Leave it to Tim Burton to give us something sweet as candy canes that's relevant from Halloween through the New Year. See Christmastown through the eyes of Jack Skellington.

Mickey's Christmas Carol (1984) — Scrooge McDuck spends a sleepless night re-living Christmas to learn there are those less fortunate who truly understand the spirit of giving. It may be animated but, for me, this story evokes the same emotions in any format. Sorry George C. Scott.

The Year Without a Santa Claus (1974) — Rankin and Bass are the grand-daddy of stop-motion Christmas magic and — while I've loved many of those cartoons — in my household this holiday fare that reigned supreme. When Santa threatens to take a year off, Mrs. Claus steps in to save the day. Heat Miser and Snow Miser might well be my most-beloved Christmas-inspired characters.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) — He might be a "mean one" but Boris Karloff's take on our favorite grumpy green Christmas thief never grows old. I return to Whoville at least once a year, hoping I'll get to carve the Roast Beast.

Like Heat Miser, **Stephanie Angelyn Casola** never wants to see a day that's under 60 degrees. She's bundling up and writing about entertainment and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.



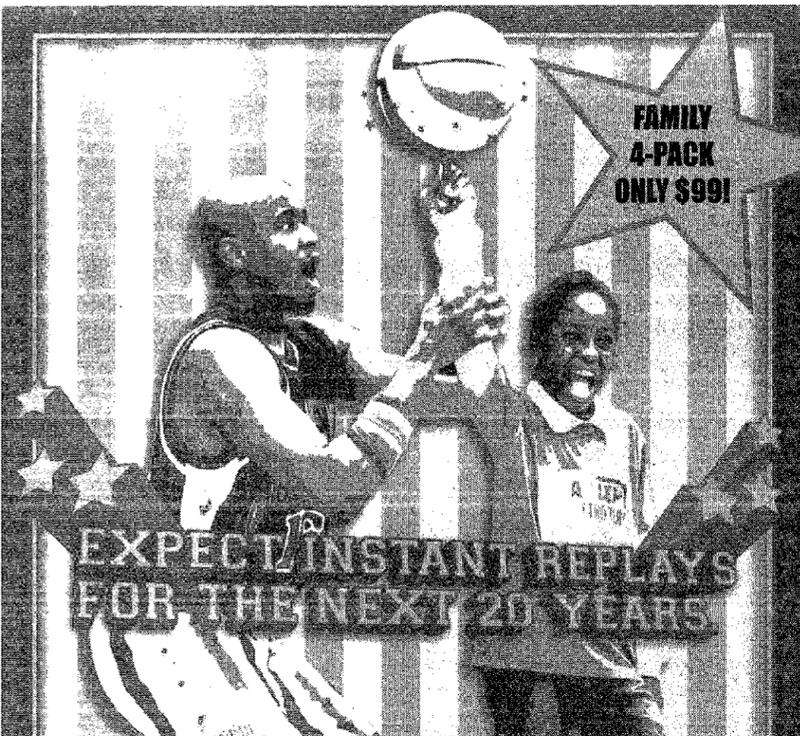
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ART

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.
Art Leaders Gallery: Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.
Art-Rageous Gallery: 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604.
Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779, www.biddlegallery.com.
Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773.
Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.
Birmingham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham.
Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380.
Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohous.htm.
Cary Gallery: 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656.
CPDP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpdp.com.
Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit.
D&M Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.
Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856.
Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553-6261, www.suzannebaum.com.
First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.
Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, www.vsg-art.com.
Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building B, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345.
Habitat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habitat.com.
Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 432-5448.
Lawrence Street Gallery: Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, through Dec. 24, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.
Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.
Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Luchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.
Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Belner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com.
Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.
Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.



Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.
Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.
Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.pewabic.org.
Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.com.
Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.
Susanne Hilberry Gallery: 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (313) 822-0954, www.susannehilberrygallery.com.
Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com.
The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.
Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550.
BOOKS/LITERATURE
Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) 203-5270.
Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 668-7652.
Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441.
Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737-0110.
Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-0780.
Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak.
Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Computware Building, Detroit, http://www2.wspress.wayne.edu/news.php/
Westland Public Library: 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123.
CHAMBER
Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4, 2009; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2, 2009; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9336, www.vivaceseries.org.
Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22, 2009, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1, 2009, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit; "String Sundae," 3 p.m. March 29, 2009, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5, 2009, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26, 2009, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, 2009, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.
Hagopian World of Rugs: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents "Nightnotes," 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 9, 2009, Jan. 30, 2009, March 13, 2009 and May 8, 2009, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.
Seligman Performing Arts Center: Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano, Jan. 24, 2009; ATOS Trio, Feb. 7, 2009; Garrick Ohlsson, piano, March 21, 2009; Guarneri String Quartet, April 11, 2009; Pacifica Quartet with Erik Ronmark, saxophone, April 18, 2009; Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio with the Miami String Quartet, May 16, 2009; Yefim Bronfman, piano, May 30, 2009. All concerts 8 p.m. Saturdays, Tickets, \$25-\$75, 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org.
CHORAL
Beckridge Chorale: 45700 Six Mile, Northville, www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit, (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org.
Farmington Community Chorus: Seligman Performing Arts Center of Detroit Country Day High School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, in Beverly Hills, (248) 669-4146.
Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Wexford Hall, Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills, (248) 473-1859.
First Presbyterian Church: Welcome All Wonders, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19; Psalteries of Psalms, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9, 2009; How Can You Keep From Singing?, 4 p.m. Feb. 8, 2009; Pipebusters w/organist Tom Trenney, 7:30 p.m. April 17, 2009; Music for a Cathedral, 7:30 p.m. May 22, 2009, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 644-2040 x

136, ttrenney@comcast.net.
Plymouth Oratorio Society: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-8353.
Rackham Choir: "An Affair To Remember," Feb. 14, 2009, Club Venetian, Madison Heights; "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, 2009, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, 2009, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CLASSICAL

Orchestra Canton: "Mozart's Birthday Bash," 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 2009, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5460.
Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17350 Maumee Ave., Detroit, (248) 474-8930, www.scarab-club.org/chambermusic.
Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070, www.ComeHearCMSD.org.
Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www.detroitssymphony.com, (313) 576-5400.
Fox Theatre: Andrew Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. May 19, 2009; tickets \$82-\$162.
Max M. Fisher Music Center: Home for the Holidays, Dec. 18-20; Marvin Hamlish, Jan. 22-24, 2009; All You Need is Love, Feb. 12-15, 2009; Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22, 2009; The Music of Billy Joel, April 16-19, 2009; John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 2009, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.
Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Mendelssohn, Marimba & More," 8 p.m. Feb. 7, 2009; "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, 2009, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; "Pops at the Penn. Home for the Holidays," 7 p.m. Dec. 18; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, 2009, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthssymphony.org.
Schoolcraft College: Pianist Anton Nel, Feb. 13, 2009; Avalon String Quartet, March 20, 2009; Celist Robert de Maine, May 15, 2009; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.
The Fillmore: Joel McHale, Jan. 17, 2009, 2115 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14, 2009, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, (248) 433-1515.
JD's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.
Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com.
Joe Louis Arena: Steve Harvey and Matt Williams; Dec. 31, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-castle.com.
The Second City: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.
CONCERTS
Clutch Cargo: 65 E. Huron, Pontiac, (248) 645-6666.
The Fox Theatre: Barenaked Ladies, Dec. 31; LaBelle featuring Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash, Jan. 16, 2009; BB King and Buddy Guy, Feb. 16, 2009; Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12, 2009, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.
Joe Louis Arena: Lil Wayne, Dec. 26; Metallica with Machinehead, The Sword, Jan. 13,

ist Jared Sykes, 10 p.m. Saturday, 22061 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 541-7674.
Edison's: 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150.
Ginopolis on the Grill: Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222.
Four Green Fields: Northwood Shopping Plaza, 13 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 506-0531.
Magic Bag: Kathleen Edwards, Feb. 4, 2009, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.
The Magic Stick: Ekoostik Hookah, Dec. 27, 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700.
Mama's Coffeehouse: All shows 8 p.m. with open mic at 7:30 p.m., \$12, \$10 seniors and students 16 and under, 38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 569-0965.
Memphis Smoke: 100 S. Main, Royal Oak, (248) 543-4300.
O-Zen Lounge: Hot 'N' Ready with O.J.U.N.I. hip hop soul, Thursday; insomnia Music, hip hop, soul, old school, Friday; Super Sonic Smooth Music with DJ Shug, Saturday; Karaoke with Chef, Sunday; '80s and Rock N Roll; bring your CDs, Tuesday; and Energetic House with DJ Tony Bell, Wednesday; www.ozenlounge.com, 21633 W. Eight Mile, Detroit (313) 535-4664.
The Pike Room: 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333.
Plymouth Coffee Bean: Open mic 7:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays, 884 Penniman, Plymouth, myspace.com/plymouthcoffeebean.
The Shelter: 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (313) 961-MELT.
Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing beginning at 8 p.m., every Wednesday, located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964.
Traveling Fork: Located inside Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, (734) 464-1300, www.radisson.com/livonia.mi.

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Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com.
Joe Louis Arena: Steve Harvey and Matt Williams; Dec. 31, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-castle.com.
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Joe Louis Arena: Lil Wayne, Dec. 26; Metallica with Machinehead, The Sword, Jan. 13,

2009, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com.
Masonic Temple Theatre: 500 Temple, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Majestic Theatre: Femi Kuti, Jan. 16, 2009, 4140 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-9700.
Michigan Theatre: The Pretenders, Feb. 9, 2009; John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett, Feb. 20, 2009, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (248) 645-6666.
The Palace of Auburn Hills: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Dec. 21; Slipknot with Coheed and Cambria and Trivium, Jan. 31, 2009; Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Feb. 15, 2009; Fleetwood Mac, March 8, 2009; 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.
Royal Oak Music Theatre: Reel Big Fish, Jan. 13, 2009; Tim and Eric's Awesome Show, Jan. 25, 2009; Umphrey's McGee, March 12, 2009; 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.
St. Andrew's Hall: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, two shows on Dec. 21; The Hard Lessons, Dec. 27; Rusted Root, Dec. 30; U2, Jan. 9, 2009; Scott Weiland, Jan. 28, 2009; Sam Roberts, Feb. 28, 2009; Less than Jake, March 21, 2009, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

DANCE

Detroit Dance Collective: Adray Theatre, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, (810) 444-4553, www.detroitdancecollective.org.
Detroit Opera House: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Feb. 12-15, 2009; "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28, 2009; "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 2009, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org.
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, (248) 559-2095; "NewDANCEfest VII," 7:30 p.m., Jan. 17, 2009, Troy High School Auditorium, (248) 559-2095; "Motown in Motion," 8 p.m. April 4, 2009, Macomb Center for Performing Arts, (586) 286-2222, 2171 Cole, Birmingham, www.ede-dance.org.
MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company: 20500 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (586) 899-2629.
Tatry Dancers: 26123 McDonald, Dearborn Heights, (313) 274-0183, www.Dance.PRCUA.org/Tatry.
University Musical Society: Batsheva Dance Company "Three," 8 p.m. Feb. 14, 2009, and "Deca Dance," 2 p.m. Feb. 15, 2009; Compagnie Hedy Maalem "Rite," 8 p.m. Oct. 15, 2009; Compagnie Marie Chouinard "Orpheus and Eurydice," 8 p.m. April 25, 2009 and "Rite of Spring," 2 p.m. April 26, 2009; Rubberdance Group, "Elastic Perspective," 8 p.m. Jan. 9 and "Redux Phase II" 1 and 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 2009, www.ums.org.

FAMILY

Canton Cinema: Free matinees 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456.
Detroit Puppet Theatre: "Celebrate Holiday Month," December; "Banana for Turtle," January 2009; "Oh, Ananse," February 2009; "Purim Shpiel," March 2009; Guest Artist Performances, April 2009; "Turtle Island," May 2009; "Sleeping Beauty," June 2009, all performances at 2 p.m. Saturdays, \$10/adults, \$5/children, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, (313) 961-7777, www.puppetart.org.
Detroit Zoo: (248) 541-5717, www.detroitzoo.org.
Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live "When Elmo Grows Up" Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2009, \$12-\$32; family nights, Jan. 30, Feb. 4 and 12, 2009, \$10; Detroit Public Television benefit performance, Feb. 6, 2009, (248) 433-1515, www.OlympiaEntertainment.com.

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Reader Rewards

TSO will again rock house with yuletide show

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
OSE STAFF WRITER

Last year, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra played its dazzling, symphonic rock interpretation of Christmas music to a sell-out crowd at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

That doesn't surprise Jeff Corey, marketing director for The Palace, who expects the same during the rock orchestra's two-show "Winter Tour 2008" stop in Detroit on Sunday, Dec. 21.

He's seen TSO steadily increase in popularity with all ages in the several years the Christmas rock opera has been staged at The Palace.

"Their popularity keeps growing — a lot of it is word of mouth," he said.

Perhaps it's because the band's music appeals to all ages. It crosses genres, blending metal and progressive rock, the majesty of a full orchestra and narration.

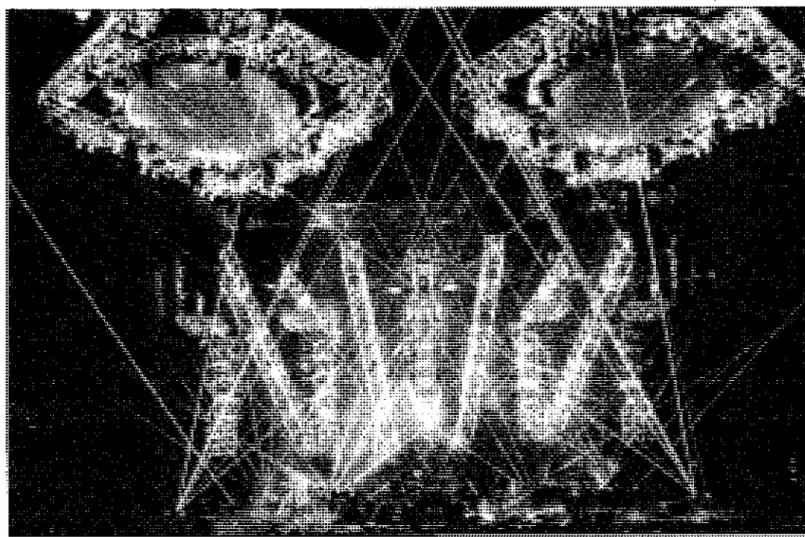
Adding to the appeal are the rock concert-style pyrotechnics.

Whatever the reason, Corey says the Yuletide concert is becoming "a tradition" for many.

"You'll see families coming together for this," he said.

SEAMLESS MOVEMENT

During the show's first half,



The Trans-Siberian Orchestra's unique brand of symphonic rock is enhanced by lights, lasers and pyrotechnics.

TSO will perform its double platinum selling 1996 debut release, *Christmas Eve and other Stories*, in its entirety.

That means that audiences will get to hear *O Come All Ye Faithful* and other seasonal classics seamlessly move from crunching metal power chords to the majesty of full orchestra to soft piano and voice

ballads, all while the narrators and vocalists act out the drama.

The second half will be a full on rock concert including songs from the band's other recordings.

TSO's other CD releases include *The Christmas Attic* (1998), *The*

Lost Christmas Eve (2004) and *Beethoven's Last Night* (2000).

'FANS FIRST'

TSO was founded by Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel and Jon Oliva in 1996.

The group's name is inspired by the Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia, which Kinkel has said connects cultures, much as music does.

Their first tour was in 1999, playing to smaller venues. Corey recalls that Detroit radio station WRIF — which is presenting The Palace concert — "really helped break the band."

The 2007 Winter Tour, TSO's most successful to date, played to more than one million fans.

The New York-based band's 150-person crew moves from city to city in a caravan of 32 trucks and 16 buses.

"TSO continues to grow because we put the fans first," said founder O'Neill. "For me, the ultimate critic is time."

TSO WINTER TOUR 2008

What: Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Winter Tour 2008

Where: The Palace of Auburn Hills

When: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

Tickets: \$49.50 and \$39.50 reserved at Palacenet.com, Livenation.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations.

Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Discover, Visa and MasterCard by calling (248) 645-6666.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SEEKING LOW DRAMA

SWF, 36, long brown hair, N/S, 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. **2286634**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Good looking SBF, h/w, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SW, 5'7"-6", 40-50, physically fit, good looking, inside and out, loving, likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **22147056**

MATURE MAN WANTED

SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SBF, 25-40, who enjoys basketball, movies, dining, water. **2287856**

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. **2296441**

ARE YOU LONELY?

Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, refined, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 35-75. **2291247**

SEEKING A MATURE MAN

Attractive SBF, 35, N/S, N/Drugs, would like to meet respectable, happy SBPM, 25-50, to enjoy life together. **22300680**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME

SBF, 44, N/S, mother, seeks old-fashioned SW, 29-49, N/S, hombody, to explore all life has to offer! I enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. **2274519**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH

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

ARE WE A MATCH?

SBF, 38, very shapely, N/S, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shooting pool, dining. Seeking SBM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **2299793**

VERY ATTRACTIVE

SBPF, 37, mother, looking for attractive, easy, tall, dark-complexioned, employed, intelligent BM, 25-33, for friendship possibly leading to LTR. **2282115**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

W/WF, 57, homeowner, independent, a little lonely, dog owner, enjoys quiet times, good talks and laughter. Seeking a kind man to share these. **22113300**

TAKE A CHANCE

SBF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown/blue, ND, N/S, no children, enjoys drama films, shooting pool, playing cards, sporting events, long drives, more. Seeking SM, 45-55, who enjoys the same. **2274519**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT

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

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. **2287624**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR?

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

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME

SBF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, ND, N/S, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SBM, 39-51. **2284398**

ARE YOU THE ONE?

SBF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **2289947**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...

40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, sexy and pretty. Only Jewish men please. **2293217**

CURVACEOUS

SWF, 47, 5'7", 150lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SBM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. **2283905**

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. **22301098**

A NEW BEGINNING

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

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD

SWF, 21, red hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 160lbs, mature bodymind, looking for a sexy handsome man, 20-30, nice open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. **2292913**

PETITE AND CUTE

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

THAT SPECIAL ONE

SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for SBM, 39-45, for possible relationship. **2295025**

SEEKING STRONG BM

Can you handle me? I'm healthy and beautiful, single, seeks tall BM, 40-62, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, gentle, soft. **2295568**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME

PBF, 40, two young, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 38-43, to share what life has to offer. **2298902**

I NEED LOVE

Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SBWM, 18-30, who shares my lust for life. **22900110**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?

Bright, sunny, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wanting to meet a tall, sexy, 45-53, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **2230694**

CLASSY LADY

SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-59, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/ethics. **2207254**

JUST A NICE PERSON...

looking for a nice man, 30s-45, 5'3", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-65, WM a plus. **2249320**

HONESTY A MUST

BF, 42, 5'4", 160lbs, shapely, brown/brown, seeking an honest man, 40-50, N/Drugs, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dancing, dining out, good company and working out. **2292696**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...

White Knight, Spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor. I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. **2292020**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Sexy SBF, 40, N/S, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-60, for friendship first, maybe more. **2270132**

LOVELY VIRGO

SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for SF, 30-65, with some interests. **2290076**

BEAUTIFUL

SBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BF, 25-40, nice open, DID free, HW proportionate. You must be confident with who you are. **2271860**

HEART OF GOLD

SBF, 39, 5'6", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school festive, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active BM, 30-42, 6', smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **2286442**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST

SBF, 38, 5'10", N/S, short hair, no children, looking for SBM, 35-50, who enjoys festivals, travel, spending time together. **2296910**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!

Petite SBF, 38, 150lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **2281872**

GREAT-LOOKING BF...

Call me, you won't be disappointed! **2283172**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...

37, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me, you won't be disappointed! **2283172**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT

SBF, 47, 5'7", tall, fit, N/S, likes roller skating, cardio, exercise, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2287305**

A POLISHED DIAMOND

Attractive, sexy BF, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **2287057**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **2279171**

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

W/WF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62+, must be honest, N/S, and active. Looking for LTR, don't play call now. **22876914**

CLASSY LADY

I am in my early 90s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a restaurant. Please call. **2292505**

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE

SWF, 55, 5'6", N/S, HW proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, working out, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SW/BM, 45-63, for dating, possible LTR. **2296774**

READY FOR A FRESH START?

DWF, 51, 6'2", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SW/M, 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, merry gentleman. **2292549**

WHY NOT CALL?

SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-50, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. **2217234**

WARM SMILE

SBF, 21, N/S, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other. **2287187**

LET'S HAVE FUN

SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SW/M, 38-53, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. **2246569**

LIVE LIFE 2 THE FULLEST

SF, 18, enjoys music, architectural design and trying new things. Seeking SW/M, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? **2247122**

ACTIVE WOMAN

SWF, dark hair and eyes, N/S, 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, N/S. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **22113901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS

SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater, is tidy? **2271069**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR

SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, being outdoors. Seeking similar SW/M, 23-45, for companionship. **2282578**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SBF, 54, 5'5", N/S, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SBWM, 48-52, N/S, for friendship or more. **2282444**

MUSICAL GIRL

Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Seeking SM, 19-25, who enjoys the same things. **2294509**

OUTGOING

BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **2292940**

PRETTY EYES

SBF, 33, voluptuous in all the right places, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. **2296970**

TRY THIS ONE

Loving, sincere SBF, 58, easygoing, looking for a good-hearted, Christian gentleman with The Lord in his heart to share life, laughter, happiness and possible LTR. **2242234**

WORTH A CALL

SWF, 55, loves movies, trying new things, exploring events, motorcades, sewing and more. Seeking sporty SM, with an artistic interests, to share the special times in life. Friendship first, possible LTR. **2246509**

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST

Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'6", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship. LTR. **2245846**

SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?

SBPF, 65, 5'4", interested in developing new friendships, may be more. Seeks energetic, N/S, SM, 45-65, that loves reading, might play, walking and exciting conversations. Must have good SOH and self-worth. **2282618**

GET TO KNOW ME

Loving, open-minded SBF, 50, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys life, dining, movies, travel. ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. **2293760**

STILL SEEKING

Very cute SBF, 57, 5'3", 120lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 45-59, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **22113198**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SBF, 5'3", long hair, student, seeking a SBM, 19-23, handsome, honest, fun, good personality, for friendship and more. **2285442**

WORTH A LOOK

SBF, 30, 5'7", 165lbs, blonde, loves music, trying new things and just having fun. Looking for good-hearted, open-minded man to share the good times in life, friendship and maybe more. **2293354**

TAKING A PEEK

Attractive SWF, 20 years (love) to be outdoors and have fun, enjoys clubs, movies, relaxing at home, ISO male who likes the same, and wishes for friendship, maybe more. **2254474**

IT'S WORTH THE CALL

SBF, 20, 5'3", 250lbs, hardworking, student, no kids, seeking a good guy, to chill with, get to know, have good times and see where it goes. **2255979**

GORGEOUS SMILE!

SBF, 26, 5'6", 130lbs, slim build, smoker, DID-free, seeks BF, 18-40, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. I enjoy movies, dining, television, cooking. **2275889**

FUN & OUTGOING

SBF, 18, 130lbs, brown eyes, loves walks on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. **2257190**

GET TO KNOW ME

BF, 57, full-figured, N/S, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. **2260756**

SEEKING SAVED MAN

SBF, 27, N/S, seeks one good man, 29-51, N/S, no game, 20s, enjoys bowling, church, for friendship first. **2282559**

HI THERE!

Mature SBF, 50, seeks sexy, handsome SWM, to develop a lasting relationship and maybe more. Let's meet soon! **2286278**

MUST LOVE WRESTLING!

Full-figured, shapely SBF, 33, long, seeks SW/M (only) who enjoys wrestling, football, hockey, fishing, going to the movies for friendship first and maybe more. **2268599**

VERY LOVING PERSON

Looking for a spontaneous, professional male, 25-40, nice open, who is willing to go and have fun. **2273294**

COUNTRY GIRL

Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving SWPF, 54, platinum/blonde, 5'5", HW-proportionate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing. Seeking SW/M, 55-85, N/S, N/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. **2275945**

LADY IN THE WOODS

SWF, 50, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, easy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. Livingston county. **2210247**

CHOCOLATE TREAT

Refined, romantic, creative divorcee, enjoys an eclectic lifestyle. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving, 60s, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking fit non-smoking gentleman, 50-70. **2281197**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Asian woman, 5'2", 110lbs, slim, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome W/M, 47-68, N/S, clean-shaven, HW proportionate, for friendship. **2281229**

ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS

BF, 57, 150lbs, likes cooking, listening to music, camping and more. Would like to meet a man to enjoy life with. **2284318**

ZOOMER SEEKS ADDED ZIP

SWF, 55, passionate about life, enjoys the outdoors, good political discussions, dancing, more. Would love to meet a man engaged in life. 53-70. **2284371**

pink

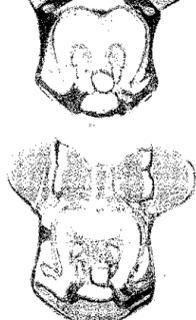
Susan Steinmueller . Special Editor . (248) 901-2576
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Season provides reason for charming jewelry

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Charms are popular items at jewelry counters this holiday season. Gary Astrein, of Astrein's Creative Jewelers in Birmingham, says they're a way to give a high quality, personalized gift for the holidays. "People get to pick the items that they identify with," he said of their charms. "It's a great gift because it's affordable. The idea is not to get them all at once, but to gradually add pieces and eventually get a nice collection."

Astrein recently added the charm collection from Chamilia. As Chamilia is licensed by Disney, its large selection of charms include the beloved cartoon characters and symbols.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse are two of the Disney charms from the new Chamilia line at Astrein's in Birmingham.

Whether you prefer Mickey Mouse or Cinderella's pumpkin coach, they're available in various combinations of handblown murano glass, Swarovski crystal or gold and silver. They start at \$25. Tiffany & Co. at Troy's Somerset Collection has a premier selection of charms, including one in sterling silver depicting its signature blue gift box for \$150. There's also a charm bracelet already loaded with Christmas and winter theme charms in sterling silver.

"Charms are a great way to celebrate love, special occasions and memorable milestones," said Tiffany & Co. Director Erle Pereira. "As new charms are added you begin a tradition that will become a cherished keepsake for future generations."

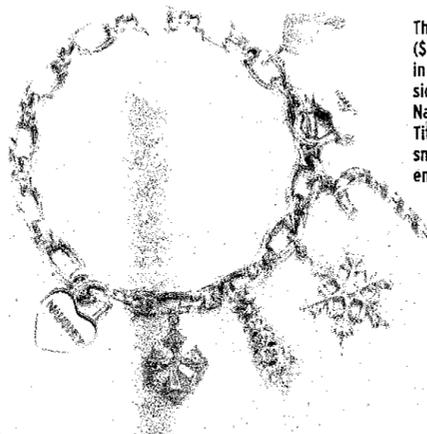
At Coby's Judaica Center in West Bloomfield, Carole Master says she's selling charm necklaces, earrings and lapel pins with charms such as dreidels and menorahs for Hanukkah, which begins at sundown, Sunday, Dec. 21.

"They make wonderful Hanukkah gifts because Hanukkah is gift-giving time for eight consecutive nights," said Master, suggesting that a necklace could be given one evening and matching earrings the next.

A pin or necklace starts at \$45 and earrings at \$29 at the store, located in the Jewish



Carole Master wears a Hanukkah-theme charm necklace, pin and earrings, among the pieces available at Coby's Judaica Center for holiday giving and wearing.



This Tiffany charm bracelet (\$450) is loaded with charms in sterling silver and Tiffany's signature blue, including: Naughty/Nice lock charm, Tiffany Blue Box, holiday tree, snowflake, enamel candy cane, enamel ice skate.

Community Center.

All the stores also have sparkling offerings for other big holidays such as New Year's Eve.

Overall, Astrein said he finds that more classic items are selling best this year.

"People are sort of going back to some of the classics like diamond studs and diamond bracelets. They want things that will last," he said. At Parisian in Livonia and

Rochester Hills, spokeswoman Jill Engel said there are three hot sellers this season, two of which are along the classic lines: crystal boxed jewelry with Swarovski crystals and sterling silver jewelry.

The third big seller has a personal touch — like charms — as people are buying inspirational bracelets, she said.

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Book chronicles glory days of downtown Detroit

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The glory days of downtown Detroit retailing on Woodward Avenue are chronicled in a new book, perfect for holiday giving.

"20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit," an Arcadia Publishing title, was launched by the Detroit Historical Society last month. It includes more than 200 rarely seen images.

"Anybody who has any memories of downtown in its heyday, or holiday traditions downtown, will certainly want to pick up a copy of the book,"

said Michael Hauser, who co-authored the book with Marianne Weldon.

There's a chapter each on Hudson's, Crowley's and Kern's, popular department stores at the time. There's also a chapter on "value merchants" like the Kresge and Woolworth's dime stores.

"All the great stores are in there," said Hauser. "And there's a chapter on holiday traditions downtown."

Hauser is the marketing manager for the Michigan Opera Theatre. Weldon is the former curator of collections for the Detroit Historical Society.



Holiday crowds are pictured outside of J.L. Hudson Co. on Woodward in downtown Detroit in this 1953 photo from "20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit."

The \$21.99 book is available at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural Center area. A portion of the proceeds benefit the museum.

It's also available at Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores. For more information, call the museum at (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroit-historical.org.

pink picks

Editor's Note: This week's Picks urge you to curl up by a roaring fire and crack open a new book. All but the first suggestion were submitted by PINK readers in Oakland and Wayne counties. Enjoy!

Read It!

A Flake Like Mike, by Mike Reiss available for \$16.99 at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy. For each sale, \$2 benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Read It!

Goldengrove by Francine Prose, submitted by reader Sharon Bright of Plymouth

Read It!

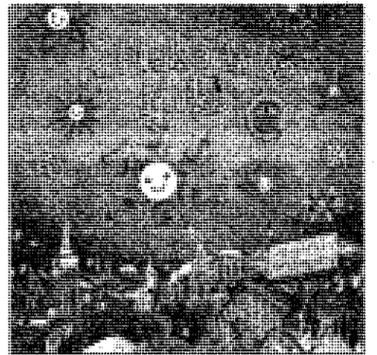
Real Simple magazine, submitted by reader Lizz Hill of Commerce Township.

Read It!

Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan, then see the movie, opening Dec. 25, submitted by reader Jennifer Peters of Canton

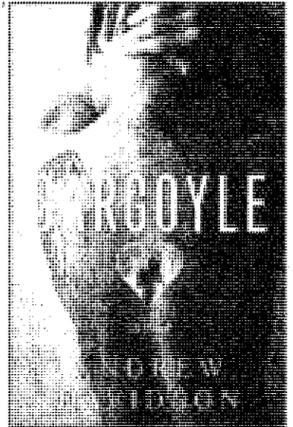
Read It!

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert, submitted by reader Yong Lin of Livonia



Read It!

Jane Eyre (a classic!) by Charlotte Bronte, submitted by reader and former Pink Picks Contest Winner Amanda Pier of Redford



Read It!

The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson, submitted by reader Elizabeth Montalvo of Farmington

Read It!

The Power of Body

Language by Tonya Reiman, submitted by reader Tanya Chisholm

Read It!

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, submitted by reader Jaime White of Plymouth

Read It!

Middlesex by Michigan native Jeffrey Eugenides, submitted by reader Esther Weddell of Farmington

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

Some families have theme nights for Hanukkah

BY LISA FLAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Some families create gift themes on the individual nights of Hanukkah, such as pajama or movie night.

Kids get excited about the themes, anticipating what any given night will bring, and parents say it helps them appreciate their gifts more.

"The theme ends up being almost as important as the gift because we build the excitement up," said Andrew Borislow, of Lower Gwynedd, Pa., who's done nights related to cooking, Harry Potter and Pokemon with his sons.

Hanukkah begins this year at sundown Sunday, Dec. 21. Some topical themes this year:

PLASTIC PRESENTS: Michelle Levine of Houston is getting her sons, ages 12 and 8, five or six gifts cards each this year because the shrinking economy has forced her to turn down their requests to eat out and see movies. Giving

them \$5 or \$10 gift cards "will allow me to say 'yes' (on their dime) the next time they ask to go out for dinner or to see the new feature hitting theaters," she said.

GREEN GIFTS: Jodi R.R. Smith, of Marblehead, Mass., is celebrating with her extended family with gifts that include a hemp bicycle shirt, a botanical facial and biodegradable waste bags and all-natural dog treats. The children are getting nature-themed books and toys, bug catchers and star charts.

GIVING BACK: Following the Jewish tradition of giving to the needy, families set aside a night to make a charitable donation. A nice way to do it is to have the children donate the same gift they are getting. Cindy Edelstein, 44, of Pelham, N.Y., is giving her 11-year-old daughter pajamas, and they will also donate a matching pair.

"This way she'll be reminded of her donation and that she shared some holiday spirit every time she puts on her pink

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